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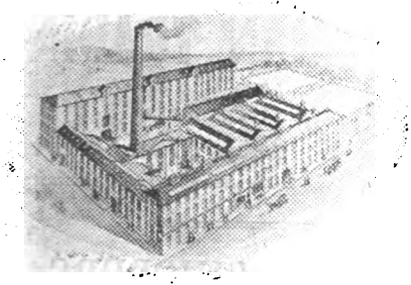

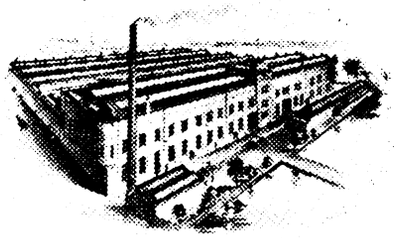

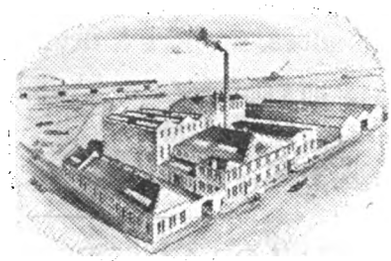

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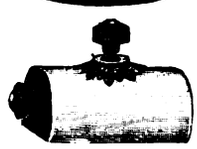

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 452.—Vol. XVII. FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

From the letter that reaches us this week from Bucharest it will be noticed that the net result of the recent elections has been the eclipse of the National Liberal party and the establishment in its place of the Transylvanians. The latter, however, are not strong enough of themselves to dominate Roumanian politics, and the first concern of the new Prime Minister is to form a Parliamentary "bloc," which will enable him to carry on the administration of the country with some degree of stability. It is hardly to be expected that the country will find itself at once on a smooth, uneventful path. General Averescu accepted the portfolio of the Interior only to relinquish it immediately, and it will be noticed that the new Chamber does not include M. Také Jonescu or his followers. In these circumstances fresh elections would seem to be indicated before long.

In the belated way to which the war has accustomed us, news has just been given to the world of trouble which broke out in the Sudan at the end of October, and has since led to one of those unfortunate, but practically unavoidable, reverses which are only too familiar in our Empire story. On October 30, we are told, a Dinka tribe attacked an outlying police post, and though the attack was repulsed, the station was evacuated, after its defenders had suffered some loss. A reconnaissance undertaken by Sudanese troops showed that the region was in a state of unrest and the tribes disturbed, and a larger force, which subsequently made a more extended reconnaissance, had some stiff fighting with, and inflicted severe losses on, the enemy. This was on November 15, and full details of later events are not yet complete, owing to telegraphic interruptions. It is, unfortunately, certain, however, that further hard fighting took place, the advance guard of our now slightly strengthened force being attacked by some thousand tribesmen, and driven back on to the main body. Though the enemy had all the advantage given by surprise—his attack was delivered in thick jungle—he was driven off, but not before our column had suffered grievous loss, Major White, commanding the Equatorial Battalion, and Major Stigand, Governor of Mongalla, being killed, with one native officer, twenty-two other ranks, and three carriers.

According to the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, who sent the first and fullest report of the occurrence, the enemy hung round the retreating column for four days, and seems to have ventured on one more attack, by night; but, in spite of the strain, which must have been very great, the hard-pressed force managed to withdraw the wounded and baggage, and finally reached Tombe. It goes without saying that punitive measures will be undertaken as soon as possible, but it is understood that no effective steps can be taken before the end of next month, owing to the denseness of the jungle and the high water in the wadis at present. The affair is deplorable by reason of the loss of a valuable "Political" and of gallant officers and men, and it is always vexatious to find a tribe, or tribes, infected by that spirit of "unrest" which used to be better known in the East than in the West, but is now so widespread as to be almost universal, though it manifests itself in very various ways. But it would be quite a mistake to connect this trouble with the events and agitation which have been, and are, making Egypt so unsettled. It is safe to say that it has no more connection with them than with the latest Phœnix Park outrages.

The situation in Egypt is improving. It is true that a few days before Christmas an attempt was made to wreck trains a little way south of Cairo, and that two days later the Chief Engineer of the State Railways was fired at. But, happily, these cowardly attempts failed; and though the attitude of the El Azhar authorities is disappointing, in other directions the outlook is markedly more hopeful. Lord Allenby has told an interviewer that "conditions are improving generally now," and has expressed himself optimistically regarding the Milner Mission. Moreover, it is becoming evident that the Mission's unostentatious work in collecting information and studying native opinion unofficially has already achieved results; while a statement issued by Lord Milner, setting out the aims of the Mission and inviting co-operation and a candid expression of opinion, no matter of what complexion, has been received not unfavourably. Add to these facts that Egypt begins the New Year with a balance of £E4,761,289, and it will be seen that the position is much better than it was a fortnight ago.

As was practically bound to be the case, in view of the exacerbation caused in Syria by the arrival of more French troops, a Franco-Arab "incident" has occurred. On December 15 a French *liaison* officer was made the object of a hostile demonstration at Baalbek, and, as a sequel, on December 18, there was fighting between

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Arab volunteers and French troops. Both sides put the blame on the other: the French asserting that in the first place their *liaison* officer's orderly was mishandled, and that subsequently their troops were ambushed, while the Arabs declare that the French ignored an agreement made between the Emir Faisal and M. Clemenceau to leave the Baalbek region unoccupied. On whichever side right may lie, it was evident that an explosion was bound to come. A letter received in this country a few days ago mentions that early in December the French and Arabs were "sitting either side" of a particular valley of the anti-Lebanon "with all they can muster"; and the spirit thus shown could only lead to one thing. It will be wise not to attempt to form any final judgment on the case until clearer evidence is forthcoming, but in the meantime we should remember that the Arabs are our friends and fought side by side with us in the war just as the French did—a point which seems in some danger of being overlooked.

An official report comes from Busreh that the chiefs of the Milli Kurds have expressed their disapproval of the action of Ramadhan es-Shallash in raiding Deir ez-Zor. It would be more satisfactory if we could be told either that Ibrahim Pasha Milli had not, after all, associated himself with the very minor adventurer, or that he had now severed the connection. The report alluded to is dumb on this subject, though it declares that Ramadhan's following "is confined to a few mischief-makers among the tribes," and that "all is reported to be quiet at Abu Kemal and Mayadin," two towns on the Euphrates below Deir. It is unfortunate that the mischief-makers, despite their fewness, should have scored such a success as the capture of Deir undeniably was; but their effort appears now to have spent itself. According to the latest official report, Ramadhan's followers are falling away, and the British who were captured at Deir have been released and have joined our force at Abu Kemal.

Adequate justice cannot be done in a single paragraph to Sir John Hewett's able report on Mesopotamia. He was sent out to inquire into the administration and finance of the irrigation schemes, to determine whether expenditure charged against Imperial Army funds had been duly confined to such services as were necessary for the prosecution of the war, and to decide upon the extent to which civil funds can immediately or eventually bear the cost of various schemes developed in Mesopotamia by the Army. The report gives no encouragement to the detractors of our Mesopotamian enterprise or to those whose Imperial horizon does not extend beyond Central Europe. The Army's agricultural efforts are held to have been amply justified, and it is stated that there is no ground whatever for the suggestion that Army funds have been expended with the desire to provide for post-war developments. As was known to be the case, money was expended out of all proportion to the present capacity of the country to foot the bill. Sir John Hewett would charge a sum of £2,070,358 to the Civil Administration, and suggests that repayment should ultimately be spread over a number of years.

The fact that Mesopotamia to-day may be capable of producing a revenue of only one or two hundred thousand pounds is no reason for a pessimistic attitude towards the future of the country. It will be a sad day for the British Empire when Britons are deterred by the prospect of trouble or a few adverse balances from taking up obligations imposed upon them alike by their duty to civilisation and their own interests. No other country is in a position to guide Mesopotamia into an era of domestic peace and material progress. The longer that this stage is postponed the greater the burden imposed upon the British Empire, and it will be more economical in the long run to take up at once our share in the settlement of Mesopotamia. We must abandon grandiose ideas of converting the country suddenly into an El Dorado; but with cereals, cotton and oil its future, under wise and stable government, is abundantly assured.

It is one of the happiest features of our public life that the utterances of Royalty call for record but not for criticism, and the King's Proclamation to the princes and peoples of India does not fall short of the high standard set by the Royal House of Windsor. The Proclamation is in essence a clear call for harmony, and for that goodwill for which we pleaded as soon as the passing of the Government of India Bill was assured; the old India looked for such a lead, and we have every confidence that the new India will make a suitable response. Entire unanimity is not, indeed, to be expected, for there are sinister elements in the population, to whose aspirations the new constitution is definitely unfavourable, but the great majority of the political classes will be quick to recognise that their chance has come; the future is now largely in their hands, and almost everything depends upon the qualities which they bring to the task.

When we suggested recently that the Prince of Wales would probably visit India to open the new Legislature we scarcely anticipated that the formal announcement would be made so soon, but there can be no doubt that in this case prompt action was wise. An immense mass of detailed work has to be got through before the new constitution can actually take effect, and the Indian habit of striving for absolute perfection in every detail is rather apt to result in what unkindly critics call procrastination. The knowledge that the Prince is to come will serve as an effective time-limit, ruling out every suggestion for postponement, and hard-worked officials will settle down to a little more overtime than usual, while for many of them the hope of a rest will be once more deferred. Everything will doubtless be "all right on the night," and the next few months will be devoted to making the piece "go," after which we may hope that the pressure will relax, and India settle down to reflect.

That the authorities are alive to the necessity for speedy action is indicated by the fact that the Committee on Financial Relations is already being set up. This is perhaps the most difficult of the questions now outstanding: India is at last beginning to learn something of what the Permanent Settlement means, and other provinces are becoming more and more unwilling to bear a disproportionate share of the cost of the central government in order that the landholders of Bengal may continue to enjoy the bulk of the unearned increment resulting from the establishment of British rule. Pledges, however, must be kept, and when we take existing pledges into account, the task of distributing the burden equitably over the provinces looks very nearly an impossibility. Lord Meston is certainly in the right place as a member of the Committee, but he is associated so closely with the existing financial system that we are inclined to question the wisdom of his selection for the post of chairman; we should have preferred a financier of European experience, who would bring an entirely fresh mind to the problem, but perhaps men of that type are needed at home just now.

We are wholly in accord with the policy of clemency to political offenders laid down in the King's Proclamation, but in the interests of historical accuracy we must protest against the view put forward by some enthusiasts that it is in accordance with Oriental practice. It is true that our predecessors in India had occasional fits of clemency, but very few "political" offenders could hope to benefit by them; when you have been kneaded into pulp by an elephant expert in the art, or crushed to a jelly by the steady shrinking of your leathern garb, an amnesty loses all its personal interest, and even the release of a blinded imbecile is at most a doubtful kindness. The political offender of the present day is sufficiently well cared for in prison to enjoy liberty when it comes, and we hope that the men who are now to be released will not merely enjoy their liberty but will use it for the good of India.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

1920.

The New Year opens hopefully. Even the pessimists have admitted during Christmas that peace has not brought more disasters than war, that Britain is recovering more quickly than most other countries from the great struggle, and that trade has boomed beyond all expectation. We have learnt something from a year of peace as well as from four years of war.

The prospects for the New Year can be stated very simply. Prices are bound to go up again, particularly in clothing. Rates are certain to be increased. Rents must remain the same, at least until March, 1921, but more people will be forced to buy their houses, which comes to the same thing as paying a higher rent. Taxes will probably go up, but the feeling is growing that the Treasury may elect to treat the next Budget as another interim one between peace and war, and work on a conservative basis, leaving the real problem of finance to the year 1921.

The position of the Government is distinctly strong, less perhaps through their own virtues than through the weakness and contradictions of their opponents. A shrewd sporting politician hazarded the opinion the other day that it would be fair to bet five to two on their surviving the year, election or no election, but that only a gambler would bet as to the probability of an election taking place.

The political programme for 1920 is settled in advance. Controversy is bound to centre round the question of nationalisation, Labour being *pro*, the Government *con*, and the Independent Liberals inclined to trim on this as on other matters. Labour threatens a great campaign in January which is to convert the country to the principle of nationalisation, and the Government will no doubt respond in the opposite sense.

If it is permissible to indulge in prophecy in these columns, the prediction may be hazarded that the nationalisation campaign will fail. The Labour Party have not thought out their attitude thoroughly; they profess themselves opposed to bureaucracy, but they cannot get out of the tangle that nationalisation means either Government control or Syndicalism—their moderates want the former, their extremists the latter. The country wants neither. The average Englishman still believes that private enterprise is better than state control, and he has no particular affection for either Socialism or Syndicalism, under whatever brand they are offered him.

The Government seem to have manœuvred the Labour Party rather cleverly into a slippery position, and the strongest card of the latter appears to be their denunciation of trusts and profiteers and rising prices. That is always certain of a cheer, but the cool voter soon recollects that the demand for increased wages has as much to do with rising prices as the profiteer, and the Labour orator's trick is, therefore, easily over-trumped.

Ireland.

The situation in Ireland has taken another turn for the worse during the past week, and the outrages and disorders have not ceased with the attempted assassination of the Viceroy. It is rather curious that the Irish should believe in the efficacy of terror, after so signal a lesson as the failure of German frightfulness to impress the phlegmatic British mind; the effect, indeed, seems rather the reverse of that desired. Many Englishmen who sympathised with Ireland a year or two ago are now insistent that law and order must be restored before reform can have a chance, and the ordinary man is becoming increasingly impatient of the old Radical argument, still heard in some quarters, that the Government is "morally responsible" for the outrages, which spring from the blunders of officials. This sort of theory might have been justified in the eighties, when Ireland had real grievances, and was on the verge of famine, but it will not do now that Ireland is extremely prosperous, and has been asked *ad nauseam* to formulate her own Home Rule proposals if she does not like ours.

The Government will probably persist in the launching of their Home Rule scheme when Parliament meets again in February, despite the evidence of lawlessness across the Channel. On the whole, the proposals have been extremely well received in England, by Conservatives as well as Liberals, but Irish opinion, as usual, has rent them in pieces, and refused to consider them.

St. Albans.

The result of the St. Albans by-election caused some shaking of heads in political circles. The Coalition candidate won by a fair majority, but the runner-up was Labour, and the Independent Liberal was nowhere. In fact, the latter gentleman is subjected to the ignominious penalty prescribed by the Reform Act to "freak" candidates—surely a serious portent for Liberals, who are now awaiting the result of the Spen Valley contest in trepidation. If even Sir John Simon cannot win a seat for them, they profess to think their days are numbered.

The St. Albans figures will necessarily deepen the Liberal split between Coalition and Independent, and possibly make it irrevocable. Some of the doubters will take it as a sign that the hope of independence is vain, and join the left wing of the Coalition; the forwards and irreconcilables will also be tempted to leave a party which shows itself unable to attract support, and desert to Labour. From both sides they will receive a welcome. Coalition Liberals will ask no questions of their errant brothers; and Labour will admit privately that it needs some stiffening, and will be pleased to find itself the residuary legatee of the old Radical party.

The one hope of saving Independent Liberalism as a fighting force now appears to be the Manchester school, which has a programme containing something more than the pre-war aspirations which still seem sufficient to Mr. Asquith. Unfortunately for their prospect of success, Manchester has a programme but no personalities, and all the big Liberal personalities of the prehistoric age when Mr. Asquith was in power shirk the need for fresh thinking as completely as Mr. Asquith himself.

It seems true to say that the business men of the country have never forgiven Independent Liberalism for wobbling over the capital levy: even devotion to Free Trade has not cancelled the greater sin. Moreover, the business men, who hate the idea of nationalisation, are not quite sure if the Independent Liberals can be trusted even on that issue, and since they know the Coalition is fairly sound, or is at least open to argument on it, the great commercial vote is not likely to return to the old Liberal party. The collapse is a lesson in the retribution caused by lack of discipline and united policy.

The Pantomimes.

The Christmas theatres appear to have been crowded as usual, and the spectacle of middle-aged babes of the wood in perambulators, dainty girls as principal boys, and music hall heroes as Widow Twankeys, has

Royal Exchange

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again delighted the juvenile population and left the intelligent foreigner speechless at the conventions of British drama.

The theatrical critics, running over the history of the past year, agree that only one play has been produced that deserves to be remembered—"Abraham Lincoln." There seems a general consensus of opinion that revue has held its own fairly well, and that this form of banality is likely to continue for some time; the farce with the "bedroom scene," however, which was imported from America, is now apparently a little the worse for wear, and the theatrical managers are prepared to see the school of "underclothing acting" die a natural death. If the stage does decide to turn from the bedroom to the drawing-room, it is not only the puritans who will be pleased; the modern girl who remarked that she had to be very careful what plays she took her father to see will perhaps have less need for anxiety in future.

One of the plays promised for the New Year is a dramatised version of "The Napoleon of Notting Hill." It is always a debatable question whether popular books go well on the stage. Mr. Arnold Bennett has caught the trick of the footlights, and professes to think the thing is easy enough; Sir J. M. Barrie is, of course, even more successful. But "Kipps" was a failure some years ago, and although we should like to see "Tono-Bungay" on the boards, Mr. Wells seems too busy with his new history and still newer theology to burn his fingers again. Apart from Barrie, Mr. H. A. Vachell is the most generally successful author-playwright, but even he has not been able to repeat "Quinney's." Perhaps Mr. G. K. Chesterton will do better than many others, but one is a little doubtful whether his wit will carry so well when spoken as when written.

Women Lawyers.

The bann on women practising as lawyers having now been removed, two women have just been admitted to the Bar. One lady was entered at Lincoln's Inn the day after the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill received the Royal Assent last week; the other was received by the Middle Temple on the same day. A third is to be articled to a firm of solicitors.

It would be untrue to suggest that either the Courts or the Bar really welcome the admission of women to their precincts. The Law is a conservative institution, and barristers have no belief in the existence of potential Portias, although it has been suggested that if women prove successful as advocates it will be necessary to have women on a jury, on the principle that only a woman is capable of seeing through the artifices of her sex.

But, on the whole, it is doubtful whether many women will take kindly to the law. They are usually impatient of precedent, and nobody has ever suggested that the feminine intellect is of the judicial cast. It will be interesting to see whether solicitors employ female barristers to plead the case of their clients. Male barristers emphatically hope they will not, for the Bar is in a most depressed state just now—in marked contrast to the solicitors, who are doing very well, particularly those with a conveyancing connection.

Taxing a Cathedral.

The tax-collector is everywhere in these days, but it does give me rather a shock to discover that even the Church is not recognised as a sanctuary against his intrusion. An oratorio was performed a few days ago in York Minster, and owing to the expenses and the by no means excessive endowment of the cathedral, a charge was made for the seats. But an official from the Inland Revenue was present —it is to be hoped he enjoyed the performance—and a day or two afterwards he notified the cathedral authorities that they were liable to pay the entertainment tax! After this, even the alms-dish hardly seems safe.

The Bookshelf.

The literary world has naturally been quiet over Christmas, but two books deserve notice. One is a magnificent volume of Sir William Richmond's sketches, sumptuously issued; it belongs to the realm of art rather than literature. Another, for very serious readers indeed, is by Mr. J. T. Merz, whose "Fragment of the Human Mind," discusses the relative values of Hume and Hegel's philosophy.

The issue of this work once again draws attention to the apparent change of taste in England since the war: we are all more serious nowadays, religion, science, and philosophy are discussed on every hand, and the publisher's catalogues bear witness to the alteration. Before the war the novelist had things all his own way, and publishers groaned in secret over every non-fictional manuscript submitted to them, apart from biography and reminiscences—which ought really to rank as super-fiction; but in these days there is a better chance for serious work than for any fiction except the best.

That does not, of course, mean that fiction is not written. A publisher recently told me that of the average of forty manuscripts submitted to him every week, about thirty were fiction, one was devotional or religious, two would be philosophical, two or three would be essays, and the remainder either poetry or ambitious suggestions for the complete reformation of civilisation. Of the fiction, more than half was written by women.

A Tax on Profits.

It is understood that the Treasury are trying to find a means of replacing the excess profits tax, which is both a penalisation of enterprise and a potent means of increasing prices, by substituting a scientific tax on earned profits. The trouble is not so much to define a profit as to discover a profit which can be taxed without at the same time taxing commercial efficiency. Squaring the circle is a mild amusement compared with this problem, and there are no great hopes of success. But with the dropping of the proposed luxury tax, the hatred of the excess profits tax, and the increasing demand of the married income-tax payer for abatements for those very expensive luxuries, a wife and children, some new fiscal engine will have to be discovered before next April. Nobody need envy Mr. Austen Chamberlain his post at the present moment.

London Traffic.

The new system of regulating London traffic, by permitting omnibuses to stop only at certain specified places instead of at any point demanded by the passenger, seems to be working fairly well, although old ladies' from the country often indignantly threaten to report the conductor when they pull the bell in vain five seconds after the omnibus has started. But in other respects London traffic is worse than ever, largely because the shorter hours of labour have concentrated it in a few rush hours in early morning and late afternoon. The tubes are gradually improving, except between five and seven in the evening, when one takes one's life in one's hands, and the railways with one exception are getting back to the normal.

The exception is the South-Western line, where the slackness and incivility of the company's servants and the inadequacy and unpunctuality of the service have recently become a public scandal. Many protests have been sent to the newspapers, but without effect, for the conditions on a line that used to be one of the best-managed in the kingdom are going from bad to worse. On the other hand, the South-Eastern Railway, which used to be a byword, is now rapid, punctual, and comfortable, and its non-stop expresses to Margate, Folkestone, and Hastings make passengers on the sleepy neighbouring Brighton line desperately envious. The South-Eastern learnt from the war that time is money; before the war it comforted itself with the idea that its time was somebody's else money. The "change of heart" is welcomed by the residents in Kent, who can at last hope to keep some of their business appointments.

OCELLUS.

Unprecedentedly stormy weather is reported from the Delta, Alexandria, and the Western Desert of Egypt. Much damage has been done to property.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, December 15.

The Milner Mission.

Quietly and without any fuss the Milner Mission arrived in this country last Sunday. It came up to Cairo by special train, and was met unofficially at the station, whence it was conveyed by car to the Semiramis Hotel. Soon after his arrival Lord Milner paid a visit to Lord Allenby at the Residency. The next day he was introduced to the Sultan by his Excellency, the other members being subsequently received by his Highness, who kept them for a long time in conversation. On Thursday, Lady Allenby gave an "At Home" to permit of the Mission meeting the Ministers and the Advisers.

The Mission has excellent quarters at the Semiramis, which it shares with the Ministry of Communications; but by many it is very much regretted that it should have been deemed necessary to place sentries with fixed bayonets round the hotel. No doubt it is advisable in the present state of things to take every precaution to ensure that the members are not molested, but it would surely have been just as easy to protect them by placing troops in the vicinity and at strategic points where all roads leading to the hotel could have been watched. As it is, the impression given is a very unfortunate one, and one scarcely in keeping with British prestige. At the same time, the presence of armed sentries at every few steps round the building is not likely to encourage Egyptians to visit the place in their present very timid frame of mind.

The presence of the Mission came as a surprise to the Egyptians, who knew from the fact that a special train had been sent for it to Port Said that it was expected at any moment, but had remained in ignorance of the exact date of its arrival. As soon as the news was known, the students of the Higher Schools stopped work and started to make demonstrations, which the authorities immediately dispersed. Throughout the past week attempts have been made to demonstrate, but generally without success. On Wednesday the "Sittats" progressed through the city, but merely aroused the amusement of the passers-by. An attempt on the part of another crowd to reach the Semiramis Hotel being foiled, the demonstrators conceived the brilliant idea of hiring "felluccas" and serenading the Mission from the river, and the soldiers on guard were provided with the amusing spectacle of boatloads of excited "effendis" suddenly appearing and standing off opposite the hotel the while they shouted their usual catchwords until they were hoarse. Some of the demonstrations have attracted the rough element, with the result that a certain amount of *sabotage* of the trams has taken place; but in every instance the authorities have been able to deal with the trouble.

Reception of the Mission.

The arrival of the Mission has been the signal for the appearance of hostile articles in the vernacular press, and for the despatch of innumerable telegrams of protest. A large number of the latter have been addressed direct to the Mission, regardless of the fact that the senders have in most cases declared that they decline under any circumstances to recognise it; while it is instructive to learn that among the messages received have been quite a number appealing to the Mission to redress certain private wrongs suffered by the senders at the hands of the local authorities or of their own relatives!

So far the Mission has not decided upon any official procedure, or upon holding meetings for the taking of evidence. In the circumstances created by the opposition of certain elements and the attempt on the part of the Zaghlul Delegation to bring about a boycott, it has been deemed expedient for the members first to endeavour to establish personal contact with the Egyptians, and they are at present occupied in meeting the more important Egyptians of every shade of opinion. As far as can be ascertained there is little objection on the part of the latter to expose and discuss their views with them; while the procedure adopted would seem to appeal to the Moderates who, in present circumstances, where they are daily subjected to the heckling of the Extremist element, are still too timid to come out into the open. It is proposed later on that the members shall visit the more important provincial centres, where they will be able to see at first hand the practical side of the administration and get into touch with the fellah masses, which are certainly not represented by the town *Intelligenzia*, whatever the latter may say to the contrary.

By adopting this procedure the Mission will, it is hoped, get behind the boycott with which it has been threatened, and which is in reality due to the intimidation exercised by a small section over the rest, and not to any real desire on the part of the majority of the enlightened classes to hold aloof from the Mission. By these means it should, before long, be in close touch with Egyptian opinion, Extremist as well as Moderate, and should be in a position to gauge the extent to which the popular grievances are justified or not, and the reforms necessary to remedy them. It will, indeed, have gained this insight into the situation just as speedily as if it had held regular sittings for taking evidence, and without unduly committing those who may in this manner enter into relations with it. How soon it may be possible to start its official sittings will, of course, depend on the manner in which the situation develops; but the personal relations which will be established with the more prominent Egyptians of all parties should tend to break down the opposition that may exist, and to induce even the more uncompromising to see that contact with the Mission will serve their cause far better than the policy of holding aloof.

Foolish Students.

Without wishing to appear unduly optimistic, the sting seems to have been drawn from the movement, which is fast reaching a point where it is becoming ridiculous. The only element which is taking any

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active part are the students, who have abandoned their studies altogether and spend their time organising demonstrations and intimidating all their fellow-countrymen, including men years older than they. They have persuaded the Native Bar to strike for a week, and are making strenuous efforts to get the Government officials to come out; but the latter cannot make up their minds to do so. In some Ministries the staff has categorically refused to move, whilst in others the younger employees have decided not to sign the general protest unless their seniors do so first. The latter, having more to lose, do not seem anxious to sacrifice their comfortable positions in the cause of their country, which they profess to have so much at heart.

Zaghlul and his associates may, and undoubtedly do, still enjoy the confidence of their fellow-countrymen, but it does not say much for their influence or for the real interest taken by the mass of the people in the present agitation that they should have to rely solely upon students, rabble, and cabdrivers for active support; and it serves further to show that an "Independent Egypt," apart from other unsatisfactory features, would most certainly before very long be ruled by mob and schoolboy law. As a matter of fact, people are getting thoroughly tired of the continued agitation and the interference with their affairs which it is causing without any tangible result, and the more enlightened and far-seeing are fast realising that they have been spoiling whatever good case they had by the tactics they have hitherto adopted.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, December 20.

The Political Situation.

Although Roumania has signed the Treaty of St. Germain, including the universally execrated Minorities clause, the Cabinet that assumed responsibility for the action has already disintegrated, and the past few weeks have seen a succession of political crises involving constant reconstruction of the Government.

When the results of the recent general election—the first held under universal suffrage—showed the National Liberal Party, under the leadership of M. I. Bratiano, reduced to 101 seats out of the 252 constituencies in the old kingdom of Roumania, it was evident that the long reign of the Liberal party had come to an end; but it was by no means equally obvious who their successors were to be. There was little time to consolidate the various scattered groups in the Chamber, so when M. Vaida-Voevod finally consented to endeavour to form a Government he had first to insure a majority in the Chamber, where his own party, the Transylvanian Nationalists, only held 207 seats out of the total of 568. The distribution of the various parties in the new Parliament is as follows:—

ROUMANIA.—National Liberals, 101, Independent Liberals 6, Peasants 60, National Democrats 28, Independents 24, Progressive Conservatives 13, League of the People 7, Socialists 7, and Citizen's Party 3.

TRANSYLVANIA.—National Party 207 and Independents 6.

BUKOVINA.—Independents 6 and Democratic Unionists 20.

BESSARABIA.—Peasants 75 and Independents 5.—Total 568.

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President of the Chamber.

The Parliamentary *bloc* by which M. Vaida-Voevod hoped to maintain his Government consisted of the National Party of Transylvania, the Peasant's Party of Old Roumania and Bessarabia, the Democratic Unionists of the Bukovina, and the National Democrats of the Old Kingdom, twenty-eight of whom were elected under the leadership of Dr. Nicolas Iorga, the Roumanian historian. This *bloc* disposes of 390 seats out of the 568, leaving 178 in opposition. But the first meeting of the Chamber saw the defeat of the Government candidate for the Presidency of the Chamber and the election of Dr. Iorga to that office.

General Averescu, although he had ordered his party (League of the People) to abstain from putting up candidates at the recent elections, patriotically yielded to M. Vaida-Voevod's request to lend his authority to the Government faced with the duty of signing the Treaty of Peace with Austria. The defeat of the Government on the question of the Presidency convinced the General, however, that M. Vaida-Voevod's Cabinet did not possess the confidence of the legislative body, and in view of the serious questions facing any Government in this country just now, he did not feel justified in remaining Home Secretary. He, therefore, resigned, and his example was followed by Dr. Goga, the Ardeal poet and writer, who had accepted the position of Minister of Education.

Peasant Ministers.

Little surprise has been expressed at the inclusion of two peasant deputies in the Cabinet. M. Mihalache has been appointed Minister for Domains and Agriculture and M. Borcea Minister of Education. There was a large and fashionable audience filling all visitors' seats in the Chamber on Thursday, when the two peasant Ministers, picturesquely attired in the national costume, took their seats on the Ministerial Benches. The speech of M. Mihalache to the assembled officials of the new Ministry was marked by modesty and a refreshing sincerity. The simple dignity characteristic of the Roumanian peasant commands respect, and it may well be that the Ministry for Domains and Agriculture, which is carrying out the Expropriations, will find M. Mihalache an acquisition.

The Ministry's Programme.

The present Ministry is composed as follows:—

Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs.—Dr. Alexandru Vaida-Voevod.

Minister of the Interior (temporary).—Dr. Aurel Vlad.

Minister of War.—General I. Rascano.

Minister of Finance.—Dr. Aurel Vlad.

Minister of Agriculture.—I. Mihalache.

Minister of Education.—I. Borcea.

Minister of Commerce and Industry.—Dr. Victor Bontesco.

Minister of Public Works.—Dr. Mihail Popovici.

Minister of Justice.—Ion Pelivan.

Ministers of State without portfolio.—Ion Inculet, Pantelemon Halippa, I. Nistor, Dr. Stefan C. Pop, Prof. Dr. Ion Cantacuzino.

On Tuesday M. Vaida-Voevod explained the Government programme, which includes a revision of the Constitution in order to bring it into accord with present-day needs; reform of the civil administration of Roumania based on a priniciple of decentralisation; economic reforms and reorganisation of the railroads; fiscal reforms, and the presentation of a Budget balancing revenues and expenditures.

The problem of balancing the Budget is to be solved by the introduction of many new taxes, including a progressive income-tax and a tax on war profits.

With growing industries, Roumania is finding the necessity of providing for the adequate protection of the workers, and the promised labour legislation includes an eight-hour day Bill and a Minimum Wage Act.

Tramway Strike.

The world-wide epidemic of strikes has spread to this country, and on Monday last the Bucharest public found no trams running and all negotiations have so far proved

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fruitless. On Wednesday the cab-drivers presented an ultimatum to the Mayor, demanding permission to increase fares to nearly double the present tariff, and on the refusal of the City Government to consent to this heavy increase, the cabmen also ordered a strike. Up to the present the principal result has been that the non-union cab-drivers—who, incidentally seem to own better-looking turn-outs than the union men—have been working hard unofficially to initiate the public into the higher system of charges.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA (undated).

While the Greek troops have been successful in driving the Turks away from the Hermus Valley, especially in the Magnesia district, they have not been able to keep in check the Turks attacking the British Railway in the Meander Valley. Yesterday the 12.30 p.m. train from Sokia to Smyrna failed to reach the junction at Balajik, and as the telegraph was destroyed by the Turks, no news could be obtained regarding the missing train. Its disappearance is all the more astonishing because Italian troops are still in the Sokia district. Between Balajik and Ephesus the Turks were firing at the Greek troops guarding the British railway, as passengers to Ephesus could distinctly hear the cannons. This gave rise to the report in Smyrna that there was fighting in the Caister Valley, between Scala Nuova, on the coast, and Ephesus.

Whenever the Greeks attack in force the Turks retreat, destroying whatever they cannot carry away with them, and then counter-attack the Greeks in another quarter, where they least expect it. This guerilla warfare is, of course, rapidly widening "no man's land" between the two forces; and unless it is soon checked, the greater part of Western Anatolia will be completely devastated.

MALTA.

VALLETTA, December 12.

The Coming Self-Government.

The inhabitants of the island appear to be both satisfied and hopeful over the above matter. The local Press reproduces various articles dealing with the subject, which have appeared in British journals. Whether self-government in local matters is going to prove the cure for all political and financial ills still remains to be seen; at all events, the new Governor, Lord Plumer, is receiving encomiums all round for the good he has done in hastening on matters. Many points for political discussion are already appearing concerning the proposed Constitution, but at the root of all lies the desire widely expressed for financial help from Imperial funds. The amount of financial assistance to be given has not been fixed yet, but islanders refer to the many public buildings which are being used by the Navy and Military authorities, the many excellent roads which have been constructed solely in the interests of the Imperial Government, and the annual payment of £5,000 per annum to the Imperial Government as being grounds for a substantial grant.

Malta Itself Again.

Gradually Malta is assuming her pre-war gay winter appearance, and despite the difficulties of obtaining boat accommodation there are many arrivals, with the result that the hotels are doing good business, but, as in other places, houses are difficult to obtain for those military and naval families who have come out for a protracted stay in the island. Grand Opera at the Theatre Royal is in full swing. The Malta Amateur Dramatic Society are producing "Raffles" from the 15th to the 19th, and the Christmas Race Meeting on the Marsa promises to be an exceptionally good one.

December 19.

A Civil Governor.

It is supposed to be the wish of the general public that the representative of the King and the principal trustee of the constitution should be a civilian. This desire is hard to explain, and *prima facie* seems unreasonable, as the granting of the constitution is only on condition that Malta as an imperial fortress and Naval station remains vested in the Governor.

General Sir C. C. Monro, Commander-in-Chief in India, has appointed a Selection Board of high military officers to deal with the question of staff, regimental, and other commands, and also that of promotion above the rank of lieutenant-colonel. The Commander-in-Chief himself will preside at the meetings of the Board.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

A correspondent writes:—"We have often heard of the 'hair of the dog that bit you' as a cure for that next morningish feeling after the night before, but one has hitherto looked upon it as merely a euphemism to salve the conscience, if any, of a man who wants another drink, much as a Continental talks of his morning *aperitif*, which is not usually castor oil. Apparently, however, this hair of the dog is still a recognised remedy in the Egyptian Pharmacopœia. Recently a dog bit a native boy. The owner then captured the dog, and the boy's relatives cut off some of the hair and mixed it with oil, and applied the resulting ointment to the wound. As might be expected, the dog's hair not having been sterilised, the wound began to fester. The boy then went to a mission school dispensary, the lady in charge of which had great difficulty in removing the ointment; but the wound is now rapidly healing under the non-Egyptian method of treatment."

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The repetition of jokes at the expense of the red-tape of the British Army becomes rather a tiresome thing; but one example that has recently come to my notice is so amusing that I must record it. An officer in the Devons was on service in Mesopotamia, whether as Lieut.-Quartermaster I do not know; but, at any rate, he was in charge of the messing arrangements for his men. Now he applied (presumably to Brigade) for a pair of butcher's knives, but was told that those things were not an issue for infantry. Being quite unable to live properly without these articles, he got his C.O. to countersign his indent, and the application this time got as far as Corps. Back came the answer: not an issue for the infantry. In despair the applicant persuaded the G.O.C. Base to sign his indent, and having done so breathed mighty hopes of getting his trifling request granted. The matter was shelved (the sad fate of many things that have to reach H.Q.), and the knives appeared to have been forgotten. One sunny day, however, there rolled up to the Devons' camp two sparkling bright new Field Kitchens. "What," said the officer, staggered by the wealth of the unexpected gift, "what is all this? I didn't ask for field kitchens. All I want is two plain butcher's knives." "Sorry, sir," said the N.C.O. i/c Field Kitchens, "but butcher's knives ain't an issue to the infantry. But 'ere's two field kitchens, sir, which includes two butcher's knives!" So what might have been done with a penny was done with many pounds.

***

Now there are lots and lots of people who want to say that this sort of thing was typical: they are just the people who think there is more truth than falsehood in *Mr. Punch's* remark that we lost everything except the war. I do not mind saying straight out that talk of this nature, when meant seriously, is bosh. Of course, everyone who has been in the Army has at some time or other groused at official methods, especially at the methods of the Q.M.G. Most soldiers have felt the joy of receiving pull-throughs when boots have been indented for, or woollies when trenching-tool handles were wanted. But there is a great deal of exaggeration in these things. If you take everything into consideration (and I know you wouldn't dream of doing half this job), you find that the British Army was a very efficient institution, and that the Q.M.G.'s department in particular did its work extremely well. When folk point in scorn to the inelasticity of our Army system and joke about the hide-bound natures of our officials, it is very well to tell them of their nonsense. The people who could have carried on the war much better than it was carried on are legion; but wasn't Legion a silly devil who had to be cast out?

***

A correspondent in Serbia sends me a story which might surely come from the Emerald Isle! It strengthens the claim of the Serbians to be called "the Irish of the Balkans," or so it seems to me. But judge for yourselves. Here is what my correspondent writes:—"A Yugoslav officer had recently been celebrating his *slava*, or his birthday, or some other festive occasion not wisely but too well. Mounting his charger, he performed dashing feats of horsemanship through the streets and on the pavements, scattering the frightened folk in his wild career till he came to the inevitable grief. When he was convalescent he was called upon for an explanation by his commanding officer. His report began as follows:—'The statement that I was intoxicated is not accurate, but my horse was terribly drunk, hence my accident. . . .'"

CORSAIR.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

ALBANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The great Conference will soon decide the question of the Adriatic, and with it that of Albania. Albania asks for the re-confirmation of the independence guaranteed her by the Conference of London in 1913 and for reparation of the wrongs done her at that time.

The peace of the Balkans largely depends upon how the Great Conference solves the Albanian question, for a mutilated Albania with a million and a-half Albanians groaning under the yoke of the Slavs and Greeks will not cease to be a cause of grave unrest. And to mutilate Albania once more by giving Valona to Italy, and recognising that Power as having the right to mix in Albanian affairs would be a political crime without even the historic excuse of the division of Poland.

The Albanians will doubtless not have the power to resist the decisions of the Great Conference, but it is certain that they will not accept them cheerfully. The loss of Valona to Italy and of a province to Greece or Serbia will entail heavy consequences.

The inhabitants of the South are already much agitated, and those of Valona have once more sent vehement protests (November 16, 1919) to Paris against any Italian domination, *even in a disguised form*, protests which support those already made in September last.

We are waiting, and we do not yet despair. But the statesmen who decide the fate of small nationalities must not forget the responsibility which they assume if they solve the Albanian question in an unjust and iniquitous manner.—I am, etc.,

LUMO SKENDO,
Representative of the Pan-Albanian Society "Vatra" in the United States.

Paris, December 27, 1919.

THE "AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of the 19th instant you have referred to a common error in confusing the Persian Province of Azerbaijan with the new Republic that has arisen out of the ruins of the Tsarist Empire of Russia, and which now aspires to the name of Azerbaijan. Your editorial remarks in disapproving of such an aspiration encourage me, as one well acquainted with the history of those regions, to write a few lines for publication in your hospitable columns.

The assumption of the name of Azerbaijan by the Province of Baku, which is ethnographically part of the Persian plateau, and was actually within the Governorship of Azerbaijan from the dawn of history up to ninety years ago, is a manœuvre of the Young Turks, with the design to mix them together and to swallow both. Azerbaijan is the Arabic synonym for Azeralbadkan, meaning a place that flourished by fire (it is the classical Atropatant), so called because of the great fire temple erected 600 B.C. by Zoroaster, the great Iranian prophet and a native of Azerbaijan.

Baku, a Russian corruption of Badkuba, literally meaning "wind-swept," still contains several ruins of fire temples left from the time of Zoroaster. It is populated mostly by Aryans of the Moslem Shiah creed; but by a historical accident they, like their brethren in the north-west part of present Persia, speak the Turkish language, a fact which has given rise not only to a common error that the people of Azerbaijan are of Turkish or Mongolian origin, but has created for the intriguing Young Turks a fertile soil to sow their mischievous seeds of propaganda.

This unfortunate barbaric mark on the purely Aryan race is the result of the invasion of Ghengiz Khan about the beginning of the thirteenth century and the reign of the Mongolian dynasty in Persia which lasted to the middle of the fifteenth century. These Mongolians, who chose north-west Persia as the seat of their government, displayed great zeal in Turco-fying the Persians in that region, and used to punish those who dared to speak a non-Turkish language. Thus the Turkish language became a common language, notwithstanding Ghengiz Khan and all his heathen Mongolian troops being converted to Islam, thus losing all their barbarous customs, their language remained as a lasting taint on Persians of the north-west.

With all these historical and ethnographical rights Persians neither try to force their claim to the territory of the Caucasian Republic, nor desire to interfere with the aspiration and aims of the new Republic; at the same time they are not prepared to submit to the mischievous propaganda carried on under the direction of the Young Turks, which involves danger both to the Caucasian Republic and to Persia. I am well aware that Persians and the Persian Government have been well disposed towards the Republic, and I have authentic information that the Persian Foreign Minister, who left London a few days ago, maintained in all official negotiations a most sympathetic attitude towards the young Republic and its aspirations; but the inclination of the Caucasian Republic to lend itself to the intrigues of the Young Turks and German adventurers, to make itself the tool in their hands, and to allow the Turkish officers to direct its destiny, is a state of things that cannot be tolerated either by Persians or Britons, because it involves great danger both to Persian and British interests and possessions in the Middle East. The fact of being surrounded on west and north by Turks and their tools, without any naturally strong frontiers, not only subjects Persia to perpetual danger, but constitutes a great menace to the British Empire in the East as a whole. Now that the representatives of the Caucasian Republic have come to London with a view to securing British support and sympathy for their aspirations, they must realise that they cannot achieve these ends while they are creating in their country a source of perpetual danger to Persia and the British Empire in the East. If they desire to establish a close relation with a Mohammedan Power in the East, with a view to strengthening their position, why not establish it with the Persians, who are of the same race and religion as themselves and have friendly relations and common interests with Great Britain?

If the present state of affairs in the Caucasus is not nipped in the bud and not remedied in time, it may lead to complications and consequences that all well-wishers of the British Empire would deplore.—I am, etc.,

R. MAREAU.

21, Mincing Lane, December 30, 1919.

MUSICAL NOTES.

The present popularity of chamber music among people who are not themselves musicians is, I suppose, a sign of the times. Many men tire quickly both of the flare and blare of the full orchestra and of the monotony of the individual performer, and they find a *via media* in chamber music. Quartets, therefore, are now nearly everywhere extremely popular.

Now the London String Quartet, which has recently returned from very successful tours on the Continent, gave its 107th "Pop" (popular concert) at Æolian Hall on December 27 (it gives another one at the same place tomorrow afternoon), and it again proved itself to be, what everyone knew it to be, one of the best quartets in existence. (This being so, why, I may incidentally ask, does it adhere to the vile name of "Pops"? Granted very freely that it does not possess those signs—so beloved of the "Proms."—of bondage to commercial interests—I mean, of course, the popular ballads—but is such a title really essential to financial prosperity?) Its programme consisted of three items—Mozart's Quartet in D minor, Vaughan-Williams's Song Cycle, "On Wenlock Edge," and Schonberg's Sextet in D minor.

The position of Mozart is at the present time an uncertain one. Our impetuous youth of to-day, ever eager to undermine authority, is inclined to deny him standing, and quite cheerfully describes his works as fluent superfluities. And on the other and more numerous side is, of course, the classicist who worships at the master's shrine. For neither of these two sides is it so much a matter of the presentation of Mozart as of his intrinsic value or lack of value—either he is very great or he is very small. Now it seems to me that a central position is much the safer one to hold, by which I do not mean a moderate or middle position, which is merely a watering down of two extremes, but this: that to say that Mozart is great and always great, and to dismiss him as a copious writer of inanities are equally fond. Mozart certainly is great at times, but it is more often as a perfect artist than a great one that he appears to me. And this seemed to be the conviction which the London String Quartet held. They played Mozart wonderfully, beautifully, perfectly; their own art was as finished as Mozart's—in short, they enchanted us. But they could rarely thrill, and never overcome; and this I think was because the music itself is not great. This quartet in D minor is in some respects similar to a play by Congreve; we miss, if we look for it, the depth of Beethoven in the one, as we miss the depth of Shakespeare in the other—but then, we are fools if we look for it. The present generation may deny Mozart the quality of greatness; but to all those wise men who do not believe in progress his perfection is obvious.

Vaughan-Williams's "On Wenlock Edge" is very widely known, as it deserves to be. A. E. Housman's "Shropshire Lad" has been set to music by many composers, but Vaughan-Williams's is one of the most successful settings. It is a work quite representative of modern British art, full of the national idiom, and one that will surely survive. It was sung very competently by Mr. Gervase Elwes, whose tone blended well with the quartet and the pianoforte.

Why the Quartet should (with Mr. James Lockyer as 2nd viola and Mr. Cedric Sharpe as 2nd 'cello), have expended time on the Schönberg sextet, is rather a mystery. Terrific discussions are waged over this German composer, but his adherents are an extraordinary set of people. I cannot believe that by far the larger part of those who applauded so heartily this sextet did so for any other reason than to praise the performers. It was played excellently (though this can be said of anything the Quartet chooses to play), but what stuff it is! It starts normally enough, but proceeds to wander into modern labyrinths from which it extricates itself by clutching at those treacly melodies (thirds and sixths and all the rest of it) so dear to the German mind. These serious efforts of German radicals are far more tedious than the clever bluff of the French and Russian moderns; and one heard the end of the sextet in wearied and quite bewildered wonderment. It does not seem on first hearing to be bad enough to be dismissed as impossible, but I should think it could be put into the basket of dispensable things.

ANDANTE.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Britain and Mohammedanism.

A writer in the *Liverpool Daily Courier* of December 18 makes a suggestion that we should conduct a counter-propaganda to the German-Bolshevist use of the pan-Islam movement. He says:—

In the meantime it were well if the British authorities throughout the Moslem parts of our Empire would undertake an energetic counter-propaganda against the German-Bolshevik attempt to work the pan-Islamic movement for all it is worth against ourselves on the spurious plea that we are out to destroy not the Turk but Mohammedism itself. The non-Moslem origin and character of this anti-British propaganda is well evidenced by the fact that its promoters are Germans, Russian Bolsheviks, and agnostic Young Turks. These are the people who are seeking to fan the flames of religious fanaticism in the breasts of others. Our propaganda should not only take note of the consideration that large blocks of Moslems, such as our Persian and Arab friends, decline to recognise the Constantinople Caliph, regarding him as a usurper and even schismatic (not to say heretic), but to such of our Indian and Egyptian Moslems, for instance, as spiritually speaking belong to the same Moslem community as the Turk, the same propaganda should emphasise the point that to associate their religion with the crimes of a political Power like Turkey is to do grave damage and injustice to that religion. The Moslem who approves of Turkey's crimes and wishes them to go unpunished is no good Moslem. This argument, if cogently presented, would, I believe, make a strong appeal to the virtues which adorn the really devout Moslem.

The Middle East.

In a rather gloomy survey of the state of the world, the *Outlook* of December 27 says of the problem of the Middle East:—

Peace with Turkey would undoubtedly be an important step forward. But, in the absence of American co-operation, any Turkish settlement in other respects satisfactory means a very large addition to the responsibilities of the Allies, and of this country in particular. It is to be noted that sea power will help us little in any obligations in the Middle East; the strategic position of the areas for which we are likely to assume at least temporary responsibility implies the necessity of defence by land armaments. If the problems attending the break-up of the Russian and Austrian Empires seem at the moment almost desperate in their difficulty, there is at least one hopeful circumstance. Many of the peoples cast adrift from their ancient moorings are of a fairly high standard of civilisation and gifted with some habit of self-help. It is not impossible to conceive of them fashioning some tolerable kind of polity for themselves when they have settled down. There is no such hope in the case of populations whose initiative has been sapped by ages of Turkish misrule. It is not sufficient to emancipate them; they must be ruled.

England and the East.

The *Nation* of December 27, in an article called "The New Meeting of East and West," points out the unsettled condition of the East. It says:—

If the Arabs have seen white men victorious, they have also seen white men in defeat. There is nothing in these conditions to support the idea that they will take any rule that is imposed on them, thanking Allah for the fall of a terrorism by men of their own religion, and not looking too closely at the institutions which take its place. Nor is the war the only earthquake in their minds. The Bolshevik propaganda makes a great appeal to the Mussulman world. It points to a common oppressor of the European proletariat and the Mohammedan peoples. It preaches a simple universal philosophy not alien or antagonistic to the ideas of the East. It denounces all those systems under which one Mahommedan State after another has lost its independence to a European Government. Some of the supporters of the Government defend their Russian policy on the ground that the Bolsheviks are poisoning the mind of India and Egypt, believing in their simple folly that this kind of influence can be arrested by war, and that the best way to check these ideas is to spread confusion and misery over the world.

This is not then an easy moment for assuming the government of Eastern populations or for assuming any position that carries with it the responsibility for keeping order. Remembering the kind of influence that will be at work, the kind of fear that will be in the minds of the rulers, let us look at the position of the men on the spot. They will not hold Mesopotamia by a large army for the simple reason that Great Britain cannot find one. Their ascendancy will be what we call a moral ascendancy. They may try to introduce reforms beneficient in themselves but distasteful to the inhabitants or to some sections of them. They may make mistakes of judgment or temper; they may act in a tactless or unsympathetic manner. Their authority and position will inevitably be challenged, and even when it is not challenged in fact their imagination will detect a challenge beneath the surface.

It concludes by suggesting that what is wanted is a new conception of the relations of Oriental peoples to the West, and fears that the new system of governments in the East is being built up on what it calls the "fatal fallacy" of a European life being "a great deal more valuable than the life of a native."

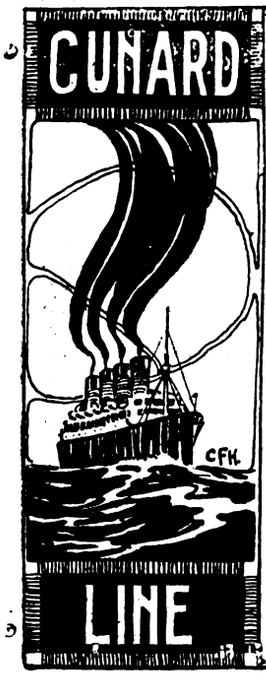
Egypt.

The Times of December 19 refers to the articles on Egypt which it is publishing from the pen of Sir Valentine Chirol, and to the modification which they have effected in British opinion. It says:—

It is clear, from his repeated statements, that our administration has seriously deteriorated, and has been developed on wrong lines. It is further clear that, in spite of the regrettable excesses of some of the Egyptian leaders, their grievances have in certain respects a real foundation. We have made many mistakes in Egypt since Lord Cromer left Cairo; and perhaps our worst mistake has been that it was never fully realized, either by the men on the spot or by the Foreign Office, that his departure marked the end of an era highly beneficial to Egypt, but requiring modifications in view of changing times. Lord Kitchener, who understood Egypt's needs, did something for the cultivators, and was liberal in his tendencies; but after he left, there were alternately apathy and blundering. The suspension of the Assembly on the outbreak of war was a grievous error, and so was our refusal to employ the Egyptian Army. While we were pressing the late Tsar to convoke the Duma, we were committing in Egypt the very fault for which we condemned him. . .

But it closes on a brighter note, recounting some of the benefits Great Britain has brought to Egypt:—

We have brought Egypt a material prosperity hitherto undreamed of. By our irrigation achievements we have, in the last twenty years, raised the rental value of occupied land from £E17,000,000 to £E80,000,000. The cultivators live under conditions of financial ease which would have been thought inconceivable in the oppressive days of Ismail. They forget the woes of their fathers, and the memories of the time of the *corvée* and the *courbash* are now dim, but present grievances bulk large in their eyes. In their clamour for self-government they ignore the possibility that they may not fare so well under their own leaders, who have notoriously taken very little interest in the welfare of the peasantry. The task of the Milner Commission, however, is to meet the unquestionable aspirations of the Egyptian nation, even if the results may not be wholly good.



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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

IN THE HANDS OF THE TURKS.*

To few people does the story of a prisoner of war make its appeal in vain. But it is one thing for a book to rely upon sentimental considerations for its passport to public favour; it is altogether a different matter to present an existence of three years in captivity as an arresting narrative which commends itself to the reader as an artistic whole. This is certainly what Captain Yeats-Brown has succeeded in doing. He was taken prisoner in November, 1915, in an attempt, as observer in an aeroplane, to cut the telegraph lines behind the Turkish position below Baghdad; and he finally gained his liberty in Constantinople not long before the Armistice. It requires judgment and the pen of the ready writer to tell the story of three years in such a way as will hold the reader's attention on every page, while admitting him into "the psychology of prison," and taking him through "the long descent of wasted days," when the chief break in the dismal procession of moons was the discussion of plans for escape, followed almost inevitably by their abandonment. Ultimately transfer to Haidar Pasha Hospital favoured our author's scheme. From this point incident presses upon incident. It was no mean achievement for two prisoners to effect their first escape as they did; it was a greater feat for one to live in Constantinople for some weeks as a German governess, and for the other, "so tall and so Saxon," to make a further dash for liberty as an Arab ragamuffin, hugging a poor little bowl of curds and half a cucumber. Both their efforts were frustrated, and for both the horrors of a Turkish gaol were in store. The Armistice and the collapse of the Committee régime followed hard upon the heels of the second and successful escape, and Captain Yeats-Brown was still in disguise in Constantinople when the new order was ushered in.

Few will lay aside this fascinating book without hoping that the author will be persuaded to tell the tale of the crowded weeks that marked the passing of Talaat and Enver and the installation of Allied troops as the temporary guardians of law and order in the Ottoman capital.

THE TRIALS OF MONTENEGRO.†

The Montenegrins have had no stouter champion outside their own country than Mr. Alex. Devine, who, with a tenacity that must have been the despair of those who desired to have a veil drawn over the fate of Montenegro, has pleaded the cause of fair play for the smallest of the Allied Powers. This pamphlet sets out to bring the story of Montenegro down to the events of the last few weeks. It is couched in vigorous terms, for Mr. Devine believes that the situation is too acute to call for velvet gloves. No attempt has been made to meet the objections of those who have urged that Montenegro ought to be left free to decide her own destiny. The spectacle of the Entente countenancing an utterly indefensible policy in regard to that helpless country is one of the most unedifying features connected with the Paris Conference. It has been crowned by the action of the British Government in sending a special mission to investigate conditions in Montenegro, and then refusing to publish the mission's report or to take action on its findings. The orgy of millennial altruism introduced by President Wilson, and shared by the British and French Governments, has been followed by the most cynical exhibition of cowardly selfishness known in British history. For the issue in regard to Montenegro is as clear as day; the Montenegrins accuse the Serbians of an organised campaign of massacre amounting almost to extermination; the Serbians deny the charge and denounce King Nicholas as a traitor to his country and to the Allies. The Entente Powers turn a deaf ear to both charges, allowing the Serbians to carry out whatever may be their policy in Montenegro, and continuing to treat King Nicholas as a loyal and respected ally. Any British statesman careful of the country's reputation with posterity would insist upon this *impasse* being straightened out, and it is a matter for surprise that the Yugoslav Government does not press for an inquiry to clear itself of the charges brought against it.

THE MODERN WAY.‡

These tales profess to be of Macedonia, but they are not about that undesirable country. In all there are twenty-two tales, and in not one of them can it really be said that the Balkan spirit predominates. The types described exist in a good many other countries. It is true that there is a certain amount of local suggestion—the names of Salonika, Athens, Doiran, and so on occur frequently—but the setting of the story is with Mr. Cumberland a secondary affair: it is more with his creatures than with their *cadres* that he is interested.

The tales themselves are most of them bad. Their subjects are what more than less accurately is called unpleasant: demireps, drink, jealousy, selfishness, and many more vices have the main place in these pages. They are drawn with flashy skill—we had a right to anticipate this from the author of "Set Down in Malice"—but generally speaking they are merely clever. Now, from cleverness to dullness is but a short step, and unfortunately it is one which Mr. Cumberland often takes. Sometimes, indeed, his clever superiority becomes oppressive. Look, for instance, at the irritating preciosity of sentences like these:—"Full-bosomed ladies, absurdly conscious of the number and whiteness of their teeth, have always seemed to me much too grotesque to love." And "So Cassels played some of the humane, if rather turgid, music of Schumann, in which one may always find balm for the poisoned mind." However, Mr. Cumberland is so wholehearted a modern and so successful in the provocation which he is resolved to incite, that one cannot find it in one's heart, however stern, wholly to condemn him. In three tales he is really good—"The Dreamer," "The Moonman," and "Trench Madness"; and in "The Victim" he has made a quite readable imitation of E. A. Poe.

But it is impossible not to end with a nearly full-throated refusal to accept these stories. If the author's ideas are loose, his writing is looser still. His apparent variety of styles is due really to the fact that he does not possess one. He can write, but more often he does not care to do so. Finally, these tales would look much better, or not so bad, in French: then we should read them and interestedly forgive them. But in English the description of vice after vice ceases after a little time to have any colour: it is not, as the musicians say, in the national idiom. And, after all, if we really thirst for these dreadfully clever stories of the ugly side of life, we can import them in quenchful quantities from abroad. There they will always do these things far better than we.

THE BLOOD-STAINED PURSUIT.*

Mr. Sax Rohmer has here published a modern "shocker," with all its glaring vices and none of its breathless virtues. He has, as it were, packed a portmaneau, filling it with such things as crocodiles, dwarfs, stupid constables, a girl "with violet eyes," *hashish*, severed wrists, and, in fine, with all the stock in and out of trade of the prosperous scribe. He has labelled the box "Hassan of Aleppo," and sent it off in the rather optimistic hope of getting us to unpack it. Really the story is wildly incredible, and it is so ill-written that one's imagination, before it can get to work to help along the tale, is smothered by a very reasonable indignation.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"Sir Limpidus." By Marmaduke Pickthall. (London: W. Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd., 7s. net.)

* "Caught by the Turks." By Francis Yeats-Brown. London: Edward Arnold, 1919. 12s. 6d. net.)

† "A Few Facts Concerning the Intrigue Against Montenegro." By Alex Devine. (Winchester: Warren and Son. 1d.)

‡ "Tales of a Cruel Country." By Gerald Cumberland. (London: Grant Richards. 7s. net).

* "The Quest of the Sacred Slipper." By Sax Rohmer. (London: C. Arthur Pearson. 2s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. January	1919. December.		1338. Rabia II.	5680. Tebet.
2	20	Friday	11	11
3	21	Saturday.....	12	12
4	22	Sunday	13	13
5	23	Monday	14	14
6	24	Tuesday	15	15
7	25	Wednesday	16	16
8	26	Thursday	17	17

Lord Inchcape left London on December 23 for Scotland.

Prince Alexander, Regent of Serbia, left Cannes on December 29 for Paris.

General Lord and Lady Byng of Vimy spent Christmas with the Duke of Portland at Welbeck.

General Franchet d'Esperey, before leaving Athens, presented the Croix de Guerre to King Alexander.

Dr. Michel Gavrilovitch, the newly appointed Serbian Minister, has arrived in London from Belgrade.

M. Yovan M. Yovanovitch, formerly Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, has returned to London from Paris.

Lord Methuen opened on December 30 the new headquarters at George Street, Bath, of the Comrades of the Great War.

M. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, has left London for the country. He will, it is expected, leave for the Continent soon.

"Serbia and Yugoslavia Before the War and After" was the subject of a lecture given on December 29 at the Æolian Hall by Mrs. Dickinson Berry, and we hope to give a report of it in an early issue.

Yussuf Wahba Pasha, President of the Egyptian Council of Ministers, is gazetted as an honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

M. Misu is leaving Belgrade shortly for London. He will have an audience with the King at Buckingham Palace for the purpose of presenting his letter of recall.

Commander Talbot, who has been specially attached to M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, by the British Government, arrived in London on December 30 from Paris.

The marriage arranged between Major W. H. Brooke, M.C., and the Hon. Marjorie Plumer will take place at St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Malta, on January 27, 1920.

The Bishops in India are making a special appeal to Church people at home to assist the Indian Church Aid Association to minister to the wants of the Anglo-Indians, formerly known as Eurasians.

Bishop Bury, who has approached the S.P.G. for help for the Europe Committee in maintaining chaplains on the Continent, points out that in Belgrade, among other places, opportunities are afforded for great development.

The Bishop of London preached at the Sung Eucharist at St. Etheldreda's, Fulham, on December 28. An eloquent appeal on behalf of the starving millions of children in Central Europe, Serbia, and Armenia drew a liberal response for the "Save the Children Fund" from the large congregation.

Sir John Sandys, Litt.D., the Public Orator of the University of Cambridge, has resigned office. For many years he served as the University representative on the Committee of the British School at Athens.

According to the *Œuvre*, the engagement is reported in well-informed circles of Prince George, the eldest son of ex-King Constantine of Greece, and Princess Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of the King and Queen of Roumania.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob, Assistant Resident at Aden, who was sent on a mission to the Imam of the Yemen at Sana, and captured, together with his companions, by hostile Arabs in September last, arrived at Cairo on Boxing Day, having been released some time previously. After submitting a report to Lord Allenby, Colonel Jacob will come to London on leave and to consult the Foreign Office.

It is officially announced that an agreement has been come to between the British and the Greek Governments under which a number of Greek Naval officers are to complete their training in this country. Under these arrangements ten officers of the Greek Royal Navy are to visit England. Four have already arrived, and the remainder are expected at the end of this month. They will go for instruction to Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

The Shah of Persia has presented to his Majesty's ship Ceres a cup, as a souvenir of his voyage in that ship from Batum to Taranto. In forwarding the cup to the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs writes:—"It is with much pleasure that his Imperial Majesty takes this opportunity of renewing his thanks for the admirable facilities placed at his disposal by his Britannic Majesty's Navy, and of expressing his appreciation of the courtesy and consideration shown by Captain Reinold and his officers."

Our Malta Correspondent writes:

His Grace, the Archbishop-Bishop, Dom. Maurus Carnona, O.S.B., has returned by the Italian steamer and has resumed direction of his diocese.

The public are responding in a marked liberal spirit to the fund just established for the purpose of presenting a gift to the Honorable Marjorie Plumer on the occasion of her forthcoming marriage.

The Senate of Malta University has conferred the degree of LL.D. (Honoris Causa) on Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, and also on the Noble Filippo Sceberras.

Major A. Dingli, O.B.E., Royal Marines, has arrived by the ss. Menfi.

His Majesty the King of the Hellenes has conferred the Medal for Military Merit on Captain Arthur Bernard Butterworth, O.B.E., of the Royal Army Service Corps.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister in London, has been appointed Administrator of the Domains of the Roumanian Crown.

Prince Demeter Ghyka has been appointed Roumanian Minister to Paris, and also chief delegate to the Peace Conference.

M. Frederick Nano has been appointed Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London. He was formerly Secretary to the Legation at Berne.

M. V. M. Popovitch, Secretary of the Legation for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has been appointed Chief Secretary in the Foreign Office at Belgrade.

Sir William Duke, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., assumed office yesterday as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for India, in succession to Sir Thomas Holderness, G.C.B., K.C.S.I.

The Rt. Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P., Secretary of State for India, has appointed Mr. S. K. Brown to be his principal private secretary vice Mr. C. H. Kisch, C.B., promoted.

The Secretary of State for India proposes to appoint Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair, C.I.E., to be a Member of the Council of India, under the provisions of the new Act in succession to Sir Prabashankar Pattani, K.C.I.E., who has undertaken the duties of Senior Administrator of the Bhavnagar State.

The following are among the promotions recently made by the King for meritorious service in connection with the war:—K.C.S.I.: R. Nathan, C.S.I., C.I.E., late Indian Civil Service; and K.C.I.E.: Brig.-General W. E. Baron Montagu of Beaulieu, C.S.I., V.D.

G.B.E. (Military Division): Hon. Lt.-Colonel his Highness Maharaja Shri Sir Ranjitsinhji Vibhuji, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Navanagar, Bombay Presidency.

K.B.E. (Civil Division): F. D. Couchman, C.I.E., Member Railway Board; G. S. Hart, C.I.E., Imperial Forest Service, Inspector-General of Forests; and Sir Alexander McRobert, Kt., Managing Director, Woollen Mills, Cawnpore, United Provinces.

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The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Hon. Lieutenant-General (in the British Army) H.E. Maharaja Sir Chandra Shamsher Jang Bahadur, Rana, Prime Minister, Marshal of Nepal, as an Honorary General in the British Army in recognition of services rendered during the Afghan War.

A committee has been appointed to advise the Government of India on the adjustment of the financial relations between the Central and Provincial Governments, with special regard to the new financial systems contemplated under the Government of India Act, 1919. The committee consists of Lord Neston, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Commander E. Hilton Young, M.P., and Mr. Charles Roberts. The committee will conduct its inquiries in India during the present cold weather.

The following names which appeared in the New Year's Honours Lists will be of particular interest to our readers:—

G.C.B.—Right Hon. Sir James Rennell Rodd, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.

C.B.—Charles Hubert Montgomery, C.V.O.

Baronet.—Sir Thomas William Holderness, G.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Knight.—Ernest A. Wallis Budge, M.A., Litt.D., D.Litt., F.S.A.

K.C.M.G.—Edgar Bonham-Carter, C.M.G., C.I.E., and Major-General Sir Percy Zachariah Cox, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.

C.M.G.—Malcolm Stevenson.

Hon. K.B.E. (Civil Division).—His Excellency Zulfikar Pasha.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on December 21 of the Rev. E. Albany Clarke, late of Dikoya, Ceylon, aged 66.

Colonel Herbert Rowley Cook, late Manchester Regiment, died at Barnet on Christmas Day, at the age of sixty-eight. He joined the Army in 1870, and had seen service in the Afghan War, 1879-80, taking part in the march to Kandahar, and in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882. He received the decorations for both campaigns.

The death is announced at Dover of Colonel Frederick Coulthurst Elton, late Royal Artillery, at the age of eighty-two. He saw service in the Crimean campaign, being present at the siege and fall of Sevastopol, for which he was mentioned in despatches and received the medal with clasp, the Legion of Honour, and the Turkish medal. He took part in the Egyptian Expedition in 1882, and was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the medal with clasp, the bronze star, the 3rd Class Mejidie, and the C.B.

The death has occurred at Edinburgh, in his eighty-seventh year, of Dr. George Smith, C.I.E., LL.D., the eminent Anglo-Indian publicist and biographer. In 1853 he landed at Calcutta to take up a professorship at Doveton College, which exists for the education of the domiciled Anglo-Indian community. He did much journalistic work there, and throughout his stay in India he was the chief correspondent in India of *The Times*. He returned from India in 1874. Dr. Smith married in December, 1855, Janet Adam, of Edinburgh, who died in 1888, after bearing him five sons and five daughters. The eldest son is now Sir George Adam Smith, Principal of Aberdeen University; and the second is Sir James Dunlop Smith, Political A.D.C. to the Secretary of State for India. Dr. Smith married a second time, in 1890, Mary Agnes, daughter of William Mackintosh, of Inshes House, Inverness-shire, by whom he is survived.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that from the social point of view Cairo spent a gay Christmas.

Yugoslavia is stated to have started the expulsion of a great number of Jews, and a protest has been sent to the Yugoslavia Delegation in Paris.

The first issue of the *Jerusalem News*, an American daily newspaper, has appeared in Jerusalem in the English language. Lord Allenby contributes a letter wishing success to the enterprise.

Relief works in the Thaton district of Burma have been practically stopped, and famine operations in the Hutta Birioi and Palur estates of the Ganjam district in the Madras Presidency have been closed.

A squadron of aeroplanes has been despatched from Cairo to join the punitive expedition against the Dinka tribe which attacked a British column near Tombe in the Mongala Province in the Upper Nile region in the early part of December.

From Persia comes a curious series of provisional postage stamps alleged to have been issued under the temporary administration of Satar Khan. The design common to all values is that of the Persian national flag with alternate horizontal bands of green, white, and red. The denominations are expressed in "dinars," 10,000 of which go to the Persian "toman," and the stamps are lithographed on white wove paper and perforated.

The British High Commissioner at Constantinople has called the attention of the Ottoman Minister of War to the fact that damage has been done recently to certain British cemeteries in Gallipoli, and has caused disciplinary action to be taken in cases in which Turkish soldiers were the offenders. To prevent further acts of desecration, and to facilitate the work of the Graves Registration Units, the G.O.C.-in-C., Army of the Black Sea, is sending Serbian Guards into the area.

During January, 1918, appeared the first definitive stamp issue of Yugoslavia, with its caryatide of Victory and Croat sailor proclaiming freedom from the masthead; while from Fiume came on January 28 autonomous postage stamps of pictorial design by the artist Giovanni Rubinovitch, issued by the National Council, and eloquent of the Italian sympathies of its populace. In Turkey the abortive pictorial stamps prepared in anticipation of Essad Pasha's ill-fated invasion of Egypt were finally placed in circulation towards the end of January, with the addition of a three-line overprint signifying "Souvenir of the Armistice—30 Dulkaada 1334" (October 30, 1918). The Transcaucasian Republic of Georgia was added to the roll of stamp-issuing countries on May 26, when a set of four stamps made its debut with a hieroglyphic reproduction of the national arms depicting St. George crossing the Black Mountains. Some curious stamps adorned with a vignette of a large tree were issued about the same period by the Provisional Government of the Black Sea port of Batum, under British military control. Three separate series of provisional postage stamps issued at Aivaly, Smyrna, and Rodosto resulted from the Greek occupation of Asia Minor by the mandate of the Paris Conference.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1920.

BRITISH INTERESTS IN THE NEAR EAST.

Next week will see an effort on the part of a resuscitated Paris Conference to draw up a final peace settlement for Turkey. No agreement that has been reached during the last twelve months in regard to the Near Eastern question justifies the least optimism over the weighty decisions that remain to be taken, and we must confess to no little anxiety at the prospect of fresh concessions and compromises that lead the Allied Powers farther away from the goal of peace and prejudice the real interests of all the countries concerned. If there was one Power that could claim to have knowledge of the East, it was Great Britain; for that reason, the whole of the settlement of the Near and Middle East ought to have borne the unmistakable imprint of British honour and fairplay, and whatever compromises had to be effected elsewhere, the British Government should have been adamant in insisting that there must be no departure from the canons of strict justice in the East. Up to the present it would be difficult to discover in any measure adopted in regard to the Near East the characteristics which have been the sheet anchor for Eastern and other peoples in their dealings with Great Britain. An impossible situation had been created during the war by a number of conflicting agreements which could not be carried out in their entirety. Instead of facing this problem honestly and fearlessly, Great Britain's representatives have tried to throw upon others the onus of extricating the Allies from a blunder of their own creation. The inevitable result has been to postpone a settlement, and the delay has only served to aggravate the position. It has been an axiom among those who have had any knowledge of the East that no solution of its difficulties could be found, unless it were imposed, so to speak, from above. But the Paris Conference, with the apparent acquiescence of the British Government, has ostentatiously washed its hands of the Near Eastern settlement and has left the rival elements to fight out their own differences. Italians have been pitted against Yugoslavs, Serbians against Roumanians; even the courage to prevent fighting between Montenegrins and Serbians was wanting, while the acme of callousness was attained in the dispatch of Greek troops to occupy Turkish territory during the period of the armistice, without attempting to secure for either side immunity from the hostility of the other.

The answer of the British representatives to this indictment of their handling of the Near Eastern question would probably be that they had to concern themselves with other, and weightier, matters, and they would hold that in their work in Paris they had done well to concentrate on the important things, while compromising on minor points. Unfortunately, the problem presented by the Near East cannot be regarded as of relative unimportance in its bearing on the peace of Europe, for any inadequate or unjust settlement of a single point threatens to provide sooner or later a storm-centre for the whole Continent. Indifference to the significance of the Near East in the scheme of world affairs has been carried so far that it is not appreciated that almost irreparable harm is being done to British interests. The higher the prestige of Great Britain as a moral factor in the world before or during the war, the greater her fall from grace in the eyes of the people of the Near and Middle East when she is seen to associate herself with the most flagrant breaches of honour and of justice. But the failing that will be the last to be forgotten is the lack of courage that has apparently prevented Great Britain from taking an independent line in any single question, with a view to compelling her Allies to abandon a policy of self-interest or vindictiveness in favour of one of elementary justice and common sense. Syria provides an excellent object-lesson. All the facts of the situation were perfectly well known to the British Government; the Arabs refused to accept the French as a mandatory Power; they are allies and not enemies of the Entente, and they have every right to invoke the principle of self-determination; they warned the two Governments that there would be trouble if the French assumed control. France could not have run counter to any firm stand taken by the British Government; but the latter, we are led to assume, was incapable of taking one. No one can quarrel with Mr. Lloyd George's statement to M. Clemenceau that "Our two countries must keep closer together than ever"; but everyone outside the Government, and, possibly, some in it, will challenge the corollary seemingly accepted by the British Prime Minister that Great Britain must efface herself the world over in order to maintain that closeness with France. There would be less cause for quarrel with the doctrine if it could be shown to be in the interest of the world's peace. As a matter of fact, it has entirely the contrary effect. A bolder stand in regard to Syria would have benefited France, the Arabs, and Great Britain. The seeds of unrest have been sown in the Middle East, and it is likely to be a long time before the last harvest has been garnered. The British Government's action may not cost it any votes at the next election, but there can be little doubt that posterity will denounce the whole handling of the Near and Middle Eastern problem after the Great War as a grave blot on British statesmanship.

The unpardonable delay in the Turkish settlement has brought about a condition of things such that any decision is now open to serious objections. Nine months ago, or at any time during the war, the issue was comparatively simple. The Allies stood for justice, the principle of nationality, and a better world, and in this programme there was no room for Turkish jurisdiction in Europe. To-day the Paris Conference has itself deliberately ignored the dictates of justice as well as the principle of nationality, and it would be hypocritical to pretend that it has moved a finger towards creating a better world in the Near East. In these circumstances it would seem to be folly or worse to revive abstract ideas of justice or the requirements of humanity for application in a single isolated instance, when such action must necessarily give rise to further unrest and bring a considerable portion of the world about Great Britain's ears. Virtue coupled with inconsistency may become little better than a vice. A Government that shrinks from the publication of Count de Salis's report on conditions in Montenegro cannot afford to be eloquent over an incorrigible Turkey; and the nations who had decided that the world would be better if the Turks were ejected from Europe, may do well to reflect on their own shortcomings or on those of their Governments, and agree to postpone the millennium on earth. Certain it is that the Turkish settlement stands to affect no one apart from the Turk as closely as it does Great Britain; and for Great Britain it is a matter of the gravest moment. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the British representatives at the Paris Conference next week will be better primed than they have hitherto been in regard to the bearing that their decisions on Near Eastern questions will have on the future of the British Empire, and that they will not sacrifice British interests for the *beaux yeux* of any Ally.

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HASHISH.

(From a Correspondent.)

Those who have lived in Egypt for any length of time, and mixed with the people, have no doubt come across the "hashásh"—*i.e.*, the man who eats, drinks, chews, or smokes hashish, the intoxicating product of the forbidden hemp. The habit still prevails largely, many suffer in health from it, and it is responsible for a good deal of the insanity which is treated in asylums. The term "hashásh" is one of opprobrium. Most of us know that the word assassin is derived from "hashashin" (Latiné, assassin) the plural of hashash. Hashish (Lat., assis), as a generic term, signifies grass or herbage, fresh or dry: specifically it is applied to preparations of hemp (*Cannabis Indica* or *Sativa*), alias benj, beng, bhang, or bhung, the intoxicating or exciting properties of which have long been known in the East. Sometimes the leaves are chewed. For smoking, the young leaves are used, either alone or mixed with tobacco. The result, Lane tells us in his "Modern Egyptians," is to produce boisterous mirth; but it has various other effects, according to the individual and the form in which it is taken. In India it is sometimes taken in a liquid state by both Moslems and Hindus. The hemp leaves, *e.g.*, are pounded either with or without opium and spices (cloves, nutmegs, mace, black pepper, etc.) and drunk with water, milk, the juice of water-melon, or other fruit. Another method is to boil the leaves in butter or fat for some hours, then press out the juice and mix with honey or other sweet substances. This preparation is called *bast* (cheerfulness). In Arabia the vendor of cheerfulness, and sometimes the eater, is called *basti*. Another kind is called *shíreh*.

Hashish is taken largely as an electuary, or conserve. In the streets of Cairo there are little shops called *masháshch*, in which rows of porcelain, or glazed earthenware, jars—generally coloured blue and white—are ranged on shelves. The principal group of these shops is near the mosque of Sultan Kalaûn, in the north of Cairo. They are not like those in the drug and scent bazaars, but a class apart. The jars contain various preparations of hashish, combined with other ingredients, including henbane, opium, hellebore, and datura. The seed capsules of hemp are pounded and mixed with aromatic and sweet substances. The art of preparation is handed down from father to son, and the trade secrets are jealously preserved. The conserve is called *ma'gún* (*maajoun*), and the man who eats or sells it *magúngi* (*maajounji*). The varieties are very numerous. The most common is called *barsh* (*bers*). "One kind," says Lane, "makes the person who takes it manifest his pleasure by singing; another will make him chatter; a third excites to dance; a fourth particularly affects the vision; a fifth is of a sedative nature." As there is such a variety in the quality and strength of the hashish, and the preparation of the ma'gun, and as constitutions differ greatly, it follows that the effects of absorption into the system differ very considerably.

Opium, the less popular rival of hashish, is in Arabic *afiún*, and the person addicted to it an *afiúni*. The epithet is less opprobrious than that of hashásh. The effect of this "elixir of pleasure," which, De Quincey tells us, "has the keys of Paradise," are well known, and perhaps this drug is the base of the ma'gun more often than the hashásh imagines. Hashish is used for stupefying the senses. Thus in the "Thousand and One Nights" we find the companions of Sinbad made drowsy by it; and in another story the faithless wife gives it to her husband in his food, and then goes forth to meet her lover. Some preparations are believed to strengthen the constitution and renovate impaired vigour. Prospero Alpino, who spent some years in Cairo in the reign of our Queen Elizabeth, tells us that a certain quantity was taken daily by the dissolute Ottoman Sultan Murad III., "although he was subject to epilepsy." He discourses at length on various ma'guns, under the titles of Philonium, Bernavi, Theriaca magna, Mithridatium, etc.

Theophile Gautier has given an amusing account of the fortnightly meetings of the "Club des Haschashin" in Paris. But perhaps the best description of the bizarre influences of hashish has been given by M. Charles Richet.* The chief effects are a great exaggeration of all the feelings, including that of *amour propre*. All the senses are strangely affected. The notion of time is completely upset. Seconds appear like years, and minutes like ages, owing to the immense number and variety of ideas flashed through the brain. Visions of space are equally delusive. Objects assume fantastic shapes and sizes, in an atmosphere of dazzling brilliance; they are magnified and multiplied. Thus a single soldier may appear like a host, and a low staircase like Jacob's ladder ascending to the heavens. Rough daubs or paintings transport you to enchanting scenes and landscapes. A slight noise affects the ear like a crash of thunder or the booming of artillery, and dropping water falls like a resounding cataract. Rude music is converted into celestial strains. A word of reproach is felt as an intolerable insult. And all the time there is an entire absence of will and of self-control; you know that your senses are fooling you, but you have no power to resist the spell of the subtle influence. Memory, too, is unimpaired, unless the dose has been too strong; you recollect perfectly what you have said or done. There is often much resemblance to the states of hysteria. M. Richet considers that intoxication by hashish is practically identical with a state of dream or temporary madness. With some persons sleep brings pleasant and fantastic dreams. They are lulled into ecstatic trances or reveries of indescribable beatitude, apparently like those of the dupes of Hassan, the "old man of the mountains."

The sufferings of those who are deprived of the powers to gratify the cravings which habit creates, as in the case of the opium-eater, have been sometimes described. Prospero relates two instances. In one a sailor threw himself into the Nile from a vessel and fled like a maniac to the desert, to the great consternation of his fellow-travellers, who feared they would be held responsible. In the other, a leading camel rider of a caravan on a journey to Jerusalem completely lost the use of his hands and feet, and had to be bound by his companions upon his camel until relief was found.

A resident in the East can indeed both read and hear many an amusing anecdote regarding the eccentricities of those who indulge in this weird and bewitching drug.

R. M.

*Revue des Deux Mondes, "Les poisons de l'intelligence." Mars 1, 1877.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—Yugoslavia (British Consular Representatives). Roumania (British Trade). Assyria (Christian Population). Demobilisation: Troops in Mesopotamia and Persia. British Army: Gallipoli. India: Miners' Wages.—British Troops (Charge on Indian Revenue).—Indian Army, Mesopotamia (British Officers).—Burma (Moung Tun Shein).—Rice Crop, Burma.—Miners' Hours and Wages, Bengal.—Famine and Epidemic Diseases (Mortality).—Shene Dagon Pagoda, Burma.—Press, Burma. (December 22.) British Army: Troops in Mesopotamia (Leave). Black Sea Army (Malaria). India: Hunter Commission.—Strikes.—Amritsar Disturbances.—Cost of Living and Wages.—Cable Rates.—Germans (Repatriation). (December 23.)

UR JUNCTION.

According to the latest information that has reached us from Lower Mesopotamia, the Busreh-Baghdad Railway was to be opened on January 1, or, at the very latest, January 15. A branch line to Nasiriyeh (at the lower end of the Shatt-el-Hai) leaves the main line, seven miles distant, at Ur (Mugheir), the reputed birthplace of Abraham. These famous ruins, which lie some little distance to the west of the Euphrates, thus seem likely to become known as Ur Junction, reminding one of Mark Twain's lines:

"Ease her; stop her;
Any more for Joppa"

Incidentally, it may be observed, the opening of this railway is likely to lead to a certain tourist traffic, in view of the strong archæological interest of the region traversed by the line.

The tone of the Yemen tribes who lately held up Colonel Jacob's Mission to the Imam of Yemen is, Reuter's Agency is informed, more friendly, and the Imam denies all responsibility for the detention of the party. As already reported, the Mission arrived safely at Hodeida on December 13, and left the same day for Aden.

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THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 13.

Demand for Accommodation.

Since my last notes all the steamers arriving at Port Said and Alexandria have landed large numbers of residents and wives of officers of the Army of Occupation, with the result that the demand for accommodation has become even more accentuated than before. The extent of the influx is particularly noticeable at the dances and other social gatherings, and the "crush" is now every bit as bad as at the height of pre-war seasons.

We have quite a collection of literary celebrities here at present. In the first place there is Sir Valentine Chirol, who is soon going up to Luxor for a short stay; then there is Mrs. Alec. Tweedie, who is on her way to India; and Mr. Percy White, the novelist, who has returned to resume his winter activities as lecturer on English literature at the Egyptian University; and now we have Mr. J. A. Spender, who is one of the members of the Milner Mission.

The "Continental."

Great changes are being made at the Continental Hotel, where the grill-room is about to re-open and the reading and music rooms on the right of the hall are being converted into a ball-room with a special parquet floor. This will be a great improvement, for hitherto the weekly dances have been given in one of the side rooms, which has been quite inadequate for the purpose.

The Continental has been the scene of many dinner parties during the past week. Amongst those seen dining there have been Lady Palmer, Sir Edgar and Lady Bernard, who are shortly going on to Khartoum, Lady Fane, Mrs. Alec. Tweedie, Marquis et Marquise di Nobile, and Mr. and Mrs. Pembroke, who are on their way to Upper Egypt; Mrs. and Miss Bird, and Mr. Percy White.

In Upper Egypt.

Mention of Upper Egypt reminds me that many residents are arranging to spend Christmas at Luxor, where the Winter Palace, which during the War made an admirable hospital, has now been re-opened, and where in pre-war days Yuletide witnessed many a merry gathering of Caireines. In this connection it is curious how people out here love change at that festive season. For years Upper Egypt has been the attraction for Cairo residents, whilst Helwan has filled the same place in the hearts of Alexandrines; and this year, notwithstanding that so many have but recently returned from a holiday in Europe, bids fair to prove no exception to the old rule.

The Sultania Opera House opens its doors to-night for the season, and we are all agog with excitement at the prospect of the musical feast which is in store for us until next March. Meanwhile, those who have not been able to reserve seats or to possess their souls in patience have been patronising the Kursaal, where another Italian Opera Company has been giving some excellent performances. I hear, however, that there has been some hitch in the arrangements, and that this company may not remain after Christmas—which is a great pity, for we could well do with the double turn, since the Sultania Opera House is so small. I am not surprised, however, at any good singers objecting to singing in a house where smoking is allowed, as is the case at the Kursaal.

"Shepheard's."

At Shepheard's the weekly dances are still as popular as ever, and the scene in the grill-room and restaurant on Saturday evening is exceedingly gay and brilliant. It is quite like olden times to sit on the historic balcony at tea-time watching the kaleidoscopic scene, which all habitués of Egypt know so well, whilst in the evenings there is always a great rush for the Egyptian hall, where one can rest so cosily after dinner on the cold nights that will soon be with us. An excellent orchestra adds to the enjoyment, and, as often as not, after it has departed for the night some music-loving subaltern sits himself down at the piano and delights his soul—and his audience—with well-known classical pieces and songs. Amongst those staying at this hotel are the Comtesse della Salla, Sir Arthur Du Cros, Brigadier-General Deedes, Sir Valentine Chirol, the Hon. Mrs. Annesley, and Brigadier-General and Mrs. Morris.

In my notes a week or so ago I gave details of the Armistice ball held at Shepheard's Hotel, under the patronage of Lord and Lady Allenby and the Hon. Hampson Gary. The financial results appear to be most gratifying, for it is announced that a cheque for £E367 has been handed over to the Anglo-American Hospital. This handsome cheque will be most welcome to those responsible for the administration of this deserving institution, though, like Oliver Twist, they, with reason, cry out for more.

An Enjoyable Dance.

Private parties and dances are becoming more and more the fashion, and a most enjoyable dance was given the other evening by the Countess of Stradbroke at her villa at Ghezireh. The dance, which was given for her two daughters, took place on Lady Stradbroke's birthday, and amongst those present were Lady Fane, Sir Gilbert and Lady Clayton, the Countess d'Ardent, Count and Countess Serionne, Colonel and Mrs. Castle-Smith.

Racing still continues as actively as ever. During the past week we had two Derby meetings, one at Ghezireh and the other to-day at Heliopolis. The former meeting was attended by Lord and Lady Allenby, and both attracted a very large crowd. In fact, all Cairo was there, with quite a number of Alexandria folk thrown in.

Open-air Delights.

This is the time of year when gardens in Egypt are approaching their best, and those who take the trouble to visit the Zoo or go down to the Barrage are well repaid, for both places are in a delightful condition. The Zoo is always one of the great attractions. It contains a most excellent collection of the animal inhabitants of the Dark Continent, all of which seem to flourish under the able care of Captain Flower, whose wife takes an active interest in his work. The Zoo used to be one of the favourite haunts of the late Lord Cromer, and those who visit it can well understand his affection for the spot. As for the Barrage, the gardens, with Mougel Bey's masterpiece, constitute a most picturesque place in which to while away an afternoon. But the most ideal way of visiting it is to go by train after lunch, have one's tea in the excellent tea-garden, and return by water; and if one chooses a full-moon, one is able to conclude an enjoyable day with a most attractive evening view of the Nile.

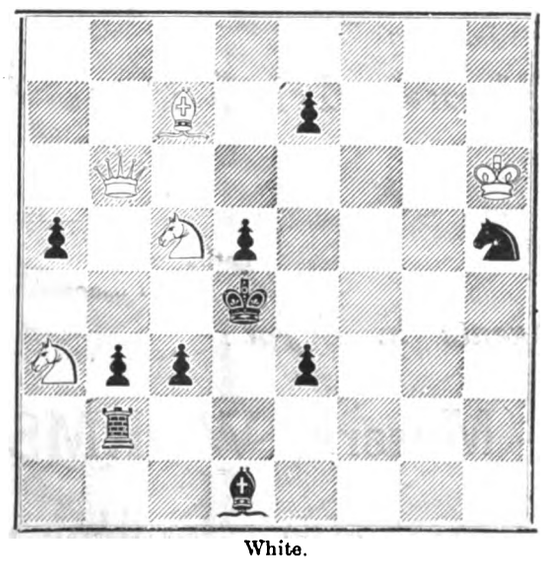
The Milner Mission.

The Milner Mission is installed at the Semiramis. Those who knew this palatial hotel in pre-war days will be surprised to find how it has been altered within. The reception rooms on the ground floor have been converted into offices for the Mission. A large partition runs down the centre of the magnificent entrance hall, to separate the Ministerial quarters from those of the Mission, and another partition has been run across the ball-room, to divide it into a lounge and dining-room, with an emergency staircase, giving access to the living rooms above, the main staircase being in the portion reserved to the Government. Notwithstanding these ugly arrangements, the Mission have very comfortable quarters, and their rooms on the first floor have a magnificent view of the Nile. There is only one lady in the party, Mrs. Spender, the wife of Mr. J. A. Spender, but it is understood that Lady Rodd will join her husband after Christmas.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 8.

Black.



White.

White to mate in three.

The above problem by Dr. E. Palkoska, Bohemia, was placed first (*ex æquo*) at the Barcelona Congress of 1914.

Solution to Problem No. 7.—1. B—Kt5 if B—Kt 2, Kt—K8; if any other B x P mate.

Caro-Kann.

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The Asiatic Petroleum Co. (Egypt), Ltd.,

St. Helen's Court, Great St. Helen's, London, E.C.3

are prepared to supply the products of

The Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd.

Liquid Fuel, Diesel Oil, Kerosene Oil, Solar Oil, Motor Spirit, Lubricating : : Oils, Wax, and Candles : :

Liquid fuel can be supplied to Steamers and Motor Vessels at

Alexandria, Port Said, Suez, and Safaga.

Agents in Egypt:

Messrs. WORMS & CO., PORT SAID,

to whom BUYERS desiring information regarding : : supplies and prices can also apply : :

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The first step in the complete rehabilitation of Roumania has been taken with the conclusion of the recent election covering the whole of Greater Roumania. As a result, the National Liberals, under M. Bratiano, go out of office, and the Transylvanians succeed to power. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that, given wise government, the prospects of the country are most favourable. There will be no stint of production—cereals, oil, and a gradually increasing industrial output. But the first desideratum is a complete overhauling of the finances of the country. M. Vaida-Vaevod, the new Prime Minister, will, it is to be hoped, seek expert advice on this point outside Roumania, with a view to allowing the country to benefit from the maximum of foreign support. A complication is introduced by the second currency of Transylvania, and it is most important that no steps should be taken in regard to it without adequate consideration of the effect upon Roumania's position in world finance.

***

The figures for Greek revenue and expenditure in 1918-19, which were given by M. Negropontis in his Budget speech, illustrate the nature of the problem with which the Greek Government has been faced in regard to the reorganisation of the State's finances. The revenue for that period amounted to 450,269,284 drachmae, while the expenditure was 1,241,714,338 drachmae. To the revenue has to be added, however, the proceeds of loans amounting to 798,421,989 drachmae, giving a credit balance of 6,976,935 drachmae. In recent months a very striking improvement has been noticeable in the Greek revenue returns, and for the current year M. Negropontis estimates the revenue at 1,147,669,394 drachmae, which would be almost sufficient if the expenditure remained stationary, but the estimate on the other side is also higher, though not to anything like the same extent, at 1,541,330,749 drachmae. As the Minister pointed out, however, the revenue is continually increasing, and that despite the fact that "the Government, in spite of all sacrifices made, has not been able yet to organise the newly-acquired provinces," and so it is extremely probable when the accounts come to be made up that the deficit, if there is one, will be very small.

***

Seldom has a new company been launched on its way under more influential auspices than the Anglo-French Middle East Corporation. Among the directors are the Earl of Drogheda, a director of the Dunlop Rubber Company; Lord Inchcape, chairman of the P. and O., and a director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and many other important enterprises; Sir T. Royden, Bart., deputy-chairman of the Cunard, and a director of the British Union Oil Company and the Pacific Oilfields. The objects of the company are to acquire and work oil and other minerals in the Middle East. Assured of the strongest support on both sides of the Channel, it may be assumed that the corporation will play an important part in the development of a region in which the interests of the two countries are to no inconsiderable extent identical.

***

An interesting reference is made in the December issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt to the recent placing in America of an order for locomotives for the Egyptian State Railways. Our contemporary had previously put forward considerations in favour of the acceptance of British offers which "should more than counterbalance any ordinary difference in price." "From the figures which have since been put before the Chamber in correspondence with the Railways Administration," says the *Journal*, "it appears that the difference is more than ordinary, so far as price goes, and the time factor is heavily in favour of the U.S.A. In the circumstances one cannot hold the E.S.R. to blame, as they are in pressing need of locomotives to replace those worn out during the War. The trouble lies with the U.K., where things are not as they should be."

***

Our contemporary goes on to complain of the lack of interest sometimes shown by British manufacturers in the export trade. "It is admitted," says the *Journal*, "that the demands of labour at home, in conjunction with underproduction, do not make matters too simple for the firms concerned, but even while giving this its due weight it cannot be denied that while sufficient work is in hand the heads of the firms concerned do not worry about foreign business." I am afraid there is only too much truth in this criticism. The fact is that at the present time the home market can absorb almost unlimited supplies, and some firms are only too willing to content themselves with the easy trade which is at their door, so to speak, leaving markets elsewhere alone until necessity forces them to exercise enterprise and to look further afield.

***

Needless to say, this policy, if it were carried out on any wide scale, would be fraught with tremendous dangers for the future. The right course to adopt at the present time is the very opposite of this. Even if it means neglecting the home market to a very considerable extent and allowing rivals to obtain a substantial footing here, it is the duty of manufacturers to spare no efforts to meet at any rate some part of the requirements in outside markets, particularly in those of the Near East, where an opportunity such as is now presented is never likely to recur. In almost every one of the markets of that region there is a shortage of goods which the United Kingdom can supply, and especially in the Balkans the countries are looking to us to supply their needs. They will not look in vain long, for other countries will simply step in and seize the openings which we have neglected. Once more I urge British manufacturers to be up and doing and to make 1920 a worthy starting point of a new era in British commercial history.

***

Commerce and industry are well represented in the New Year's Honours List. An award of special interest is the baronetcy conferred on Mr. J. T. Cargill, chairman of the Burmah Oil Company, while interesting appointments in the India Office list are the knighthoods conferred on Mr. M. N. Hogg, partner in Forbes, Forbes, Campbell and Company, Bombay; Mr. Robert Stanes, the well-known Madras merchant; Mr. P. W. Newson, senior partner in the firm of Jardine, Skinner and Co., of Calcutta; and Mr. Robert Taylor, senior partner in the firm of John Taylor and Sons, Limited, and a director of the Mysore Gold Mining Company.

***

Particulars are now available of the proposals for the amalgamation of the Indian Presidency Banks. The scheme is that the capital of the new bank, which will be called the Imperial Bank of India, shall be Rs.11,25,00,000, divided into shares of Rs.500 each, while the paid-up capital will be Rs.5,62,50,000. This is considerably more than the paid-up capital of the three Presidency banks, and it is proposed that the balance shall be provided by the issue of 150,000 shares of Rs.500 each, on which Rs.125 will be payable; 80,000 of these shares will be allotted at par to the shareholders of the Bank of Bengal, 40,000 at par to those of the Bank of Bombay, and the balance of 30,000 at the price of Rs.225 per share to those of the Bank of Madras. Unlike the Presidency banks, there will be a branch of the Imperial Bank of India in London, and the bank will open 100 new branches in the next five years.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866.)

Head Office: 27, THROGMORTON ST., LONDON, E.C. 2.

Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
GENERAL THE HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
P. NAVILLE, Esq.

Bankers: BANK OF ENGLAND. MESSRS. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO.

A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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THE INDIAN MARKET.

II.—Effect of Industrial Development.

It needs no emphasis that the growing industrial development of India is bound to have a marked effect on the import trade. Mr. Ainscough, the Senior British Trade Commissioner for India and Ceylon, points out in his report that a new era is dawning for India—the era of industrial expansion—during which the great Dependency will gradually take her place as an important manufacturing country, and a valuable industrial asset to the Empire. Naturally this process will involve far-reaching changes in the character of the Indian market. Mr. Ainscough mentions three ways in which the development of Indian industries will affect the United Kingdom maker and exporter.

The first, which in his view is probably the least important, is that the imports of many articles which can be manufactured locally, but which were formerly imported from the United Kingdom, will be greatly reduced. To what extent this factor will operate will depend, of course, on the prevision shown by British traders. It is difficult to see how in any case much dislocation of trade can be avoided for the time being, and it is not improbable that some firms will sustain serious losses. But this should be merely a temporary phase, and in the vastly greater market that India will present in due course as the result of the increased purchasing power of the individual Indian it is confidently to be anticipated that British traders will find far more than compensation. Mr. Ainscough looks forward to a great expansion of British trade with India in the near future, and believes that India will not only remain the principal outlet in the world for our manufactures, but that she will increase her lead over other consuming markets.

It is further pointed out that the development of many industries, and particularly the iron and steel, engineering, chemical, electro-chemical and electro-metallurgical industries, will provide great scope for British capitalists and industrialists to erect works in India, and so take the fullest advantage of India's natural resources for the good of the Empire. While the country possesses raw materials and unskilled labour in large quantities, it needs capital, directing force and ability, experience of modern and scientific conditions of industry, and expert foremen and artisans to train the available labour. Obviously these must mainly, if not entirely, be provided from overseas, and Mr. Ainscough points out that unless United Kingdom capitalists and manufacturers are prepared to seize the opportunities offered, there is a risk of American and Japanese interests becoming established in the country. Several United Kingdom makers, it is remarked, have already made arrangements for the erection of works in India, and many more are conducting negotiations to that end, and others would be well-advised to investigate the prospects.

Mr. Ainscough recommends home industrialists who may be examining the possibilities of India as a field for their manufacturing activities carefully to consider whether it would not be to their advantage to ally themselves with one or other of the prominent British firms of managing agents in India in order to secure the benefit of their experience of local conditions, management of Indian labour, and knowledge of the market, both as regards the purchase of raw materials and also the disposal of the finished products, and so avoid the many pitfalls attending inexperienced enterprise in a country such as India, with its peculiar conditions of climate and people.

The third way is through the desire to render India as far as possible self-supporting This spirit is being manifested in many ways, Mr. Ainscough points out, perhaps the most obvious one being the gradual weakening of the London buying connections. As regards the proposed development which will leave to the Stores Department of the India Office only indents for goods which it has been found cannot be obtained in London, Mr. Ainscough says that considerable injustice will be done to Home makers unless the Indian Controller-General of Stores is authorised also to purchase direct from the local branches of home firms and so insure that these organisations have a fair chance of tendering for contracts which may be placed locally. In any event, adds Mr. Ainscough, certain British manufacturing engineers will no longer be able to rely upon receiving all their orders for Government account in London as they have done in the past, and they should, without delay, open their own offices in India, staff them with experienced salesmen and engineers, and, in the case of heavy plant, with a competent erecting staff.

The Tunisian date crop is estimated at 77,161,000 lb.

Messrs. Charles Barker and Sons, Limited, have transferred their offices from White Lion Court, Cornhill, E.C.3, to 31, Budge Row, Cannon Street, E.C.4.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, for the ten days ended November 30 amounted to £E17,003, making the total for the year £E228,608. The corresponding figures for 1918 were £E13,312 and £E232,421.

TRADE AT BATOUM.

Competition Reviving.

H.M. Consul at Batoum, in a recent report, says :—The number of steamers that have visited Batoum this year is comparatively small. Outside British transports and Government ships, the number since the resumption of trade has been 95 steamers. Of these 29 were under the British flag and 6 under the American flag. Small craft, including steamers plying between here and Constantinople, are numerous. They trade principally under the British, Greek, and Indian colours. Only about ten tank steamers have loaded oil here. They were :—One British steamer, about 3,000 tons, for Great Britain, two British steamers, about 6,000, for Turkey, one Belgian steamer, about 3,000 tons, for Antwerp, two Belgian steamers, about 3,500 tons, for Odessa, three Russian steamers, about 7,000 tons, for Odessa, one Russian steamer, about 1,750 tons, for Marseilles. The oil exports have quite recently taken a spurt, and healthy development before long is foreshadowed in this branch of trade. The approximate quantity of manganese ore shipped at Batoum and Poti since the Black Sea was reopened to trade has been, as near as possible, 25,000 tons. Of this quantity about two-thirds have gone to the United Kingdom, and one-third to American ports. About 2,000 tons of tobacco have been loaded, principally at Batoum and Soukoum, for the United Kingdom.

The principal importers of manufactured goods (such as textiles, boots, shoes, stationery, perfumery, soap, screws, nails, enamelled iron ware utensils, leather and sulphate of copper) and colonial produce (as for instance, Indian tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, etc.) are British firms. The Italians come next in rotation with a similar class of goods (except colonial goods), but cheap and much inferior in quality to the British-made article. They, nevertheless, find a ready sale at profitable prices for their merchandise. The French follow with more or less similar goods. The volume of their imports has hitherto not been great. A certain proportion—about 30 per cent. of the import trade—is carried on by small merchants of a variety of nationalities who travel backward and forward between Batoum and Constantinople. They buy goods of every conceivable description at the latter place, and bring them to Batoum, where they are sold to small dealers and merchants who come here from the inland districts to purchase their requirements.

Members of the American Relief Committees are also busily engaged in opening up trade with America. Hitherto, little else but flour and clothing, for distribution to Armenian refugees and persons of other nationalities in distress, have reached this country from the United States, but the attention which is being paid to the Trans-Caucasus by American interests points to an appreciable increase in American trade in the near future. The Italians are no less active. Their Mission at Tiflis is striving, by all means possible, to acquire an ascending position in the industries and trade of Transcaucasia. A striking example of their activity is the recent establishment by the Lloyd Triestino of a fortnightly service of passenger and cargo steamers, via Northern Black Sea and Caucasian coast ports, from Trieste to Batoum and back, calling at Poti. It is just possible that the new line may divert some of the trade, which is now coming to Batoum, through Poti to Georgia.

MALTA TRADE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, December 14.

A Government Order has been issued prohibiting the manufacture from flour of any article of food other than bread, paste, cheese-cakes, and local biscuits.

The Control Board announces that arrangements have been made with the Egyptian Government to allow the exportation of cotton seed oil and cotton seed cake from that country. Permission has also been obtained to export eighty head of cattle from Tunis.

Banque Franco-Serbe.

Capital Frs. 20,000,000.

Offices :

PARIS — MONASTIR (BITOLJ)
LONDON — USKUB (SKOPLYE)
BELGRADE — ZAGREB (AGRAM)

LONDON OFFICE : 27, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.

Every possible facility is offered to British Travellers and Merchants at the Bank's Offices in Serbia (i.e., the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes). British parties travelling to these parts should see that their letters of credit are made payable at the Bank's Branches, where every assistance will be rendered to them.

Drafts issued. Bills negotiated. Advances made upon Documentary Bills. Telegraphic Address : "Francoserb, Stock, London." Telephone Number : 1110 London Wall.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market is distinctly dearer than a week ago. Raw cotton prices have advanced to a considerable extent, and spinners and manufacturers have not been slow to put up their quotations for yarn and cloth. The tone in all quarters has been very strong, bullish sentiment being pronounced. Considering the time of the year, trade has been active. A substantial rise has occurred in Egyptian cotton values. There have been rumours of smaller estimates of the yield, and, according to some advices, the growth will not be more than 5,500,000 kantars. There has been a revival of buying from the trade. Egyptian yarns have been distinctly dearer, and some producers have withdrawn quotations for the time being. Supplies seem to be scarcer than ever, and it has been quite impossible to place orders without paying full rates. In piece goods for Near Eastern outlets there has been a persistent demand with a considerable turnover in a variety of cloths. Shippers to Egypt and the Levant have bought freely. An enormous inquiry has been met with for India, and although many offers have been too low, Manchester merchants have bought speculatively on an extensive scale. After being rather quieter, there has been more activity for China. Steady support has been given by shippers to South America. An important advance has taken place in American cotton prices. Yarns have been put up very firmly with an encouraging offtake in home counts. A healthy business continues to be done in shipping yarns, especially for India.

December 22.

The conditions prevailing in the market show very little change. Spinners and manufacturers remain in a very strong position. For anything wanted full rates have to be paid. Some falling off in trade must now be expected until after the turn of the year. Prices in Egyptian cotton remain very stiff. No news of any importance has come through relating to the crop. The disturbances abroad cause some anxiety. A strong feeling has again been reported in yarns made from Egyptian cotton. There is an encouraging demand for the supplies available, which, of course, are very limited. In cloth for Egypt steady buying has taken place, and the confidence of certain shippers in purchasing for delivery towards the end of next year has caused some comment. Active dealings have also transpired for the outlets of the Levant. Home trade fabrics have been in healthy request. American yarns have been very firm in quotation, and a moderate business has been done. Export yarns continue to attract considerable attention, especially for India, China, and Holland. Producers of extra hards suitable for the Levant are deeply sold.

PARIS-CONSTANTINOPLE TRAINS.

The following memorandum on the train service between Paris and Constantinople has been forwarded by the British High Commissioner at the latter city :—

A train leaves Paris (Gare de Lyons) and Constantinople (Birkedji) daily. It contains six wagon-lits and one restaurant car, each wagon-lit being numbered. The restaurant car runs to Bucharest via Brodi, but there is no restaurant car service between Belgrade and Brodi. There is no direct wagon-lit service between Constantinople and Belgrade, but there is a wagon-lit service from Constantinople as far as Sofia only, three days a week, and the usual daily train leaving 14-15 hours on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; and from Sofia to Constantinople on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. The first-class fare between Constantinople and Belgrade is approximately £10 sterling, including wagon-lit accommodation as far as Sofia. Between Belgrade and Paris the first-class fare is 600 francs, wagon-lit charge 207 francs extra.

Civilians travelling through Serbia must have their passports viséd before leaving the frontier towns of Belgrade or Tsaribrod. These must be viséd by : (1) Serbian Prefecture; (2) Serbian G.H.Q. Civilians travelling Belgrade to Paris must have their passports viséd by (1) Serbs; (2) Italians; (3) Swiss. The same applies for journey between Paris and Belgrade. The journey takes two days between Paris and Belgrade, and three days between Paris and Bucharest. The journey takes four days between Constantinople and Belgrade, and between Constantinople and Bucharest. Owing to lack of rolling stock and bad conditions of track, there is an improvised service between Tsaribrod and Pirot, consisting usually of one ordinary box truck and the engine. Passengers are thus obliged to transfer their baggage, etc., into the improvised train for the short journey before joining the connecting mail train at Pirot. This journey takes half-an-hour only.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated December 17 :—

Rain general in Burma and North-West Frontier Province. Local in the Punjab, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and Southern India.

During the week ending December 6 sowing spring crops and harvesting autumn crops continued North-Eastern and Southern India. Sowings continued Madras. Plucking tea continued Assam. Wheat sowing progressed Punjab. Cotton plucking continued everywhere. Almost completed Burma. General crop conditions good, but rain much needed to the north-west.

Bombay cotton market dull. Fully good broach, April-May, Rs. 536. Piece-goods market firm, with steady demand. Calcutta jute market tending upwards owing to increase of inquiries.

No change in bank rate.

Guzerat light feeder railways reconnaissance survey by state railways engineer sanctioned.

December 23.

Light rain in North-West Frontier Province, Lower Burma and Southern India. Dry elsewhere.

During the week ending December 13 sowing spring crops continued in North-Western and Western India. Neared completion North-Eastern and Central India. Harvesting autumn crops progressed Bombay, Central India and to the North-West. Harvesting paddy continued North-Eastern and Southern India. Sowing progressed Madras. Cotton plucking completed Burma, continued elsewhere. Plucking tea continued Assam. General crop conditions good. Useful rain has fallen in Punjab, but more badly wanted there.

Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good broach April-May Rs.552. Piece goods market firm, with demand slightly reduced. Calcutta gunny market heavy goods improved demand with steady prices. Hessians quiet.

Nanjangud Palakodu Dalavayhalli Railway reconnaissance survey fifty miles metre gauge railway by South Indian Railway sanctioned.

No change in Bank rate.

RELIEF WORK IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated December 19 :—Our telegram dated December 12. Relief works in Thaton district of Burma have been practically stopped, and famine operations in Hutta Birioi and Palur estates of Ganjam district in Madras Presidency have been closed. Numbers relieved :—Burma : Works, 2,700; gratuitous, 100. Feudatory States of Orissa : Works, 1,216; gratuitous, not reported. Hyderabad : Works, 8,000; gratuitous, 3,000. Madras : Works, 297; gratuitous, 2,212.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended December 6 amounted to £9,119.

It is reported that the practice is increasing in Germany of issuing preference shares having several times the voting power of ordinary shares, so as to prevent foreigners from obtaining a majority control of the companies concerned.

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE.

Direct regular steamship service with about weekly sailings outwards and homewards between

GOTHENBURG and ALGIERS, PIRÆUS, SMYRNA and SALONICA.
„ „ ALEXANDRIA, JAFFA and BEYROUTH.
„ „ CONSTANTINOPLE, ODESSA and other Black Sea Ports.

Also calling at other ports in Scandinavia, Levant and Black Sea (as inducement offers).

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At LONDON : J. E. Hyde & Co., 1, Lime Street Square.
„ SMYRNA : „ PIRÆUS : „ ALEXANDRIA : W. F. van der Zee.
„ SALONICA : Cauchi Brothers.
„ CONSTANTINOPLE : Theo. Reppen.

Or to the Head Office :

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE, GOTHENBURG.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS : LEVANT.

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GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

Paid-up Capital, Drs. 3,000,000.

Head Office - ATHENS.

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

COMMERCIAL AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT:
Purchase and sale of goods on account of clients. Warehousing, Advertising and placing foreign products on the market. Agents for foreign companies and large commercial and industrial firms abroad. General Shipping Agents.

POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.

Correspondents throughout Greece.

Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

CAPITAL - Drs. 1,500,000.
RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
Deposits and Credit Accounts, Drs. 100,000,000.

The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

The Bank of Athens extends special facilities for business with the Near **East** to manufacturers, exporters and importers.

The Bank has offices in all the principal towns in **Greece,** also in **Egypt,** Cairo and Alexandria, in **Cyprus,** Limassol, in **Constantinople,** in **Smyrna,** and in **France,** Marseilles.

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £1,920,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

London Office: 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 2,364,793.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches:—**Piræus, Salonika, Patras, Volo, Syra, Calamata, Corfu, Cephalonia, Candia, Chios, Argos, Pyrgos, Vostizza (Ægion), Nauplia.**

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT, AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking, Commercial and Stock Exchange business and extends special facilities to traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT:
The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,745,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 295,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 25·30 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅓ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches:

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000

Fully represented in all parts of the world for all kinds of commercial, financial, and shipping business.

President. L. EMBIRICOS. *Manager.* D. MIAOULIS.

BANK OF PIRÆUS.

For COMMERCE, INDUSTRY and SHIPPING.

Capital Paid-up - Drs. 5,000,000. Reserve Fund - Drs. 3,095,000.

OFFICES at PIRÆUS and ATHENS.

Every kind of Banking business transacted.
The Bank's connections throughout Greece enable it to offer foreign clients special facilities for the collection of Bills, etc.
Correspondence invited.

BANK OF INDUSTRY OF GREECE.

Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

Capital Fully Paid-up - Drs. 15,000,000

The Bank has been established for the encouragement and development of Industry and Commerce, and undertakes every description of banking business.

BANK OF ORIENT.

Capital Paid up - Drs. 25,000,000

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: SALONIKA, SMYRNA, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MITYLENE, SERRES, ZAGAZIG, MAGNESIA, PERGAMA, SOMA.

Every kind of Banking Business transacted

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ENGINEERING.

Motor Show Reflections.

VII.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Of all the exhibits at the Motor Show none attracted more attention than did that of Sir William Angus, Sanderson and Co., Ltd., of Birtley, Durham. It will be remembered that some little time ago this firm announced their intention of going in for mass production on the largest possible scale, and they outlined a scheme of action which instantly commended itself to the public. It was for the production of a car of high quality which could be offered at a price which would bring it within the reach of practically every buyer, and it was made clear that this laudable scheme could only be realised by an immense output in order that all overhead and similar charges per car could be cut down to an absolute minimum.

Briefly, the method on which this firm are working is the purchase of all specialised parts from specialist makers, instead of attempting to make every part themselves. In this way, too, the specialist makers will be assured of such large orders as will reduce their production costs below their present figure, and thus will certainly lead to a higher quality of production at a lower price. As each of these sub-manufacturers will represent the highest quality of the respective products, it follows that the finished car, which will be assembled by the firm at the Birtley works, should be quite the best of its class. The firm, it may be recalled, have a reputation second to none as body builders, and it may be taken that in this respect also the finished car will hold its own against all comers.

The open touring car shown rivalled the coupe in appearance, and for those who wish for a car with somewhat greater utility, a model with a wide dickey seat is promised. The chassis is the same for all models, and, briefly, has a 14-h.p. engine, and is constructed of components made by leading specialists, and is practically the first of its kind to be produced in this country on a scale approximation to that on which the largest quantity-production firms in the world turn out their products.

The three models shown were fitted with the exceptionally powerful and highly efficient 4-cylinder Tyler engine, developing just over 14-h.p. on the brake. I have personally tested this engine, and can speak as to its general high quality, soundness of design, and robustness of construction. The cylinders are of 76 by 127 millimetres bore and stroke, and cooling is by the well-known and well-tested thermo-syphon system. Every moving part is effectively lubricated by forced oil feed, and the design is such that whilst every part of the engine and every bearing is amply lubricated, it is impossible to over-oil any part of the mechanism.

The ignition is by a high-grade British-made magneto of the high-tension type, and a very wide range of spark is obtainable. The Zenith carburetter, also British made, is a highly efficient device, giving an even and adequate supply of gas to meet every requirement, from slow running in traffic to quick acceleration on bad surfaces or heavy gradients. The gear box provides three forward speeds and a reverse, and is fitted with a central ball change, thus making for exceptionally easy manipulation. The transmission is by cone clutch and final bevel drive, and both rear wheels are fitted with powerful brakes of the internal expanding type.

The car is fitted with disc wheels, carrying 815 by 105 millimetre tyres. The wheel base is 10 ft., with a 4 ft. 4 in. wheel track, and a large amount of clearance is provided, making the car specially suitable for use in countries where the roads are bad and of uneven surface. An electric dynamo for lighting and an electric self-starting set is provided, the whole of the electrical equipment being by Messrs. Joseph Lucas, of Birmingham. Transmission is by Messrs. E. G. Wrigley and Co., Ltd., and the frames, wheels, springs, and other component parts are by equally well-known makers of high-class parts.

Another excellent model shown was the 15.9-h.p. Humber car made by the well-known pioneers of road-using vehicles, Messrs. Humber, Ltd., of Coventry. The firm also showed a 10-h.p. model, which is certainly one of the finest things of its class I have yet had the pleasure of seeing and testing. This model has a wheel base of 8 ft. 9½ ins., a wheel track of 4 ft. 7 ins., and over-all length of 12 ft. 10 ins., and an over-all width of 5 ft. 6 ins.

It is fitted with a 4-cylinder engine of 65 by 120 mm. bore and stroke, has four forward speeds and a reverse, and the design of the gear box is such that all gears can be readily removed for inspection if required. The ignition and throttle levers are placed on the top of the steering wheel in an accessible position, and there is a foot accelerator operating the throttle independently of the hand lever.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Greek Railway Extension.

It is reported from Paris that a party of fifty French railway experts have left Paris for Athens to supervise the reorganisation of the Greek railways, which, it is stated, are to be materially extended after the coming into force of the Treaty of Versailles. The most important extension is the new line between Gida, on the Salonika-Monastir line, and Pappapouli, on the Thessalian frontier. The distance is about fifty-six miles, and the line runs along the Vistritza valley and the sea coast to Katerina and Pappapouli, where it joins the line to Larissa, of the Piraeus-Athens-Larissa Railway. The chief importance of this new line running along the coast lies in the fact that it links up the European, or Continental, railways with those of Greece. Thus passengers from Paris or any other Continental capital will be able to go by train to Athens in sixty to seventy hours, and thence to Alexandria by boat in forty-four hours. The construction of this new line was comparatively rapidly completed. Twenty new locomotive engines and the rest of the rolling stock were ordered in America, and are now ready for service. Owing to the war, several iron bridges which had been ordered in France could not be ready and wooden bridges had to be constructed. Some of them, undoubtedly, have already been replaced by iron bridges.

Salonika-Dedeagach Line.

Another important railway line is the Salonika-Dedeagach line. Its length is 510 kilometres (316 miles). This line leaving Salonika passes Kilindir, Demirhissar, Serres, and Drama, thence through the narrow passes of Drama to Xanthi, the famous tobacco place; from Xanthi it proceeds to Gioumulzina and Dedeagach. From Drama to Xanthi the railway passes through thirty tunnels, which, with the great Demirhissar iron bridge, constitute the most noteworthy technical works in this line. When the train comes out of the last tunnel the passengers have a most beautiful view before them—the great plain of Xanthi covered with tobacco plantations and picturesque Oriental farms. To the south of Xanthi is Yenitje, of tobacco fame, and Porto Lagos, the seaport of Xanthi. Like the whole net of the Oriental Railway, this Salonika-Dedeagach line is single and of narrow gauge. 1.45 metre (4 ft. 8 in.), and it was constructed in 1892 by a French company which had the concession from Turkey for ninety-nine years, with a guarantee that if the receipts per kilometre were less than 15,500 frs the Turkish Government should pay to the company the difference to make up that amount. But up to 1909 the receipts of this line never were more than 6,500 frs. per kilometre and in that year the Turkish Government had to pay the company 4,758,852 frs. This obligation of Turkey, according to treaties, has been taken up by Greece. But it is expected that with the recent political changes in that region and the railway policy of M. Venizelos, who proposes to unite all the Greek railways under one control, by which he believes a colossal economy of capital will be effected, this line, as well as all the Greek railways, will work at a good profit. It is very probable that the French railway experts who have left for Greece are to assist in a reorganisation of the Greek railways according to M. Venizelos' programme.

Wealth in Lignite.

We have had occasion in previous engineering notes to point out the abundance of lignite supplies that can be obtained in almost all the regions adjoining the Eastern Mediterranean coast, and have emphasised the fact that where lignite is readily procurable there the means of producing power cheaply exists. It is very satisfactory to hear that great interest is now being shown in neglected or inadequately worked mines in those regions; thus prospectors are seen about in search of outcrops of the erstwhile neglected mineral. We may point out that lignite is an excellent medium for use in the same way as ordinary coal for raising steam, etc. For carbonised lignite is now prepared for use in suction power-gas producers, and for this use it is unexcelled by any other form of fuel. In chemical composition it resembles anthracite. By carbonising the lignite the objectionable tar found in coals containing a substantial quantity of volatile matter is removed, and the gas goes to the cylinder of the gas-engine free of tar and clean. For the production of power in this way carbonised lignite is fully equal to anthracite, charcoal, or bituminous coke, the standard forms of fuel for that purpose.

Sulphate of Ammonia from Lignite.

Recent discoveries proved that there is still more, hitherto unknown, wealth in the lignite. Raw lignite, just as it is mined, when used in by-product gas-producers, makes sulphate of ammonia, producer-gas, and some tars of undetermined value; there is no solid residue except ash. Lignite carries on the average about 1.40 per cent. of nitrogen. If this nitrogen were wholly recovered as sulphate of ammonia the yield would be about 147 lb. per ton of lignite. This theoretical yield could not, of course, be obtained in commercial practice; the actual yield of sulphate of ammonia per ton of lignite gasified would be from 70 to 80 lb. The ammonia is contained in the gas and gas-water. It may be recovered as ammonium sulphate, a valuable fertiliser, as anhydrous ammonia for refrigeration and other commercial purposes, or it may be treated as the source of other nitrogen products, some of which are of vital importance in the manufacture of explosives. The fact that lignite does not coke in the sense that bituminous coal does, but rather crumbles on being carbonised, makes possible a continuous and comparatively inexpensive distilling process. It also parts with its volatile contents more readily than does bituminous coal. The whole process is mechanical.

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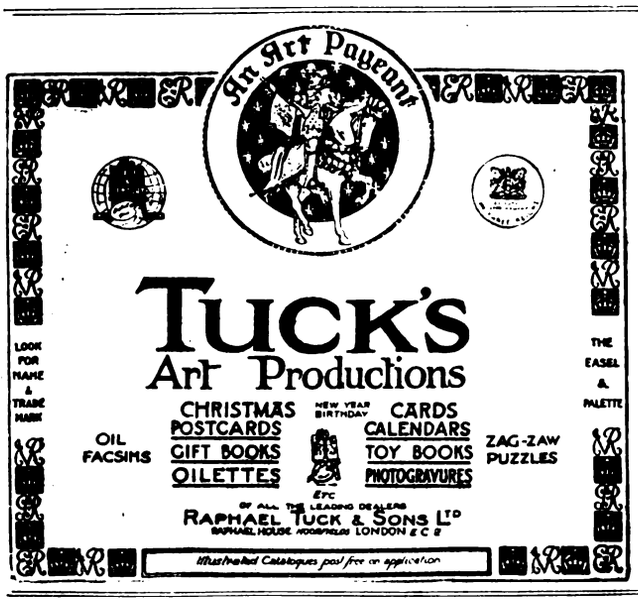

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

London Produce Report.

Currants and Sultanas.—Supplies of currants are reported to be adequate for present requirements. There is, however, a marked scarcity of sultanas. The difficulties of distribution are still serious.

Coffee.—The market has had the usual dull holiday tendency, and there have been few changes in prices. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are March, 120s.; May, 116s.; July, 113s. 6d.; September, 112s.

Sugar.—With the commencement of the present week Government control came into operation. There has been a good demand for home refined at the official rates.

Oilseeds.—There has been little doing. Linseed was steady for spot, but rather weaker for distant positions. Rapeseed has been firm with Toria to Hull, January to March, at 46s. Cottonseed has been very steady. Egyptian has been done at 24s. spot.

Oilcakes, etc.—Once again there is little to report as regards oilcakes. Linseed cake has been in fair demand at 500s., and cottonseed cake, coconut cake, and ground nut cake have also been in request. Oils have been firm with linseed at 107s. 3d., January to April.

BEYROUT NOTES.

(From a Beyrout Correspondent.)

Trade is not what it used to be. Merchants are rather waiting to see what effect Haifa will have on their trade, and fear it will take much of the Mesopotamian trade from them. Their ambition now is to develop trade with Mesopotamia and to induce their *emigrés* to go there instead of to America and other places. At present it looks as if the Mesopotamian trade routes would pass them by on the north viâ Aleppo to Constantinople or on the south to Haifa. Before the war a company was formed to run carriages from Aleppo to Baghdad to open up trade. The journey was to take ten days After five months the company had to go into liquidation because the Turkish Government refused to help them with a grant of £100 a month, although it was pointed out that the trips already made had increased the trade of both cities enormously. The Syrian is fully alive to the fact that Mesopotamia could be as rich as Egypt, but he knows well that it must first have labour, good communications, and a stable Government. Given the last two, it is thought that Syria could produce much of the labour, and would hope for trade in return. It is unlikely that the French will be able to put much trade through these ports since the Arabs command the railways, and will refuse to handle French goods except at exorbitant rates.

OPIUM REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended December 6:—We have to report a very active market, the sales amounting to 111 cases, principally for the Far Eastern markets, at prices ranging from 14s. to 20s. as to quality. The exchange for cheque on London stands now at Ps. 360 per £1 sterling, and dollar cheque at 1.12 dollars per one Turkish paper pound of Ps. 100.

For the week ended December 13 Messrs. Barker Bros. report:—Our market has been again very active this week, with sales amounting to 68 cases of manufacturing descriptions at 15s. 6d. to 20s., and soft shipping at 21s. The exchange has advanced to Ps. 370 for sterling cheque per pound, and dollars 1.05 per Turkish paper pound. Our opium market closed very firm, however, with plenty of buyers, who wish to profit now with the more favourable exchange, so we expect higher prices will be paid next week for opium. The arrivals are 1,210 cases, against 80 at same date last year.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Papayanni Line s.s. Austrian, for Malta and Alexandria, leaves Liverpool on January 3. The same company's s.s. Serbino, for Smyrna and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on January 10.

The Bibby Line s.s. Derbyshire leaves Liverpool for Rangoon on January 7.

The Johnston Line s.s. Wingate, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, closes for cargo at Liverpool on January 10.

The Moss Line s.s. Siptah, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on January 6.

The Anchor Line s.s. Castalia, for Bombay, will leave Glasgow on January 12 and Liverpool on January 17.

Shipping Notes.

The first sailing from Philippeville and Bône, for Ajaccio, of the s.s. Titania, which is to effect a regular service between Algeria and Corsica, took place on December 21.

The trial trip took place, on December 23, of the steel screw steamer Gondia, built by Messrs. Wm. Gray and Co. (1918), Ltd., West Hartlepool, for the British India Steam Navigation Company, Ltd. This vessel, which is 413 ft. in length, has a deadweight carrying capacity of 8,000 tons, possessing a full equipment of winches and cargo gear, electric lighting, etc. Her engines—triple expansion—have been supplied by the Central Marine Engine Works. The trial was entirely satisfactory in every respect.

The steel screw steamer Mandasor, built by Messrs. William Hamilton and Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow, to the order of the Anchor-Brocklebank Line for their Eastern trade, was recently successfully launched. Her length is 413 ft., and she has a d.w. carrying capacity of 8,200 tons, including oil fuel in double bottom. Electric light is installed throughout the vessel, and she is also fitted with wireless telegraphy. Accommodation is provided for the captain, officers, and engineers on the bridge deck, while provision is made for a large native crew, with special galley arrangements in the poop. The latest cargo appliances will be fitted for the rapid handling of cargo, including eleven large steam winches.

Shipping at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, December 14.

The transport Orotava has put to sea to-day for Mudros and Constantinople. The departures of naval ships included the Tilbury for Gibraltar, the Ark Royal for Alexandria, the Cleanthus for Venice, and the Flying Mist for Algiers, Gibraltar, and the United Kingdom. The transport Huntsgreen has just arrived from Constantinople, and the Czaritza has arrived from the United Kingdom. The Silverfield has just left for Smyrna and the Overton for Constantinople.

December 19.

The Cairo has just arrived flying the flag of a rear admiral. The following have left:—The trawler James Fennell for Gibraltar and the United Kingdom, the transport Pacuare for Liverpool, the Walter Burke for Tunis, and the tug St. Issey for Taranto. The Torch has left for Piræus, Mudros, and Constantinople.

The transports Trent from Mudros and the Teutonic from the United Kingdom have just arrived. The United States battleship North Dakota, which has had a few days in port, has left for Constantinople.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

SIVAS, November 15.

Exports.

During October and until now raw wool has been the sole article of export. The quantity exported is estimated at 50,000 okes, all of which is for Constantinople via Samsoun. The existing stock of wool amounts to about 150,000 to 200,000 okes, or nearly 250,000 kilos.

The present price of wool is 60 piastres (silver) the *batman* of 6 okes—that is, 235 francs the kilo. The quality of this wool is very good and white.

Transport from Sivas to Samsoun is carried on by means of oxen carts or trucks. It is still impossible to calculate exactly the cost; that is why the price of the merchandise can be established only approximately. On the average, the present cost of transport is about 1 franc the kilo.

JAFFA, December 9.

The principal articles exported in our region are agricultural products such as corn, barley, sesame, oranges, olive oil, almonds, and honey.

Corn.—As the corn crop in the current year was insufficient for local consumption, the Military Administration of Palestine, with the intention of preventing speculation in the article, and in anticipation of the height of the price to which it would certainly rise, has completely prohibited the export of it.

The stock of corn is about 1,700 tons, at P.E. 400 for 100 kilos. As this quantity does not suffice for local consumption, one necessarily has recourse to foreign flour to make good the deficit, and recently we have had Australian flour upon the market.

Barley.—Existing stocks are estimated at about 500 tons, at the rate of P.E. 233 the 100 kilos.

Sesame.—Stocks about 200 tons, at P.E. 700 the 100 kilos. The quantity will scarcely suffice until the new crop for local consumption.

Oranges.—The crop for the current year is estimated at five or six thousand cases. Here the price is 11s. the case of 144 oranges. Export of this fruit commences in November and finishes towards the end of April.

Oil.—As the crop of olives this year was bad, the production of olive oil has been almost negligible.

Almonds.—The total production of almonds, which amounts to about 200,000 kilos., is destined for export at a rate of P.E. 1,000 the 100 kilos.

Wines.—The total production of wines in Jaffa and the surrounding districts is estimated at 150,000 hectolitres, of which the greater part is to be exported.

Honey.—The annual produce amounts to about 10,000 kilos., and the existing stock is 7,000 kilos. Prices on the market are from P.E. 14 to P.E. 15 the kilo.

The prices of the cereals which we have just quoted are subject to frequent fluctuation. Thus an increase of 30 to 40 per cent. on the prices ruling in October has already taken place. It is said that the tendency for prices to rise will be maintained until June, 1920, the date of the beginning of the new crop.

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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COMPANY MEETING.

CYPRUS OIL TRUST.

The Leases Recently Acquired in Roumania.

The annual ordinary general meeting of Cyprus Oil Trust, Ltd., was held on December 31 at the registered office of the company, 52, New Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Thomas Bremner presiding.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—As explained in the notice sent out convening this meeting, we have called you together to comply with the regulations of the Companies Act, and the meeting being merely held pro forma, I shall propose adjourning it for the purpose of convening you at a later date, when we trust to have the complete and audited accounts submitted to you. I think, however, it may be necessary, and certainly of interest to the shareholders, that I should say a few words with regard to the present position of the company, particularly as to the oil leases we have recently acquired in Roumania. Full details of these properties were given by me at the general meeting held on July 11 last, when the capital of the company was increased with a view to the acquisition and development of the properties I have mentioned.

Our oil-bearing lands comprise a total area of 2,500 acres, situated in one of the best districts in Roumania, with all reasonable facilities near us, and were taken up by the vendor on the recommendation of Mr. Louis Hamilton, the well-known oil expert, and the Board are now formulating the policy for the active development of the leases. With regard to these properties, I am happy to be able to state that a deed of cession has been executed by the vendor, and steps are being taken to send a translation thereof, which has been duly legalised at the Roumanian Legation here, to Roumania, in order that the oil rights may be transferred into our own name as speedily as possible. We have had every assistance from Mr. Maw, the vendor, in regard to local conditions in Roumania, where he had resided for many years. On Mr. Maw's recommendation we have appointed Mr. E. G. Boxshall, a well-known British subject resident in Bucharest, as our general agent and power of attorney. This gentleman, from his wide experiences and intimate knowledge of business matters in Bucharest, will be of the greatest possible service to the company.

Oil Interests in Roumania.

There is no doubt that Roumania is a country rich in oil. The records of the past give every hope that the developments of the future will show an increase in the oil production of this country. All the big oil groups throughout the world have acquired, or are now acquiring, oil interests in Roumania. I need only mention the well-known companies, Steaua Romana, Romana Americana, Astra Romana, Concordia, International, and others, for you to appreciate the regard in which this country is held in this respect. I believe the companies I have mentioned, even in these times when conditions are entirely against them in Roumania, are producing about 300,000 barrels of oil a month, and this, I understand, is about half of the oil now being brought to the surface in the Roumanian oilfields.

The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, besides controlling the Romana Americana, according to a statement that appeared in the public Press the other day, has agreed to purchase half a million barrels of refined and crude oil from Roumanian companies, delivery to be made about the end of February next. The Roumanian oilfields, as I have mentioned, are working under adverse conditions, and the output is not nearly normal, production being about 8,000,000 barrels a year, against something like 13,000,000 barrels a year before the outbreak of the European war. I stated in my speech in July last that our three properties are the Toplitza, Coacaza, and Chilii, situated in the Tazla Valley district of Bacau. Adjoining these three blocks are oil lands belonging to the well-known oil producing company, Societate Romana, and immediately to the south are situated about 29 producing wells of the Steaua Romana. The Steaua Romana is, I believe, almost the largest producer in the Roumanian oilfields, so we are in good company, as well as being in a good locality.

Financial Position.

With regard to the financial position, I may state that, mainly as a result of the last issue of shares at 4s. each, the company has a substantial cash balance in hand, sufficient for all its purposes in thoroughly testing the properties. We have been approached during the last two or three weeks by a responsible group who are desirous of taking over one of our Roumanian oil leases. They propose to spend a considerable sum in drilling, and, if results are satisfactory, to form a separate company, giving us a very large share interest in it free of cost. Full details of this arrangement have not yet been settled, but I have every hope that everything will be carried through in the immediate future. We have a very large area of oil country to prove, and an arrangement such as has been suggested to us should be of great help and profit to the company. I now move that this meeting be adjourned to a date not later than March 31, at which I hope our accounts duly audited will be submitted for your approval.

Mr. G. D. Spiro, in seconding the motion, stated that the last issue of 100,000 shares of 2s. each at 4s. per share was fully subscribed. Only the actual necessary outgoings had been paid out of this amount, and they had the balance in hand, which placed the company in a very strong financial position and enabled it to carry through any engagement into which it might enter.

The motion for the adjournment of the meeting was agreed to, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Business has been interfered with this week by the Christmas holidays; but during the few days upon which the Stock Exchange has been open there has been great activity, and, in a general way, a further substantial rise in prices, thanks to the receipt of large buying orders from Egypt.

In Government securities Egyptian Unifieds, after changing hands up to 75, close ½ better at 74, but the 3½ per cent. prefs. have exceptionally reacted ½ to 61¼.

In Bank shares there has been a very sharp rise in National Bank of Egypts to 21¼, an advance of ⅞, and Agriculturals have improved 1-16th to 5 11-16, after being done up to 5 13-16; while the 4 per cent. cumulative preferences have advanced ⅛ to 6⅞. Anglo-Egyptian Banks, after being down to 16, finish ⅜ higher at 16½, and Land Banks are fractionally firmer at 6⅛.

The market in Land shares has been very excited, and at times wild; business has been on a very large scale. Aboukirs finish 2s. higher at 34, while Béhéras have had quite a sensational movement, and, after rising to 18¾, finish 2⅞ up at 18⅛. Delta Lands have jumped 2s. 4½d. to 16s. 4½d. Egyptian Agricultural debentures are one point higher at 72½. Gharbieh Lands have had a sensational rise to-night to 3¼, an advance of 1 since last week. In New Egyptians the turnover has been on a very large scale, and the shares finally finish 3s. 6d. up to 31s. 6d. Sidi Salems have also been in great demand, improving at one time to 3⅜ and finishing 9-16ths higher at 3⅛. Sudan Plantations, after dropping to 7¼, finish unchanged at 7½. In Union Foncières a persistent demand carried the price at one time to 5½, and they close ½ up at 5¼. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts are fractionally firmer at 14s., and Mortgage Company of Egypt prefs. are ¼ easier at 6¾.

Among the Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinia Corporations are fractionally easier again at 6s. 3d. A very fair business has been put through in Alexandria Waters round the current level of 10 11-16, while Associated Cotton Ginners are 1s. 3d. lower at 17s 9d. Egyptian Hotels have jumped ¼ to 2¼, and Salts and Sodas are closing ⅛ down at 2⅜.

In the Oil group Anglo-Egyptian "B" have recovered 5-32nds to 4 29-32.

In Greek securities the harder appearance noted in our last has again been in evidence, and we have to record higher prices practically all along the line. The 1881, 1884 and 1890 loans are all closing 1½ up at 51½. Monopolies are a point better at 50, Fundings have risen 3 to 50, and Rentes are also 3 points up at 42. Bank of Athens shares are ⅛ up at 3⅜.

There is reason to believe, it is stated, that the Bolsheviks are circulating forged £1 English notes in Persia and Caucasia.

A Bill has been laid before the Bulgarian Chamber to authorise the amalgamation of the three State banks—the National Bank, the Banque Syndicale and the Agricultural Bank.

A message from Baghdad to the *Pioneer* says that Messrs. Crapper and Hodgkinn, representatives of the British Empire Cotton Growing Association, have completed a tour of Mesopotamia, and are confident that Mesopotamia has a great future as a cotton-growing country.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put export advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Dec. 17	Price Dec. 31
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52⅝
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51⅝
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	31	28½
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	76	76
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	73	74
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	61½	61½
Greek 5%, 1881	50	51½
Do. 5%, 1884	50	51½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	50	50
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	43	42
Do. 5% 1890	58	51½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	50	50
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	58	58
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	50	50
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	62	62
Do. 5% Currant	93	93
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	78½	78½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	68½	66⅜
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	58½	58
Do. 4% Unified	40	39
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅜	5 1/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6½	6¼
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	69½	68½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	71½	70½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	16½	16⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	36/3	36/3
Bank of Athens	65/-	67/6
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	7	6½
British Trade Corporation	9⅜	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9½	9 7/16
Imperial Bank of Persia	10 1/16	10 1/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅛	6⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
London County and Westminster	15⅝	16⅛
National Bank of Egypt	20⅜	21½
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6½	6½
Do. 5% Debs.	78 1/16	78 1/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	11½	11½
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	57½	57½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	52	52
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅝	55⅝
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66xd	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	53	53
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	29/9	34/-
Do. 6% Debs	108½	108½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	33/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	15½	18⅜
Do. Pref.	4¼xd	4
Building Lands of Egypt	25/-	25/-
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	2/3	2/3
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	14/-	16/4½
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	70½	72½
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/9	14/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	2 1/16	3½
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	2	36/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	64½	64½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6½	6½
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	80	80
New Egyptian Co.	27/3	31/6
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	3⅛
Sudan Plantations	7⅜	7½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	4⅜	5½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (10/- paid)	7/-	6/3
Alexandria Water Co.	11	10½
Associated Cotton Ginners	—	17/9
Egyptian Hotels	35/-	45/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	£3	55/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99½	99½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Do. Prefs.	3¼	3¼
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/-	18/3
Morum's Oriental Stores. Partptg. Pref.	18/-	17/6
Suez Canal	178	178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1st Ll. Series	99	102
Chinese 4½% 1898	71	73
Do. 5% 1896	85	85
Argentine 5% 1890	78½	78¾
Do. 5% 1907	83½xd	82
OIL.		
Algerian	5/6	5/3⅜
Anglo-Bulgarian	9/6	9/6
Anglo-Egyptian B	4 1/16	4 3/32
Anglo-Persian Pref.	26/-	25/-
Do. 5% Debs.	91½	83
Anglo-Roumanian	9/6	—
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/-	5/-
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	8/4½	8/1½
Roumanian	23/-	22/6
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez, 1915 (fully paid)	8/-	8/-
Traian (Roumanian)	10/-	—

The Preference stock transfer books of the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway Co. will be closed from January 12 to January 26 for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to those shareholders registered at the time of closing the books.

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

Interest Due.	Name.	Dec 24	Dec. 31
INDIAN FUNDS.			
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	60⅛	61½
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½% * Redeemable.	65⅛	66⅛
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	82
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	73⅛	73
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	74⅛	73⅛
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	82	83
	Eastern	7 1/16	7 1/16
	Mercantile of India A.	40½	—
	National of India	57	57
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	6/-	6/3
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	11/6	11/9
	Burma Corp.	13	13 1/16
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	14/-	13/-
	Champion Reef Gold	3/6	3/-
	Mysore Gold Mining	17/	16/9
	Nundydroog	14/9	14/9
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	15/9	16/6
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	21/3	21/3
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	2 7/16	2 1/16
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	2½	45/-
	Brit. Burmah	2 1/16x	2 1/16xd
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	17⅛	18 1/16
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22/6	22/6
	Do. 5% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10	10
RAILWAYS.			
	Assam Bengal	56	56½
	Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	142½	142½
	Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	57	56½
	Bengal-Nagpur	119½xd	121
	Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	106	105½
	Burma Railways	114	111½
	Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
	E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13 1/16
	East Bengal Ann. "A," 1967	12⅜	12⅛
	Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13xd	12 1/16
	Madras and S. Mahratta	108½xd	110⅜
	Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	132½	135
	Nizam's Guaranteed State	85	85½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
	Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	40/-	37/6
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	10	10
	P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	85xd	84½
	Do. Deferred	575x	575
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
	Assam Co.	77	72⅜
	Bengal United Tea Ord.	16⅜	16⅜
	British Indian Tea Ord.	9⅜	8 1/16xd
	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	16⅜	16⅜
	Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	11/9	11/-
	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	7⅛	7⅛
	Consolidated Estates	7	7 1/16
	Darjeeling Co.	27/-	28/-
	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	3⅛	3⅛
	Dooars Tea Ord.	4	3 1/16xd
	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	1/16	1/16
	Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	66/10½	68/3
	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	34/9	34/9
	Hewagam Rubber Co.	1 1/16x	1 1/16xd
	Jhanzie Tea Association	12	11 1/16xd
	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	24⅛	24
	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	1/16	19/3
	Lanka Plantations Ord.	29x	28/9
	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	60/6	60/-
	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	2 1/16	48/9
	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14⅜	14⅜
	P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	1⅛	1½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON DECEMBER 13.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	20⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	75⅛
" " Div.	Frs.	100
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	14 3/16
" priv.	£	4 1/16x
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	98
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1½
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	4 3/16
Société des Immeubles	£	7 1/16
Bonded Stores	£	15 15/16
Unifiée	£	72⅛
Privilégiée		61⅛
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	7⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 1/16x
" Ord		101/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	24⅛
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	109
" Jouissance	Frs.	150
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		32/9x
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	470
" Div.	Frs.	420
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	318
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	6 1/16
Egyptian Salt and Soda		58/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	680
" Fondateur	Frs.	970
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	432
" 1903 "	Frs.	297½
" 1911 "	Frs.	287½
Consolidated Land	P.T.	8
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1/16

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Nov. 20. Rs.	Nov. 28. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	66	66
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	1925	1930
Bank of Bombay	2350	2350
Bank of Madras	1350	1350
Bank of India	150	150
Tata Industrial Bank	62	59
COAL.		
Baraboni	19	19
Bengal	894½	910
Burrakur	54	54
East Indian	38½	38½
Equitable	50½	50½
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	71½	69½
Standard	71	71
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	300	300x
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2375	2345
Bowreah	706	706
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	686
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	805	755
Central India	3235 / 1617½	3162 / 1581
Elgin	125	126
Gold Mohur	1300	1300
Khatau Makanji	5600	5600
Muir	120	120
New Ring	190	190
Phœnix	850	810
Svadeshi	3035	2925
JUTE.		
Alliance	750	754
Barnagore	225	205
Budge Budge	705	640
Clive	260x	240
Dalhousie	520x	480
Delta	705	640
Fort Gloster	1080	960
Gourepore	1497½x	1475x
Howrah	46½x	44½
Kamarhatty	958	940
Kankinarrah	784	770
Khardah	540x	500
Kinnison	990x	972
National	470	440
Standard	660x	660
Union	865x	862½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	652x	657
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	245	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	210	210
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General St'm.	165	165
Indian Iron and Steel	110 / 93	110 / 91
Marshall Sons and Co.	168	164
Titaghur Paper	382	375

INDIA'S MICA INDUSTRY.

The Chief Inspector of Mines in India in his report for 1918 states with regard to the mica industry :—

There was a large increase in the output, which was 51,572 cwt. as compared with 35,896 cwt. in 1917, being an increase of 43.67 per cent. This increase was almost entirely confined to the Bihar and Orissa field, although the Madras field showed a slight increase as compared with the large decrease given in the last report. Owing to the demand for war purposes lessees in Bihar and Orissa were urged to increase their output to the highest possible figure. Tonnage was very scarce and insurance rates were heavy. The industry, however, undoubtedly flourished throughout the year. There was considerable improvement in the industry in Madras also, and, in addition to mining, prospecting was carried out over large areas.

The Royal Exchange Assurance announces the following further resignations and appointments, all of which took effect on January 1 :—Mr. W. W. White retires from the position of sub-manager of the fire department at the head office, after twenty-nine years' service. Mr. J. F. B. Cockell is appointed home fire superintendent, and Mr. H. C. Sim foreign fire superintendent. Mr. R. D. Harvey retires from the management of the corporation's business in the U.S.A. and Mr. Everard Stokes is transferred from the management of the Egyptian branch to succeed Mr. Harvey at New York, Mr. Murray G. Harris being appointed to succeed Mr. Stokes as general manager for Egypt and the Levant.

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ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA, LTD.,

with which are incorporated

THE PUNJAB BANKING CO., LTD.,
THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,
AND
THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Head Office	-	*SIMLA.*
Authorised Capital	-	**Rs. 1,00,00,000/-**
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital	- - -	,, **86,82,400/-**
Reserve Fund	- - -	,, **37,00,000/-**
Reserve for Depreciation of Government Paper		,, **13,00,000/-**

BRANCHES.

Abbottabad, Agra, Ajmere, Allahabad, Ambala, Amritsar, Bareilly, Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Dalhousie, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi City, Delhi Civil Lines, Ferozepore, Gwalior, Jullundur, Karachi, Kasauli, Lahore, Lahore Cantts, Lucknow, Meerut, Multan, Murree, Mussoorie, Naini Tal, Nowshera, Peshawar Cantts, Peshawar City, Quetta, Rangoon, Rawalpindi, Sialkote, Simla (Town Office), Srinagar (Kashmir), Ujjain (Gwalior State).

SUB OFFICES: Baraagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Morana (Gwalior), Nushki (Quetta), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior). Sadar Baza (Delhi).

LONDON BANKERS: Messrs. BOULTON BROS. & CO., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C.
LONDON PROVINCIAL AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, Ltd., 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, Ltd., Bartholomew Lane, E.C.

Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other branch.

Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected, Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.

Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.

The Bank undertakes **Banking Business** of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.

Rules of Business and any further information can be obtained on application to Head Office or any of the Branches.

HEAD OFFICE, *Simla.* G. W. BLACK, *Manager.*

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £1,200,000. RESERVE FUND, £2,100,000.

Court of Directors.

SIR MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, *Chairman.*
SIR DUNCAN CARMICHAEL.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
WM. FOOT MITCHELL, Esq.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.

Managers.—T. H. WHITEHEAD and W. E. PRESTON.

Sub-Manager.—J. S. BRUCE.

Agencies and Branches.

AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	KUALA LUMPUR	SAIGON
BANGKOK	HANKOW	MADRAS	SEREMBAN
BATAVIA	HONGKONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BOMBAY	ILOILO	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
CALCUTTA	IPOH	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
CANTON	KARACHI	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CEBU	KLANG	PENANG	TAVOY
COLOMBO	KOBE	PUKET	TIENTSIN
DELHI		RANGOON	YOKOHAMA

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY and MIDLAND BANK, Limited.
THE LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER and PARR'S BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
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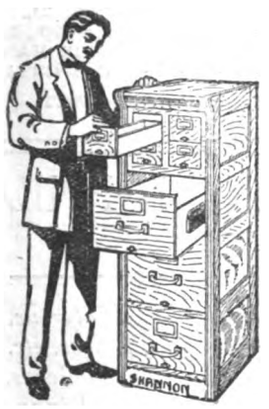

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No. 453.—Vol. XVII. FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Strong disappointment and indignation were caused in Yugoslavia at the close of the old year by the report that its share of the ex-Austrian fleet was to consist of only twelve disarmed torpedo boats; in some quarters there was a tendency to regret that the Yugoslavs had not sunk the fleet when it was at their mercy rather than hand it over to the Allies; and once more feeling against Italy ran high. Happily, with the New Year came an improvement in relations between the two countries. Signor Nitti and M. Davidovitch exchanged cordial New Year greetings, and Italy has released the Yugoslav prisoners from Dalmatia whom it had previously insisted upon treating as enemies. Signor Nitti's reference to M. Davidovitch as "Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes" has afforded peculiar satisfaction in Yugoslavia; and the *Politika* declares that if Italian statesmen had worked on the lines now followed by Signor Nitti the frontier question between the two countries would have found a satisfactory solution long ago.

The vexed problem of Fiume and the Adriatic is again exercising public opinion, in view of the fact that it is understood to bulk large in the discussions now being carried on between Signor Nitti, Mr. Lloyd George, and M. Clemenceau. Both in Paris and in London, Signor Nitti expressed himself as very hopeful of reaching a satisfactory solution of the problem. He declares that the difficulty is "of a sentimental order," and to the representative of a Paris journal he even went so far as to say that Italy and Yugoslavia were "not going to fall out on a question which, practically speaking, is only of secondary importance." Should a settlement be reached, the thanks of Europe will be due to Signor Nitti and his Ministry; but credit will also be due to the Yugoslavs, who, often in circumstances of a particularly provoking kind, have preserved a correct attitude, and avoided taking matters into their own hands. Much of the satisfaction felt, however, would be wasted if the rumour that the agreement is to be reached at the expense of Montenegro should be confirmed.

It is possible that Signor Nitti makes light of the Adriatic Question because his present conversations are more concerned with those "compensations" in Africa for Italy, regarding which negotiations are understood to be now in progress. These compensations are to be granted, under the terms of the Treaty of London of April, 1915, in view of the German colonies in Africa being taken over by France and Great Britain. According to a *Times* correspondent, Italy asks for very extensive areas beyond the borders of Libya; for an extension of Eritrea to include Kassala, with a portion of Sudan territory; for the whole of French and British Somaliland; and for the Jubaland province of British East Africa. She also wishes for the Farsan Islands, and for a "sphere of influence" in the Yemen. If this be an accurate statement of what she demands, it would not be easy to maintain that Italy was inclined to under-estimate the value of her services to the Allies. The latter, apparently, have their own views on the subject, and until they are officially made public it would be unprofitable to discuss the question in detail. It is permissible to observe, however, that the claims regarding the Farsan Islands and the Yemen would appear to be particularly difficult to uphold; and in view of her past experiences with Abyssinia it is, indeed, surprising that Italy should wish to acquire so much fresh territory adjoining that country—territory which would make her enclose Abyssinia on three sides

A dispatch from the Colonial Governor, received in Malta, and read at an extraordinary sitting of the Council of Government, outlines the new form of Government for the island. Matters connected with Imperial defence will be dealt with by the Governor, assisted by an Executive Council, while purely local concerns will be handled by a body of representatives elected by the people. The Constitution will follow as closely as possible on the lines of the draft submitted to the National Assembly. The dispatch emphasised the part played by Lord Plumer in securing these concessions for the island, and indicated that whole-hearted co-operation of the Maltese with the Imperial Government is required and expected. As our Malta correspondent's recent letters have indicated, Lord Plumer is just now extraordinarily popular with the Maltese, who fully realise what he has done in the matter. Whether they grasp the necessity of accepting the gift in the right spirit is not quite so certain. There appears to be some risk of a difference of opinion over the question of a Civil or Military Head of the Island; and that does not augur well for the future.

Reports alleged to emanate from Bulgaria have to be accepted with reserve these days, as repeated attempts have been made for some time past, without the least shadow of foundation, to represent conditions in that country as unsatisfactory. Thus, it was announced and repeated in the British daily Press that arrangements had been made for an outbreak all along the Ser-

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bian frontier on the day of the signature of the Bulgarian Treaty. Nothing happened; it would have been a grave reflection on the Allied missions in Sofia if it had. Now comes the statement that the Bulgarian Prime Minister has been "attacked by a Bolshevist band on his return from Belgrade, where his mission completely failed." M. Stambuliski's Government, it is added, has resigned, and the Socialists are trying to form a Cabinet with Dr. Daneff.

The message requires to be confirmed before credence is placed upon it. The reference to Bolshevism points to its having been concocted outside Bulgaria, for the simple reason that, whatever unrest there may be in the country, nobody acquainted with the people and their institutions would apply the term Bolshevist to it. The great bulk of the Bulgarian nation consists of peasant proprietors, and of this material Bolshevism is not made. On the other hand, political antagonism may be carried to extremes, and no one need feel surprised if Bulgaria finds the road to internal peace and contentment a difficult one at first. The recent wholesale arrests by the new Government of all and sundry thought or alleged to have made too wholeheartedly common cause with the country's official Allies during the war were deprecated in these columns, and it is satisfactory to learn that large numbers of those arrested have already been set at liberty. Sympathy would be felt with M. Stambuliski's desire to clear his country's reputation; but in the face of a national disaster the first desideratum would seem to be national unity in order that effective co-operation of all parties and classes may be secured for the rehabilitation of Bulgaria.

The outlook in Egypt grows brighter. When replying to the Sultan's telegram of good wishes at the New Year, the King expressed the hope that 1920 will bring greater happiness and prosperity to his Highness and his people; and the situation has so much improved already that it looks as if the hope will be soon fulfilled. With the exception of the most violent of the Extremists, the Egyptians are beginning to grasp the fact that to pursue the sterile policy of boycotting the Milner Commission would be unmitigated folly; and though the Cairo Committee of the Egyptian Delegation continues to talk big about "complete independence," it is obviously rather alarmed by the headway which the Commission has already made. Against this general tendency it has to be noted that Prince Kamel ed-Din, Prince Omar Toussun and some other Princes of the Sultania family have issued a manifesto supporting the "complete independence" demand, and have addressed a letter on similar lines to Lord Milner, who has formally acknowledged its receipt.

The princely manifesto is somewhat belated. While the official Cairo Committee is apparently bent upon endeavouring to make it impossible for Zaghlul Pasha to enter into relations with the Commission, it seems to be the case that steps to bring about an understanding have actually been taken by other, wiser, Egyptians. It must be admitted that of late Zaghlul Pasha's attitude has not been such as to encourage hope that he will abandon his present policy and endeavour to work with, instead of against, Great Britain. It is interesting to note that a rumour was current a few days ago in native circles that he was to be a member of a new Cabinet, which was to include also Rushdi and Mazloum Pashas. The report is, of course, incredible, but in view of the way in which a grain of fact very often underlies a mountain of fiction in such Oriental rumours, it is not entirely to be ignored. In any case, if Zaghlul Pasha showed himself ready to co-operate with us, he would in all probability find the way made easy for him to do so even at this late hour. On the other hand, if he should postpone such action much longer, he may very well find himself several days behind the fair.

It is officially announced that the Deir ez-Zor incident "may be regarded as closed for the present so far as Mesopotamia is concerned." The wording is ambiguous, but the ambiguity may be not altogether unintentional. A few particulars regarding the last stages of the trouble are added in the *communiqué* just quoted; and both for the sake of record, and because they throw a little light on the Arab way of looking at things, they must be briefly referred to. It seems that the representatives of the Arab Government, and those of Ramadhan es Shallash, the rebel leader, both requested that British troops should return to Deir to restore order, which, they realised, was unlikely to be ensured by any other method. This request, though flattering, was refused by the British Commander-in-Chief, who politely reminded the Arabs that British forces had originally been sent to Deir only to secure order, and pointed out that as Ramadhan had brought about a state of anarchy, it was clearly the duty of the Arab Government to undo the mischief. A further request made by Ramadhan, to be furnished with funds "to replace those looted by his friends, and to enable him to establish law and order in Deir ez-Zor," also met with a refusal—couched, it is to be hoped, in suitable terms. Deir, which has been looted by desert Arabs, as well as by its own lower classes, is likely to feel the effects of the escapade for a long time to come.

The unrest that has been caused in the Moslem world by the war, and more especially, perhaps, by the fear that the Turks are about to be expelled from Constantinople, appears to have disposed many quite good Moslems to wonder whether they might not gain by an alliance with the Bolshevists. Others who are Moslems only in name—such as the leaders of the Young Turks—have passed this stage, and are ready to ally themselves with Bolshevism, or with any other force that may enable them to realise their own aims and ambitions: and, having exploited Islam in the past, they are hopeful now of carrying many of its true followers with them. As a fact, Islam is the religion of Resignation, of rigid obedience to the law of Right, of strict fulfilment of Duty: and if he rightly understood its character, no true Moslem would possibly have anything to do with the anarchical evil that is to-day labelled Bolshevism. But Bolshevist propagandists have been active and cunning in certain Moslem fields, and professing Moslems, who, in fact, make their religion a mere cloak for their political aims, have lent themselves to the work of misleading the unwary. The result is as stated above, and there is some danger of the Bolshevists making, in one way or another, catspaws of people who deserve a better fate.

The danger referred to should surely disappear at once if every doubtful Moslem could be informed how his co-religionists have been treated by their Bolshevist would-be allies. It is officially reported that at Aramvir, in the Kuban Cossack territory, the Persian Consul was, on July, 1918, shot by Bolshevist troops, that his body was torn to pieces, and that 270 Moslems who had taken refuge in the Consulate courtyard were killed by machine-gun fire. (Of the other Persian subjects, Christians, who met a similar fate, we say nothing.) In the Crimea over 200 Moslems were massacred in one month (April), two *Mullahs* were killed in Goursouf and Nikita; and numerous other outrages were perpetrated, including the burning alive of some people, and the mutilation of the dead in other cases. No follower of Mohammed, no believer in Allah the Merciful, the Compassionate, could ally himself with those responsible for these deeds.

The fragmentary and belated messages which are reaching this country necessitate an unusual amount of caution in forming an estimate of the present state of Indian opinion. There is, however, no doubt that the new constitution came at an unfortunate moment, when sentiment was deeply stirred by such extraneous causes

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as the Punjab inquiry and anxiety regarding the fate of Constantinople: and since the defects of the cable-service have presumably been felt in India as much as here, we may question whether the features of the constitution were adequately explained. Into this atmosphere of suspicion, anxiety, and unrest fell the King's Proclamation, the sole form of communication which appeals to the heart of India, and we may safely accept the statement that it has produced a powerful impression in every portion of the country. We can, therefore, conclude that the position is better than it was, but we have as yet no data by which to measure the magnitude of the change. Judging, however, by past experience, we should anticipate that it will last and that the heavy work of translating the new constitution into practice will be carried out in tolerably favourable conditions.

Heavy as it is, this task is not the only exceptional burden on the Indian administration, and it is well to remember that while the Reforms are being elaborated by a special Department under Sir William Marris, another special Department, under Sir Thomas Holland, is attacking the no less difficult problems of industrial development. There is, in fact, a close resemblance between the position of these two organisations; each has a well-considered scheme to work on, but in each case the scheme is an outline, and its realisation depends very largely on the skill with which the details are now filled in, while in our opinion the success of both departments will be measured by their handling of the questions affecting particularly the masses of the people; in the one case the details of the electoral system, in the other the position of the labourers in the mines and factories. A progressive increase in the efficiency of labour is absolutely essential to industrial advance, and no achievements on the technical side can compensate for failure to start the operatives on the upward path, by which their brothers in Europe have already travelled so far.

Among the measures to be taken with this object, we trust that the organisation of factory-labour will not be overlooked. Opinion on this matter has developed rapidly in India, and we believe that the great majority of enlightened employers would welcome a change which would enable them to ascertain the considered opinion of their workmen as a body, and at the same time diminish the threat of sudden manifestations provoked by obscure and irresponsible interference. But even if employers were hostile, the question would still have to be faced; for the proceedings at the recent International Conference at Washington indicate clearly that India will be placed in an almost impossible position if the workers cannot speak with a decided voice; in some matters their interests undoubtedly clash with those of other countries, and without organisation their interests are bound to suffer. We do not say that India needs trades-unions on the English or any other specified model, but we are convinced that the workers must be organised, and we urge that the proper lines of organisation should from the very outset receive the best attention of Sir Thomas Holland and his colleagues.

The announcement of increased salaries and of various improvements in the terms of employment came as a welcome New Year's gift to the Indian Civil Service and to the officers of the Police and Educational departments, though we do not anticipate that they will put an immediate end to the dissatisfaction which has been steadily growing in volume for several years. Disregarding the confirmed grumblers, we should have liked to express a definite opinion as to the adequacy of the new schedules, but we must confess that we are baffled. On the one hand, the market for talent and character is in such an unsettled condition that no one can say whether the price now offered will continue to bring out the requisite supply: on the other hand, the value of the rupee, in which salaries are stated, is as uncertain now as at any period in the chequered history of the coin; and the most that can be said is that, while the various services appear to be reasonably attractive at the moment, the authorities will have to watch the market more closely than was necessary in the past.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Spen Valley.

The political world is greatly excited at the result of the Spen Valley election, in which a Labour candidate defeated Sir John Simon and a Coalition candidate. The paroxysms of joy and despair in which either side has indulged need not be emphasised here; the leading facts are simple. The new Labour member was well known locally, and Yorkshiremen are clannish folk. Sir John Simon is not a Yorkshireman, but he had a certain amount of prestige, as a successful lawyer, and the only Liberal ex-Cabinet Minister with the pluck to fight again; and he probably gained some votes from the argument of his supporters that he would some day be Prime Minister—a prospect which looks less rosy to-day than a year ago. The Coalition candidate was a distinguished soldier, bearing the historic Yorkshire name of Fairfax, but the mere fact that he confessed himself no politician in his election address, and most assuredly proved the assertion in his speeches, lost him support he would otherwise have had, and possibly decided the election.

Labour is in high feather just now, and is quite entitled to preen its wings over the polling at St. Albans, Bromley, and Spen Valley. But it is evidently attracting votes, not so much at the expense of the Coalition, as of the old Liberal Party, which is in the depths of despair; a wag has suggested that the whole of the Reform Club would commit suicide at the prospect were it not for the admirable cuisine of that institution. The upshot therefore seems to be that Labour will obtain the old Radical vote, in addition to its own, and that the Whig element of Liberalism will seek refuge in the Coalition.

That matters are shaping this way is clear from the fact that Mr. Churchill, in a speech, last week, on behalf of the Coalition in Durham, attacked the Labour Party, but did not think it worth while to attack the Independent Liberals. He attacked Labour, by the way, for its incompetence and inexperience in administration, which is rather unfair, seeing that, never having been called upon to form a Government, they have never had the same chance of demonstrating their incompetence as the older parties. But Mr. Churchill's future—so far as the future of a political comet can be predicted—is definitely fixed with the new Centre Party which is to be born in 1920 from Liberal father and Unionist mother as the result of the Coalition.

The Railway Settlement.

Details of the railway settlement have been published. They follow in the main the terms recorded in this column a few weeks ago, but the main point about them now seems to be that they are not, in fact, a final settlement, since Mr. Thomas, in his speech discussing them with the railwaymen, proclaimed that they are only an instalment. Even with that proviso, which will not altogether please the patient public, a section of the railwaymen appears to think the terms too moderate, and to be ready to repudiate them and their leader. But the threat of another strike, uttered *sotto voce* in alarmist circles, is not generally credited. The majority, both of the public and the railwaymen, are agreed that the last shall be the last for some time to come, and the star of the moderates is for the time being in the ascendant in Labour circles.

The other railway sensation of the week has been the announcement that Mr. Joel has bought Sir Edgar Speyer's interests in the London Underground combine. The Joel family, who were supposed to be interested only in South African mines, British racehorses, and the Middlesex Hospital—to which their benefactions have been extremely generous—are now taking a great part in big finance. It is not long since that they entered the catering trade with the purchase of the Aerated Bread Company, which is now doing better business, and the Underground purchase gives them another great interest in London.

Incidentally, fares are again to be raised on the Underground, but this is not due to the Joels, but to the steadily increasing cost of operating. There will be some grumbling, of course, but as a matter of fact the

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fares are not extortionate—or would not be if one could get a seat. The story is told of a daily passenger on the Underground, who vowed a year ago to put a penny in a hospital collecting-box exhibited at a tube station every time he got a seat. He kept a record of this novel form of "excess fare"—it cost him one shilling and ten pence in twelve months!

Rising Rates.

A table has been issued giving the rates in various English boroughs. The highest figures are in East and West Ham, in the East End of London, where they run out at over fifteen shillings in the pound. In several London suburbs they have doubled since the war, and most municipal authorities fear they will go higher still.

The Shortage of Offices.

There seems to be a good deal of grumbling among City men at the moment over the shortage of office accommodation. It is practically impossible to find offices in the "one square mile," and new businesses are hard put to it to get even a single room. Rents, of course, have been raised to new tenants, and things do not seem to be much better in the West End. As for shops, it is almost out of the question to find suitable new premises in any of the main thoroughfares, and in Oxford Street, where all the drapers have made fortunes, they are contemplating building higher, as in Regent Street, "to steal from heaven what earth cannot give." The skyscraper has not yet reached London, but it is threatened at the Aldwych site.

Clerical Poverty.

With the opening of the New Year and its concomitant Bills the question of clerical poverty again becomes urgent. Canon Masterman has just completed an inquiry into the subject of the incomes of the clergy, and the conclusions are lamentable and distressing. The large incomes of Bishops used to be the gibe of street-corner orators, but several Bishops have proved that with taxation, upkeep of the episcopal palaces, and travelling through their diocese—the latter a heavy and essential part of a bishop's duty—they are actually out of pocket at the end of the year. The clergy as a whole are in dire distress, and it is peculiarly difficult for a delicately-minded man to appeal to his flock to increase his stipend; nor is the experience of the Nonconformists any better.

The Outfitting Trade.

The winter sales are upon us—an event that was an obscure mystery to the ignorant male until the drapers began to advertise pictures of their most intimate wares in the daily papers; but it seems to be not only the ladies who purchase finery in these days. A paragraph from a trade paper dealing with male outfitting is going the rounds saying that the trade in silk underclothing for men passed all records in 1919, and in the last six months has exceeded prophecy and belief. This appears to be true, but while the quantities sold can be explained by the restocking of wardrobes after the war, the elaborate quality of the goods cannot be so easily dismissed.

The writer, for instance, was recently purchasing some shirts and socks in a West End shop. The young lady who served suggested that pyjamas would also be useful, and after a hasty mental survey of one's bank account, a nod of assent brought forth amazing creations—flimsy things in pink silk with an embroidered butterfly over the jacket pocket. With a modest blush the writer suggested that the lady had mistaken the sex of the potential wearer. She laughed and said, "Oh, no, these are the new patterns for gentlemen; of course, if you prefer something less *chic* and more old-fashioned, we have it—but we shall have to get it out of the basement for you." After a frank admission of mid-Victorian tastes, in this matter at least, the butterfly-less basement variety were produced and paid for. It was only an hour later that the knowledge dawned upon the owner that the price of the plain and old-fashioned apparel was no less than that of the gaudy and up-to-date goods.

The Week's Books.

The habit of publishing histories of publishing firms is growing since John Murray started the fashion, and the latest recruit is Rivingtons. This house nowadays deals largely in those educational works which instruct or torture youth, but in past years they issued Newman's Sermons, many of the "Tracts for the Times," and their ancestry goes right back to the great days of Jacob Tonson and the publication of the works of Dryden, Pope, and Dr. Johnson—the last of whom, at least, never joined in the outcry against publishers which Byron made popular with his "Now Barabbas was a Publisher."

The most interesting biography of the week is, curiously enough, "The Letters of St. Augustine," edited by Mr. Sparrow-Simpson. Everybody knows the "Confessions"; few perhaps have read the letters of the Bishop of Hippo. They might have been written yesterday, they are so modern in thought and method; this sixth century correspondence, in fact, leaves one with an extraordinary sense of the changelessness of the civilised world. Probably it is only in such familiar letters that one fully realises the fact. But was not Cicero interested in getting six per cent. for his money out of Roman rents?

Those who are interested in one of the most curious problems of archæology will read with interest Mrs. Routledge's "The Mystery of Easter Island," which discusses the origin of the celebrated sculptures in the Pacific; another work, akin in subject, is Dr. Churchward's forthcoming "Origin and Evolution of the Human Race," which is said by the author to deal with Easter Island and many other problems after a fashion that will evoke some controversy. A somewhat different class of statuary is dealt with in the "History of Madame Tussaud's," which has just appeared. A preliminary glance through its pages shows that it abounds in amusing anecdotes.

One of the most irritating things in the latter part of the war was the difficulty of buying standard books in cheap reprints, which had run out of stock and could not be replaced. I well remember my fury, after ordering a set of Dickens and Balzac for a Christmas present, on discovering that "David Copperfield," "Nicholas Nickleby," "Le Père Goriot," and "The Quest of the Absolute" could not be supplied; but from the fact that the faithful bookseller has now delivered these volumes to me—two years after they were ordered—I concluded that the reprints have at last been reprinted. Inquiry at the shop elicited the fact that it is so.

Two of the cheap reprints that ran out and were for long unprocurable were, of all things in the world, Gibbon's "Roman Empire" and Grote's "History of Greece"—the latter in ten volumes. One can understand the former, as an introduction to Turkish history possessing a special war interest, but the latter! Is there a single man alive to-day who can honestly say he has read Grote from preface to index? Yet the fact remains that it sold right out during the war. Perhaps the Salonica force all bought copies.

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

IN the present critical condition of India and under the shadow of changes which will materially lessen the proportion of Englishmen in the Indian Services, it is imperatively necessary to strengthen the loyal Anglo-Indian elements, upon whom will now devolve the task of maintaining the White Man's reputation for integrity. Ladies and gentlemen, therefore, who have served or resided in India in any capacity are invited to join this Association, the primary object of which is to help the India Bishops to carry on religious and educational work among these classes, upon whom so much depends.

For further particulars apply to
H. P. K. SKIPTON, Secretary, I.C.A.A.
Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, December 23.

Attempt on the Prime Minister's Life.

This has been an eventful week with a vengeance. Scarcely was my last letter posted than we were electrified with the news that an attempt had been made on the Prime Minister's life. It took place while he was on his way to his office. Just as his car passed the Savoy Hotel and was crossing the square which leads down the Suliman Pasha Street towards the Kasr el Nil bridge a man stepped out from a café and threw two bombs. Fortunately, the chauffeur spotted the man and, as he took aim, pulled up dead, with such force that the car turned right about and escaped the two bombs, the first of them falling in front and the second going right over the top and falling on the opposite side, in each case the explosion doing no injury to anyone. The police officer who always drives with the Prime Minister immediately jumped out, and rushing at the man, together with one of the two escorting motor cyclists, caught hold of him just as he was in the act of drawing a revolver.

The man was at once taken off to the Ministry of the Interior, whither Wahba Pasha had proceeded in the meanwhile, and where he was confronted with his intended victim. He was then removed to the Governorate, where the inquiry was at once opened. He is a young student of the School of Medicine and a Copt, and when searched was found to have on him another revolver, like the first, fully loaded, and twenty-four spare cartridges. Asked why he had committed the act and who were his accomplices, he replied that he had done it all on his own initiative, that he had considered the Prime Minister as a traitor, and so thought the country should be rid of him, and that he had waited several days to carry out the deed, which he had decided on when he read the speeches made with reference to Egypt in the English Parliament. He added that he was glad that after all he had not killed Wahba Pasha, and that he hoped that his act would serve as a warning.

That sooner or later attempts would be made on the lives of the members of the Cabinet, especially on that of the Prime Minister, was a foregone conclusion; nor is it surprising that a Copt should make the first attempt, seeing that when the present Ministry was formed the students declared that the Premier must be removed, and that at a meeting held in one of the Coptic churches, which was attended by a large number of Moslems, it was openly declared that a Coptic Wardani would be found to carry out the wishes of the country.

The inquiry has not yet produced any evidence to show that there were any accomplices, or what connection the Extremists had with the attempt. Whether they can be implicated and whether there is anything like a plot behind this attempt it is, of course, quite impossible to say at present. Very likely, as in previous cases, the truth will never be arrived at. One thing, however, is certain. If direct responsibility cannot be assigned, nevertheless those who have carried on the political campaign and the editors of the Extremist vernacular Press, who have filled their columns with inflammatory matter, cannot escape responsibility; for by their utterances they have combined to excite the baser instincts of the people, and have thus undoubtedly led to the lives of two Prime Ministers being attempted in the short space of four months.

Widespread sympathy is felt for Wahba Pasha, whose courage in taking office at the present juncture has already been referred to, and who has throughout conducted himself with sang-froid and dignity. In more instructed Egyptian circles the act is condemned in no mild terms, for it is recognised that a policy of violence, such as these attempts and the intimidation now being actually carried on represent, is the last thing to commend the Egyptian cause to Europe, and so can but end in alienating whatever sympathy it may so far have aroused among the nations of the world.

It is understood that the assailant will be brought before a military court, but it is to be hoped that no lengthy formalities will be allowed to delay the trial. We have already had sad experience of the long time it takes in such cases to bring men to trial, for the two men accused of complicity in the bomb thrown at the Sultan Hussein were kept in prison a whole year before they were brought into court, whilst the man who threw the bomb at Mohammed Said Pasha, although caught in the act, is still untried. Such delays are not calculated to deter candidates for national martyrdom. The sooner such men can be tried and sentence inflicted the greater will be the deterrent effect. In fact, in the East the only method of dealing with such cases is to make punishment follow swiftly on the commission of crime; and if in an instance like the present the man could have been executed at once the more salutary would have been the effect. After all, there could be no doubt as to his guilt, and the chances of discovering any plot or accomplices by holding a lengthy inquiry are so slender that they count as nothing against the deterrent effect of immediate punishment for a crime of this nature in circumstances like the present.

El Azhar Enters the Arena.

The next day El Azhar for its part threw a bombshell into our midst by the delivery of two documents addressed to the Sultan, the High Commissioner, and the Prime Minister. The first was a protest against an alleged violation of the Mosque, which British soldiers were said to have committed on the 11th. The entry was actually made by the troops and is not denied; but it was effected under very peculiar circumstances and was of the very shortest duration, and the acts laid to the charge of the soldiers could not possibly have been committed in the time. The reply of the High Commissioner, which I append, gives what are the true facts, and at the same time very rightly points out to the Rector the great responsibility which he

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bears in allowing his students to participate, and his premises to be used as a sanctuary for those who participate, in unlawful acts outside. His Excellency wrote as follows:—

I have received a letter addressed to me by your Reverence, the Ulemas of the Azhar, and the members of the High Council, and have caused inquiry to be made into the incident of December 11.

It appears that certain ill-intentioned persons broke into shops, and when pursued by British troops, exasperated them, and finally took refuge in the Azhar, from which they continued to throw stones. Some of the troops were naturally irritated and excited, and pursued the culprits into the precincts of the Azhar. You will, of course, realise that this was done in the heat of the moment, and you may rest assured that no insult to the sanctity of the Azhar or your Reverence or colleagues or peaceful students was intended.

I wish to express to you my regret at the occurrence. At the same time, I would point out that it is the duty of the authorities of the Azhar to prevent the precincts of the University from being used for unlawful acts of aggression.

The other document was a declaration on the present political situation, and runs:—

The Ulema of the mosque of El Azhar and the members of the High Council of its University, in view of the present conditions and of the troubles which these have brought upon the country—troubles which have attained such a degree of gravity that they can no longer be passed by in silence—deem that it is their sacred duty, imposed by God, not to neglect their mission, that mission being to give such good advice as may secure peace on earth and re-establish a good understanding between all peoples on the solid basis of concord and justice, in conformity with the prescriptions of all divine laws, and notably that of the holy faith of Islam.

The Egyptian people has expressed in unanimous fashion its determination to insist upon its legitimate rights to complete independence. It has persisted in this claim, using all the justifiable means at its disposal, without, however, seeing any sign of recognition of this right on the part of the English Government. This state of things has provoked in the public mind a current of suspicion, distrust, and uneasiness, which has led to a continuation of trouble, and to interference with public and private affairs.

Consequently, the signatories are of opinion that the unique method of establishing peace in the country and of reconciling the two parties, while safeguarding the interests of each, is:—

That Great Britain should honour her promises and recognise the complete independence of this country, which is distinguished by its glorious heritage, by its unique position, and, finally, by its dominant position among all the nations of the Orient.

This action would put an end to the rigorous repressive measures of which the deplorable effects have made themselves felt for so long a time, and in such regrettable manner. The entire population would then resume its normal calm and tranquility without harbouring the slightest feeling of hate or resentment against the English Government, and would watch over the interests of the Government, which would be safeguarded in the same manner as that of other foreign Powers.

Such is the sacred trust that God has confided to us, and we fulfil it that we may carry out the duty incumbent upon us as His ministers.

We take God as our witness; it is He who is the best of all witnesses.

The importance of these two documents lies in the fact that they are signed by the Chancellor and the ex-Chancellor of El Azhar, the Grand Mufti, the heads of all the "Tarikas," and the members of the Ulema Council—*i.e.*, all the leading religious dignatories in the country. El Azhar has long been known to be the centre of inspiration of the campaign of incitement and intimidation which, starting last March, has continued until to-day; but that the heads of that institution should in this official manner throw in their lot with the Extremists and endorse their claim for complete independence has come as a great surprise, and is considered to be due solely to intimidation of the signatories by the students, religious as well as lay. What effect these documents will have on the population as a whole it is difficult to foresee at present, but so far there are no signs of its having created much excitement, and it is just possible that it may pass unnoticed by the mass of people. In which case it may be asked whether, seeing that these documents, although apparently framed in a conciliatory tone, are really militant and calculated to appeal to the fanatical instincts of the masses, this incident will not go a long way towards exploding the idea of the influence which El Azhar is supposed to exert on the Moslem community in general?

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, December 29.

Debates in the Chamber.

The meetings of the Chamber this week have been devoted to debates on the foreign policy of Roumania during the war under the successive Governments of M. J. Bratianu, M. Marghiloman, and Dr. Vaida-Voevod. The discussions have been extremely animated, numerous personal questions being mooted which only served to confuse the issue and to raise passions to such a pitch that Parliamentary procedure went by the board. On several occasions the President of the Chamber was obliged to close the sitting for a short interval with a view to restoring order. The attitude of M. Bratianu at the Peace Conference has been severely criticised by all parties, who, however much they may disagree amongst themselves as to what Roumania's line of conduct should have been, are unanimous in condemning the policy of the Liberal ex-Prime Minister. Dr. Vaida-Voevod insists that M. Bratianu cannot consistently maintain that Roumania abrogated any further rights by signing the Treaty of St. Germain. The Treaty of Versailles had already been signed by M. Bratianu, and that treaty included the League of Nations Covenant. Dr. Vaida-Voevod took the opportunity to complain of the activities of the Liberal party, which, he states, is doing everything in its power to render the position of the present Government untenable.

A Socialist Minister of the Interior.

The "*Bloc*" Government was completed on Friday when Dr. N. Lupu, Independent Socialist deputy for Bucharest, accepted the portfolio of the Interior. Dr. Lupu, who speaks English with fluency and ease, is known in London as one of the Commission sent by Roumania in 1916 to purchase supplies. He has undertaken a heavy burden, but his reputation as a man of pronounced democratic views is serving him in good stead with the workers. Yesterday he succeeded in settling the tramway strike, which had been in operation for three weeks.

The Tram Strike.

On Wednesday last an attempt made to run the trams in defiance of the strikers ended in a struggle between a group of strikers and a detachment of soldiers detailed to guard the tramway company's depôt. In the resulting confusion an officer ran off a belt of machine-gun ammunition, firing into the air, and a ricochet bullet wounded one of the strikers in the leg.

The workers maintain that they were returning to work when they met trams coming out in charge of strike-breakers, and they endeavoured to persuade the drivers to turn the trams over to the regular staff. The Government have ordered an investigation of the incident, and have promised the workers representation on the Committee of Investigation.

On Thursday the unions of Bucharest declared a "general strike" in order to celebrate the anniversary of last year's labour disturbances, when several workmen were killed. A large procession was formed and marched through the streets of the town to the cemetery, where wreaths were placed upon the graves. All passed off in quiet, and the unions duly decided that

CROWE & STEVENS,

Steamship Agents and . . .
Commercial Representatives,

PATRAS, PIRÆUS, ATHENS,
SALONICA.

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the electricians should return to work in the afternoon, so that the city should not be deprived of light. There was a slight delay in getting the electric current restarted, and the Chamber of Deputies opened their session by candle-light.

The Banat.

The question of the Banat seems likely to become something on the lines of that of Alsace-Lorraine to the French and Italia Irredenta to the Italians. Every speaker on this subject during the session of Parliament has declared the right of Roumania to the whole of the Banat. All such assertions have been greeted with thunderous applause, and it seems probable that one of the major forces that will guide Roumanian foreign policy during the next generation will be the acquisition of the remaining part of the Banat, granted by the Peace Conference to Yugoslavia. The speech of M. Imbroano, a native of the Banat himself (and a priest who volunteered to fight during the war and served as an officer in the Roumanian Army), was particularly successful in rousing the enthusiasm of the Chamber, and its tone of sincerity struck deep into the sentiments of the deputies present.

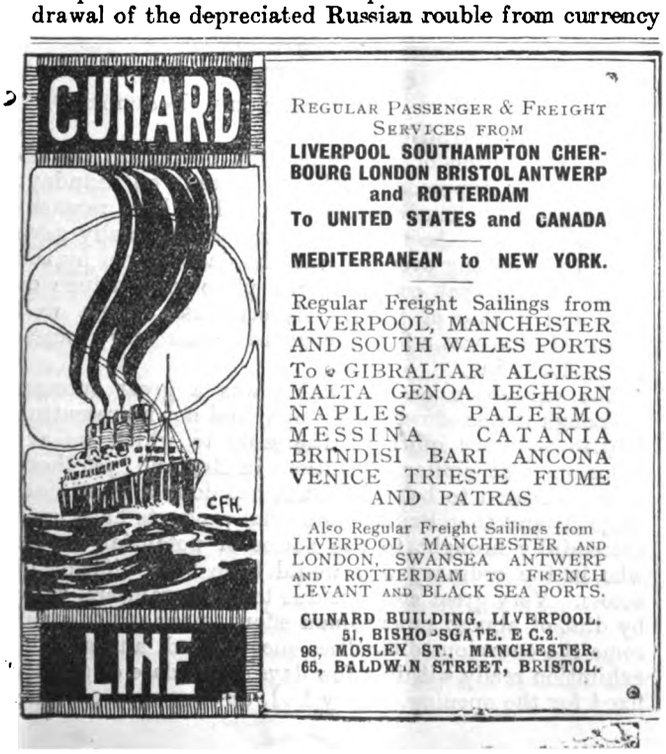
Transylvania.

The Opposition papers are making copy out of reports appearing recently in the British Press of disorders in Transylvania and the abuse by Roumania of her new powers in the annexed territory, in the persecution of Roman Catholics, Unitarians, and Lutherans. In view of the existing administrative disorganisation resulting from the war, and of the magnitude of the task which lies before Roumania since the victory won has extended her boundaries so as to treble the area of the kingdom, surely it is too soon to attack her with this sort of criticism. The alleged abuses are stated to have taken place in the war zone area, where civil administration has not yet taken root, and the reputation of Roumania as a country where religious tolerance was firmly established before the war warrants the assumption that any isolated instances of the arbitrary exercise of power which may have occurred will be severely dealt with. If further assurance on this point were needed, it might be found in the recent speech of the Prime Minister, who, in describing the policy of his Government, said: " . . . . Greater Roumania must be loved and respected by all her subjects, irrespective of race or religion. Liberty of conscience is one of the fundamental principles of every modern State, and a broad religious tolerance must be firmly established in Roumania."

Bessarabia.

In response to an urgent appeal from a peasant deputy from Bessarabia, the Minister of the Interior has promised to do all in his power to hasten the withdrawal of the depreciated Russian rouble from currency in that province, and the substitution of the Roumanian lei. Great distress prevails owing to the low purchasing power of the rouble, which the Government has been unable to replace so far, owing to lack of paper money. A supply is expected, however, in the course of the next few weeks from the United States. This money will be issued by the Government, as the question of the extension to the new provinces of the issuing powers of the National Bank has not yet been settled.

The policy of extension has been very strongly attacked, and it seems probable that a way out will be found in the inauguration of regional banks for Transylvania, the Bukovina, and Bessarabia respectively. These new regional banks would stand in the same position to the Government as the existing National Bank.



YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, December 29.

Political Parties.

Little is heard of politics nowadays. During the calm that has followed the "crisis," the old Liberal Party has dwindled to almost nothing; out of the half-a-dozen members who survived, most have now joined the Democrats; and Ribarats now remains practically alone, a veteran without a party. Dr. Koroshets, whose attitude was so enigmatical at the time of the outbreak of the crisis, now appears as vigorously anti-Democratic as he was anti-Radical at the time of his private crisis with M. Stoyan Protich. He is now a declared Clerical-Nationalist, calling for a *Kultur Kampf* against the Democrats, who, he says, are all anti-Catholic; and all good Roman Catholics should exert themselves against them. As his party is too small to be independent with any degree of efficacy, it will be interesting to see his attitude when the Constituent Assembly meets. He has a strong following in Slovenia, but chiefly in the country districts and among the peasants. Meanwhile, another phenomenon is the attitude of the Jews in Osijek, who have formed themselves into a party and nominated Dr. Marko Leitner their candidate. With the various nationalities, and religions, the new Constituent Assembly, when it does meet, should be a somewhat variegated gathering.

Montenegro and Italy.

It is definitely reported that the Italians are reinforcing their troops round Bar (Antivari) in Montenegro. It is stated that they are holding the coast near Bar, and also the railway, the narrow, curly, precipitous line that is the only one in the country, which leads from Bar over the Sutorman pass to Vir Pazar on the Lake of Skadar, where they also have a garrison. An entire battalion of the 96th Regiment has recently been sent up to Vir Pazar, with a machine-gun section. The military authorities are spreading over the country specially printed versions of the *Glas Tsrnagoska*, the old Montenegrin official gazette.

The Fiume Trouble.

As to Fiume, public opinion is easier, as Italy's barometer is falling; the inglorious end of d'Annunzio's fantasy, by which his "Fiume or Death" ended in a quiet departure when the voting went against him, the more sympathetic attitude of England and France, the domestic difficulties of Italy, and her lack of control over her own officers, all this has encouraged the Slavs. They have confidence in the justice of the Allies, and it was in that confidence that they maintained so correct an attitude through these past trying months. Their troops were ready, straining at the leash, waiting that d'Annunzio should cross over the demarcation line, but he knew too much, for he would certainly never have gone back again. The Slavs were anxious to settle the matter themselves, and had they had the mandate from Paris, they would have cleared Gabrielle out of Fiume in a day.

The Bocche di Cattaro and Dalmatia.

The Bocche di Cattaro is a portion of Dalmatia, but has well-marked local characteristics of its own. A deputation of Bokeli, headed by M. Liuba Jovanovitch, Minister of the Interior in the late Radical Govern-

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ment, recently waited upon the present Minister of the Interior with the petition that the Bocche should be formed into an administrative province, directly administered from Belgrade, with the usual degree of autonomy—in fact, that it should be independent of the Dalmatian Provincial Government at Splijet. M. Pribitchehvitch received the deputation very sympathetically, but pointed out that it was a matter for the Constituent Assembly. At the same time, a deputation of students from the Bocche attended with a counter-petition, that the question should be dealt with only when the administration of the entire kingdom comes up for discussion.

England-Australia via Novi Sad.

Captain Matthews, the English aviator, who is flying to Australia, landed the other day at Novi Sad, to find the country covered with snow; he had some difficulty in getting away, but at last succeeded, accompanied a short distance by some of his Yugoslav colleagues, delighted at the opportunity of meeting the intrepid British flyer under such interesting conditions.

Relations with Austria.

Times have indeed changed when we read of a *rapprochement* between Vienna and Belgrade. The Austrians are in such distress that they are in urgent need of help from the outside, and they look to the rich districts of Northern Yugoslavia for material assistance. Besides, the Republican Party are afraid that the Monarchist group will gain strength from the popular discontent; and the Serbs consider that it is to their interest to help the Republicans, as they not unnaturally dread the possibility of a restoration of the Hapsburgs. A prominent Austrian official, Dr. Eisler, has recently been making a vigorous statement that every attack upon the S.H.S. is a stroke in favour of a restoration of the Empire, or at least of the monarchial system, and has given a sound drubbing to some papers that have shown anti-Serbian, or, perhaps rather, anti-Croat tendencies. The Serbian papers contain articles full of sympathy towards the Austrian Republicans. There is a good *quid pro quo*, for the Yugoslavs will give food and receive locomotives, so that everybody will be pleased.

The de Salis Report.

The *Politika* prints a communication from its Paris correspondent, who usually seems well informed, on the de Salis Report upon the state of affairs in Montenegro. He states that it is generally credited that the report paints the situation in Montenegro in very sombre colours, but categorically denies the truth of the version published by the *Chicago Tribune*. The correspondent of the *Politika* states quite definitely that the American account is not a true one, and that he has been able personally to verify this, and its Italian inspiration. He continues to state that Count de Salis himself reports that ex-King Nicholas has but a small following in the country, not sufficient to justify his return in the hopes of provoking a rising. In confirmation of this he calls attention to the supervision under which the ex-King lives at present at Cap Martin, his failure to greet his colony of adherents at Marseilles on his way through from Paris, and the stoppage of financial supplies to his followers in Paris. Whatever is the true state of affairs in Montenegro to-day, one thing is certain, and that is that Italian interference and intrigue make it far worse; if the reactionaries are really in a minority, it gives them false hopes and encouragement; if they are in a majority, due publicity should be given, and the people allowed to decide for themselves. It should be remembered that in past years, Montenegro and Serbia considered themselves as sister-States, and Montenegro supported Serbia in her wars, often without any alliance, just as in 1913 she gave her armed assistance ungrudgingly against the treacherous Bulgar attack. Only it suited Austria to keep them apart, and Austria invented the frontiers of the Sanjak of Novibazar for this purpose in 1878, and always fomented rivalries between the two Royal families. The marriage of King Nicholas's daughter to King Peter was a snub to Vienna, which always stirred up jealousy between the two dynasties, seeing that both States were candidates for the rôle of Piedmont in the union of the Serbian people.

Greece and Serbia.

Profound satisfaction is felt in Serbia at the recent speech of M. Venizelos in the Greek Chamber when a member, who hailed from Strumitsa, asked the Hellenic Statesman whether Greece had applied to the Supreme Council in Paris for the "return" of Strumitsa to Greece, and on what grounds, either ethnographical or historical, the district had been given to Serbia. Without troubling about the ancient history of the district, which, like almost every part of the Balkans, has belonged to Serbia at some time or other, M. Venizelos replied that according to the Serbo-Greek Treaty of 1913, Strumitsa fell under the Serbian sphere of influence, and what Greece did not claim then she could hardly claim now. He added that in September, 1915, when Bulgaria mobilised, he asked M. Pashitch whether Serbia, taking into consideration the bright prospects of realising her dream of national unity, would consent to a modification of the Treaty with Greece, so that the districts of Ghevgeli and Doiran should fall to Greece, and that Serbia should abandon any claim to Strumitsa. The then Serbian Premier replied that such a proposition could be considered, and Serbia might be able to consent to such a sacrifice, so highly did she estimate the friendship and alliance of her southern neighbour, but with the reservation that Greece should fulfil her duty as an ally in the event of a Bulgar attack. But, continues M. Venizelos, unfortunately Greece then failed in her duty, and so forfeited any such claim that she might have had. He further stated that he was touched by the anxiety of the Greek portion of the population of Strumitsa to join Hellas, but he never dreamt of asking Serbia for the cession of Doiran and Strumitsa, knowing well what Serbia's answer would be. M. Venizelos continued in the tone of a true statesman, that, as the honourable representative of a honourable nation, he considered that, in consenting to that sacrifice and regularising the Allied relations between his country and Serbia, he was doing so once and for all, and that Greece would never in future have any desire for the territory which, without any pressure, she had consented to see become an integral part of the Serbian Kingdom. So Greece henceforward has no claims whatever either upon Strumitsa, Doiran, Ghevgeli or Bitolj (Monastir). Finally, he said, those Greeks who remained outside the fold should remember that they belonged to a Christian State and friendly Allied Power, living under a constitutional régime, so that they could express their wishes through their deputies in Parliament. He also stated that at Paris, both the Bulgarian and Serbian delegates had pressed their claims for Strumitsa, but that he was sure that, since Strumitsa could not belong to Greece, no Greek would envy its possession by Serbia. The questioner replied that under those circumstances it were a thousand times better that it belong to Serbia.

GREECE.

ATHENS, December 8.

The F.B.I. Exhibition.

The Exhibition of the Federation of British Industries at the Zappeion, Athens, closed on Sunday, November 23. The weather, which had kept remarkably fine during the run of the exhibition, finally gave out on the closing evening, and the dance given by the exhibitors on that occasion took place in a deluge of rain and a gale of wind. Nevertheless, it was well attended, and was a fitting conclusion to a very successful undertaking.

The exhibition on the whole was a great success. Although it was of necessity small, and not representing British industry quite on the scale to which we are accustomed at similar exhibitions in England, yet there is every reason to believe that it has done a great deal of good, and that British industrial products have been successfully brought to the notice of potential buyers who in the ordinary way would have been difficult of access. Very great credit is due to the organisers, who, by dint of almost superhuman effort, managed to overcome the enormous difficulties encountered, and got the exhibition ready within a few days of the date originally fixed for the opening. They had, of course, to contend

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with shipping difficulties and railway strikes at home, and with the hopeless congestion of the Port of Piræus here; and consequently the arrival of some of the exhibits was rather belated.

The exhibition was well attended, and attracted merchants from all over Greece. Owing to difficulties of transport, however, and to certain passport restrictions still in force, it is doubtful whether the number of visitors from Levant centres outside Greece was what was anticipated; but the Greek commercial man certainly responded very well to the invitation of the British manufacturers.

King Alexander's Interest.

King Alexander of Greece was a frequent visitor at the Zappeion, and showed marked interest in the automobile and aircraft sections. A Handley Page machine, which made several "joy" flights daily over Athens, piloted by Captain W. Shakespeare, R.A.F., had the honour of carrying his Majesty on two or three occasions. This machine, together with several others at the Tatoi and Eleusis aerodromes, was unfortunately destroyed by the gale which raged on the closing night.

A good deal of business was done, and many orders were placed at the exhibition, but, undoubtedly, considerably more could have been done had the conditions been otherwise. The representatives of many of the firms were obliged to reply to inquirers that they were booked up with orders for home delivery for some considerable time ahead; others were as yet without agents in Greece, and could not give information as to when stocks would be ready for delivery; while yet others had not foreseen the possibility of their being asked to quote prices for delivery c.i.f. Piræus. These, of course, are contingencies, which, owing to the exhibition being held so soon after the close of hostilities and the unsettled state of the markets of supply at home and the freight market, it is very difficult to contend with at the present moment.

The object of the Exhibition, which was that of giving the Greek factory owner and consumer an opportunity of seeing what British industry is capable of producing, was more than achieved. Very great interest was displayed in the machinery and textile sections, and some important orders were placed. It was an everyday sight to see a batch of 50 to 100 students of the Athens polytechnics and schools, accompanied by their professors, receiving practical instruction in the working of various machines and the use of the technical and scientific instruments exhibited, so that it is to be hoped that some useful propaganda work was also done.

A series of receptions and dinners were given in honour of the exhibitors, at which all the Greek Ministers and municipal authorities were present. The first of these was given by Lord and Lady Granville at the British Legation, and the Athens and Piræus Chambers of Commerce and Municipalities also entertained the exhibitors. The Federation reciprocated on various occasions, and some very complimentary things were said in the course of speeches by the Greek officials. The King was present at most of these receptions.

Return of M. Venizelos.

The event of the week has naturally been the return of the Greek Premier, M. Venizelos, to Greece, on the termination of his business at the Peace Conference. M. Venizelos arrived in Phalerum Bay in the Greek light cruiser Hellé, having hurried back from Paris after the signing of the peace treaty with Bulgaria after an absence of practically a year. Athens, on this occasion, was *en fête*, and a public holiday was observed. Dense crowds thronged the approaches to the Constitution Square, where his Excellency attempted to make a speech from the balcony of the Hôtel d'Angleterre. The crowd was, however, so effusive in its welcome that M. Venizelos could only bow and smile his gratification at the welcome given him, and had to hand his speech to the newspapers for publication the next day.

Considerable consternation was felt in Athens on the publication of the news a few days ago of the discovery of a projected *coup d'état* to overthrow the present Liberal Government. According to the Athens newspapers a number of reactionaries, officers and ex-officers and civilians, had prepared a most elaborate and drastic plot to exterminate M. Venizelos, together with most of his Ministers. It is asserted that emissaries had been sent to Italy with the object of intercepting and assassinating the Premier, and that, at the same time, plans had been made by the reactionaries to seize the batteries of Lycabettus, commanding Athens, and to terrorise the capital by dynamiting the public buildings. It is stated that the ringleaders have all been arrested, and the number of persons arrested and given passports is variously reported at 130 to 150. The Press, however, became very reticent after the communications of the first day or two. The plot is stated to have been inspired from Switzerland by the entourage of the late King.

M. Venizelos and the Labour Party.

M. Venizelos a few days ago went down to the Piræus to inspect the lately built extensions to the Customs House and stores erected during his absence, and necessitated by the congestion in the Port of Piræus. In a speech which he afterwards made in the Committee Room of the Customs House, he expressed his satisfaction with the efforts made in his absence to cope with the congestion of the port, caused principally through the increased utilisation of Piræus as a transit port. He afterwards took the opportunity of saying a few timely words to the leaders of the Labour party present. He signified his approval of their right to form an independent Labour party, and his intention of helping them in securing adequate representation, but he was very emphatic in his remarks that the Labour party must not lose sight of the fact that they represented a vast minority of the population of Greece, and that, if they intended to jeopardise the well-being and progress of the community by strikes, exorbitant demands, and "Bolshevist" tactics, they would find that he has no sympathy with them, but that, on the contrary, he would ruthlessly oppose any such tendencies on the part of the Labour-Socialists. This declaration of his intention has generally been applauded, but the Labour unions appear to be rather disconcerted.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, December 13.

The Cession of Cyprus.

The reply of Mr. Lloyd George to the London Deputation has been the subject of much comment. It differs but little from replies to the many memorials and deputations which have been sent to London. It is recognised that the last word will not be spoken for some time; meanwhile the town politicians derive much hope and consolation from some expressions which the letter contains. The Greek "Unionist" still regards the "Cyprus question" from a very insular and detached point of view, and ignores the fact that the fate of the island has always been, and must always be, as far as Britain is concerned, regarded as part of a much larger problem.

The return of the deputation is now awaited. Many partisans think that the members should have remained in London until the question is definitely settled. Subscriptions have recently been made in Egypt, amongst the "Cypriot fraternity" and others, in aid of the cause.

Aliens' Bill.

The Legislative Council met again on December 12, when a Bill dealing with the deportation of former enemy aliens was discussed and passed. The High Commissioner is thereby empowered to order an alien to quit the island, and to prescribe the time within which he shall leave. The penalty for disobedience is imprisonment not exceeding three years, or a fine not exceeding £200, or both. During the debate Irfan Bey submitted that power should be given to order the departure not only of former enemy aliens, but also that of any persons whose presence in the island may be a cause of trouble. Among the former, he argued, may be persons of the most exemplary character; whereas among the latter may be found undesirable mischief-makers, whose action is much more likely to be objectionable and a source of disorder. The King's Advocate, however, pointed out that the High Commissioner has already such power by virtue of a law passed since the British occupation—viz., "The Peace and Good Order Law, 1879." Under this law the High Commissioner may with the advice of the Legislative Council, under his sign and seal, declare that any person who may, in the opinion of the Council, be dangerous to the peace and good order of the island, shall be prohibited from residing, or being,

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therein; disobedience being punishable with twelve months' imprisonment. Such person may be arrested and detained in prison pending trial.

Miscellaneous.

Telegrams have been sent from some towns congratulating M. Venizelos on his escape from the recent plot.

The papers mention from time to time the return of Cypriots who have served during the war in the British Army. One such has just returned after eighteen months' service from Constantinople, Mr. N. Economides, of Morphou.

MALTA.

VALETTA, Dec. 22.

The Governor.

Lord Plumer, the Governor, is receiving great encomiums from the general public for all he has done for the island in obtaining self-government for the people, and a promise of financial aid from the Imperial Exchequer. He seems to have gauged the peculiarities of the Maltese character very well, and he has also recognised that the great failures in the past have been due largely to a lack of leaders. This point he strongly emphasised in an address he gave to the University students at the ceremonial when he received his degree (honoris causa) of LL.D. Many have been the schemes proposed to relieve the burden of taxation, and the latest is to establish a *Lotto Nazionale*. Public lotteries are not recognised by the Government of the island, but despite this a vast sum of money leaves the island weekly to swell the funds of the Italian Government. The subject is a thorny one; but something ought to be done either to prohibit lotteries entirely or to establish one on equitable lines, which at all events, would benefit the island as a whole.

The Lieutenant-Governor has returned from London where he has spent a long time at Downing Street discussing the financial and constitutional affairs of the island. His mission appears to have been a great success.

Emigration is perhaps the only thing that can save the economic situation, and it is a fact very much to be regretted that the illiteracy of the would-be emigrants and a lack of a knowledge of the English language greatly impedes their settling in new countries. The Government have just published a communication from the Governor-General of Canada, relative to this matter. The letter points out the qualifications necessary for emigrants to Canada, and it is suggested that steamship agents should be prevented from encouraging that type of emigrant likely to be refused from leaving for Canada.

The University.

Dec. 28.

The general opinion prevails in the island that a radical reform in the curriculum and general organisation of the University is needed, and the conferring of the degree of Doctor on the Governor (Lord Plumer) is looked upon as being a matter which will "speed up" things educationally. There is much that is wanting here, from the lowest grade of school to the *alma mater* itself.

Scarcity of Bread.

The situation raised by the possible scarcity of bread is easier. As regards the stoppage of the mills, it has been wisely suggested that the millowners should provide themselves with adequate "spares," and that a Government inspector be appointed to report and advise periodically on the exact condition of the machinery.

"Olla Podrida."

The island, like other Near East places, is suffering from lack of prompt cable news, owing to cable collapses. The Eastern Telegraph Company are doing the best they can in the circumstances.

It comes as good news that the *Daily Malta Chronicle*, which ceased as a result of the riots last June, is shortly to start again.

Lewis F. Mizzi, Esq., LL.D., has made a present to the island of his unique and complete set of mineralogical, crystallographical and geological specimens, for which act he has been publicly thanked by the Council of Government. Dr. Mizzi is well-known in the Near East, as for thirty years he was president of the Consular Bar at Constantinople, and edited the famous *Levant Herald*, a paper hated intensely by the Young Turk section.

A Constantinople telegram earnestly requesting the continuance of Y.M.C.A. work for the comfort of the troops of the Army of the Black Sea during the winter has just been received at the Y.M.C.A. headquarters. In Constantinople and in the camps on the shore of the Sea of Marmora and the Dardanelles, as well as in the Caucasus and in South Russia, the Y.M.C.A. has been serving the troops since the armistice. A request has also been received from General Congreve in Palestine asking that new Y.M.C.A. centres may be opened for his troops when they take up their new positions.

ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY.

Statement by Prime Minister.

We are indebted to the Roumanian Legation for the following report:—

In the Roumanian Parliament, on December 20, M. Vaida-Voevod, the Prime Minister, made an important declaration regarding the Government's policy. After giving particulars of the Roumanian nation's fight for independence and union, he pointed out that the Government was the first formed by the majority *bloc* in Great Roumania's first Parliament, and declared that it was conscious of the obligations thus imposed upon it. As the principal points of the Government's home policy, he mentioned the revision of the Constitution. As regards foreign policy, he said: "We will retain the wish to be as near as possible to the Allied and Associated Powers." Among schemes which are in progress, he referred to: (1) Electoral reform, on the basis of the universal, secret and compulsory vote; (2) agrarian reform for dividing the land between the peasants who really cultivated it before; (3) the reform of administration on the basis of the largest decentralisation, and the paying to the staff a living salary; (4) economic reconstruction, including the reorganisation of the railways, which is one of the principal cares of the Government; (5) the reconstruction of finance, introducing progressive taxes, taxation on fortunes made during the war, the confiscation of fortunes made dishonestly, and the participation of the State in export profits; (6) the regulation of work by means of establishing minimum salaries, and the protection of children and women working in factories; (7) the reconstruction of villages, building of comfortable and healthy homes for the poor population in towns, the establishing of public baths, and general measures for assuring the public health; (8) the protection and care of the invalids of war, as well as the orphans and widows of those fallen in the field. The nationalisation of secondary instruction, having in view the rights of minorities, the development of primary schools, and the organisation of the autonomy of the Roumanian Church as that of the University; (9) newly-established ministries will be entrusted with the protection of the race so as to assure the best possible conditions of life.

The provisioning of the country, said M. Vaida-Voevod, will be one of our first interests. Partial demobilisation has started.

The establishment of unity of thought and feeling between all Roumanians must be created. Great Roumania must be loved and loving, with no exceptions of nationality or religion. Reciprocity in religious tolerance must be established in Roumania.

The Jewish question was solved by Decree Law of July, 1919. The relation between us and the Jews was not satisfactory, not because of political reasons, but because of the economic situation. We will have full confidence in them, and hope that they will respond with the same confidence.

We had to settle foreign questions first so as to be able to start on home reorganisation. We continue to be in alliance with the Entente Powers. We have close community of interest with Poland. With Czecho-Slovakia we are on the best of terms, as well as with Yugoslavia, with whom we have so many interests in common. We hope that Greece will justify her classic past concerning the Roumanians of Macedonia. The blood spilt in common with our Allies is a bigger guarantee than any treaty written on paper. The many lies spread by our enemies in foreign countries will be falsified, for we shall maintain with loyalty our relations with foreign countries.

The Peace Conference has not given full satisfaction to our claims, but it has not acted with bad intention. Compromises were made so that one should not be favoured while another was being oppressed, the wound produced by the cutting off of one part of the Banat in which will not unsettle us. In the circumstances we found ourselves at the time we closed peace with Austria we had not the liberty to choose, so that we were bound to give in to a much greater power than our own.

The compromises we will have to make in the future will not be in any case as painful as those of the past. The policy of resistance could have been maintained if it would have had the agreement of the whole nation and if it would have offered grants of a better result. I take the responsibility of signing the Peace knowing that I may be sacrificed; when it is a question of the country's interests party interests must disappear. We will all work together for the sake of our country, putting aside the consideration of different parties.

MALTA'S NEW GOVERNMENT.

Reuter's Malta correspondent reports that at an extraordinary sitting of the Council of Government on January 5 the Governor read a despatch from the Colonial Secretary outlining the new form of government. It requires two distinct Administrations, one to deal with the interests of Imperial defence and matters relating thereto, and one to deal with purely local interests. In the former the Governor will be assisted by an Executive Council composed of representatives of interested bodies, and in the latter by the people's own representatives. The Constitution will follow as much as possible the lines of the draft Constitution submitted to the National Assembly. Emphasis is laid on the fact that this concession is granted at the express recommendation of Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, and that it will require the harmonious and effective co-operation of the Maltese people with the Imperial Government.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Armenia and Turkey.

The *Manchester Guardian* of January 5 discusses in a leading article the Turkish Treaty generally. It says:—

There can scarcely have been anything on which opinion, in this country at least, was more agreed than that the successful ending of the war would mean the disappearance of the Turk, complete and absolute, from the regions in which he misgoverned a variety of subject races, and, above all, from Armenia, the stage upon which he had finally demonstrated, on a vast scale, the atrocities of which he is capable. To most people it would come with a shock of surprise and disgust to think that, under any circumstances or with any ostensible safeguards, the Turks could again be tolerated in Armenia, yet for some time it has been reported that certain Continental politicians, anxious for the purposes of their own diplomacy to keep the Turks alive, were disposed to recommend that Turkish authority should be maintained in Armenia. We should like to think that no British Government would even consider so infamous a proposal, and that if it did it would soon end its own life as a Government.

It then refers to the desirability of the United States' acceptance of the responsibility for Armenia, and continues:—

But if, as is all too likely, the United States will not take up this honourable burden, there are other adequate ways of providing for the future of Armenia without leaving a vestige of authority to the Turks. The work which the League of Nations can carry out through a mandatory it can also carry out directly through a commission of its own, and although commissions of mixed nationalities have their defects, such an arrangement might conceivably be much better for Armenia than that it should be handed over as a trust to any one of the Powers who in the Near East have so many private interests of the sort which have produced incessant friction during the recent months.

Constantinople.

In the *Graphic* of January 3, Mr. Demetrius C. Boulger writes on the future of Constantinople. His firm conviction is that the Turks must be left in possession. He says:—

The first point of capital importance for the British people and Empire is to remember that the fate of Constantinople is of the very foremost importance for vast Asiatic African communities, and that they will hold us alone to account for any affront to their dignity, and any assault on what they deem their interests. We may have partners and associates in whatever steps may be taken, but in their eyes we alone will be held responsible, and left to suffer as the mark of their indignation. Does the country fully realise what this may mean? Our present difficulties are many and greatly complicated by side issues. Are we going to add to their number by a piece of wanton provocation which will add fuel to the smouldering flame from the Nile to the Ganges? Have we taken into account our diminished resources, our depleted reserves of all kinds, the lassitude of our citizens, the gravity of our home affairs, that we wish to rush blindly into fresh wars that will disturb the Asiatic world to its depths, and perhaps rouse the torpid giant from his age-long sleep? . . .

Look at the matter from what angle you like, of British interest or international peace and concord, there is no safe alternative to leaving the Turk in possession. Conditions can be made of a suitable nature for the security of free and open navigation through the Straits, and for improved administration; but the *status quo ante* remains the only course open to us by the light of our own responsibilities and perils.

The Arabs.

A writer in the *Glasgow Herald* of December 31 reports a conversation he had had with a field officer who served on Lord Allenby's Staff in Palestine. Having discussed the character of the Turk, he says:—

My deponent was equally frank about our present troubles and those of the French with certain Arab sections. This question, he assured me, was wholly misunderstood here. For instance, there was a tendency to associate the revolt of the Syrian Arabs against the Sykes-Picot Convention and their demand for a united and independent State, with a move in favour of Hedjaz sovereignty. "In truth," said my friend, "this is not so at all. These Syrian Arabs are clamouring for a republic of their own and not for reunion with the Hedjaz. The authority of the Emir Feisul, who is a genuine friend of ours, is far from unchallenged in Syria. So that, in order to placate their violent Chauvinism, he feels constrained to support their claim to some extent, lest he should lose all influence over them. I always held that we made a very serious mistake when, on approaching Damascus, which the Turco-Germans had evacuated owing to the defeat inflicted upon them by British Imperial and Indian troops, we stopped the latter in order to enable the Arabs to enter Damascus first. They were hailed there and believed themselves to be the real conquerors, and have suffered from swelled head ever since!"

The above view is interesting in the light of a letter on this subject printed in the last issue of the NEAR EAST.

The Dardanelles.

In the *Contemporary Review* of January, Mr. H. Charles Woods deals with the report of the Dardanelles Commission. He first discusses the objects of the attack upon the Straits. He says:—

If we take it, as Lord Grey took it, that it would have had a bad effect if that assistance had been refused, then there were at least two alternatives open to the responsible authorities. First, it would have been possible to have informed the Russian Government that the suggested demonstration would be made as soon as the troops required were available, thus postponing an attack upon the Dardanelles until it could be carried out as a combined naval and military operation. And secondly, if it were necessary to act without committing ourselves to so much as an attempt to force the Straits, a less hazardous and difficult undertaking would have been a landing in the Gulf of Alexandretta, where an advance of only about twelve miles would have placed us astride of the Baghdad Railway, thereby practically severing the Ottoman communication with, and putting an end to, Turkish resistance in Mesopotamia and on the Egyptian frontier. We do not know whether the adoption of this course was considered at that moment, but the Commissioners tell us that, in November, after Lord Kitchener had advocated a landing in the neighbourhood of Alexandretta, a decision against this proposal was arrived at as a result of a Conference with the French Government. It therefore seems reasonable to suppose that, as reported at the time, France was, or would have been, opposed to an undertaking in an area which she regards as her special preserve, but in which she was impotent to give any effective military or naval assistance.

He makes an interesting point in speaking of the political results of the campaign.

Politically speaking, on the other hand, whilst the campaign may have heartened the Russians and maintained their resistance, I cannot agree with those who suggest that the Dardanelles campaign prolonged the neutrality of Bulgaria, for I consider that it was largely the developments of the first stages of the Suvla Bay operations which finally decided King Ferdinand and his clique to throw in their lot with the Central Powers, and that our subsequent total failure strengthened the hands of King Constantine of Greece, thereby definitely postponing the entry of that country into the war on the Allied side.

He closes on the brighter aspects of the campaign.

The two bright spots in the whole campaign are the decision taken to evacuate, and the magnificent conduct of the personnel of the Army and Navy throughout the operations. Indeed, as one reads page after page containing contradictory opinions or evidence, one seems for the first time to meet a ray of hope, of light and of determination, when one comes to the rôle of Sir Charles Monro. Only four days after his arrival at Mudros, that officer, whose efficiency throughout the war has been proverbial, decided that the Peninsula must be evacuated. In spite of the expression of more than one contrary opinion, and especially of a desire in certain quarters that the Army should not be withdrawn from Helles, the present Commander-in-Chief in India never for one moment wavered in his opinion—an opinion which we all now recognise as justified. What is more, Sir Charles Monro, who originally agreed that a loss of 30 to 40 per cent. in personnel and material might be incurred during the evacuation, actually effected that operation with casualties amounting to only 345 killed and 1,178 wounded. He thus proved himself the one and only commander who rightly over-estimated, instead of under-estimating, the dangers and difficulties of the operations at the Dardanelles.

Armenia.

In the *New Europe* of January 1 M. P. Tonapetean sets out some of Armenia's claims, and favours the idea of a British Protectorate. His article concludes:—

Armenia's future depends, not upon the extent of her territory, but upon the presence and effectiveness of a Mandatory Power. Those who advocate complete Armenian independence are either unpractical dreamers, or have been infected with the Social Democratic ideas on which Russian schoolboys have been fed for forty years past, and which are now bearing fruit in Russia. They may be good patriots and sincere idealists, but these qualities are not in themselves enough to administer a country whose peoples are mostly illiterate, and whose advanced classes are mostly devoid of discipline and full of presumption. A healthy Armenia can only materialise if for the next fifty years she is guided by the authority of a strong civilised Power such as Great Britain. In an atmosphere of justice and of perfect security of life and property the Armenian race would, in the period of fifty years, be enabled to grow numerically strong enough to form the nucleus of the new Armenian State. Meanwhile, being modelled upon the good example and under the guiding influence of British civilisation and government, it would be able to train itself in the duties and practice of self-government, and would thus be ready to stand alone when the time came.

Articles to Note.

"The New Government of India Act and its Critics," by Sir J. D. Rees, K.C.I.E., C.V.O., M.P.; "The Government of India Bill," by "Dewan"; "Self-Government for India," by Sir Guilford Molesworth, K.C.I.E.; "Some Thoughts About the 'Drain' in India," by W. H. Moreland, I.C.S. (retd.); and "War and Post-War Developments in Persia," by C. A. Walpole, O.B.E., in the *Asiatic Review* (January).

"India," by Sir Harry Stephen; and "The Evacuation of the Dardanelles," by Major Orlo Williams, M.C., in the *National Review* (January).

"The Settlement of the Near East," by Viscount Bryce, O.M.; "Væ Victis," by J. D. Bourchier; and "Constitution Making for India," by H. E. A. Cotton, I.C.C., in the *Contemporary Review* (January).

"The Fate of the Turcomans," by Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Dudley Carleton in *Blackwood* (January).

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CORRESPONDENCE.

EGYPTIAN UNREST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is an error to think that the East can possibly develop except on its own lines, through Eastern master-minds. Let us find these for Egypt, and let it be their concern to do what is necessary, as our concern is to guard the Suez Canal and European investments in the country.

The present unrest has its roots outside, and must be dealt with accordingly. No amount of concessions will cure it; it is the work of enemies of the present régime, whom nothing will satisfy short of its destruction. The misfortune of Egypt was to have had a supercilious Khedive like Abbas Hilmi, who made it necessary for the British to take authority out of his hand instead of supporting *his* authority by their power. He was kept far too long on his Turkish throne, and it was his own faults which perverted the minds of certain Egyptians and the good intentions of Egypt's friends.—I am, etc.,

December 22, 1919. A. SEFI.

LORD RONALDSHAY AND THE INDIAN RENAISSANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—On December 4 H.E. the Governor of Bengal received the Society of Indian Art at Government House, Calcutta, and addressed its members in language which has seldom been heard in that magnificent throne-room. He pointed out that the first impact of Western civilisation came at an epoch when India's national vitality was at its lowest ebb. So every form of indigenous art suffered a long eclipse, and when Schools of Art came into being, their teaching followed purely European lines. A renaissance came when the Tagores broke away from Western tradition and started a movement which in time gave birth to the modern school of Indian painting. Hence the unrest of which we hear so much extends to the realm of art. It has arisen from a clash of ideals, and is, in fact, a protest of India's soul against the invasion of foreign influence. H.E. expressed profound sympathy with the Indian point of view. As a result of the struggle for existence of her ideals, he said:—

"I look forward to seeing the peculiar genius of the Indian people finding expression in an artistic language of their own. It will not be easily understood by the stranger, but will be a language coming to India herself naturally and with no need of interpretation, in the message which the Indian artist has to give. If this new movement reflects the soul of India—and I am sure that it will do so—we shall see it chary of adopting the realism which is so marked a feature in European art, and clinging to the ideals which colour so deeply the whole artistic life of the Indian people."

Lord Ronaldshay's words indicate a new orientation of governmental policy. It has hitherto been dominated by the utilitarian canons which unfortunately are still current at home; it reeks of the counting-house whence our Empire sprang; and regards the arts as lying outside its province. But criticism must be tempered by an appreciation of the enormous difficulties which confront the Anglo-Indian administration. During a tour in Central Asia I asked poor General Kurapatkin, who then governed Transcaspia, why the glorious relics of Timur's reign at Samarkand had been suffered to lapse into utter ruin. "We Russians," he replied, "want all our money to buy powder and shot!"

It is noteworthy that William Pitt gave the self-same excuse for his refusal to purchase the art-treasures of Florence for a mere song in 1793. In both cases stern necessity conspired with utilitarian theory to limit the functions of government. H.E.'s sympathy with the legitimate aspirations of India has endeared him to her people; and his heart-whole support of indigenous ideals cannot but exercise a powerful influence for good.—I am, etc.,

January 5. F. H. S.

SERBIA AND YUGOSLAVIA.

On January 9, at the Æolian Hall, a Christmas lecture to young people was delivered on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society by Mrs. Dickinson Berry, M.D., its subject being "Serbia and Yugoslavia Before and After the War." Sir Francis Younghusband presided and introduced the lecturer as a lady who had had many adventures during the war, and had done splendid work for the Serbs.

The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides showing maps of the country, its scenery, its architecture, the picturesque costumes of its people, the blind minstrels and ballad-singers with their one-stringed instruments and so forth. Speaking of the condition of the Serbs while under Turkish rule, the lecturer said it was not worth while for them to cultivate their lands well because of the exactions of the tax-gatherer. If a Christian on horseback met a Turk he had to dismount; one boy from every Christian family was taken and brought up as a Mohammedan, in ignorance of his parents, as one of the corps of Janissaries. From this state of things the people had been delivered at the beginning of the nineteenth century by a successful revolt under Kara George (ancestor of the present king). Serbia was the only Balkan State which had succeeded in freeing itself from Turkey by its own efforts. It was an exceedingly democratic country; the old Serbian aristocracy had disappeared during the centuries of Turkish rule; and when it came out from this it was a community where nobody was very rich and nobody very poor. The Serbs to-day were an exceedingly intelligent race, and very keen politicians. They were very polite. One day, some time before the war, a party of English people, of whom the lecturer was one, met an old man on horseback. He was coming from a church festival, where probably a good deal of native spirit had been consumed, and it might be that his seat was not so firm in the saddle as it should have been. The English party were on bicycles. The horse shied at the sight of these, and the old man fell off. The road at the point where this took place was high above a river, and the old man went down the steep bank, bouncing from stone to stone like an indiarubber ball. Some of the English people went down to his assistance, thinking he was very likely killed, but he got up and was helped on to the road again. Seeing that it was the sight of the bicycles which had caused his horse to shy it would not have been unnatural if the old Serbian had been abusive; but instead of that being the case he thanked the English people for coming to his assistance, and expressed a hope that they would live for ever.

Another story of a different kind was the legend that on the night before Kossovo, Lazar, the last of the Serbian Tsars, had a vision in which an angel offered him the alternatives of victory and an empire rule or the Kingdom of Heaven. He chose the latter. Such was the spirit of the Serbian people that, in spite of the long centuries of oppression that followed they never blamed him for his choice.

The lecturer described more briefly the other countries now included in the Yugoslav kingdom. Of Fiume she said that although in the city itself there was a preponderance of Italians, if the suburb of Sushak was included the Slavonic element of the population was in the majority. It had never been an Italian city except for one year, in 1508, when the Venetians seized it by a successful raid. Except for that it had practically always been Croatian until Hungary got possession of it by means of a trick.

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MOSLEM TALES FROM JERUSALEM.*

II.—THE STORY OF THE SULTAN HAROUN AL-RASHID AND THE POOR WOMAN.

One day the Sultan Haroun al-Rashid and his Vizier were walking together in disguise, as was the Sultan's custom. As they passed by a miserable hut standing alone in a field they heard some children crying and wailing within. "Give us food!" cried the piteous little voices. "It is now past noon, and we have not eaten since before the sun set yesterday."

"Let us go nearer and find out the truth of this," said the good Sultan. "How horrible is such a cry in the ears of Allah the All-Merciful!"

They approached the hut quietly. Just outside the door they saw a woman cooking something in a small pot over a wretched fire made of a few small sticks, which appeared to have little flame but much smoke, while three thin and ragged little boys clung around her, weeping and clamouring for food. To the surprise of the watchers, the woman thrust the children from her with angry words, and at length drove them into the hut, shutting the door upon them. She then returned to her cooking, while the children beat upon the door from within and wailed aloud.

The Sultan went nearer to her, and his anger showed itself in his benign countenance as he spoke to her, asking her why she had driven the children from her, hungry and sad. Could it be that she wanted all the food for herself? "Woman," said the Sultan, whose heart was ever open to all men's need, "it is not good at any time to turn away the hungry, and how great a sin is it when they are your own little ones!"

For answer, the woman lifted the lid from the pot and bade him look inside. The Sultan did so, and found to his amazement that it was full of water and large stones, and of nothing else.

"Can I feed them with stones?" she said, bitterly. "Do they not cry to me day and night for the food I cannot give them? They will sleep now, because they think I am cooking something for them; but when they wake, Allah alone knows what I shall do!"

The Sultan made no answer, but he signed to the Vizier, and they went quickly away together. And the woman was sad, for she had hoped that the stranger whose face was so kindly would have given her a little money.

"All men are alike," she said to herself, and her heart within her became hard and heavy like one of the stones in the pot. "They do not care for the trouble of another."

That is not true, however. If the first man's heart is stone, the second and the third will have hearts of silver and gold.

It was more than an hour later when the woman, who had sunk upon the ground in her misery and despair, suddenly looked up, and saw these two strangers coming towards her again. He who walked in front, he who had spoken to her, carried now a large sack upon his shoulders, and his companion was also heavily laden.

"Here is food for your children," said the Sultan. "I have brought you rice and meat and flour. Make ready a meal for them, for they will wake hungry."

Then the woman was filled with a joy beside which her hunger seemed as nothing, and she hastened to prepare a meal. The strangers waited until it was ready, and the children had been waked from their dreary sleep to share in the first good meal they had ever had in all their little lives, and when they had eaten the foremost of her two unknown friends called the woman aside. Slipping a heavy purse of gold into her hands, he said, "Tell your children that they have always a friend in the Sultan Haroun al-Rashid."

With these words he walked quickly away, followed by the Vizier, while the woman, raising hands and eyes to heaven called down upon her benefactor the blessings of Allah.

It may here be recorded what the great Sultan said of the English language.

One day his warriors were discussing amongst themselves which was the greatest language in the world. First, of course, they set Arabic, for it was their own, and it is also the language of Paradise; but which came next they could not agree, and it seemed as though some were ready to support their opinion with the sword.

Then said the Sultan: "O my children, you do not well to disagree. *I* will tell you which is the best. French is like the feeble speech of a weak and foolish woman. German is hard like the neighing of a horse; it is fit only for beasts. But English is as the roaring of a lion for majesty and strength; it is a tongue that men may use with honour to themselves."

ESTELLE BLYTH.

* These tales were told to the writer by a Moslem servant in Jerusalem.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

In the extremely interesting series of letters exchanged between the Kaiser of Germany and the Tsar of Russia (now being published by the *Morning Post*), there are some instructive and amusing passages relating to the Near East. I do not know enough about the Kaiser to be able to deny the loud report that he is mad, but it seems to me that he indulged in at least a moment of sanity when he visited Palestine. Look at his description of Jerusalem, for example; it strikes me as being quite acute. He refers to the wrangling and jangling of the Christian sects there, and says:—"I am afraid that Jerusalem is often used by the Clergies as a cover for political devices and designs, and that is very wrong, and does Christianity a very great harm, as the Moslems have long ago perceived this and treat us accordingly." I must say that this comment tallies with my own recollections of the place. Later in this letter, which was written at Damascus in November, 1898, he discovers the following:—"Turkey is very much alive and not a dying man. Beware of the Mussulmen if you touch their national honour or their Khalif." Is not this exactly what some people, not our enemies, are saying to-day? I wonder if they are right?

***

William II. appears to have had a genuine affection for the Sultan. It is easy, of course, to say that it was all part of a deep game, but it really seems that the late Kaiser preferred simplicity to complicity. In the Cretan affair of 1898 he was, according to these letters and apart from any natural pique at the success of rival powers, quite sorry for the Sultan. Perhaps all autocrats feel thus bound one to another. But I suppose it is impossible for us ever to find out the real character of men like William II. and Abdul Hamid, for the ordinary virtues and vices of man do not belong to them.

***

It was on New Year's Eve that we were discussing the outlook for 1920, when one of us expressed curiosity regarding the fate in store for Egypt—another of the party having just "wondered what was going to be done about Ireland." Then said one, who, I knew, had formerly loved Egypt and the Egyptians only second, if second, to his own country: "I should like to give the Egyptians a few score, or hundreds, of Turkish Pashas, Beys and Effendis to govern them for a few years. They would very soon sing out for British rule once more." "But," urged another, "that is not what they ask for. They want—or say they do—complete independence." "I know," growled the first man, "but I don't believe 'em. My own idea is, in spite of the Coptic alliance, that at the back of the agitation is the one feeling that runs all through the Moslem world to-day. The 'Gippy wants to be ruled by Moslems; and, by Jove, I'd let him be! As to 'independence,' how long would Egypt keep that if it were given to her to-morrow? If we cleared out, either the Sudanese would sweep in and boss the show, or someone else—a couple of Maltese in a row-boat, perhaps!—would land, and take the country on!"

***

Now, these were my friends' opinions, be it noted, and I decline to endorse them. Personally, I do not believe that two Maltese, even if aided by the proverbial bull-pup, could reduce Egypt; though I have my own opinion about the chances of invasion from the South. But I must admit that the idea of sending out a few shiploads of Turkish notables and officials to "administer" Egypt tickled my sense of humour. If rumour is to be trusted, the "possibilities" of an official position are not yet entirely forgotten on the Nile, where, during the recruiting for the Labour Corps, some very interesting incidents seem to have taken place. But I imagine that the most accomplished native recipient of *baksheesh* would be able to learn a good deal from the Constantinopolitan type.

***

And what an enlightenment it would be for the average Fellah of to-day, who has had no experience of the "blessings" of Turkish rule, to be introduced to, say, Ahmed Pasha, or Selim Bey from Stamboul! How the glib-tongued Cairene Effendi would gasp when he found his eloquence of no avail against the rough and ready measures employed by the courtly old Turks, for whom he professes so much admiration, and—still more so, though with more skill—by the Young Turks. Yes, it would be an interesting experiment. Would the Egyptians welcome it, I wonder, if a vote could be taken on the subject.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

MESOPOTAMIA, 19.4.1915.*

Captain Birch-Reynardson tells the story of the Mesopotamia campaign from December, 1914, to December, 1915, with a brief account of the events of the month before the arrival of his regiment. Thus the book forms a self-contained narrative of a definite period of the campaign, during which we had firmly established ourselves at Busreh and its hinterland, had conceived the fatal plan of advancing with totally inadequate forces on Baghdad, and had suffered the horrors of the retreat following on the Pyrrhic victory of Ctesiphon. The story is told strictly from the point of view of the regimental officer. We seldom hear of the Staff and never of higher powers. This concentration on one point of view gives the book a very special value, which is still further enhanced by the entire exclusion of any personal matter concerning the writer from beginning to end. Indeed, Sherlock Holmes himself could hardly guess from the book that the author had been very badly wounded at Ctesiphon, had endured all the agonies of lying on that field and the subsequent ghastly transport to the sea, or that he had prepared this book during a gradual and painful convalescence. Seldom has it been our good fortune to read a war book so thoroughly selfless and so thoroughly imbued with the fine spirit which was the proud tradition of our Army before the war, and which we all hope to see continued in its successor.

It would not be fair to say that the book could not have been a better one. The arrangement is at times somewhat confusing—due, no doubt, to want of practice with the pen. The sketch maps are not so helpful as they should be, mainly because of the minute and indistinct lettering of place names. But, having said this much by way of criticism, we have nothing but praise for the book. Not only does it give a most vivid impression of the surroundings and appalling conditions in which our troops managed to live, and even to get some enjoyment; but it brings the actual fighting clearly before us. The mud, "the rich, adhesive article that must be slept in to be really appreciated," the "trench-warfare among marshes in a temperature of 120 degrees—the trenches crowded and full of dysentery cases," the hopelessly inadequate transport, and generally the innumerable miseries endured by the force without any of the mitigations, which were then so strangely neglected but were not denied to their more fortunate successors, are all presented with startling vividness and a good deal of grim humour. But the author never dwells morbidly on the painful side, preferring to give some of his space to the valiant efforts at sport, and to telling us of the marvellously beautiful effects of light on the dreary landscape of the Garden of Eden in the short intervals between day and night.

He brings out well the real meaning of the decision to advance on Baghdad; a decision which involved the abandonment of a policy of defence for one of offence; and one wishes that those who took this step so lightly and with such terrible consequences had had some of the clarity of thought displayed by this plain regimental officer.

His account of the battle of Ctesiphon, and of the sufferings of the wounded after it, is written with studious avoidance of sensationalism or personal feeling. But his plain, straightforward account produces a sense of tragedy and anger that more skilful and detailed narratives have not surpassed.

We shall leave this fascinating book with one quotation:—"After the war we must look forward to a British Mesopotamia—must, because for three years we have shown the people what it is to live under honest administration, and taught them to rely on justice, and have begun to make the desert blossom as the rose: and to surrender the people and the country again into the hands from which we rescued them would be an act of national cowardice, a deliberate and cynical refusal to fulfil our obligations."

C. S.-W.

MESOPOTAMIA.†

Apart from fame achieved in other works, Capt. Fairfax's lines on Lieut.-General Sir F. S. Maude—*Ave atque Vale*—have created a reputation for him in circles outside the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. This poem, printed and circulated by the Government Printing Press, Baghdad, is typical of Capt. Fairfax's verse, and it is well, therefore, to consider it. We may grant at once that it is dignified, scholarly, and essentially literary; but other qualities, vital in poetry, are lacking. Look at its closing lines:—

> Hail and Farewell! The laurels with the dust
> Are levelled, but thou hast thy surer crown,
> Peace and immortal Calm, the victory won.
> Somewhere serene thy watchful power inspires;
> Thou art a living purpose, being dead,
> Fruitful of nobleness in lesser lives,
> A guardian and a guide. Hail and Farewell!

They are fastidiously correct, finely chiselled, but do they ring? Might they not have been written of any great man in the war? Should there not have been a little more Catullus, a little less Virgil? It is this absence of real sentiment, of real passion, that mars what otherwise would be fine work. In every case Capt. Fairfax's inspiration appears to be literary, with the result that his verse sounds dim, like echoes. His personality is never obtruded upon us; his attitude is wholly objective. And though this way of writing is fit for narrative, in lyrics it is impossible.

It is a sad thing to say that these lyrics and sonnets always remain verse, that they never become poetry. For Capt. Fairfax is a nearly perfect artist. His verse, all of which is in classical form, reveals him as a complete master of the technique he wishes to exploit, and shows him to be possessed of a copious supply of poetic diction. It is all carefully measured, correctly accented, and finally rounded. His ear for rhyme, however, is not impeccable; he puts together two lines like these, for instance:—

> Scarred ruins and disastrous dreams,
> These were once Arras, Ypres, and Rheims.

We know that Capt. Fairfax could defend this rhyme—he would have so distinguished a poetess as Muriel Foster as co-defendant—but in our opinion it is not pardonable Again, he cannot be proud of this:—

> Once to re-echo the clear voices known
> And loved in the winged ecstasy of youth,
> When gazing up he glimpsed Eternal Truth
> Set in the shining air on Beauty's throne—
> Once to recapture and make this our own,
> In the dark hour given over to wrath and ruth
> Were the clear symbol of a power in sooth
> Staunch to endure and strong to bide alone.

We have purposely given examples of Capt. Fairfax's worst, merely to remark that it is very rarely that he falls into the commonplace. It is on common ground, however, that he chooses most often to tread. He cherishes the loneliness of youth in the correct Lionel Johnson (and, we suppose, Oxford) manner; he defies fate as mightily as Henley did: and in the wisdom of disillusion he is content. We have said that he is a perfect artist: that is true, but we do not think he will ever be a great one.

PHILOSOPHY AND SPORT.‡

The pursuit of big game implies many wearisome blank days, relieved by a few hours of intense excitement; and its inevitable monotony is reflected by nearly every book which attempts to describe its vicissitudes. Mr. Otto Rothfeld, I.C.S., has a philosophical turn of mind; his record of sport in eastern Kashmir is enlivened by thoughts which place it on a higher level than the lucubrations of Gordon Cumming, Selous, and their countless imitators. None but the elect can understand the fascination of big-game shooting; but our author offers a convincing explanation:—

> It is, perhaps, a matter, in the main, of human vanity and self-complacency. . . . . And at the end what is there except to lie in one's armchair in the hall before the fire, and look up at the head upon the wall—to remember the very place and moment of its shooting, and recall with a smile how very few men have been able to secure a like trophy of their sport. This is, this must be at bottom, the final attraction of big game shooting.

But Mr. Rothfeld gives the palm to humbler forms of sport, which are not a monopoly of the sterner sex:—

> Man is a social animal, and can find no full enjoyment where there are no women. . . Even in the grossness of the Middle Ages, with all their dirt and superstition, the coarse, unwashed boors who were given knightly rank fought their tournaments under the eyes of fair if grubby ladies. For civilised man there can be no human and urbane enjoyment that is divorced from the company of gentle women. . . It is not necessary that ladies should share the pleasure wholly, that they should shoot, for instance, with the men, but they should be at hand to dispel the heavy and fatal ponderousness of a one-sex pursuit, to inspire grace and wit in moments of leisure, and put men lightly on their easiest and best behaviour.

Still more interesting is our author's judgment of the Kashmiris, who, despite their ignorance, dirt, and superstitions, he claims as Nature's gentlemen:—

> They are now, I fancy, much as were the Scottish Highlanders before the 'forty-five: perfectly frank, manly and independent, yet invariably courteous, with a sort of innate tact and good-breeding. It seems clear that this fine nobility of manners is incompatible with certain qualities and pursuits, with everything, for instance, that Aristotle stigmatised as "Mean Trades." In modern Europe the lower middle classes and artisans are found at every turn "standing up for their rights," and there is not a moment when they are not busy suspecting someone or other of interfering with those precious

* "Mesopotamia, 1914-15. Extracts from a Regimental Officer's Diary." By Captain Birch Reynardson, 1st Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. With Illustrations and Maps. (London: Andrew Melrose. 9s. net.)

† "Mesopotamia: Sonnets and Lyrics at Home and Abroad, 1914-1919." By Captain Griffith Fairfax. (London: John Murray. 3s. 6d. net).

‡ "With Pen and Rifle in Kishtwar." By Otto Rothfeld, I.C.S. (Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala and Co. Rs. 5).

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rights of theirs. And it is precisely those classes who have sunk to the lowest depths in all that concerns the social amenities and behaviour.

Again:—

Their lively curiosity is certainly one of the most hopeful qualities of the Kashmiri people. That their minds are as a rule quick and active there can be no doubt; and when at last education, or at any rate literacy, is forced on every man, and the existing shackles of superstition are thereby shattered, I cannot but believe that the vivid intelligence of this people will play a leading part in the development of Indian and Central Asian thought.

Like the rural population of every land, the Kashmiris age with terrible rapidity, passing almost at a bound from adolescence to decrepitude. Mr. Rothfeld's explanation of this fact has the merit of novelty:—

The unchanging fixity of face in an uneducated person who thinks little and feels very few emotions, undoubtedly creates those early and deep wrinkles which are so often the mark and feature of the common man. The face of the educated man, on the other hand, is always mobile. Its lines alter from moment to moment with the quick-changing thoughts and rapid motions which pursue each other across his words; and this constant play of facial muscle tends to lighten the lines which would otherwise be graven on his skin by advancing years.

It is an accepted canon of sociology that a nation's progress in civilisation is in proportion to the length of the interval separating the average individual's full growth from the period of his decline. Mr. Rothfeld was beset everywhere by Kashmiris who clamoured for doses from his medicine chest, but scorned the suggestion that scientific treatment was available at the local dispensary. He thought at first that their reluctance to consult the governmental doctor was connected with his demand for fees:—

One knows, of course, and regrets it, that even high medical authorities at home and in British India advocate, by some perverse and misguided individualism, the grabbing of fees by physicians and the sale of medical advice in a competititve market, like a tradesman's goods, though the system is ruining the honour and status of their fellowship; but the sole cause of reluctance, it came out, was a deep-rooted fear and belief that the doctor would intentionally murder his patients!

Although Mr. Rothfeld is not precisely a de Vauvenargues, his book will appeal to many readers who do not share the Englishman's passion for slaughtering his humble fellow-creatures.

F. H. S.

UN AMIGO DISTINGUIDO.*

It is an opinion to be clenched, neither semi-instructed nor undocumented, that Greco-Latin perspicuity foresaw and forestalled the gross design of the Hohenzollern-Hapsburg maniacs. To the representative statesmen of France, Italy, Greece, and Roumania, civilisation remains a debtor. I have four men particularly in mind, and, here, an opportunity of ranking them according to my fancy: Tittoni, the Italian; Clemenceau, the Frenchman; Venizelos, the Cretan; Take Jonescu, the Roumanian, and subject of this notice. And these four distinguished friends of England will no doubt admit to-day that one of the greatest worries of their political careers has been to lay the bogey to their own countrymen enshrined in the French phrase, "La perfide Albion." But they laid it: with what immense courage in the face of their dubious nationals! With what apostrophes to Downing Street! With what prescient faith in the honour of England! Had Italy, for instance, not abstained from abetting Germany and Austria, France would have been crushed in 1914. Had Roumania not abstained, Russia would have been paralysed in 1915. It is obvious that these four men had not only faith, but knowledge; they visualised the drama about to be played, and knew that Anglo-Saxondom was half-way house and buttress between the Greco-Latin and the Teuton. Sentimentalists and spiritualists to a degree, notwithstanding the day-to-day cynical realities of their political careers, they all stepped forward unhesitatingly to pick up the glove of the Prusso-Austrian challenger. England had not come forward. They simply knew she must come forward. There were men, considering themselves statesmen, in England who, in late July and early August, could not see. The agony of suspense suffered in that dire week by England's Greco-Latin friends must endear them to us; while what we did and have since done shall undoubtedly endear us to them.

Is it likely, therefore, that an Englishman can pick up a post-war sketch book from the pen of Take Jonescu without a feeling of curiosity, or surprising that he lays it down with a sense of appreciation and admiration? Small as Roumania was in the great scheme of things in 1914, here was one man who saw that a Greater Roumania was about to have its being. He may assuredly shake hands with himself on the score of patriotism and pre-vision, and no one may begrudge him the irrepressible note of triumph and disdain running through this volume—disdain and hatred of the Austrian and Magyar. Nevertheless this series of slight portraits and sketchy anecdotes of European luminaries is rather the effort of an international journalist than of a statesman. The statesman promises us more hereafter, but even so he dares to lift a portion of the Roumanian veil. He still has to hold his own end up in the politics of his own country; but we are of the opinion, evidently shared by Viscount Bryce, who supplies a preface, that "Some Personal Impressions" does service not only to the reputation of the author but to that of Greater Roumania. Westerners cannot read the book without gaining the impression that they have a real friend in the most eastern of the offshoots of Ancient Rome.

A. G. B.

* "Some Personal Impressions." By Take Jonescu; with an Introduction by Viscount Bryce, O.M. (London: Nisbet and Co. 9s. net.

A PILGRIM IN PALESTINE.*

It is difficult to know how to describe this book. As letters in MS. written by an impressionable visitor to the Holy Land, very conscious of the religious romance of the land, any of us would find them good reading; even the "poetry" would be not out of place. In cold print one has been accustomed to expect something more critical and finished. But the war has inspired many to write who would not have done so before. We may venture to say this book could only have been written by an American, but hasten to add that we can only hope that other readers will find as much unconscious humour in its pages as we have done.

The author by choice tramped within twenty-four hours from Jaffa to Jericho—no mean feat—and afterwards traversed on foot all the way from Beersheba to Dan. One only regrets how little he tells us of the aftermath of war. He had unique opportunities, but seems to have been deliberately dreaming of the far past rather than gathering impressions of what was around him. To General Allenby himself he pays a glowing tribute. We wonder, however, what the General thinks of the song, "Allenby, O Allenby!" Of the twenty-four illustrations, the most striking is the camel train.

THE INDIAN ELECTORATE.†

The anonymous writer of this pamphlet claims to present the problem of the electorates as it appears to a student of current happenings. Apparently he wrote before the issue of the Southborough Report and the connected papers, and consequently some of his observations suggest the past rather than the present, but he offers some acute criticisms of the Joint Report from the point of view of Bengal, and the pamphlet is still worth reading.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Modern Crusaders." By Captain R. E. C. Adams, M.C. (London: G. Routledge and Sons, Limited. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Conquerors of Palestine: Through Forty Centuries." By Major H. O. Lock. With Map. Introduction by F.-M. Viscount Allenby, G.C.B., G.C.M.G. (London: Robert Scott. 7s. 6d. net.)

* "A Pilgrim in Palestine After Its Deliverance." By John Finley. (London: Chapman and Hall, 1919. 10s. net.)

† "The Problem of the Electorates." By A. L. O. I. (Calcutta: W. Newman and Co.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. January	1919. December.		1338. Rabia II.	5680. Tebet.
9	27	Friday	18	18
10	28	Saturday.....	19	19
11	29	Sunday	20	20
12	30	Monday	21	21
13	31	Tuesday	22	22
	1920. January.			
14	1	Wednesday	23	23
15	2	Thursday	24	24

The Raja of Pudukota has left London for Monte Carlo.

Lady Barrymore has left London for the Continent.

Prince Alexander, Regent of Serbia, visited Strasburg on January 6.

M. Venizelos has left Athens for Paris in connection with the Turkish question.

Mr. B. N. Basu has left for India, and has arranged to return to the India Office in April.

Lady Dorothy Mills left 91a, Ebury Street on January 6 for Algiers. She will remain away about eight weeks.

Lord Furness, who has been staying in the North of Ireland, returned on January 6 to Tunstall Court, West Hartlepool.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby left Cairo for the Sudan on January 5 via the Red Sea. Lord Allenby was to meet King Hussein of the Hejaz at Jeddah.

The Shah of Persia will visit Brussels from January 14 to 16. He will be received at the Hôtel de Ville and given a gala performance at the Monnaie.

Sir Hamar Greenwood (Department of Overseas Trade) and Lady Greenwood left London on January 3 for a few weeks' holiday in the South of France.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Assistant Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, and Madame Costiesco-Ghyka left London on January 4 for Bucharest.

Reuter's Athens correspondent writes (January 1): The King sustained a fall to-day and broke an ankle. His Majesty will not be able to move his foot for a month.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling are staying at the Grand Pump Room Hotel, Bath. Mrs. Kipling has in past seasons derived benefit from the Bath waters, and is again taking the cure.

Colonel Rosetti, the Roumanian Military Attaché, Major-General R. de Candalle, Major the Hon. R. Thynne, and Mr. Sambourne Sheldrake were the guests of Colonel B. Granville Baker, D.S.O., at dinner on Tuesday night.

Under the patronage of Prince Nicholas and Princess Marie of Roumania a children's matinée will take place at the Court Theatre this afternoon at three o'clock for the benefit of the distressed Roumanian children.

The engagement is announced of Clermont Percival Skrine, Under Secretary, Foreign Office, India, only son of Francis H. Skrine, I.C.S. (retired), and grandson of the late Colonel John Stewart of Ardvoirlich, R.A., C.I.E., and Doris Forbes Whitelaw, younger daughter of James B. Whitelaw, King's Knoll, North Berwick.

Reuter's Calcutta correspondent, in a delayed message dispatched on December 22 says: Lady Chelmsford, the wife of the Viceroy, has been compelled to cancel all her engagements for the present, it having been necessary for her to undergo a small operation. This was successfully performed yesterday, and the patient is making favourable progress. There is no cause for anxiety.

Bishop Nicholai Velimirovitch, of Zica, in Serbia, will lecture under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor of London University on "The Spiritual Re-birth of Europe," at King's College, Strand, this afternoon at 5.30.

Mir Jagoub Mehtieff, Mayor of Baku, and representative of the Caucasian Republic of Azerbaijan, has arrived in London on a mission connected with the military and political situation in South Russia.

The programme has been outlined of the proceedings to take place during the great missionary week from June 7 to 11, which is being organised by the Central Board of Missions. The subjects discussed will cover India and the Near East.

Several officers of the Greek Royal Navy arrived in London on January 6 from Athens to complete their training in this country according to an agreement which has been come to between the British and the Greek Governments. Among the officers is the son of Admiral Condouriotis. They will go for instruction to Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (December 21):—

Judge Micallef has resumed his duties as Judge of his Majesty's Civil Court, First Hall.

Sir Gerald Strickland (formerly Governor of New South Wales) has arrived in Malta from England for the winter months.

The Croix de Guerre has been conferred on Lieut.-Colonel H. W. M. Bamford, O.B.E., M.C., by the President of the French Republic. Colonel Bamford is Commissioner of Police for Malta.

Rear-Admiral M. Culme-Seymour, C.B., gave a highly interesting lecture on December 30 in the Council Chamber of the Palace, on "Naval Work in the Ægean, Caspian, and Black Seas, from September, 1918, to November, 1919."

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

It is notified in the *Gazette of India* that Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Marshall, who was lately in command of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, becomes an Army Commander.

Messrs. R. C. Colvin and Cliff have reported their arrival in Khartoum, and have taken up their appointments as Inspectors in the Agriculture Department of the Sudan Government.

Earl Curzon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has appointed Mr. Stephen Gaselee, Fellow and Librarian of Magdalene College, Cambridge, to be Librarian and Keeper of the Papers at the Foreign Office.

The Governors of La Martinière College, Calcutta, have appointed as Principal Mr. W. R. C. Adcock, M.A., LL.B., barrister-at-law. He was formerly Scholar of Peterhouse, and Squire Scholar in Law in the University of Cambridge, and until recently Inspector of Schools under the Government of Nigeria.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Major Bayly is appointed to be provisionally a member of the Legislative Assembly, in place of Mr. C. S. Cade, late Commissioner of Nicosia.

Major Northcote, local Commandant of Police, is appointed to be Visitor of the Central Prison, Nicosia.

The King has approved the following appointment in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service: Mr. Thomas Beaumont Hohler, C.B., C.M.G., to be British High Commissioner at Budapest, pending the resumption of diplomatic relations with Hungary. Mr. Hohler was Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary with Admiral Calthrop's Mission to Turkey last year.

Mr. A. L. F. Smith, Fellow and Tutor in Modern History, Magdalene College, Oxford, and son of the Master of Balliol, has accepted an appointment as Deputy Director of Education in Mesopotamia. Mr. Smith served in India and Mesopotamia until last summer, and was Political Officer with the Mesopotamia Forces. He left Oxford on January 5, and will take up his duties immediately.

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OBITUARY.

The Rev. John Samuel Dawes has died at Surbiton, in his ninety-fourth year, after a short illness. His appointments included the chaplaincy to the British Legation at Athens and the chaplaincy of Corfu.

The death has occurred at Balliliesk, Dollar, N.B., of Mr. Alexander Izat, C.I.E., M.I.C.E. Mr. Izat entered the Indian Public Works Department in 1863, and first served in Hyderabad as an assistant engineer. After that date he had great influence on the development of the Indian railway system.

The death has occurred of Sir Thomas Fraser, Emeritus Professor of Materia Medica in Edinburgh University and Honorary Physician in Ordinary to the King in Scotland. Sir Thomas Fraser, who was born in Calcutta in 1841, was the son of Mr. John R. Fraser, formerly of Crailing Hall, Roxburghshire, and Calcutta.

Colonel Francis Sawbridge Cherry, late of the 4th Madras Cavalry, died at Vevey, Switzerland, on December 28, at the age of seventy-nine. He served in the Indian Mutiny Campaign and took part in several actions, while in the Afghan War of 1878-9 he was Assistant Superintendent of Transport with the Peshawar Valley Field Force.

Mr. James Robert Clark, C.B., R.N., who died at 1, Chesham Terrace, Brighton, on December 30, aged 75, was for many years attached as Chief Naval Instructor to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. Early in his career Mr. Clark was serving on board H.M.S. Inconstant during the Egyptian War of 1882, and was awarded the Egyptian Medal and Khedive's Star.

Lieutenant-Colonel George A. Oliphant, late of the Army Veterinary Department, died in London on January 5, in his eightieth year. Colonel Oliphant, who had his first commission in 1860 and retired in 1896, was principal veterinary surgeon with the Kuram Field Force in the Afghan War of 1879-80, and had the medal for that campaign.

The death has taken place in Jersey of Mr. Thomas Hart-Davies, who sat in the House of Commons as Liberal member for North Hackney in 1906-10. He was appointed to the Indian Civil Service in 1867. During his thirty years' service in India he was successively assistant collector and magistrate in Bombay, inspector of education and manager of encumbered estates in Sind, judge and sessions judge, and in May, 1895, he acted as judicial commissioner in Sind. Mr. Hart-Davies was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

The death occurred on January 2 of the Right Hon. Sir Frank Lascelles, G.C.B., at the age of seventy-eight. He had a long and distinguished diplomatic career. In 1878 he was despatched to Athens, and from the Greek capital temporarily transferred to Cairo to fill the place of the British Diplomatic Agent, who had been summoned to London. He performed this duty during three periods in 1878-79, and achieved a notable success in coping with the difficult situation produced by the abnormalities of that extravagant potentate, the Khedive Ismail. Transferred to Sofia, he remained there till 1887, and before leaving the Near East for Persia put in four years as Minister at Bucharest. In the meantime he had been made a K.C.M.G. He was removed to Teheran in the summer of 1891 to fill a particularly difficult position. He spent three years in the Persian capital, during which his services were recognised by his being raised to the rank of G.C.M.G. He married, in 1867, Mary Emma, daughter of Sir Joseph F. Olliffe, physician to the British Embassy in Paris. Lady Lascelles died in 1897. Of the three children of the marriage, Major W. F. Lascelles, who married Lady Sybil Beauclerk, daughter of the tenth Duke of St. Albans, died in 1913. Mr. Gerald Claud Lascelles has been British Vice-Consul at Tangier, and Miss Florence Lascelles married the late Sir Cecil Spring Rice, recently our Ambassador at Washington.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Yugoslavia produced about 15,000 tons of tobacco in 1919.

Telegraphic communication between Roumania and foreign countries has been reopened.

Armenians in Rio de Janeiro have telegraphed to Mr. Lloyd George begging him to support the liberation of Armenia.

Strasburg has received the Star of the Order of Karageorge with crossed blades, the highest national distinction of Serbia.

The Emir Faisal, a Busreh message states, has intimated that those responsible for the recent outrages at Deir-ez-Zor will be punished as rebels.

Swiss technicians are being enlisted by the Persian Government for employment in Government railways, telephones, and telegraphs.

Both battalions of the Malta Regiment of Militia, which were called up at the outbreak of war, have now been completely demobilised.

Mr. James Rothschild has given £500 for the purpose of instituting the Deborah Prize for Hebrew poetry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

About 7,000 Indian troops are still left in France; they will leave Marseilles, where they are now assembled, in three batches in January, February, and March.

Two moving picture expeditions to penetrate "behind the walls" of Algeria, Turkey, and India have been dispatched from New York by the Inter-Church World Movement.

According to a Moscow wireless message, risings have taken place in the Tiflis and Kutais Governments, where, it is asserted, authority has passed into the hands of the Bolshevists.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, states the *Jewish World*, contemplates proceeding to Palestine, upon the invitation of Lord Allenby, for the purpose of assisting in the Jewish settlement in that land.

On the occasion of the evacuation of Dedeagatch, the Bulgarian authorities thanked the Allied representatives for the orderly manner in which the Greek refugees are being repatriated in Thrace.

A Malta telegram states that most of the Turkish political prisoners who had been conveyed there have now been released. The persons still interned in the island include some Egyptian political prisoners.

Captain Mathews (one of the competitors in the Australian flight), on a Sopwith machine, arrived at Constantinople on December 23 from Belgrade. He intends to proceed to Baghdad as soon as weather permits.

After spending three months in Russia, where it concluded an agreement to facilitate the development of trade relations between Poland and South Russia and the Caucasus, the Polish Trade Industrial Mission has returned to Warsaw.

A resolution has been passed unanimously by a representative meeting of the Armenian Colony in Egypt protesting against any attempt to sever Cicilia from Armenia, and urging that Armenia has the right to be consulted on its future status and the choice of the mandatory Power.

In connection with the information we published last week regarding the Busreh-Baghdad Railway, Reuter states that the latest news is that it is proposed that at first there shall be a daily passenger service between Busreh and Baghdad, doing the journey in twenty-eight hours, while the goods service will take forty-eight hours. Later, with necessary improvements, it is hoped to reduce the passenger service to twelve hours.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1920.

TURKEY AND THE ENTENTE.

The attempt that is to be made once more in Paris to come to grips with the Turkish settlement is being preceded by an earnest canvassing of various proposed solutions. Negotiations have been in progress for some time past between the British and French Governments, but it does not appear that agreement has been reached regarding much more than the fact that the matter is now primarily the concern of these two Governments alone. This is indeed a step in the right direction, and will, no doubt, facilitate a common understanding on the remaining points. For the moment, however, the two countries, it is reported in some quarters, represent two conflicting schools of thought, Great Britain standing for the expulsion of the Turks from Europe, France urging their retention in Constantinople. The statement is of no practical value, as the British Government has blown hot and cold alternately in regard to Turkey, and national opinion is divided on the subject. Britain will be held responsible for the final decision that she takes in the matter, not for the vacillating views hazarded by those in authority in the attempt to discover the trend of public opinion. There can be little doubt that both the British and French peoples, as well as their Governments, are resolved upon the complete liberation from Turkish control of the waterway connecting the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. This problem, which may be termed, for want of a better term, the Dardanelles question, is quite distinct from the rest of the Turkish settlement, and it is simplified by the fact that the objections which hold good in regard to international jurisdiction on land do not apply to joint control of a waterway. A Commission similar to that which will be responsible for the navigation of the Danube can equally effectively be charged with the regulation of traffic through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus. The object to be achieved is to secure for all time the complete freedom of this important channel, and the major preoccupation of any Commission will necessarily have been lightened by drastic provisions, incorporated in the international agreement; to prevent the fortification of either coast of the channel.

A further point of agreement, as far as the Allies are concerned, affects those territories of the Ottoman Empire lying south of a line drawn from the Cilician Gates to the Persian frontier on the meridian of Lake Van. These have all declared their own secession from Turkey, and they will naturally be excluded from Ottoman jurisdiction when the final terms of peace are arranged. The crux of the problem lies in the future of Constantinople. At the beginning of the war the ultimate surrender of European Turkey to Russia appeared such a natural solution that the Entente had no difficulty in yielding to Russian claims. The complete failure of the Young Turk Government to justify the hopes entertained of it proclaimed the moral bankruptcy of the country, and the consensus of opinion among the Allied peoples was in favour of ridding Europe finally of this danger spot. As soon as Russia renounced her claim to Constantinople the whole matter assumed a different aspect. There was no longer an obvious alternative to Turkish jurisdiction. Every other solution was found to be accompanied by serious drawbacks, and the question resolved itself virtually into a choice of evils. Even so, if the Allies had adhered in their world settlement to the high moral standard set by the war aims that they had enunciated during the four years' struggle, all other considerations could have been overruled. It could have been shown, and the dictum would have been generally accepted, that in the new world there was no room for Turkish jurisdiction in Europe, and that consequently any alternative would be better than the retention of the Turks in Constantinople. But an appeal to lofty principles at this stage would argue a degree of inconsistency from which even the Paris Conference seems to shrink, and for this reason it has again embarked upon the stormy sea of compromises and the adjustment of conflicting interests in the hope of finding some port of refuge. There can be no doubt as to the roughness of the voyage. The Allied statesmen have repeatedly declared that the Turks must be ejected; a determined attempt will be made in many quarters to hold them to this decision. On the other hand, the Mohammedan world, both in India and elsewhere, is up in arms against the suggestion, and the British Government is threatened with all manner of trouble if it consents to the expulsion of the Sultan-Khalif from Constantinople. An ugly situation is being created in Central Asia, where Bolshevism is striving to effect an aggressive alliance with the Pan-Islam movement; and it is almost certain that any decision taken in Paris which a large section of Moslems might resolve to regard as a slight upon their religion would materially strengthen the hands of the Soviet agents now bent upon spreading their doctrines in India.

So grave a problem will only yield to a courageous solution. One suggestion ought to be ruled out of court at once; it is that there should be anything in the nature of marking time in regard to a settlement until Russia is able to make her voice heard. Russia may not be rehabilitated in the eyes of the world for fifty years, but whether she be ready to take her place again in the Council of Europe earlier or later, there is no reason why she should not accept the ruling of other Powers rather than dictate one to them. It should also be recognised in Paris that the future of Constantinople is a question that cannot be localised. The repercussion of any decision may extend from Atlas Mountain to the Alashan, and the Allies must be prepared for all emergencies. Serious trouble can safely be predicted, if the Paris Conference delivers its verdict and then folds its hands with a view to observing the effect. The Turks could safely be left in Constantinople if a just and equitable settlement for the Balkans were to be enforced, which would remove the causes of past unrest and leave the different States conscious that there was an authority in Europe which would not allow the revival of internecine feuds or the perpetration of injustice. With equal safety Turkish rule might be eliminated from Europe if steps were simultaneously taken to prevent Constantinople from becoming a hotbed of fresh intrigues, and to discourage effectively all political agitation in the Moslem world due to the mistaken belief that any slight had been inflicted upon Islam, or that considerations of religion had entered into the decision. In either case the future good government of Turkey would also have to be the immediate concern of the Allies, in order that the transition from the existing uncertainty and chaos to a period of material prosperity might be as brief as possible. With the adoption of the safeguards indicated the problem is shorn of much of its gravity. It has acquired its present serious aspect owing to the delay in propounding a solution, and to the nerveless manner in which the whole question of the settlement of the Near and Middle East has been approached. If the Paris Conference had been able to envisage these regions as a whole, if it had held fast to the principles for which the war was fought, and if it had had the courage of its convictions, the position in the East to-day would have given less cause for anxiety.

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AN "EASTERN SOCIETY": A WANT.

By Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate, F.R.G.S.

It would doubtless be impossible to draw a well-defined chronological line between Britain as a commercial, and Britain as a political, power in the East. Having thought this subject over not a few times, I fixed upon the Treaty of Tilsit (1807) as a convenient line of demarcation. Two years ago the Royal Historical Society was pleased to allow me to handle this topic at one of its meetings, and I then satisfied myself that it was in consequence of the Eastern policy professed, however insincerely, by Napoleon and Alexander at Tilsit, that the Governor-General of India, acting in concert, no doubt, with His Majesty's Government in London, opened up diplomatic relations with Persia, Sindh, Lahore (then Rangit Singh's capital), Kelat, and Kabul. This was a new departure at the time. We can now, in 1920, look back upon 113 years of its history, and, if I mistake not, we may reckon this same year as the starting-point of a new and very momentous period in the annals of the Eastern question.

It is perfectly evident that, as the issue of this stupendous five years' war, a new spirit has come over mankind, and that the mankind not of the West only, but also of the East, Russia, Turkey, Persia, and China have, during the last decade, all been in search of a reformed government, while Japan took that thorny task in hand just fifty years ago, and seems to have brought it to completion. India, Egypt, and Afghanistan have all now set off boldly on the track of independence, and the Arab, having for centuries held himself aloof in the security of his pathless deserts, is now preparing to take his place in the comity of nations. And well he may! If his deserts are pathless, the air above them is free to all mankind; and to-day that means volumes. Egypt, geographically, belongs to Africa, but politically it is so dovetailed into Asia that it cannot be dissociated from it.

More than a year has gone by since the Armistice was concluded; and we look upon this seething expanse of races and nationalities, and see that peace and settled conditions have no more asserted themselves in Asia than in Europe. In one country only, we believe, is stability of social, industrial and political conditions to be found, and that is Japan, the Farmost East; and even for Japan neither China nor Siberia nor Korea is a harbinger of peace. Able students of the great Eastern problem which is presented as the sequence of the Great War are of opinion that His Majesty's Government should found a new Department for dealing with British interests and responsibilities in the East. We are, most of us, heartily sick of new Government departments and the attendant millions which, in the form of taxation, they extract from our pockets. If we ransack the history of the past in such matters, we find that private enterprise has been as often as not the forerunner, and in almost all cases the most efficient coadjutor, in bringing to a successful issue policies, projects, and plans upon which His Majesty's Government finds it convenient to smile. Private enterprise, moreover, effects with thousands what Government achieves with millions, and provides a useful medium between the official and the public.

The days of Merchant Adventurers are surely past, though it may be rash to venture on any such assertion. The New Levant Company, it is understood, has no Government backing, though it doubtless commands Government sympathy. But did not the Chartered Companies of Elizabeth and James also command the Royal sympathy, and that, we believe, after a very practical fashion? However, the twentieth century is not reactionary. It is content to pursue the methods of its own age, an age of union and co-operation. Unions, associations, and societies are the *media* through which in our time great ends are achieved, and "Asia" is a field in which several societies may find abundant food for study, research, and action. There are three already at work in this field, viz., the Royal Asiatic, the Central Asian, and the Persia societies. I might very well also add the Royal Geographical Society, which deals with Asia as with other continents; but as that society eschews politics, as does also the Royal Asiatic, we may, I think, say no more about them here. Their spheres of action are ample, irrespective of the politics of Asia. The Persia Society has the sphere which its name indicates, and the recent visit of the Shah and his Foreign Minister, Firooz Mirza, to this country should have shown that society that its work is cut out, and well cut out for it. If it has hitherto cultivated a scholarly, literary, and artistic tone, Firooz Mirza, at the Savoy Hotel on December 2, inserted the thin end of the political wedge when he said: "I know very well that the Persia Society has excluded politics from its special field of activity, but it would really be too much to exact of a Persian Minister, although a member of this society, that he should be prevented from profiting by such an occasion to say a few words on the foreign policy of Persia, the more so as this policy is still all aflame with reality, and that it interests your country in the first degree."* The Persia Society has at its command a magnificent, an unrivalled field of action, around which Pan-Islamic, Pan-Turanian, and Bolshevist ambitions cluster. It is Britain's rôle to guide Persia through the delusive web woven by this trio, and Britain, as I understand, looks to the Persia Society to educate alike Briton and Persian in the rôle which they have to play.

The society that remains, the Central Asian, is the one that, by its constitution, its methods, and its programme, which have had a test now of nineteen years' duration, contains the germ of "The Eastern Society" of the British Empire. Its curriculum covers politics, sociology, industry, commerce, art and archæology, literature and religion; indeed, all is grist that comes to its mill. It numbers in its ranks all or most of those who are known as travellers and explorers in Asia or students of Asian affairs; its proceedings have been guided and conducted by the *élite* of that distinguished band, and its honorary president to-day is H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs—a noted traveller alike in Central Asia, Persia, and the Far East, with a brain built for assimilating and co-ordinating knowledge, an ex-President and Gold Medallist of the Royal Geographical Society. The origin of the Society† is indicated by its name, and the home of its origin is the very country which at this moment threatens to develop into the centre of the Bolshevist movement, a movement against which the organised governments of the civilised world must set their faces not only sternly and resolutely, but mercilessly. An enemy that menaces Azerbaijan, the Caucasus, the Caspian, the Trans-Caspian Railway, Herat and Kabul, menaces also Persia. Throughout the war it is Britain that, amid a thousand other claims, has met that of safeguarding Persia; and not only that, but there is no portion of the territory which extends from the Ægean and the Levant to the Bay of Bengal, and from Constantinople and Kazan to "Where Three Empires Meet," which is not indebted to Britain for help freely given. Near the legendary first home of the human race, and the land which is so intimately associated with the birth of the Christian and Mohammedan faiths, the sea, land, and air services of three, or

* Vide "THE NEAR EAST," December 5, 1919, p. 627.
† The story has been told in "THE NEAR EAST" of April 25, 1919, and reprinted in Vol. VI. (1919) of the Journal of the Central Asian Society.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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even four, continents are destined to meet. Napoleon and Alexander I. of Russia alike, early in the nineteenth century, regarded Constantinople as the site of the world's metropolis. Science has now moved that point further east, and if we search for the spot upon which "the Empire on which the sun never sets," converges by sea, air, and land, surely that spot is the Suez Canal and its entourage. As a maritime centre it has just celebrated its jubilee. General Salmond, Captain Ross Smith, and others have taken it in their course for India and Australia, and there is little doubt that the aeroplane will sail from Cairo to the Cape before the long-talked-of Cape-to-Cairo Railway and Lake steamship route is completed.† Time will see Asia and Africa networks of railways, as Europe is to-day, and the junction of the three Continental systems must be near that ancient and mediæval centre of caravan routes and emporium of trade, Aleppo. Unless the work of the Peace Conference ends—which God forbid!—in some unforeseen fiasco, Egypt, Palestine, Arabia, Mesopotamia, and Persia must acknowledge, for a period of years, at least, the controlling hand of Great Britain; and if Afghanistan thinks to dally indefinitely with Bolshevism, there is a blockade which will bring the Ameer and his subjects to his senses, as it promises to bring Germany. Wherever we turn our eyes in the Middle and Near East we see races and peoples and nations looking to Great Britain for a helping hand, Greek, Georgian, Armenian, Arab, Jew, Nestorian, Kurd, and Cossack. It is a great work—a work in which a powerful "Eastern Society" could render most effective help to the Government, just as the Royal Geographical Society does, whenever emergency calls for special effort.

Pan-Islamic and Pan-Turanian schemes have been for years maturing in a multitude of minds—minds at once thoughtful, capable, bold and unscrupulous. Again we see at work the intellects of earnest and right-thinking men, seeking to reconcile their duty, as they understand it, to their Prophet and to their King-Emperor. What startles the student of the Eastern or Asiatic policy of the British Empire is the discernment of symptoms of correlation between the aims of the Bolshevo-Islamic fanatic and those of the loyal Moslem who fondly trusts that he is guiding the footsteps of British policy into a safe channel.

When the Elizabethan Merchant-Adventurer set forth to contest the supremacy of the seas with Holland and Portugal, Spain and Venice, he can have little foreseen the vastness of the power and responsibility to which his initial venture would, within three and a-half centuries, lead. Of that power and responsibility recent events in almost every land of the Middle East have most gravely reminded us. Of the wealth of knowledge acquired by thousands of capable men and some women during this war not a tithe finds its way into the *penetralia* of our bureaucracies or into the columns of our newspapers. Movements in our universities, recently, have indicated a desire for nearer acquaintance with the East, a desire which in one case has crystallised into the shape of a debating society on Eastern affairs and literature. Ignorance of our Oriental possessions and responsibilities is an everyday reproach levelled alike at Parliament and people. Then they must be educated, and that work of education is the rightful task of a society composed of members recruited from those who have administered the British East for the past quarter of a century and more, and from those who have fought Britain's foes in the East during the past lustrum. The nucleus of such a society exists, I say, already in the Central Asian Society, and it merely rests with those whose knowledge enables them to grasp the gravity of the present situation, to develop therefrom an Eastern society which in due course will merit that honourable Eastern title, "Pillar of the Empire." The membership of such a society should be open not only to Britons and to his Majesty's Asiatic subjects, but also to the *literati* of all cultured races of Asia, affiliation with which may rivet firmer the bond of union between Asia and Europe. For "the twain *will* meet," I am convinced.

† Vide *Times* of December 27, 1919 (p. 11), reproducing an official report of work carried out since the Armistice under the orders of the Air Ministry.

GORDON COLLEGE, KHARTOUM.

Like its predecessors, the seventeenth annual report (for the year 1918) of the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum, is a record of good work done, and provides satisfactory reading. Indeed, as Sir Reginald Wingate observes in his covering letter accompanying the report, it is "of special interest, as giving a brief retrospect of progress made during the progress of the war"; and it fully justifies Sir Lee Stack's remark that "the period of the war has been by no means unfruitful, and in certain respects the general education of the country shows a marked advance." An indication of the wise spirit that inspires the authorities and staff of the College is to be found in the following passage from the Principal's report:—". . . . The number of elementary vernacular schools is being very largely extended, but in the spheres of both industrial and primary education the conditions are quite different; the numbers admitted to schools of these grades have to be regulated, in the interests equally of the country and the boys themselves, with an eye to the demand for the special, and more or less exotic, types of educated natives produced in them." In certain less favoured lands the regulation of "numbers admitted to schools" and the display of foresight in regard to supply and demand are painfully conspicuous by their absence.

We agree with Sir Lee Stack that the elementary vernacular schools are of extreme importance, "as they are in closer contact with the mass of the people than the more advanced schools, and on them depends to a great extent the improvement of the general intellectual level of the country." Mr. Crowfoot's observations on the subject are, therefore, of much interest. He writes:—

"In 1914 elementary vernacular education, as has been already said, was the one branch of education not conducted within our walls: at that time the elementary schools which were scattered over the northern half of the Sudan were chiefly staffed by teachers trained in an elementary training college attached to the Primary School in Omdurman. As this training college grew, and the students in it were recruited from further afield, it became evident that they required more supervision than it was possible to provide in Omdurman, and it was decided in 1916 to transfer this section to Khartoum, to arrange for the instruction of the students in the Gordon College, and for their residence in a boarding-house conveniently close. The results of this transfer have been most satisfactory; each year we are attracting a better type of student, and are better pleased with the progress made. The elementary vernacular schools under the department have risen from forty-nine in 1914 to seventy-three in 1918, and the number of pupils in attendance from 3,633 to 6,087, and as they are the only schools with which the bulk of the population are brought into direct contact, the importance of any measures for the improvement of the staff is obvious, and what concerns the Gordon College immediately, such measures react sooner or later upon all grades of education. In the elementary schools boys are taught, besides drill, reading and writing, the four rules of arithmetic, and the elements of religion, and when they have completed this course most of them naturally stay on in their own villages, where they often become Sheiks and Omdas at a surprisingly early age, thanks to this elementary education. A few of them only continue their education either in a technical school or in one of the primary schools, where they begin to learn English and to fit themselves either for still further studies or for employment in Government offices or commercial houses."

It is not entirely surprising, though it must be disappointing, to learn that two small technical schools, at Kassala and Dueim respectively, have had to be closed. The explanation given is that pupils found difficulty in securing employment after completing their courses, the existing demand for artisans trained on European lines being very small in the Sudan, where "the conditions of life are very simple."

Another successful innovation is described in the section of the report dealing with the Arifs' section:—"In connection with the work of this section, a summer extension meeting was held last August for former members of the Elementary Training College who are now serving as teachers in different parts of the country. These men only had an elementary training in the first place, and since then have been serving, often for years, in remote districts, where they have every inducement to forget most of what they have learnt. Some twenty-five such teachers were brought to the Gordon College for a month and given special courses in the practice and theory of teaching, and in elementary hygiene and first aid, three visits a week being paid to the Civil Hospital; in addition to this, some popular lectures, cinematograph entertainments, and visits to the Natural History and Antiquities Museums were arranged. The meeting was a success in every way, and it is intended to hold a similar meeting for another batch during the coming summer."

It is gratifying to learn that the games and recreations "have flourished exceedingly," and that the health of the College "has been very good on the whole, except for an epidemic of Spanish influenza in November."

The research work has inevitably suffered somewhat as a result of changes of the staff due to the war, while lack of funds has hampered the publication of reports, for which ample material has been collected. Similarly, it looks as if some of the museum collections stand rather badly in need of suitable housing. The scientists have, however, "carried on" gallantly, and have achieved results quite remarkable in the circumstances. It is much to be hoped that the production of the "full report" to which Dr. Chalmers, director of the Wellcome Laboratories, refers, will soon be possible.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

When the London String Quartet are at their best they attain perfection. Such praise as this is not commonly given to native musicians, but the necessary hesitation in granting it merely makes the pleasure of giving greater. It would be a mistake to say that in every detail they surpass any other quartet, but the soundness of their interpretation and workmanship generally and the exquisite finish of their playing place them in the front rank of the quartets of the world.

On January 3, at the Æolian Hall, they began their programme with Elgar's Quartet, which they played for the first time in England. This is a work of classical beauty by one of the greatest composers living. Now there are those who deny Elgar's authority, pointing in derision to the composer of the truly vulgar "Land of Hope and Glory," and his position is not yet secure. But musical critics are coming more and more to realise that, compared with Elgar, our own young composers and the foreign moderns are very small fry. Elgar is in the direct road of musical tradition: and he writes with sure, not daring, originality. Although it is possible to say that had Beethoven never lived Elgar's Quartet could not have been written, yet it is obvious that Elgar has looked to the Beethoven models only for guidance, not for inspiration.

Mlle. Lilia Kanevskaya, who I believe was a pupil of M. Moiseiwitch, appeared in the London String Quartet's programme. She played as solos Brahms' Capriccio in B minor and his Rhapsodie in E flat. In the first she characteristically succeeded, and in the second she naturally failed. The Capriccio is a light, whimsical thing—you do not have to go very deep either intellectually or emotionally to explore it fully—and Mlle. Kanevskaya played it very well indeed. The Rhapsodie was evidence that her ambition exceeds her abilities: it is too big a piece for her, and it might almost be said that its great chords were not made for female hands. But her ambition carried her through, and she seemed to be content if only she could get some of the notes right. (As a matter of fact, within her limitations, Mlle. Kanevskaya is an excellent player, and well above the majority of popular pianists.)

The Schumann Quartet for Pianoforte and Strings in E flat (Pianoforte, Mlle. Lilia Kanevskaya; Violin, Mr. James Levey; Viola, Mr. H. Waldo Warner; and 'cello, Mr. C. Warwick-Evans) was a qualified success. It is a beautiful work, with a wealth of melodic detail which seems to an ear accustomed to modern music almost too rich. It gives great scope for all the instruments in turn—an individual scope which was fully exploited. But the absence of sufficient rehearsal was apparent, and the performance was rather spoiled by the lack of synchronisation. This displeasing feature was naturally more manifest in the pianoforte than in any other instrument.

Seemingly as a yielding to popular clamour, the Schönberg Sextet, which had been played a week before, was again included in the programme. This performance of it seemed to me neither better nor worse than the first one; and I remain unconverted. I must confess that the first quarter of it made me think of recantation—it is finely constructed, and its originality arrests without shocking; but thence until a few bars from the end, I was staunchly *anti*. About the middle the Sextet is pure commonplace, and its main climax is reached in the manner of a second-rate Italian opera. The end comes with soft and flowing beauty, and one is simply amazed how even Schönberg can have attempted to cement a few good bricks with such slushy mortar.

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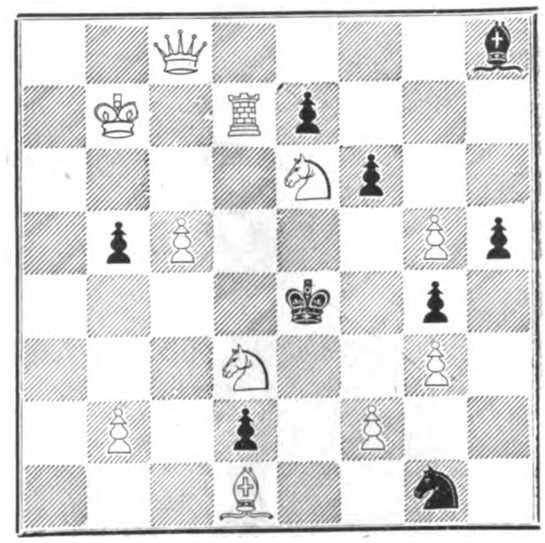
PROBLEM No. 9.

Black.



White.

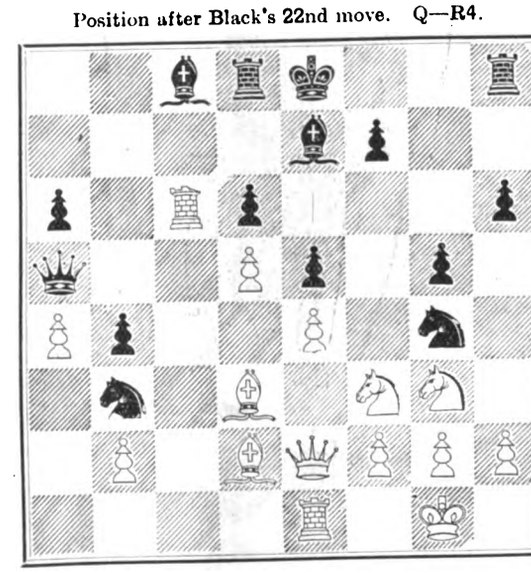
White to mate in three.

The above problem by A. Miskolczy and J. C. Dunka was placed equal first at the Barcelona Congress of 1914.

Senor Capablanca will be leaving this country for Cuba in the course of a week or so. There seems to be a possibility that a match will be arranged between him and Dr. Lasker in the present year for the world championship.

The following game was played between Senor Capablanca and Mr. F. D. Yates in the Victory Tournament at Hastings. Opening Ruy Lopez. White, Senor Capablanca; Black, Mr. Yates. 1. P—K4, P—K4; 2. Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3. B—Kt5, P—QR3; 4. B—R4, Kt—B3; 5. Castles, B—K2; 6. R—K, P—Q Kt4; 7. B—Kt3, P—Q3; 8. P—QB3, Kt—QR4; 9. B—B2, P—B4; 10. P—Q4, Q—B2; 11. Q Kt—Q2, B—Kt5; 12. P—Q5(1), P—Kt4;(2) 13. Kt—B, P—R3; 14. Kt—Kt3, R—Q; 15. P—QR4, P—Kt5; 16. P x P, P x P; 17. B—Q3, B—QB; 18. B—K3, Kt—Kt5; 19. QR—B, Q—Kt; 20. B—Q2, Q—Kt3; 21. Q—K2, Kt—Kt6; 22. R—B6, Q—R4;

Position after Black's 22nd move. Q—R4.



23. B x RP, B—Q2; 24. B—Kt5, B x R; 25. B x Bch, K—B...; 26. Q—B4, Kt x B; 27. Kt x Kt, Q—R2; 28. Q—K2, P—R4; 29. Kt—B5, B—B3; 30. Kt—B4, Q—B4; 31. P—QKt3; Kt—R3; 32. Kt x Kt, R x Kt; 33. Q—K3, R—B; 34. R—QB, B—Q; 35. Q x Q, P x Q; 36. Kt x P, K—K2; 37. R x P, P—B4; 38. R—B4, B—R4; 39. B—Kt5, R x R; 40. Kt x R, B—B2; 41. P—K5, B—Kt; 42. Kt—K3, R—R2; 43. Kt x Pch, K—B2; 44. P—K6ch, K—B3; 45. P—K7, R x P; 46. Kt x R, K x Kt; 47. P—Kt3, B—B2; 48. K—Kt2, K—Q3; 49. B—K8, P—R5; 50. B—B7, K—K4; 51. K—R3, B—Q; 52. K—Kt4, P x P; 53. BP x P, K—B3; 54. B—K6, K—Kt3; 55. P—Q6, K—B3; 56. B—B5, B—Kt3; 57. P—Q7, B—Q; 58. P—R4, P x P; 59. P x P, B—B2; 60. P—KR5, K—Kt2; 61. B—K4, Resigns.(3)

(1) At this juncture this move seems decidedly useful.

(2) Initiating a King's side attack. The result is to leave a hole at KB4, of which Capablanca takes advantage in due course.

(3) The last twenty moves or so are particularly interesting. Capablanca handles the position with consummate skill.

KARO-CANN.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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London, E.C.2.

The serious set-back experienced by General Denikin, who is reported to be retreating on Odessa, brings into being the possibility that for a time the important South Russian market may be all but closed to British trade. It is not long since British traders were being urged to make a special effort to develop commercial relations with that region, and the frequent references in the trade reports which are given every week in these columns to goods passing Constantinople for Russia have borne tribute to their excellent response. If the Bolshevist successes should develop and bring about a suspension of these activities, one result would be that there would be a vast accumulation of goods at Constantinople. I learn from a friend who has just returned from that city that there is no lack of goods there, and that the shops hold everything that one is likely to ask for, so that if the goods destined for South Russia have to stay there they would be unwanted, and that, I think it will be admitted, would be a remarkable position to occur anywhere in present circumstances.

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The position with regard to Italian compensation in Africa has been the subject of a most informative article by a correspondent of *The Times* this week, in which attention is drawn to the remarkable nature of the programme which finds favour with the Italian Colonial Party. By the Treaty of London of April 26, 1915, Great Britain and France entered into engagements to give "some equitable compensation" to Italy in Africa should the German colonies in that continent fall to them, and both countries are only too ready to deal with the situation in a most generous spirit. But the ambitions of the extremists in question go far beyond anything that could justifiably be termed "equitable" compensation. Thus the claims put forward would, *inter alia*, give Italy a position of unique importance in relation to Abyssinia, for it is proposed that she should receive Kassala and adjacent districts of the Sudan, French and British Somaliland, and the Jubaland province of British East Africa. A glance at the map will show the effect of these additions to her present possessions of Eritrea and Italian Somaliland, and will also suggest excellent reasons why the desires of the Colonial party should not be gratified. Great Britain has very extensive interests in Abyssinia, and it is not to be imagined for a moment that she is going to mortgage them, so to speak, in such a manner.

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Next month will see the opening of the British Industries Fair—or, rather, fairs, for it is no longer possible to show all the exhibits in one centre, and the fair is, therefore, being held simultaneously in London, Birmingham, and Glasgow. In an interview he gave to the Press recently on the subject of the fair, Sir Hamar Greenwood, Secretary of the Department of Overseas Trade, says that it is the aim of the Department so to develop these annual fairs as to convince foreign buyers that they are trade events which they cannot afford to miss, and thus to tempt them to come from all parts of the world in increasing numbers. I do not think that anyone who has visited the fairs that have so far been held could have any doubt as to their future utility as a means of trade development. Despite war-time conditions, the fairs were enormously successful, and I shall not be surprised if, on the coming occasion, the difficulty is to see the exhibits for the buyers. In short, I imagine that the foreign buyer will not need any great persuasion to make him attend. This year, by the way, 52,000 invitations have been sent to foreign buyers for the London fair alone, while altogether 200,000 British and foreign firms have been communicated with.

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I note with considerable interest Sir Hamar Greenwood's statement that the Department of Overseas Trade is considering the possibility of starting a number of "movable shops" and touring exhibitions abroad, with a view to supplementing the work of the fair. The idea is excellent, and the only criticism I have to offer is that no provision seems to have been made for the great markets of the Near and Middle East. May I suggest that to the four exhibitions that are contemplated a fifth should be added for the regions in question. It is not necessary for me to say anything as to the prospect in those markets; they are beyond dispute, as all those who took part in the Athens Exhibition are only too ready to admit. But I may point out that if the outlook there is extremely promising, no trade field is more in need of efforts to stimulate trade such as these under contemplation. Nowhere, for instance, is there likely to be keener competition in the future; a fact which is of itself surely a tribute to the potentialities of the markets.

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The high exchange has, of course, not been without its effect on the Abyssinian market, and it is reported that the only goods for which there is an opening in that country at the present time are limited in general to clothing and articles of dress. For such commodities the Abyssinians are willing to pay high prices, but it may be noted that they take the cheapest articles without consideration of quality. Openings in other directions will depend largely on the restoration of more or less normal conditions.

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A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the British Burmah Oil Company for the period ended July 31. The company's trading operations resulted in a profit of £534,603, the best yet recorded, and an increase on the previous year's figures of £162,658. There was further a profit on exchange of £19,634, while the company received its first return on its shares in the Rangoon Oil Company in the shape of a 5 per cent. dividend, amounting to £4,272. A further dividend, amounting to £11,720, has been received since the close of the financial year. After providing for various charges, debenture interest, and depreciation there is left a surplus of £408,086, which, with the balance brought forward of £25,635, gives a disposable profit available of £433,721. The sinking funds receive £33,444, as against £29,174, while £200,000 is placed to reserves, as against £110,000, the contingent reserve receiving £165,000, the exploration and development reserve £20,000, and the general reserve £15,000. The dividend is raised from 12½ per cent. to 17½ per cent., tax free, and the carry-forward is £32,721—an increase of over £5,000.

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Like other oil concerns, the company has been handicapped by the difficulty of obtaining supplies of necessary materials, and it is interesting to note that since November large quantities of drive pipe and drilling equipment have been shipped to Burma. It is stated, however, that the labour unrest in America, where most of the equipment is manufactured, renders the prospect of prompt and continuous shipments still somewhat doubtful. In September the company obtained permission to issue the balance of its 525,772 shares of 8s. each at a premium of 12s. per share. The provision of this additional working capital will facilitate various developments, and it is anticipated that the ordinary expansion of the business will be further enhanced as a result of the various expenditure. A scheme for providing electrical power for the Yenangyaung field has now matured, and negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily with the Burmah Oil Company, who propose to instal the plant necessary for the generation of the power and to supply the British company's requirements. Considerable economies are anticipated from this scheme.

COMMENTATOR.

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(FOUNDED 1866.)

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A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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EGYPT'S COTTON CROP.

United Kingdom's Imports.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The question has so often been raised as to the manner in which the Egyptian cotton crop is absorbed by the various countries engaged in the textile industry, and the share falling to the United Kingdom, that the attached table, giving figures for the principal buying countries, may prove of interest.

As can be seen, the total export has diminished considerably as compared with pre-war figures. This is not due to local consumption, but partly to the decrease in the acreage in 1914-1915 and 1917-1918, which as a result of legislation was reduced from 1,755,000 feddans in 1913-1914 to 1,186,000 feddans, and 1,315,000 feddans respectively, partly to diminished yield, the average falling from 4.45 kantars per feddan in 1912-1913 to 3.66 kantars per feddan in 1917-1918, and partly to difficulty in obtaining shipping.

Great Britain's share has risen from 44 per cent. to 64 per cent.; that of the United States remains the same at 13 per cent.; France, after a considerable fall, has a small increase; whilst Italy and Japan have each absorbed a slightly larger proportion; Switzerland, after rising considerably during the early days of the war, when control over destinations was not as rigorous as it became later on, has dropped to a figure more in keeping with her local requirements; Russia has for obvious reasons ceased to be a buyer, and an interesting feature is the total disappearance from the table of enemy countries, which in 1912-1913 took 13 per cent., and in 1913-1914 15 per cent. of the total export, and the share of which has been absorbed by the United Kingdom.

—	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19.
Total (Bales)	958,883	970,263	832,721	728,319	630,610	714,182	718,309
England (Bales)	426,853	437,820	367,774	350,144	346,196	503,597	459,774
United States ,,	124,634	89,723	176,974	185,497	134,891	75,865	95,262
France ,,	87,014	88,033	24,412	42,390	28,063	35,819	69,620
Germany ,,	77,177	99,343	—	—	—	—	—
Austria ,,	53,573	52,094	—	—	—	—	—
Russia ,,	75,740	78,556	45,109	45,834	32,446	—	—
Switzerland ,,	36,609	35,309	111,436	18,193	19,456	8,741	23,201
Italy ,,	36,528	35,948	59,537	37,934	35,270	0,140	34,994
Japan ,,	21,356	20,391	17,353	25,728	20,682	18,218	22,160

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 30:—Rain nearly general North-Eastern India, local South-Eastern Madras, Deltic Bengal, and Upper Burma. During the week ending December 20 sowing spring crops continued North-Eastern and in Western India. Harvesting autumn crops continued Bombay, Central India, and North-West. Harvesting paddy progressed North-Eastern and South-Eastern; sowing progressed Madras. Cotton-picking continued, except in Burma. Plucking tea continued Assam. General crop conditions good. Useful rain has fallen in Punjab, but more still required there. All India final indigo forecast: 233,800 acres, 37,100 cwt. Bombay cotton market: no change. Fully good broach, April-May, Rs.556 8 annas. Piecegoods market steady, with demand slightly reduced. Calcutta jute gunny markets: no change. Jute mills have agreed to five days' working, January, February, March. No change in Bank rate.

OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders communicate the following information with regard to the gross receipts of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt on account of the Unified Debt and Lots Turcs:—Provisional receipts, seven months (March to September), 1919, £T3,743,822 (paper); Definitive receipts, seven months (March to September), 1918, £T2,866,894 (paper). For the same period in 1913 the definitive gross receipts were £T3,182,842 gold.

Colonel E. W. Stanyforth, D.L., J.P., deputy-chairman of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, has joined the board of the Anglo-Baltic and Mediterranean Bank. Mr. A. C. Robertson, M.B.E., J.P., formerly of the Bank of Scotland, brother of the joint general manager of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, has been appointed sub-manager of the Anglo Baltic and Mediterranean Bank.

EGYPT'S COMMERCE.

Favourable Trade Balance.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 22.

The September Customs returns just published give us the figures for the third quarter of the current year, which make interesting reading. Imports total £E30,818,793 and exports £E41,072,606 as compared with £E39,769,379 and £E35,962,431 at the end of September, 1918; re-exports come to £E3,561,029 as against £E932,020, and transit traffic to £E5,665,764 as against £E10,366,394 on the same date. Apart from a very welcome swing over in the trade balance, which from an adverse one of £E3,000,000 has become a credit one of £E14,000,000, there is an important development in the re-export and transit trade done by this country, which is fast regaining and exceeding the position in this respect that it had attained prior to the war.

During the nine months the principal imports have been smoked and preserved meats, £E980,562; wheat flour, £E484,454; oranges, £E163,321; coconuts, £E151,006; coffee, £E511,455; wine in casks, £E160,962; coconut oil, £E151,763; kerosine, £E1,348,084; benzine, £E496,037; mineral oils and greases, £E239,310; wrapping paper, £E155,697; cigarette paper, £E194,222; sawn timber, £E157,331; coal, £E2,272,092; nitrate of soda, £E473,088; medicinal preparations, £E247,528; household soap, £E366,132; cotton yarn, £E515,662; sewing cotton, £E313,812; cotton piece goods, £E6,309,153; mixed textiles, £E261,474; woollen and worsted cloths, £E416,914; silk yarn and thread, £E181,429; silk cloths, £E511,209; jute sacks, £E433,086; hosiery, £E430,041; tinplate, £E249,697; and tobacco, £E2,376,220.

The chief items under exports were eggs, £E240,827; hides and skins, £E421,043; heavy leather, £E368,128; rice, £E481,793; cotton seed, £E1,501,953; cotton seed cake, £E244,309; onions, £E422,448; sugar, £E420,472; gum arabic, £E301,281; cotton, £E34,399,332; wool, £E137,630; and cigarettes, £E727,250. The more important re-exports were:—Agricultural products, £E84,622; sugar, £E51,433; vegetable oils, £E87,737; coal, £E47,683; cotton piece goods, £E1,698,628; other textiles, £E840,753; whilst transit traffic consisted mainly of coal, £E4,399,255; benzine, £E829,296, and oil fuel, £E398,963.

Of the imports the British Empire supplied 58 per cent. as against 70 per cent. during the first nine months of 1918, the main reductions being in coal, textiles, and sacks. Of the other countries, Greece and Italy showed small reductions, and Japanese products fell off by 50 per cent.; on the other hand, the United States increased its sales from £E252,437 to £E1,935,123 (mainly kerosine), and Palestinian products rose from £E48,583 to £E569,596 (soap, oranges, olive oil, etc.). Under exports the United Kingdom took 56 per cent. as against 70 per cent. last year; by contrast France almost trebled her share, Japan increased by 50 per cent., Switzerland by 130 per cent., and the United States by 60 per cent.—all due mainly to cotton.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan has fallen off in the northerly but has increased somewhat in the opposite direction. Imports into Egypt from the Sudan totalled £E1,265,093, and exports to the latter country £E2,106,216 as against £E2,013,521 and £E1,881,014 respectively a year ago. The principal items of exports from the Sudan were:—Bullocks, £E215,637; sheep and lambs, £E216,168; sesame, £E182,274; gum £E127,525; ground nuts, £E85,036; whilst the main exports from Egypt were wheat, £E58,279; maize, £E68,585; wheat and maize flour, £E76,717; sugar, £E519,024; cotton textiles, £E664,801; and tobacco, £E155,596.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets for the week ended December 25 were:—Cattle markets, £1,489; general markets, £673; total, £2,162; total for year £62,319. The receipts for the corresponding week in 1918 ended December 26 were:—Cattle markets, £990; general markets, £523; total for week, £1,513; total for year, £54,078.

The Bank of Athens announces that Coupon No. 16, due January 14, in respect of the Piræus-Athens-Peloponnesus Railway Four per Cent. Bonds will be paid on presentation at the offices of the bank, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3, under deduction of Greek tax of 8 per cent.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

Galatz Dock Congestion.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows, under date January 5:—We have had no recent news from Roumania about the weather and crops, but it is reported that, owing to weather conditions (drought first, and heavy rains afterwards), only a small area was cultivated in Old Roumania last autumn. It is said that the peasants have been somewhat lax in their efforts, but whether this is due to want of farm implements and machinery, army service, war weariness, or other causes, it is to be hoped that shortcomings will be remedied in the spring, and that the full area available in the country will be put under cultivation. As already reported, the newly acquired territories are producers of spring wheat; the soil is very fertile, and they add some 15,000,000 hectares of cultivable land to the former area; whilst their inhabitants are further advanced in up-to-date methods of cultivation. Industries are also much more forward in these territories, and with raw materials and sources of power at hand, there is reason to conclude that considerable progress will be made.

Reliable correspondents at Bucharest write us under date December 20 that grain stocks in the country are more than sufficient for requirements, and that later on export permits will be granted for a certain quantity of maize, barley, etc. The weather during the first half of December was mild. On December 16 the thermometer registered 5° centigrade of frost at Sulina, but the water in the Danube was high and the current strong, so that there was no indication of an early closing of navigation.

The congestion at Galatz Dock became worse than ever during last month, owing chiefly to the continued suspension of the supply of railway trucks and the crippled state of the port caused by the war, also labour and appliances being much below par; but some relief was obtained by energetic action on the part of steamers' representatives and merchants, and a certain quantity of goods was dispatched to Moldavia, and a little was sent up river by lighter to Oltenitza, destined for Bucharest. So far we have no news of any trucks being supplied for the direct railway line between Galatz and Bucharest, which is by far the most important, and only a small quantity of goods can be distributed by motor-lorries. The state of the roads during the mild weather resembled the conditions experienced in France and Belgium during the war, and some of the bridges are not very safe. Lorries and motor-cars stuck in the mud up to the axle-trees, remained in this position for days, and had to be extricated and drawn for considerable distances by bullocks. It is not surprising that the transport by motor-lorry from Galatz to Bucharest cost from lei 2 to lei 3 per kilogram.

In normal times the last general cargo steamers arrive at destination in the Danube about December 5 to 10, and even then there are great difficulties and delays to contend with in the handling of the cargoes, owing to the weather, short days, and the authorities dismantling pontoons, staging, etc., for the winter, together with congestion of goods on the dock quays and sheds. This year the conditions have been unprecedented, and instead of two or three general cargo steamers arriving, no fewer than ten arrived almost simultaneously about above dates, and found quays and sheds chock full with the cargoes of ten previously arrived steamers. It was found possible to send two or three Galatz-bound steamers to Braila to discharge, but when things came to a deadlock some of the goods had to be transhipped into lighters.

The floating crane has been repaired, and was able to be used in the discharge of heavy lifts, but the labourers gave trouble in refusing to work on saints' days, and have added some additional such non-working days never heard of before to their calendar. There was also an insufficiency of labour and cargo checkers to contend with, and some Customs regulations were enforced at this most inconvenient of times, which further increased the difficulties and retarded the work.

Vessels bound to Roumanian ports can only be granted free *pratique* at Sulina provided that they pass the Dardanelles and Bosphorus in charge of guards, ensuring no communication with the land, and provided that they may not have touched at Smyrna or Beyrout, or at any Greek port. The masters of some vessels, not complying with this regulation, or being misinformed as to the procedure, lost several days at Sulina, and one or two preferred to proceed from Sulina to Constantza for fumigation rather than lose time petitioning the sanitary authorities at Bucharest. If vessels cannot conform to the above requirements they must call at Constantza for disinfection purposes on their voyage from Constantinople.

We have made arrangements for the discharge of general cargoes at Constantza during the winter months by engaging one of the best sheds in the harbour for our exclusive use, and this carries with it the discharging berth which it faces on the quay. We hope shortly to receive news from our Constantza manager, who has lately been to Cernavoda and Borcea to study the situation at the bridge with a view to seeing how the transport of goods from one side of the Danube to the other is likely to be conducted. It is reported in the Roumanian Press that an American Mission have undertaken to reconstruct the Cernavoda Bridge, but we have no confirmation of this news.

It is pointed out in the Roumanian Press that the Government should take immediate action in respect of placing the valuta on a satisfactory basis, and we understand that this and railway transport, etc., are receiving attention, so as to improve financial and commercial conditions. Roumania having signed the St. Germain and Bulgarian Peace Treaties, and having been included in the list of countries which benefit by the Board of Trade Credits Scheme, business transactions should become less difficult, and an improvement in the exchange is looked forward to, which will no doubt become more pronounced when the Roumanian Government remove the restrictions on exports of surplus produce. There is great delay at Bucharest in the censoring of correspondence, and representation is being made to the authorities on the matter.

YUGOSLAVIA.

The Currency Question.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, December 29.

The stamping of kronen is now complete, and the Currency Reform Committee is getting busy. Various rumours are circulating as to its decisions, but the only point on which unanimity has been reached appears to be the decision that the new notes shall not be Government paper, but issued by a privileged bank. There is a prevailing impression that kronen will be recalled at the rate of four to one dinar, which is the present average rate of exchange; the other alternative seems to be par. Whatever rate is fixed is certain to cause great dissatisfaction in some quarter, for it is impossible to please everybody when interests are so conflicting. Some capitalists in kronen are prepared to face the reduction of their wealth in order to make the peasants work; they say that the men on the countryside north of the Save have their pockets full of kronen and would be too prosperous and too lazy to work, whereas if the krone is exchanged at four and their wealth cut down by a quarter, they will have some incentive to work. The war profiteers will probably be annoyed, unless they have taken the precaution to turn their crowns into stock, plant, or real property.

As the number of kronen in circulation in Yugoslavia is now finite, and the smuggling in of Austrian, Hungarian, and other valueless money is stopped, the Government is probably by now in possession of exact statistics as to the number of kronen to be redeemed. They have forbidden the exportation of marked kronen, the object being to prevent owners of kronen cropping up to claim new dinars in replacement at Yugoslav legations abroad.

The free circulation is allowed of Greek and Bulgar nickel currency for the equivalents of five, ten, and twenty centimes.

Serbo-Roumanian Relations.

Friends of Serbia and Roumania have viewed with regret the recent coolness, amounting to friction, that has been allowed to grow up between these two states on account of the dispute over their mutual claims in the Banat, a jealousy that has certainly been fostered by Italy. It is, therefore, gratifying to hear that on December 20 the Roumanian Minister, M. Langa-Raskano, called upon Dr. Davidovich, and informed him that his Government has given orders for the release of all the constructional material ordered by the Serbian Government at Reshitsa for the repair of the Save Bridge. It will be remembered that the restoration of this bridge was long delayed by the action of the Roumanian authorities in retaining the material in the great steel works at Reshitsa when they fell within the new Roumanian frontier. Only under pressure from the Allies was Roumania induced to allow the delivery of sufficient parts to make the bridge at least passable, though still it is of decidedly patchwork design. It is authoritatively stated that this material consists of four hundred truckloads of steel and other materials, as well as fifteen locomotives. This assistance to Serbian communications will be as welcome as the improvement in Serbo-Roumanian relations.

Branches of the Bank of British West Africa have been opened at Duala (Cameroons), Bekwai and Dunkwa (Gold Coast), and Rabat (Morocco).

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GREEK EXCHANGE.

Trade Handicapped.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, December 8.

The question of the restrictions in force regarding the control by the Ministry of Finance of transactions in foreign exchange is occupying a good deal of the attention of the commercial community. According to a Royal Decree recently published, all dealings in foreign exchange are subjected to the control of a committee sitting at the Ministry of Finance, from whom a permit has to be obtained in order to purchase bills or open credits. Merchants requiring to open credits are obliged to deposit a guarantee that goods equal in value to the amount of capital sent out of the country will be imported within six months. This guarantee is personal and is fixed at 40 per cent. of the value of the invoice or amount for which the credit is opened when the interested party is a member of the local Chambers of Commerce, and at 20 per cent. in cash for others. Before this guarantee is released a certificate has to be obtained from the Customs House proving the arrival of the goods. Should the goods not arrive within the stipulated time limit, the guarantee deposited becomes the property of the State. Owing to lack of personnel the procuring of this permit necessitates a long delay, and frequently the time limit has expired before the Customs certificate can be obtained, although the goods may have arrived, whereupon the consignee is called upon to surrender the personal or cash guarantee given. These difficulties are causing great annoyance and hindrance to Greek importers, besides considerably hindering the foreign trade of Greece. A committee composed of representatives of the Greek Chambers of Commerce, bank officials and other representative economic authorities, is now sitting and discussing the advisability of modifying this law, and will present a memorandum to the Government embodying their views on this very important matter.

TRADE AT THE PIRÆUS.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Athens reports that the Piræus Customs House receipts during the first twenty days of October (old style)—October 14 to November 3—were:—1,642,624.80 drachmæ from imports; 139,405.50 drachmæ in fees (i.e., clearing papers, etc.). Compared with the corresponding period of last year, the following excess is shown for the present year, viz.:—847,011.00 drachmæ from imports; 115,466.50 drachmæ in fees.

According to statistics issued by the Customs authorities, the sum collected at the Piræus from January 1, 1919, to the end of October, 1919, amounted to drachmæ 43,376,609.25. This total—for ten months only—exceeds already the total for the whole twelve months of 1918 by eleven million drachmæ. It is estimated, therefore, that, as the months of November and December still remain to be added, the total amount collected for 1919 at the Piræus will exceed the total collected in 1918 by some sixteen or seventeen million drachmæ. In commenting upon this state of affairs, the local Press draws attention to the fact that these satisfactory results are due not only to the increasing post-war flow of commerce, but to the activity and skill of the Director of Customs acting under the instructions of the Ministry of Finance.

Looking at it from the traders' point of view, however, this means to say that the Greek authorities are taxing the importers on the highest basis possible, and there are numerous complaints daily in the commercial world of articles previously entering under a lower tariff classification being now charged arbitrarily at a higher rate. The Government is naturally anxious to increase its revenues by any means available, but doubts have been expressed as to whether such action will pay in the end, as if imports continue to be taxed in this way trade may be driven away, as the mass of consumers have to pay such high prices for every commodity of life that people may find it impossible shortly to purchase anything but the barest necessities. General import might, therefore, be restricted, and it would then be for the Government to calculate whether they would not have gained more by adhering to a lower tariff, and so obtaining a greater flow of imports than by forcing up the Customs tariffs. As it is, considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed at the heavy dues and unequal incidence of the existing scale of duties. A new tariff classification, now that Greece has annulled her commercial treaties, is at the present moment under consideration.

The Postmaster-General announces that the Indian Post Office proposes to maintain a weekly air mail service between Bombay and Karachi. The air mails for Karachi will be despatched from Bombay after the arrival of the English mail. Letters, postcards, and packets of printed papers and samples, but not parcels, are eligible for transmission by the air service. The special fee for transmission by air is 1s. for each ounce or fraction of an ounce, in addition to the ordinary postage, and British stamps in payment of the special fee must be affixed to the covers of the correspondence. The air service from Bombay to Karachi will afford acceleration not only to correspondence for Karachi, but also to correspondence for places served viâ Karachi, such as the province of Sindh (including Sukker and Haiderabad) and Baluchistan (including Quetta).

BRITISH RELATIONS WITH GREECE.

M. Oikonomides' Views.

One of the most notable speeches delivered during the British Exhibition at Athens was that of M. Leonidas Oikonomides, President of the Greek Chamber of Commerce, made on the occasion of the banquet given by the Federation of British Industries at the Zappeion. The speech was as follows:—

As President of the Association of Greek Manufacturers and as a member of last year's commercial mission to England, I regard it as my duty to express to the exhibitors of the Federation of British Industries our unbounded gratitude for the extreme courtesy and the cordial treatment which we received during our visit, when the opportunity was given us to admire the magnitude and the extent of British industry, and to express to them our great pleasure at the inception and realisation of the idea of the Exhibition, which will render more intimate the commercial as well as the moral relations between Greece and Great Britain. It is true that the fine but small Exhibition of the incomparable products of British industry can only give the visitor an obscure idea regarding the size, the extent, and the productive power of the factories which produced them. How is it possible for the visitor to the Exhibition to imagine how the 16-in. gun is manufactured when he has not seen the enormous installations, with the colossal scientific and material means which are utilised for its manufacture? Or when, instead of this fearsome arm, the same house displays as an exhibit a peaceful product—the harmless plough or the optical instrument? Or when one sees the small reel of cotton, how is it possible to present to the imagination the great factory producing these goods, whose daily production could many times entwine the whole earth? Or when one sees exhibited the fine soaps of the great English factories, how can one picture that the yearly production of one installation alone exceeds one million tons—that is to say, double of the quantity of wheat imported into Greece from abroad?

Gentlemen, we in Greece, as well as all the world, have always known about British products, that the quality is higher and that the description of the article as British characterised it as solid and durable; notwithstanding that, of late the importation into Greece of the commercial products of other countries has developed, but Great Britain has kept the first place, as she herself exports half or more of the total. Now, especially when other than commercial reasons aid in drawing together the bonds between the two countries, British manufacturers need have no doubt that the importation into Greece of the articles they produce will increase still more.

When I was asked, gentlemen, a year and a-half ago, by the then Commercial Attaché of the British Legation, what means I thought would contribute to the development of the commercial relations between the two countries, I replied that intellectual contact primarily contributes to the tightening of commercial relations. I said that British schools should be founded in Greece, that newspapers in English should be published, and that the Greek should become acquainted with British literature. Intellectual contact will promote commercial relations, and commercial intercourse will increase intellectual relations, and thus the door of British civilisation will be opened to us Greeks. Because, gentlemen—I address myself especially to my fellow-citizens—we know the Englishman principally from the brave and cheerful sailor whom we saw about the streets, but of late also from the British soldier who fought as an ally in Macedonia, and has left to us the ineffaceable impressions of the brave and, at the same time, most dignified gentleman. In order to obtain, however, the real idea of the British world one must cross the Channel, where one will actually find the real civilisation, especially the intellectual civilisation.

There one will find the greatest patriotism, unfeigned respect for the laws, unlimited hospitality, devotion to family and traditions, altruism, admiration and imitation of the ancient world, and the moral principles and the wise teachings of our ancestors, which inspire in this great and noble country love and sympathy for the newer Greece, in the creation and development of which Great Britain has always stood first.

I hope that the British manufacturers, many of whom, I do not doubt, will not have passed most of their hours in the Zappeion Exhibition, but outside, admiring, on the one hand, the Parthenon, and on the other the violet tints of Hymettus and the intervening vista looking towards the sea and the infinite, when they return to their beloved country will advocate greater spiritual intercourse between their country and Greece, which, as she appears to-day, constitutes a very interesting field for commercial and industrial action, with which you will permit me, gentlemen, to ask you to raise your glass, drinking to the health and progress of the British manufacturers and to British industry.

It is reported that the British schooner Falka has arrived at Patras with the crew of the sailing vessel Woodcock, lost at sea.

The Supplies Control Board in Egypt has fixed maximum prices for sugar. Lump sugar works out at about 6d. per lb. for a minimum retail quantity of 27 lb.

An ordinance has been issued by the Occupied Enemy Territories (South) Administration at Jerusalem providing for the registration of companies, and for their authorisation before commencing business. This ordinance provides that the persons desiring to form a company to carry on business in Occupied Enemy Territory (South) must submit two copies of the proposed articles of association to a special commission.

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ENGINEERING.

Motor Show Reflections.

VIII.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

I was particularly interested in the production of Sir William Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., and the Siddeley Motor Co., Ltd., who have now amalgamated, so far as motor-car work is concerned, under the name of Messrs. Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Limited, the works being at Parkside, Coventry. Here again one of the main objects of the firm is to produce a car of exceptional quality and conforming to a high specification in tremendous quantities, at a price which will enable it to compete with the products of any other country. An output of at least 5,000 cars per annum has been provided for as a commencement; an exceptionally fine plant has been laid down for the manufacture of the various parts, and quite half-a-dozen test chassis have been out on the road for the past few months, driven through all weathers, on all surfaces, and up all the most severe gradients, with a view to ascertaining whether after all any part of the chassis were weaker than imagined, and also with a view to seeing which form was most suitable for withstanding rough work.

In the Armstrong-Siddeley the chassis frame has a deep girder section to which the metal running-boards are riveted. The engine, like so many others, has overhead valves, and a lavish use of aluminium has been made in its construction so as to ensure the utmost lightness compatible with the greatest strength.

The transmission was of particular interest, and at the forward end of the gear-box proper will be seen a ball joint which acts as a swivel for the motion of the back axle. The ball jointed gear lever rods are in line with the centre of the bearing, and are so arranged that no matter in what position the gear-box may be their length is always constant, a feature which ensures easy and speedy gear changing. The back axle is of the semi-floating type, and helical bevel gearing is used for the final drive. Well made and tapered joints are used for securing the live shafts to the wheel hubs and differential, and these are fastened together further by locking nut and split pin. The braking arrangement is quite a special feature of this particular chassis, and consists of internal expanding rings working on drums of 17½ ins. diameter on the rear wheels. Any necessary adjustments to the brakes or brake rods can be made without difficulty.

With regard to the 29.5 horse-power chassis, it may be briefly mentioned that this has a powerful engine, with forced lubrication throughout. The gate change allows of three forward speeds and a reverse. A high-tension, British-made magneto is used for ignition, and gas is supplied through a Claudel-Hobson carburettor. The clutch is of multiple-disc type, and there is a spiral bevel final drive.

The wheelbase of the chassis is 11 ft. 3 in., with a 4 ft. 8-in. wheel track, and disc wheels of a special type are fitted, taking 820 by 135 mm. tyres. Dunlop Rubber Company's covers, of the Magnum pattern, are fitted as standard. The chassis is provided with an electric lighting set and a self-starter, also of the electric type. The car is complete with five lamps, four tyres and tubes, chassis stepboards, wings and dashboard.

Darracq Motor Engineering Co., Ltd., who are as well known as any firm in the world as manufacturers of a high quality car, had a stand under their new name of Talbot Darracq, and showed a very fine eight-cylinder car which attracted great attention. The most generally useful model shown, however, was the 16-h.p. model, which should sell readily overseas in countries where the road conditions are not a great deal worse than would be encountered in this country. The car has a nice turn of speed, and possesses all the usual refinements.

An exhibit of exceptional interest was that of Messrs. Enfield Allday Motors, Ltd., as the new five-cylindered radial engine was shown for the first time in public. The engine is of aero-engine type and is air cooled. The cylinders are arranged round the crankshaft, and a peculiarly smooth action results. The lubrication is by pump, the magneto is of the high tension type, and the car has three forward speeds and a reverse. Ample clearance is provided, and the car is sold complete with five detachable wheels, tyres and electric lighting set. The body shown was of the open touring type, and the car is in every way suited for use in countries where roads are not of first-class order and stiff gradients have to be negotiated.

Another well-designed light car shown was the Little Midland, by the Little Midland Light Car Co., Ltd., of Blackburn. This is a remarkably cheap proposition, considering its power and finish, and at the show it was listed at £215. The engine is a twin cylinder J.A.P., of 85 by 85 mm. bore and stroke, and gives a Treasury rated output of 9 h.p. It is water cooled and has drip feed lubrication. High tension magneto and Claudel Hobson carburettor are fitted, and the car, which has three forward speeds and a reverse, is fitted with Michelin disc wheels. It has a 7 ft. 3 in. wheel base and 3 ft. 5½ in. wheel track, so it should be able to travel on even narrow roads and to negotiate quite abrupt bends.

The only other light car which need be mentioned specifically is the Cosmos Engineering Company's production made at the Bristol works of the company. Here again the engine, which is three cylindered, is of aero design, and the springing of the chassis is on an entirely new principle, and is such as will certainly commend itself to users. The cylinders have detachable heads, and an automatic carburettor, designed to give the correct mixture at all speeds, makes the car suitable for use by anyone who does not possess any expert engineering knowledge. From a test I am able to say that the C.A.R., as the model is called, has a high turn of speed, holds the road well, and can be steered round sharp turns at high speed without showing any tendency to roll.

The exigencies of space have, of course, prevented me from dealing fully with a number of other makes of cars, all of which possessed many features of interest, and I shall be only too pleased to give any reader of The Near East my opinion as to any car exhibited at this historic show.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

How to Use Lignite.

Since writing the notes on the value of lignite as fuel, etc., we noticed in an Eastern contemporary an interesting article in support of a systematic and more extensive use of lignite in order to overcome the serious difficulties which the scarcity and the consequent high price of coal present to industries in general throughout the East. The subject is ably dealt with, and much good advice is given; but with regard to a suggestion of using a grate with the fire-bars further apart than when used in burning ordinary coal, we are afraid that the method will be found very wasteful, and also inefficient. Lignites are capable of yielding good results under steam boilers if the furnaces and method of firing are adapted to the chemical and physical characteristics of the fuel. It is well known that the most extensive use of lignite for industrial purposes has occurred in Germany, where electro-chemical and other works have been erected close to the deposits in order to obtain the benefit of this very cheap

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GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,745,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 25·30 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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fuel for power purposes. But, like other German industrial methods, no detailed descriptions of the power plants have ever appeared in print. Recent trials, however, in this country and in America, proved that in order to obtain a high efficiency from lignite a high temperature is required in the furnace, and this can be obtained by a suitable grate. It is found that a flat sawdust grate, with half-inch round holes, gives the best results. Such grates contain only 15 per cent. air space, but by having small openings a higher pressure can be maintained in the ash-pit, and the air passes through the small holes and through the bed of fuel at a greater velocity. This produces high temperature in the furnace, and as the volume is small the heat is not rushed through the boiler, and up to the smoke-stack, but is absorbed by the water in the boiler and a low temperature in the smoke-stack is obtained. Under such conditions, with a good boiler and setting, a pound of lignite containing 35 per cent. moisture, 6 per cent. ash, and 7,000 B.Th.U., will evaporate nearly 5 pounds of water per pound of fuel. These results can be obtained when a boiler is not pushed above its rated capacity, say, 3 lbs. of water per square foot of heating surface, as a boiler cannot be forced much over its rated capacity with lignite. It is recommended that the lignite for such a furnace should be broken to a uniform egg-size and screened before use, for large and irregularly sized lumps give irregular combustion. Firing must be frequent, with only small additions at a time.

A Fruit Farm Plough.

The advisability of introducing small-size agricultural implements for fruit and vine-growers in the East has often been pointed out in these columns. Very large fruit farms and gardens and very extensive vineyards in the Near and Middle East are cultivated by hand with a spade of local construction. The special narrow ploughs and diggers which are used in France, and even in this country, for this purpose are unknown there, although the natives throughout the fruit-growing districts of that region would be ready buyers of such implements if they knew them. Why the makers of such implements ignore the very markets in which their products would meet with a great commercial success is inexplicable. Of this we thought again the other day at the recent Implement and Machinery Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, when we watched two landowners or merchants from the Levant absorbed for a long time in examining a small fruit-farm plough which was exhibited, and, if we are not mistaken, was subsequently bought by them. The implement was really very interesting: a reversible plough with movable handles and head, either or both of which can be instantly set at any desired angle to allow cultivation to be carried close up to the stems of trees without damaging the branches. There are no projecting parts on the beam, which is specially low down, so that even the branches of bush fruit should be immune from damage when closely ploughed. Moreover, the coulter is attached to the beam in a novel manner, so that no projection appears above the beam. To enable the head to be kept well towards each tree, the draw-bar is taken from the rear of the plough, thus permitting the man and horse to walk in the centre of the alley. The makers may be sure that, if properly introduced, this plough will find a good sale almost throughout the Near East.

Shipping.

It was noticeable that when the armistice was signed a large number of buyers of ships, new or secondhand, hastened to come to London and other British ports from all quarters, and especially the Eastern Mediterranean, hoping, apparently, that there would be a "bargain sale" of ships. Everyone believed that the position would very speedily become easier; that with the armistice there would be an end of the need for vessels for carrying munitions; and that there would be a great diminution in the number of transports required, and, altogether, the improvement in shipping generally would be rapid and considerable, and consequently there would be numbers of ships offered by the British Government at bargain prices! But everyone was disappointed. The removal of the Government control on steamers has not been, and could not be, so rapid or so extensive as was hoped. British shipping losses during the war were very considerable, and naturally the restoration of British shipping is the first consideration. The ships which had been employed on military work had to be refitted before they could return to the service of peace. A transport or armed merchant cruiser cannot be taken and immediately set to ordinary mercantile work. Very extensive alterations must be carried out first, and everything depended on getting those alterations carried out quickly. There were also many ships which needed considerable repairs, and it was very unfortunate that at such a time the men in many of the most important repairing yards should have decided to go out on strike. All these great difficulties which British shipping had to overcome, however, could not be realised or understood in allied or neutral shipping quarters, and comments passed which were quite unjustified.

In spite of the improvement of shipbuilding facilities it is believed that there is no hope of a drop in the prices for new tonnage. Shipbuilding in 1920 is likely to be as active as at any time during the past five years. There are still great difficulties in obtaining sufficient raw material, and although the various shipbuilding establishments are working at the highest pressure there is an insufficiency of labour, and steamers are not being completed as rapidly as was anticipated.

The Registers of holders of the 3 per cent. new debenture stock, and the 3½ per cent. debenture stock of the East Indian Railway Company will be closed from January 14, 1920, to February 3, both days inclusive, for the purpose of preparing warrants for the payment of interest for the three months ending February 3, 1920.

THE CONGESTION AT THE PIRÆUS.

Increased Warehouse Facilities.

The Secretary-General of the Greek Ministry of Finance has recently written an article for an Athenian newspaper dealing with the improvements which have been made in the port of Piræus, says a British official report from Athens. Numerous complaints have been made by business men of the lack of space in the Customs, congestion, and the incapability of the local authorities to cope with the situation at the Piræus. Nevertheless, this article shows that the Government has done a good deal, and has made a serious attempt to relieve a situation which to-day probably causes the same difficulties in the ports of other countries.

The article begins by showing the congestion at the port of Piræus at the end of 1918; warehouses and sheds were old, narrow, badly built, and absolutely insufficient to cope with the vast mass of goods which were accumulating daily, whilst the harbour was crowded with lighters overloaded with goods which could not be discharged. The Minister of Finance therefore decided to take immediate action and introduced a Law, which was passed, for the reform of the Custom House and for the setting up of a committee to study the plans.

On the basis of the memorandum drawn up by the Director of the Custom House, work was begun by the construction of the large warehouses at Zea in January, 1919. First of all certain Government commissariat stores, which had been occupying space in some of the sheds, were removed and the place cleared for the merchandise continually arriving. Other buildings were then hired, and use was also made of certain storehouses belonging to the Parcel Post Department as well as of the luggage hall of the Custom House. The committee then started on various reforms both internal and external. With regard to the former, measures were taken that, whereas formerly there was great disorder, congestion and noise inside the Custom House, matters began to run more smoothly.

Two warehouses were built at the Zea Mole, and a third one of 1,092 square metres. This was still not sufficient, so four other warehouses of 3,417 square metres were erected. Later on two more warehouses of 1,966 square metres were put up. Thus the State was responsible for the building of nine large warehouses, which receive over 10,000 bales of merchandise daily. The committee was still not satisfied, and in order to provide temporary shelter for the masses of goods which kept arriving daily two more light sheds of 3,560 square metres were put up in Karaiskakis Square, and another two sheds of 2,580 square metres, which stretched all the way from a place called Trumba right down to the Custom House itself. The building of further sheds of 1,500 square metres has been decided on at Xaveri. Light railway lines (Decauville) have also been laid inside and outside the sheds leading from the jetty, while measures against an outbreak of fire have been taken by orders given for motor-pumps of high tension. Furthermore, the open spaces in front of the building at Zea are being covered with tar and so made into open and paved places; while orders have also been given for winches.

Since 1918 up to the present the various Custom House offices, goods control offices, etc., clearing and sorting sheds have increased from seventeen buildings to thirty-nine, the number of employees has increased from eighty-one to 183, while guards at the Customs have been augmented from ninety-seven to 200, and the number of labourers now working there is 300 instead of eighty. There are now forty-four weighing machines instead of seventeen, and thirty-two trucks instead of ten. The length of the Decauville line has increased from 200 metres to 1,500 metres.

The writer states that the rush of business in this harbour during the last two years took everyone unawares, and admits that the complaints which are heard daily, and especially from foreign business houses and steamship companies, are not unjustified. He says, nevertheless, that one must remember that whereas the State has managed to help trade to this extent, providing some 20,000 square metres of space, the banks, shipping companies, warehouse companies and the merchants have not even built one square metre. Furthermore, many merchants use the Government buildings as warehouses, and leave their goods there for an indefinite time for the purpose of speculation on the rise or fall in price of thousands of tons of merchandise, while they nevertheless exclaim against the insufficient warehouse space, which space should really be used for goods to be passed through and not where they should remain for two or three months. In fact, although some ten to fifteen thousand bales enter the warehouse daily only some four to six thousand are taken away. Another point to be noticed is that goods remain a very long time in the lighters, for although goods are loaded on board the cargo boats very easily, owing to the special appliances elsewhere, they are discharged here with the greatest difficulty owing to the lack of machinery for discharging, lack of manual labour, and lastly of space, in spite of the extraordinary increase of warehouse room as described above. Even if the present movement were to relax a little it will nevertheless be necessary to come to some immediate decision both as regards the reconstruction of the harbour, the building of the new Custom House, machinery for discharging purposes and such like.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated January 2:—In Hyderabad, situation not yet satisfactory, though famine distress confined to a few Talukas only. Numbers relieved:—Burma: works, 2,700; gratuitous, not reported. Hyderabad: works, 7,000; gratuitous, 2,000. Madras: works, not reported; gratuitous, incomplete figures, 48.

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NEAR EAST COAL RESOURCES.

By John Kirsopp, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

IV.—THE WESTERN URALS.

The discovery of coal in this region was made quite accidentally, in exploring for iron ore, and in excavations connected with the building of the Kizelovski works about the end of the eighteenth century. The industry here developed very slowly, and until 1879, when the Ural railway was constructed, the output of coal only sufficed for local necessities. After the completion of the railway the output rapidly increased, reaching 150,000 tons per year in the 'nineties and prior to the war being from 600,000 to 800,000 tons per year.

The following mines were in operation before the war: Lunyevski (near Alexandrovski works), Kizelovski, Gubakhinski, Usvenski, and a mine near Baskaya station. Coal also occurs on the Archangel-Pachüski estate at Vashkurski, on the River Chusovaya, at Lomovski, on the Kinovski estate, and on the Ilimski and Ulkinski Crown estates, but is not of practical importance.

On the Alexandrovski estates the coal-bearing deposits occur in several north-south bands, running through the Vladimirski, Ivanovski, and Ursinski mountains, and are crossed by the North and East Lunva rivers. The series attain a thickness of 560 ft., consisting of clays, slate clays, quartzose and argillaceous sandstones, and seams of coal (fifteen in number). There are ten working shafts sunk on this estate, the first one being sunk in 1870, the coal lying in north-south synclinal folds, dipping at low angles on the west wing, and steepening on the east wing, where in places in the upper part the dip is overturned and the coal pinches out. The two upper seams of the middle seams are the most extensively worked, and owing to the uneven quality of the coal these seams go under different names in different mines, the upper one at the Gregory mine, the Sagan (7 ft. in thickness), known as the Nikitinski, Andreieffski, Grassgovski, and the Graf seam. The lower seam, 35 ft. below, has a total thickness of 3 ft. 6 ins., and is divided by an 8-inch sandstone parting. Near the south-east end of the synclinal fold, 665 yards north-west of the Gregory shaft, in the Elim shaft they are met with at 294 ft. and 329 ft. respectively. The Kizelovski estate, adjoining Alexandrovski, on the southward, has not been examined, but coal has been met with in an abandoned iron mine, 3½ miles north-east of the Kizelovski works, near the boundary of these two estates; but the seams mentioned probably do not extend much farther to the south.

The Lunva coal can be divided into two classes, *i.e.*, coal of the first class, strong enough to withstand transport, and that of the second class, too friable, and mostly used for coke making. The coal is high in ash (up to 20-40 per cent.) with 3 to 5 per cent. of sulphur. The coal of the second class contains pyrites and slate, in the form of lumps and bands which are easily separated from the coal, whilst in the coal of the first class the impurities are in the form of thin films, or are disseminated in the mass of the coal making it difficult to clean. These coals show a range of grade between a non-coking and a coking coal. In general the Lunva coal is inferior to that of Kizel, and on account of their great irregularity they are more difficult to mine than the more regular beds of Guvakha and Kizel. The output of the Lunva mines has risen from 85,000 tons in 1900 to 120,000 tons in 1910. The average thickness of the two seams worked in this field may be reckoned at 2 metres and 1 metre (6 ft. 7 ins. and 3 ft. 3 ins.) respectively, and the actual reserve may be estimated at seven million tons.

Kizel coalfields are situated on both banks of the Kizel river, near the Kizel works. The coal seams occur in a series of beds which form two north and south folds, crossed by the Kizel river. In the Knyajeska mine, which was opened in 1880, and which is situated on the west wing of the west anticlinal fold, on the right side of the Kizel, three workable seams occur: the Elizabeth seam, 2 metres (6 ft. 7 ins.) thick; the Helena, 8.5 metres (28 ft. 5 ins.), below 1 metre (3 ft. 3 ins.) thick; and the Nicolai, 6 metres (19 ft. 8 ins.) lower, and also 1 metre (3 ft. 3 ins.) thick.

Two mines, the Knyagininski, near the railway, and the Razsolinski, about a mile and a-third further south, situated on the left bank of the Kizel, opposite the Knyajeski, are working the same seams, with a total maximum thickness of 14 ft., the coal-bearing series extending to the south of the Kizel river for a distance of more than eleven miles to Kosva. There has been no prospecting between the Razsolinski and the Lubimovski mines, on the right side of the Kosva (a distance of more than nine miles), except at one point on the right side of the Kosaiya river, where two seams 8 ins. and 2 ft. 11 ins. thick and dipping west at an angle of 60 degs., were f[illegible]

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line steamer Norton, to Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, will close for cargo at Liverpool on January 10.

The Prince Line s.s. Algerian Prince, to Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria direct, taking cargo for Cyprus and Syrian coast ports, with option of transhipment at Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on January 10.

The Papayanni Line s.s. Serbino, for Algiers, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on January 17.

The Anchor Line s.s. Castalia, for Bombay, will leave Glasgow on January 12 and Liverpool on January 17.

The Bibby Line s.s. Herefordshire, to Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Liverpool on January 20.

The Power Line s.s. Pangbourne, to Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi and Mogodor, will leave London about January 25.

Notes.

The City Line s.s. City of Calcutta, about which much anxiety was displayed in Liverpool in consequence of her not being reported since passing Ushant on December 23, has, according to a Lloyd's telegram, arrived at Port Said.

According to a German contemporary, the Deutsche Levante Linie (German Levant Line) is being amalgamated with the Hamburg-American Line. The capital of the former concern in 9.000.000 marks. The Hamburg-American Line has no intention of making a fresh issue of capital, but will exchange its own shares for Levant Line shares in the proportion of three of the former for one of the latter, a "friendly group" placing its holding at the disposal of the H.-A. Line for the purpose of the deal. No particulars are given as to the actual position of the Levant Line, but previous to the outbreak of hostilities the fleet comprised sixty-one ships with a total gross tonnage of 170,000 tons.

A correspondent writes:—There is a good deal of movement in the Cyprus ports. Steamers of the Italian Company Trieste Lloyd now arrive in the roadsteads, as well as those of the Khedivial and Prince Lines.

The s.s. Antar, 3,580 gross tons, built in the Tyne (1906), has been sold by the Egypt and Levant Steamship Company, to buyers not stated, at a price of about £150,000.

The s.s. Tweeddale, 4,432 gross tons, built at Glasgow (1904), has been sold by the Albany Steam Navigation Company, Cardiff, to Mr. Elie Angelis, Greece, at a price of about £225,000.

The Joanna, a steel screw steamer 5,300 tons gross, 8,300 dw., on 25½ ft. draught, length 400 ft., built at Sunderland for the Shipping Controller, now owned by Mr. Elie Angelis, of Athens, Greece, was launched on December 23.

The Cunard Company announce that Mr. James Ambrose, manager of the third-class passenger department at the head office in Liverpool, has been appointed general passenger superintendent. Mr. G. W. A. Hutchison has been appointed manager of the saloon passenger department at the head office in succession to Mr. E. H. Hoblyn, who has just retired.

YUGOSLAV STATE BANK.

The Issue of Notes.

A Reuter message from Belgrade, dated December 23, states that at an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders of the Serbian National Issue Bank, which was held recently, it was decided to extend the scope of the bank under the title of the National Bank of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. A new board of directors was elected, and is composed as follows:—M. Voya Velkovitch, Minister of Finance; M. Dragotine Protitch, lawyer; Count Culmer, a Deputy of Agram; M. Montchilo Nitchitch, former Minister of Finance. The meeting authorised the directorate to apply the new Banking Bill, which is now before Parliament, as soon as the Bill is passed. The bank is to have a nominal capital of 50.000.000 dinars in gold, divided into five series of twenty thousand shares. The State is to hand the bank 30.000,000 dinars as metallic security for the issue of new bank notes. The bank accepted this commission from the State, but declined to accept any eventual risk involved by the fluctuation of the exchanges. The new notes will be considered as legal tender. The National Bank is to be allowed to issue bank notes to a sum equal to three times the amount of the metallic deposit it holds, and may exceed this limit for the issue of notes (at present from 250.000.000 to 400.000.000 dinars) in proportion to its capital. The exchange of dinars and kronen will be continued under the present conditions until the end of February.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Constantinople cables that this season's millet crop in the Smyrna district is reported as very good. Exportation is allowed.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.—There is little change in the position now that the Christmas trade is over. In view of the considerable supplies that have been distributed, it might have been thought that the demand would have eased off, but, as a matter of fact, it continues as strong as before. The fact is, of course, that apart from any question of shortage of stocks, the consumption of currants in the United Kingdom is and has been for a long time on the up grade, and Greek producers may confidently look to this country as a strong and growing market in the future.

Sultanas.—The position is far from satisfactory as regards stocks in hand, which are all but disposed of, and the demand for this commodity is such that future consignments are likely to be quickly absorbed. There is no recent news from centres of production.

Coffee.—1,853 packages were offered at the first auction of the year, and met with a strong demand at firm rates. Costa Rica new crop bold greenish was done at 159s. and medium at 152s., while good bold greenish of the old crop came to business at 150s. Transactions have been effected in East Indian at 155s., Jamaica at 160s., and Colombian at 125s. A firm tone has again characterised the futures market. Quotations are March 123s. 6d., May 121s. 6d., July 119s. 3d., September 117s. 3d., and December 116s. 3d.

Sugar.—Satisfaction is expressed with the new official maximum prices for free sugar for manufacturing purposes. Sugar is to be issued against jam manufacturers' vouchers at 66s., and against all other manufacturers' vouchers at 100s. The order, which holds good until January 24, also fixes the maximum price of table sugar at 115s. per cwt. duty paid. It has been found necessary, in view of the acute position in producing countries, to limit issues to manufacturers to 75 per cent. of the quantity originally intended for jam manufacture, and to 50 per cent. of the quantity issued in the past year for other purposes of manufacture. The view has been taken by some sections of the public that the manufacture of sweets and confectionery is to some extent responsible for the reduced ration. It is pointed out by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply that if the manufacture of these articles was prohibited it would be possible to increase the domestic ration by only 1¼ oz. per week. Advices regarding the Cuban crop continue to be most favourable.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been a dull spot, La Plata, January-February Hull being done at 38s. 3d. per cwt. Rapeseed has been firm with Toria a shade over 46s. for Hull January-March. Bombay cottonseed has been a strong feature at 20s. spot, while Egyptian has been steady at 26s. Last year's American linseed crop averaged 275-276 lb. to the acre.

Oilcakes, etc.—There has been a moderate demand for oilcakes. Linseed cake is in good request at 500s. per ton, while cottonseed cake has come to business at from 380s. to 400s. Rapeseed cake has been done at 360s. There is little change to record in oils. Linseed closed a shade stronger than last week at 107s. 9d., while rape oil, cotton oil, and ground nut oil are unaltered. Turpentine closed at 168s. 6d. spot.

CYPRUS AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

(From a Correspondent.)

December 13.

The weather has been variable. Heavy rains fell in some parts of the island, followed by dry, cold weather, which is again breaking. Agricultural prospects are, on the whole, good, but many villagers are still in much need of seed corn, and great numbers of petitions are being received by the authorities asking for loans from the Government tithe stores. From some districts come complaints of serious privations suffered in the villages from lack of flour and wheat, and the Government is urged to take immediate steps to import on its account supplies for sale to the people.

The aeroplane business of A. V. Roe and Co., Limited, at Newton Heath is being transferred to Southampton, and in future the firm's activities in Manchester are to be confined to the manufacture of motor-cars.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that the Roumanian Government have decided to admit books of all kinds, in all languages (whether bound or not), into Roumania free of Customs duty. Further, the recently imposed surtax of 2 per cent. *ad valorem* is not applicable to books.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending December 20:—The sales this week on our market have been very important, amounting in all to 143 cases of various qualities. Prices started at Ps.770 to Ps.780 per oke, and gradually advanced to Ps.860 to Ps.870 (or 20s. to 21s. per lb. c.i.f.). Taking the abnormal high exchange, which is now about Ps.370 per pound sterling for cheque and 1.02 dollars for one Turkish paper pound, the advance in opium is not justifiable. The competition on the part of buyers to secure enough stuff to cover their engagements, coupled to the high exchange, brought on this advance, and from what we see we are of opinion that still higher figures will be ruling before the new year. The arrivals to date are 1,250 cases, against 90 at same date last year.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

Gum.

The C.E.B. report for October states that the exports during the month were, viâ Port Sudan, 1,444,291 kilos. of hashab of the value of £E64,300, 25,483 kilos. of bleached of the value of £E1,359, and 159,596 kilos. of talh of the value of £E4,079; viâ Suakin, 60,295 kilos. of hashab of the value of £E2,680; and viâ Halfa, 33,116 kilos. of hashab of the value of £E1,359, and 40,603 kilos. of talh of the value of £E1,037.

Kordofan Province.—The amount of gum sold in El Obeid market during October was 5,782 kantars, as against 6,144 kantars during the same month last year, the average price being £E1,342 per kantar of 100 rotls (45 kilos.). Arrivals from Nahud were 4,867 kantars, as against 1,283 kantars last year. One kantar was sold at Um Ruaba at £E1, and none last year. There were no arrivals at Rahad during the month.

Sennar Province.—313 kantars of hashab and 198 kantars of talh gum were exported from Singa out of stored gum. 25 tons of hashab and 15 tons of talh gum were exported by rail.

Cotton.

Berber Province.—Cotton-picking has began at Gendetto, and is in full swing at Ketiab and Zeidab. The Gendetto crop is particularly promising. Zeidab is well up to the average. Ketiab has suffered somewhat from shortage of water. Temera cotton is late, but quite promising. Bouga cotton is promising, but Mikelab is poor. It would appear that, except on new land, as at Bouga, it is useless planting cotton later than early May. In Berber Merkaz there is a marked contrast with the cotton at Mikelab planted in late May and June, and that at the Berber Agricultural School planted in April, which has already given 3½ kantars a feddan.

Bahr el Ghazal Province.—September: Fellata cultivators at Raga are now picking their cotton crop, but have difficulty in finding a market for it.

The 1919 crop of locust beans in Cyprus, according to the estimates of the Commissioners of the different districts, amounts approximately to 148,000 aleppo cantars, or 33,435 tons.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1st to October 31st, 1919 (New Style January 14th to November 13th, 1919).

	Monopolies, tobacco stamps stamped paper & Naxos Emery	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmae.	Drachmae.
Gross receipts, October, 1919	4,861,507	5,341,323
Do. do. 1918	3,557,633	2,552,000
Estimated receipts for 10 months (Law of Control)	24,083,333	8,916,666
Actual do. 1919	40,270,301	40,350,718
Do. do. 1918	31,679,475	26,573,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 10 months 1919	+ 16,186,968	+ 31,434,051
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 10 months 1918	+ 7,596,142	+ 17,656,333

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper and Naxos Emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos Emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmae at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

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(Established by Imperial Decree dated January 1, 1917.)

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Paid-up Capital	-	*£T. 2,000,000*
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Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

British Burmah Petroleum.

The report of the British Burmah Petroleum Company for the year ended July 31 states that the trading operations show a profit on revenue account of £534,603, the highest yet achieved by the company, representing an increase of £162,658 over the results of the previous year. Adding agency fees £3,215, dividend on shares in Rangoon Oil Company £4,273, interest £6,249, transfer fees £1,702, and difference in exchange £19,634, there is a total credit of £569,677. Against this have been debited sundry charges in Burmah, Bombay, and London £58,215, debenture interest £35,797, and depreciation £67,578, leaving a surplus of £408,086, which with net balance brought in, £25,635, gives a disposable profit available of £433,721. Interim dividend of 4 4-5d. per share absorbed £39,484, sinking funds accounts £33,444, additonal 2½ per cent. interest on second mortgage debenture stock under terms of trust deed £1,391, contingent reserve account for excess profits duty and income-tax purposes £165,000, exploration and development reserve £20,000, general reserve £15,000, commission to selling agents £27,970, and the directors recommend a balance dividend for the year at the rate of 1s. per share, free of tax, on all shares issued prior to July 31 last, making 17½ per cent., free of tax, for the year (as against 12½ per cent. for 1918). For the first time since the incorporation of the company it has received a dividend on its shares in the Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, amounting to £4,272, being at the rate of 5 per cent. Under the provisions of the trust deed securing the first mortgage debenture stock this dividend has been handed to the trustees of that stock for sinking fund purposes. Subsequent to the close of the financial year a second dividend has been received from the Rangoon Company amounting to £11,720, which sum has been similarly dealt with.

Up to July 31 the trustees had purchased for redemption first mortgage stock of the nominal value of £163,517, and since that date their holding has been increased to £167,605. At the end of July the trustees of the second mortgage debenture stock had succeeded in purchasing only £14 stock out of the £4,174 allocated to them for sinking fund purposes from the company's profits to July 31, 1918. Consequently a drawing took place in October at £105 per £100 of stock, and £4,000 stock was duly drawn for payment off and cancellation. For the year under review the sums provided for the sinking funds of the first and second debenture stocks amount to £29,273 and £4,171 respectively, enabling further purchases or drawings to be made. The expenditure at the refinery charged to capital account on this occasion is £9,141, and at the field to £8,446. Of the £67,578 written off this year for depreciation £26,934 has been allocated to refinery accounts and £40,644 to field accounts, being at the rate of 15 per cent. on the summarised totals of those accounts respectively as per balance-sheet at the commencement of the financial year. A few additional well sites at Yenangyaung have been acquired during the year. The combined production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company was again in excess of that of the previous twelve months, but the continued shortage of drillers and of supplies of material resulted in a reduction of footage drilled that may to some extent have a prejudicial effect for a period upon future crude oil returns.

Since November last large quantities of drive pipe and drilling equipment have been shipped to Burmah, and additional drillers are also going forward, enabling a more vigorous drilling policy to be proceeded with than has of late been possible, although the labour unrest in America, where most of the equipment is manufactured, renders the prospect of prompt and continuous shipments still somewhat doubtful. The throughput of crude oil at the refinery was in excess of previous years, and the results in the form of light oils taken off showed the highest percentage yet reached by this company, while the output of wax has been substantially increased. The company in September last was granted the licence then required to raise new capital by the issue of the balance of its 525,772 shares of 8s. each at a premium of 12s. per share. The provision of this additional working capital will facilitate the adoption of various improvements and extensions which had for some time been in contemplation, and should assist in enlarging the scope of the company's operations. The directors anticipate that the ordinary expansion of the business may be further enhanced as a result of this various expenditure. A scheme for providing electrical power for the Yenangyaung field has now been matured, and negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily with the Burmah Oil Company, who propose to instal the plant necessary for the generation of the power and to supply this company's requirements. Considerable economies may be looked for from the introduction of this electrical energy. In November Mr. Edgar Taylor relinquished his seat on the board and Mr. Robert Taylor was elected a director in his stead. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., January 13, noon.

South Behar Railway.

The report of the South Behar Railway Company for 1919 states that, after paying the dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31, 1918, a balance remained in hand of £8,032, which with the rental received from the Secretary of State for India for the half-year to June 30, 1919, and other receipts, less interest on debenture stock and sundry outgoings, left £17,668 to the credit of revenue account at that date. An interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum has been paid, leaving £8,178. Adding to this £15,000, the half-yearly rental to December 31, 1919, and other receipts, less interest on debenture stock and sundry outgoings, there remains a balance of £17,821 to be dealt with. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year to holders registered on December 31, leaving £8,331 to be carried forward. Warrants will be posted on January 14. Meeting, 25, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., January 13, 1 p.m.

Balaghat Gold.

The statutory report of the Balaghât Gold Mines states that, in accordance with the reconstruction agreement, the preference shares were issuable as fully paid and the ordinary shares as credited with the sum of 6s. per share as paid, being part consideration for the sale and transfer of the property from the Balaghât Gold Mining Company (in liquidation). Up to December 29, 1919, there had been allotted 95,400 fully paid preference shares and 198,367 ordinary shares; 1s. per share has been called up on 198,360 ordinary shares, amounting to £9,918, making them now 7s. per share paid, and of this £9,507 has been received, together with a further sum of £192 on account of future calls. The sum of 10s. per share has been received on seven subscribers' shares and £207 on shares applied for but not yet allotted. The issue of ordinary shares was largely over-subscribed, and the allotment of the balance of 14,233 shares will shortly be made. The news concerning the development of the mines continues of a satisfactory character. Meeting, 6, Queen Street Place, E.C., January 15, noon.

Banque Générale de Grèce.

The profit and loss account of the bank for the first half of 1919 shows that interests, commissions, and divers profits amounted to 407,382.56, from which had to be deducted general expenses 82,648.20 drachmæ, taxes 1,573.40 drachmæ, interest on current accounts 100,750.84 drachmæ, and amortisations 33,394 drachmæ, leaving a net profit of 189,016.12 drachmæ. Out of this amount the allocations were:—To statutory reserve 37,803.20 drachmæ, distribution to shareholders (less tax) 60,000 drachmæ, to Council of Administration 8,599.55 drachmæ, to directors 8,599.55 drachmæ, public taxes 5,217.40 drachmæ, and to carry forward 68,796.42 drachmæ.

Central Province Ceylon Tea.

The report of the Central Province Ceylon Tea Company for the year ended June 30 states that the net profit for the year, after transferring £850 from manuring suspense account to profit and loss account, and writing off from estates account £750 for depreciation of machinery and buildings and £2,500 for bungalow pulled down, and placing £1,450 to income-tax and excess profits duty reserve, is £9,670, which, with £1,859 brought forward, makes £11,529 available.

COMPANY RESULTS.

Ordinary stock transfer books of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company will be closed from January 16 to January 30 for the purpose of preparing the dividend warrants for the six months ended September 30, payable to shareholders registered at the time of closing the books.

The ordinary general meeting of the South Behar Railway Company, Limited, will be held on January 13.

The ordinary general meeting of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien will be held at Cairo on January 13.

The Egyptian and Foreign Trust offer £75,000 Six and a-Half per Cent. Debenture stock for subscription to the existing shareholders at par. Particulars can be obtained at the offices of the company, Dashwood House, New Broad Street, E.C., where the trust deed can be inspected. Application for the stock, accompanied by a cheque for 50 per cent. of the amount applied for, must be made at the company's office on or before January 21.

The directors of the Jhanzie Tea Association have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent. or 4s. per share, less tax.

Burmah Electric Tramways and Lighting.—Dividend of 10 per cent. (10s. per share), less tax, on preference shares for the period ended July 31, 1911; £8,000 is placed to depreciation reserve, making it £35,894; £750 to depreciation of investments, and £492 is carried forward.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.—A dividend of 45 per cent. (less tax) will be paid to ordinary shareholders registered on January 2, and interest coupon No. 21 on bearer warrants for ordinary shares will be paid at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C., and the bank's branches in Cairo and Alexandria.

The directors of the Hope Tea Company announce an interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax.

The directors of the Assam-Dooars Tea Company announce an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

The directors of the Meenglas Tea Company announce an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

MALTA WHEAT SHORTAGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, December 19.

The Maltese may be said almost to live on bread alone, and any shortage of wheat causes considerable anxiety. The Acting Lieutenant-Governor explained the present situation fully to the Council of Government at its last meeting. In brief, the state of things is as follows:—There is at present in the island a supply which cannot last longer than the middle of January; the naval authorities hold 1,000 tons, which could be utilised in an emergency, and which would see the island up to the end of January. The quantity of flour on hand is much lower, and unless large supplies arrive Christmas Day will see the stocks exhausted. There are only four mills on the island, and stoppages from causes out of the control of anyone have been frequent of late, whilst quite recently only one mill out of the four was in working order. The Food Control Board are doing their best to cope with the situation, but, in the words of the Lieutenant-Governor, matters are very disquieting. Following the scarcity of wheat, the island is now faced with a scarcity of sugar, and each person is rationed to half a rotolo per head per week.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

CESAREA, November.

Despite the Armistice and the resumption of commercial relations with the Entente countries, trade here has not developed to any great extent. The causes of this position are to be found in the uncertain future of the country, and the insecurity and heedlessness which exist among the people of Anatolia. Meanwhile, our town being short of all imported articles (manufactures, cotton goods, etc.) there has been a certain movement between Mersina and Adana. Goods that have arrived here have been bought up by consumers, and stocks remain nil. The position from Cesarea on the route Sivas-Erzeroum is of great importance from the commercial point of view. Before the war merchants despatched their goods as far as Sivas, Harpout, Erzindjan, and other points from Anatolia. The undertaking of consignments to our locality offers good prospects. The imported goods most in demand here are cotton and woollen manufactures, coloured materials, hosiery, hardware, etc. Exports from our town are partly stopped because of the interruption in railway communications on the line from Konia for the capital.

ADRIANOPLE, November.

The winter sowings have been actively carried on during this month despite some rains which have stopped the progress of tillage. One can express a more than favourable view of the sowings, and the prospects of the approaching crop. It is much to be desired that a deep snow will cover the fields that have been sown to ward off the dangers of an excessive dry cold.

The open adjudications for the supply of paper for cigarettes, matches, and other articles of which the need is pressing will give an impetus to the trade of our town, especially as merchants here are taking a very active part in regard to these adjudications.

BRITISH TRADE IN SOUTH RUSSIA.

The Department of Overseas Trade wish to announce, states the *Board of Trade Journal*, that British firms established in the United Kingdom who are sending representatives to South Russia are advised for the future to furnish such representatives with letters or certificates to the effect that the firm is British and that the person is representing British commercial interests. These letters or certificates should be addressed by the firm direct to His Majesty's Consular Officer at the port or town visited by the traveller, and handed to the latter for presentation to such officer.

The directors of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Company have declared an interim dividend for season 1919 on the Ordinary shares of 5 per cent., less tax.

The death took place at his residence, Thistleton Lodge, Kirkham, Lancashire, on December 11, of Mr. Thomas Walmsley, partner in the firm of Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, cotton brokers, Liverpool. Mr. Walmsley, who was in his eighty-first year, became a partner in the firm in 1865. He was a great authority on Egyptian cotton.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS.

NURSERY GOVERNESS desires Post abroad (India preferred). Usual English subjects; some French; good music; tennis; golf; excellent references. £60.—A. K., The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, W.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, W., successfully recommends Companions, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Housekeepers, Secretaries, &c.

LADY SECRETARY desires Post abroad. Shorthand, Typing, some French. Organising ability; charge of staff; initiative; charge of correspondence. £200.—M. H., The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, W.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.	PARIS.
EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.	LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
E. W. H. BARRY.	J. BOISSONNAS.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.	CHARLES DE CERJAT.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.	LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.	GEORGES HEINE.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.	A. HENRY.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.	LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
	RAOUL MALLET.
	PYRAME NAVILLE.
	FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Prices throughout the market have continued to advance. There has been a good deal of talk as to the level of values now existing being dangerous, but two or three months ago, when rates were much lower, similar opinions were expressed. It is realised, however, that there must be a stop some time. Rather more fluctuations are now taking place in American cotton futures, and some profit-taking by speculators is going on. Higher figures have been quoted for Egyptian cotton, and it is said that prices will go still higher. Egyptian yarns are much dearer than a week ago. Business has been very difficult to arrange and supplies seem to be scarcer than ever. Anything offering is soon taken up. The rumour that the Government was about to reduce its estimate of the Egyptian crop has been contradicted, and there is still a possibility of a yield of over 6,000,000 cantars. Spinners in America continue to buy freely in Alexandria. The general demand in piece goods for the Near Eastern outlets continues encouraging. Buyers for Egypt and the Levant have been on the alert for sellers who are in a position to deliver fairly quickly. Clearances on the other side are said to be quite satisfactory. India has provided a large inquiry. Some substantial transactions have been arranged for Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras in grey staples and light bleaching fabrics. Printed and dyed goods have moved off freely for South America. The home trade remains busy. The advances required for American yarns have checked trade to some extent, but spinners have held very firmly to quotations. Actual business in export numbers has been rather smaller.

NEW COMPANIES.

M. Embiricos, Ltd.

M. Embiricos, Limited, was registered as a private company on December 30, with a capital of £150,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of shipbrokers, chartering agents, loading, insurance, passenger and general brokers, ship store dealers, dock owners, ship repairers, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—M. Embiricos, Holland House, Bury Street, E.C.3, shipbroker; T. N. Papadatos, Holland House, Bury Street, E.C.3. M. Embiricos is permanent governing director. Registered office: Holland House, Bury Street, E.C.3.

Middle East Development.

The Anglo-French Middle East Development Corporation, Limited, was registered on December 23 with a capital of £42,000, in 400 "A" shares of £100 each and 200 "B" shares of £10 each. The objects are to acquire lands, rights or interests in Syria, Arabia, Palestine, and the contemplated Kingdom of Damascus, or elsewhere, for the purpose of boring and searching for, getting and making merchantable mineral and other oils and substances, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—Rt. Hon. Lord Inchcape, 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C.; Rt. Hon. Earl Drogheda, 40, Wilton Street, S.W.; Sir Thomas Royden, 34, Dover Street, W.; W. de Falbe, Bylands House, Redbourne, Herts; Comte F. M. E. Pillet-Will, J. Exbrayant, M. Devies, F. D. Chavigne and G. Hersent, all of Paris. The directors are to number not less than four nor more than ten. The British holders are to appoint the British directors, and the French holders are to appoint the French directors. The respective numbers of British and French directors are to be as nearly as possible in proportion to the "A" shares held by the British and French holders. The first directors are:—Rt. Hon. Earl Drogheda, Rt. Hon. Lord Inchcape, and Sir Thomas Royden, Bart. (British directors), and the Comte F. M. E. Pillet-Will, J. Exbrayant and M. D. Devies (French directors). Solicitors, Parker, Garrett and Company, 14, Water Street, Liverpool.

Palaw (Burma) Rubber.

The Palaw (Burma) Rubber Co., Limited, was registered on December 19 with a capital of £75,000 in 2s. shares. Objects: To acquire and turn to account rubber estates in Burma or elsewhere, etc. The first directors are:—W. J. Cotterell, Old Mansion, Frognal, N.W.; G. N. Marks, 10, Regent Court, Regent's Park, N.W.; F. Fairbairn, 7, Chepstow Mansions, W.2. Registered office, 7-8, Great Winchester Street, E.C.

Commercial Bank of London.

The Commercial Bank of London, Limited, was registered on January 1, with a capital of £5,000,000, in £1 shares. The objects are to enter into an agreement with the Commercial Bank of London (incorporated in 1913) and A. H. King, and to carry on the business of banking in all its branches. The first directors are:—The Right Hon. Sir Charles E. Hobhouse, Bart., P.C., C. C. Hatry, P. Haig Thomas, the Earl of March, H. W. Pelham-Clinton, Sir Francis W. Towle, C.B.E. Solicitors: J. C. Langton and Passmore. Registered office: 6, Austin Friars, E.C.

Mediterranean Ports Coaling.

The Mediterranean Ports Coaling Company, Limited, was registered on January 2 with a capital of £110,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on business as indicated by the title. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—E. G. O'Reilly, 52, Bishopsgate, E.C., solicitor's managing clerk; H. Scarfe, 52, Bishopsgate, E.C., accountant. Managers and sole agents: Moxey, Savon and Company, Limited. Solicitors: Maxwell and Company, 52, Bishopsgate, E.C.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

This has again been another week of great activity, and, generally speaking, of rising prices. Buying orders have come to hand continuously from Egypt, and in many cases it has been quite impossible to satisfy the demand. Egyptian Government stocks alone have not participated in this further improvement, for although there has been a fairly active business in progress Unifieds are closing half a point down at 73½, and Egypt 3½ per Cent. Prefs. are ¾ lower at 60½. In City of Alexandria Bonds a small amount of stock was thrown upon the market, and in the absence of any support changed hands as low as 66½. As a result the wide price of 65-75 is being quoted for this stock to-night. There has been some local demand for Turkish 3½ per Cent. Egypt Tribute, which close 1 point up at 59.

In Bank shares Agriculturals have remained stationary, with a certain amount of business passing, while the Pref. shares are slightly lower at 6⅝ x.d. There has been a large and sustained demand for National Banks, which are closing 1¼ up at 22½. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have also jumped ⅜ to 17¼.

In Land shares the turnover has been very large. Aboukirs close 2s. 3d. up at 35s. 3d., while the debentures have advanced 8½ points to 117. Béhéras have again been a feature, and are closing 1⅝ higher at 19¾, while Building Lands are 3s. better at 28s. Egyptian Consolidated Lands at last show some signs of improvement, and are closing 2d. higher at 2s. 5d., but Delta Lands, after being up to 17s., close only fractionally firmer at 16s. 6d. Gharbiehs at one time jumped ½ to 3¾, then reacted to 3¼, and close ¼ up on the week at 3½. New Egyptians have been in great demand throughout the week; a large business has been put through, and they close 2s. 9d. up at 34s. 3d. Sidi Salems have further improved ¼ to 3⅜, and Union Foncières are 3-16 higher at 5 7-16. Sudan Plantations, after being neglected, have come in for renewed attention, and are closing ⅝ up at 8⅛.

Among the Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinians are 3d. easier at 6s., Alexandria Waters are fractionally firmer at 10¾, and a fairly large business has been done in Salts and Sodas, which are finishing at 50s. 6d. x.d., an improvement of a few shillings on last week's cum. div. price.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B, after being up to 5⅛, finished 3-32 better at 5.

Greek Government stocks have again been on the up-grade. The 1881 Loan finishes 2½ points up at 53½xd., the 1884 Loan is 1½ points better at 52½xd., Monopolies are about unchanged at 49½xd., Rentes are 1½ points higher at 43½, the 1890 Loan is a point up at 52½, and Fundings are 2 points higher at 51xd. Greek Rails are 57½, and the 1910 Loan is exceptionally dull round 48; but there has been a rather sensational rise in the 5 per Cent. 1914 Loan, which closes 5 points up to-night at 67. Bank of Athens shares have been a better market, with business up to 70s., an advance of 2s. 6d. since last week.

The numbers are announced of twenty bonds of £100 each of the Calcutta Railway Company 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures for £120,000, which have been drawn for repayment at par on January 15, with accrued interest to January 14.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put export advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Dec. 31	Price Jan. 7
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28½	28½
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	76	70
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	74	73½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	61½	60½
Greek 5%, 1881	51½	53½xd
Do. 5%, 1884	51½	52½xd
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	50	49½xd
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	42	43½
Do. 5% 1890	51½	52½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	50	51xd
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	58	57½
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	50	48
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	62	67
Do. 5% Currant	93	93
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	78½	82
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	66½	66½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	58	59
Do. 4% Unified	39	39
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	51½	51½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6¼	6¼xd
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68½	67½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	16½	17½
Bank of Abyssinia	36/3	36/3
Bank of Athens	67/6	70/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	6¼	6¼
British Trade Corporation	10	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅞	9⅞
Imperial Bank of Persia	10½	10⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	6¼	6¼
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6¼	6¼
London County and Westminster	16¼	16¼
National Bank of Egypt	21½	22½
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6½	6½
Do. 5% Debs.	78⅛	78⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	11½	11½
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	57½	57½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	52	52
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66xd	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	65	65
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	34/-	36/3
Do. 6% Debs	108½	117
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	20/-	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	77/6
Béhéra Co.	18½	19¾
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	25/-	28
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	2/3	2/5
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	16/4½	16/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	72½	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/-	14/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	3½	3½
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	36/3	36/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	64¾	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6¼	6¼
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	80	82
New Egyptian Co.	31/6	34/3
Sidi Salem Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Sudan Plantations	7½	8⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5¼	5⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (10/- paid)	6/3	6/-
Alexandria Water Co.	10½	10¾
Associated Cotton Ginners	17/9	17/9
Egyptian Hotels	45/-	45/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	55/-	50 6xd
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99½	99½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5½	5½
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/3	17/9
Morum's Oriental Stores. Partptg. Pref.	178	178
Suez Canal		
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	102	102
Chinese 4½% 1898	73	73
Do. 5% 1896	85	85
Argentine 5% 1890	78¾	76½
Do. 5% 1907	82	82½
OIL.		
Algerian	5/3½	5/6
Anglo-Bulgarian	9/6	10/3
Anglo-Egyptian B	4/-	5
Anglo-Persian Pref.	25/-	24/9
Do. 5% Debs.	83	83
Anglo-Roumanian	—	9/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/-	4/9
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	8/1½	8/6
Roumanian	22/6	22/6
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez, 1915 (fully paid)	8/-	8/-
Traian (Roumanian)	—	10/2½

The fair proposed for this spring at Casablanca has been postponed until next year, when it will probably be held on international lines.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna Aidin Railway for the week ended December 20 amounted to £9,378.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Nov. 28. Rs.	Dec. 5. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	66	63
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	1930	2070
Bank of Bombay	2350	2280
Bank of Madras	1350	1350
Bank of India	150	150
Tata Industrial Bank	59	62½
COAL.		
Baraboni	19	18
Bengal	910	910
Burrakur	54	52
East Indian	38½	38
Equitable	50½	50
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	69½	69
Standard	71	71
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	300x	300
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2345	2375
Bowreah	706	706
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	686	680
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	755	775
Central India	3162	3175
Elgin	1581	1587½
Gold Mohur	125	125
Khatau Makanji	1300	1800
Muir	5600	5600
New Ring	120	120
Phœnix	190	—
Svadeshi	810	815
	2925	3000
JUTE.		
Alliance	754	750
Barnagore	205	205
Budge Budge	640	585
Clive	240	240
Dalhousie	480	490
Delta	640	650
Fort Gloster	960	895x
Gourepore	1475x	1467½
Howrah	44½	44½
Kamarhatty	940	1022
Kanknarrah	770	798
Khardah	500	520
Kinnison	972	972
National	440	440
Standard	660	680
Union	862½	895½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	657	652x
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	245	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	210	210
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General St'm.	165	165
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
Marshall Sons and Co.	91	90
Titaghur Paper	16½	16
	375	375

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON DECEMBER 20.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	20⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	82
" " Div.	Frs.	101
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	15⅜
" priv.	£	4¼x
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	126
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅛
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	4⅛
Société des Immeubles	£	7⅛
Bonded Stores	£	15⅛
Unifiée	£	76½
Privilégiée		63½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	8⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	37x
Ord		10½/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	22x
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4¼
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6¾
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	150
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		34/6x
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	470
" Div.	Frs.	420
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	328
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	6⅞
Egyptian Salt and Soda		57/10½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	696
" Fondateur	Frs.	950
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	431
" 1903 "	Frs.	296
" 1911 "	Frs.	286½
Consolidated Land	P.T.	8
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	29/32

The Bank of England announce the numbers of 655 bonds of the Greek Guaranteed Two-and-a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898 which have been purchased for the sinking fund and cancelled.

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Dec. 31	Jan. 7
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61½	61½
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	66⅜	66⅜
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		82	82
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		73	70
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		73½	73½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		83	83
Eastern		7⅞	7⅞
Mercantile of India A		—	40½
National of India		57	57
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		6/3	7/3
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		11/9	13/9
Burma Corp.		13⅛	13⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		13/-	13/6
Champion Reef Gold		3/-	3/-
Mysore Gold Mining		16/9	17/6
Nundydroog		14/9	14/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		16/6	16/9
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		21/3	21/3
Do. do. do.	(8s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2⅛	2½
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		45/-	45/-
Brit. Burmah		2½xd	2½x
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		18⅛	19⅜
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 5% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10	10
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		56½	56½
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		142½	142½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		56½	56⅜
Bengal-Nagpur		121	120½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		105½	106
Burma Railways		111½	111½
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13⅛	13⅜
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		12¼	13⅛
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		12¼	13⅛
Madras and S. Mahratta		110½	111⅛
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		135	135
Nizam's Guaranteed State		85½	85⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		37/6	38/6
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		84½	85½
Do. Deferred		575	595
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		72½	70½
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16½	16⅝
British Indian Tea Ord.		8¾xd	8¾x
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		16⅜	16⅜
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		11/-	13/10½
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		7½	7⅞
Consolidated Estates		7⅛	7⅛
Darjeeling Co.		28/-	27/9
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		3⅜	66/-
Dooars Tea Ord.		3¼xd	62/6
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Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		34/9	37/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.		1⅛xd	21/10½
Jhanzie Tea Association		11⅜xd	11½x
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		24	24½
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		19/3	20/6
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 454.—Vol. XVII. FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

With the resumption of discussions in Paris, the future of Turkey and, more particularly, perhaps, the fate of Constantinople become burning questions. It is generally recognised that the Turk cannot possibly hope to retain his southern provinces—Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia; and though nobody seems to have any clear idea what is to become of Armenia, or where its boundaries will be drawn eventually, very few people would have the hardihood to suggest that the Armenians should be placed again under Turkish rule. But with regard to Asia Minor and the fragment of Turkey that is still left in Europe, there is considerable curiosity, and on the question of Constantinople feeling shows signs of running high ere long. It is unfortunate that since 1914 several more or less conflicting statements have been made by various Allied politicians in responsible positions, and some of these have been regarded, rightly or wrongly, as pledges. It might be no bad thing to regard these statements as "cancelling out" and to start with a clean slate. Possibly some of the nations' representatives at Paris are actually following this course. At any rate, as far as it is possible to judge, Mr. Lloyd George has lately been inclined to give more weight to the representations made to him by those who wish to see Constantinople left to the Turks; while France and, to some extent, Italy also, it is said, strongly favour that course.

This question of the future of Constantinople must be settled solely on its own merits, and it is to be hoped that the Paris Conference, though it may give a hearing to all sides and examine all views, will not allow itself to be overpersuaded by the fanatics of either party. Unfortunately, in connection with the Turkish defeats, there has been much injudicious talk about "the latest Crusade," "the modern Crusaders," and so forth. Such phrases are very attractive to a certain type of mind, but subjects of the British Empire, at any rate, would be well advised not to make use of them at all. Similarly, discussion about the future of St. Sophia is to be deprecated most urgently, for it not only wounds Moslem feeling, but also makes easier the task of the Pan-Islam and Pan-Turanian agitator, who requires no help of the kind these days. In a recently issued protest against the proposal to cut Constantinople off from Turkey, the League for the Defence of Ottoman Rights urges that "the victory of the Allies must not be allowed to assume the form of a victory of the Cross over the Crescent." Those who hold the opposite view appear to forget the very important part played by Moslem troops in bringing about the victory, to whom their gratitude is surely due. However the decision of Paris may go, it is bound to give rise to disappointment and heartburnings, and the raking up, now or later, of religious differences will not help matters in any way.

The terms of the treaty of peace to be imposed upon Hungary are a matter of the liveliest concern to its neighbours, and it is to be hoped that the Supreme Council will lend an attentive ear to their representations on the subject. In the past there has been too marked a tendency on the part of the Big Four to set various commissions to work studying different aspects of the Near Eastern question, and then, in arriving at the final decisions, to ignore their recommendations. If the forecast of the peace conditions published in the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* has any foundation in fact, it is to be feared that Hungary has actually succeeded in throwing dust in the eyes of the Allied Governments. According to one clause, Hungary is guaranteed for the next ten years one-half the yield of the Petroseny and other mines that now pass under Roumanian jurisdiction. It may be necessary to provide against too violent a dislocation of the economic life of Hungary; but the Entente should not lose sight of the arbitrary methods by which the economic system was built up. As the Magyars could not prevent the discovery of raw materials in the territory of their subject peoples, they were at pains to hinder as much as possible the industrial development of those regions. By the manipulation of railway rates and by other means, Budapest was made artificially an industrial centre. As an illustration, it may be mentioned that it was possible to obtain timber on the Roumanian frontier more cheaply by sending the felled trees to Budapest to be sawn into planks—which were then returned to the locality of origin—than to carry out the process on the spot. This is a state of affairs that the Allies have no interest in prolonging unduly, and care should be taken that injustices of this nature are not perpetuated by treaty for the benefit of the Magyars and at the expense of the States now liberated from the Dual Monarchy.

We would direct attention to the pathetic appeal addressed by the Montenegrin Government to Great Britain and France, the substance of which is reproduced elsewhere in this issue. It is not a case of the rights or wrongs of the dispute between Serbia and

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Montenegro. King Nicholas and his Government were received in France as guests of the Allies, and a subsidy was accorded to them. They remain to-day the recognised heads of an allied country, but for reasons that need not be entered into here they have not been allowed to return to Montenegro. In these circumstances they have no source of revenue to defray the costs of existence other than the monies advanced them as loans by Great Britain and France. Suddenly, however, without, it is understood, any previous warning, the payment of the subsidy by the British Government was interrupted, and France followed suit a few months later. By recourse to the pawnbroker or to an equivalent transaction, the Royal Family has managed to "carry on"; but, as the appeal sets forth, numbers of officials, students, and others accepted as refugees by France are in a state of dire want. Such a situation reflects the gravest discredit on the Allied Governments, and has, surely, only to be appreciated by the British public to evoke a storm of indignation, which, under the leadership of a Gladstone, would suffice to turn any Government out of office. The whole episode of Montenegro is no longer a question of policy, in regard to which a Government might well hesitate; it is simply a matter of ordinary decent behaviour, in regard to which the Government, we regret to say, has shown itself so amazingly indifferent that it has not taken the trouble to attempt any justification of action that runs entirely contrary to British instinct.

That Lord Allenby should visit the Sudan at this time is satisfactory for more reasons than one. In the first place, it indicates that in his opinion there is no great risk of any fresh outbreak of trouble in Egypt at present—and he should be in a position to form a sound opinion on that subject. Secondly, the visit will afford much satisfaction to the Sudan, which will welcome the gallant soldier for his own sake no less warmly than for the sake of his official position, and may not be sorry of an opportunity to make known to him its views on its future standing with regard to Egypt. In the third place, Lord Allenby has been able to meet, at Jeddah, King Hussein of the Hejaz, and to discuss with him and with the Emirs Ali and Abdullah, some of the problems in which both Great Britain and Arabia are interested. The visit is reported to have made a favourable impression in Hejaz circles. That was to be expected, for Lord Allenby enjoys an almost unrivalled prestige among the Arabs, who will, therefore, have appreciated very highly the compliment of the visit; while the more far-seeing among them will rejoice that their rulers have had such an opportunity to discuss certain difficult questions with one who has proved himself their good friend.

Zaghlul Pasha shows no inclination to moderate his attitude towards the Milner Mission and the question of "complete independence." On the contrary, he declares, in a telegram expressing his joy at the six Princes' address on the subject, that he "sees a future full of great promise for the realisation of the nation's efforts." Possibly if he were now in Cairo, the Pasha would feel less certain that the unwise view which he supports would prevail. The latest indications are that the more moderate party is growing daily in numbers and in moral strength. For instance, Adly Yeghen Pasha and Sarwat Pasha, interviewed on behalf of the *Wadi en Nil*, have expressed the opinion that, in view of Lord Milner's offer, it is possible to enter into preliminary negotiations with the Mission without abandoning Nationalist claims. That is a step in the right direction; and if leaders of moderate views will only take their courage in their hands and accept Lord Milner's invitation frankly, in the spirit in which it was given, a way out of the tangle will almost certainly be found, to the great benefit of Egypt and the Egyptians.

An unfortunate incident has taken place in Cairo, resulting in the death of an Italian, a musician. According to one report, while British troops were passing along the Mousky, an Egyptian youth insulted the Flag; the Italian interfered to protect him from the chastisement his conduct merited, was struck by a soldier, and died later. A second report has it that the Italian tried to break through a cordon as the troops were passing, and, being prevented from doing so, struck a soldier with a packaxe handle, whereupon another soldier struck him back, with fatal results. British Headquarters has expressed regrets for the man's death; and the Italian official attitude appears to have been strictly correct throughout the incident, the Consul-General having refused to encourage the Egyptians who wished to make the funeral an excuse for "demonstrating." The Italian colony, however, is said to have been incensed by the incident. It is to be hoped that no heed will be paid to this attitude, for it is obvious that the victim brought his fate upon himself; and it would seem possible that the British community had at least as good grounds for being indignant as the Italian. The Italians in Egypt, it must be remembered, have followed their own course—and it does not strike the observer as a very straight one—in regard to the Nationalist-cum-Zaghlul agitation; they ostentatiously held aloof from the Peace rejoicings; and it was Italian agitators who brought about the worst of the recent labour troubles. In any case, if individual Italians in Egypt choose to range themselves side by side with rioters and brawlers, they must be prepared to take the consequences.

Our Cairo Correspondent refers to the subject of a British school in Cairo, and it is pleasing to know that, thanks to the exertions of those who realized the importance of the subject, there is now at least a reasonable prospect of the newly established school becoming a permanent institution. That it was really needed can hardly be doubted, and that it will be useful in spreading British ideas and ideals among others than the young Britons for whom it is primarily intended is equally to be expected. We believe that the grant to be made will prove to be an excellent investment, and we hope that the Imperial Government may feel disposed shortly to make other grants in aid of similar institutions in other parts of the Near East. The English High School for Boys in Constantinople—and its sister institution for girls—for instance well merits support. As a matter of fact, however, so far from receiving support of late, it has actually been hampered by the British authorities in Constantinople. Acting with the very best intentions, a desire to spare the feelings of the Turks in every way, the British authorities requisitioned both these schools for military purposes, rather than take over Turkish buildings. The boys' school was, we understand, given back in August, 1919, and the residential building in December, 1919; but the girls' school is still occupied. This state of affairs, while sparing the Turk, is obviously not favourable to British interests, and the sooner it is changed the better.

The Emir Faisal left Paris on January 7 on his return home, but reports regarding the results of his negotiations with the French Government are contradictory. On the one hand, it is stated that nothing has yet been definitely settled; on the other, that complete harmony has been reached, the Emir having agreed to a French mandate for the whole of Syria, and France agreeing to the formation of an Arab state, to include Damascus, Homs, Hama and Aleppo, to be administered by the Emir with the aid of French advisers. The Emir is also reported "to have accepted financial and economic collaboration with France, to the exclusion of all other Powers." It is probable that if the latter report is not yet strictly correct, it will prove ere long to be a very intelligent anticipation of events.

Meanwhile the situation in Syria is not entirely satisfactory from the French point of view. Lebanese Catholics, Orthodox Druses, and Moslems appear to be uniting on the question of demanding freedom from foreign control; and, though reports are somewhat vague, it seems to be the fact that fighting has taken place at more than one point. On the Arab side such fighting has been carried on by irregulars—the "National Volunteers" and Bedouin—and the Arab

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regular troops have taken no part in it. An incident, startling in itself, but fortunately not developing along such serious lines as it might have followed, was the kidnapping of General Gouraud's Chief-of-Staff. The train in which he was travelling from Beyrout to Damascus was stopped by National Volunteers, and he was made prisoner. It is announced in Paris, however, that the matter was speedily settled, and the officer set at liberty immediately. The only importance of such an incident as this lies in the indication it affords of the state of the country and the sentiments of the population.

A serious handicap continues to be laid on British relations with the Near East, and particularly on trade relations, by the absence of satisfactory arrangements for the transmission of letters and parcels. For communication with Greece it is still necessary to rely upon steamers, which are admittedly irregular, but boats leave Italy and France always once, sometimes twice or three times, a week, and it should be possible to arrange for the transport of letters from London to Athens within seven or eight days. For Belgrade and Bucharest daily trains leave Paris, and the journey takes from two to three days. But it is by no means exceptional for letters to be from ten to fifteen days *en route* from London to Greece, Serbia, and Roumania. The state of affairs in regard to Sofia and Constantinople is still worse. There is, however, regular connection between these two towns and Bucharest, and all that is needed is that arrangements should be made for British mail bags to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Bulgarian and Turkish railways.

The trouble is that the mail-carrying capacity of the daily trains is limited, and the weight allowed the British postal authorities—250 kilos—is only a small proportion of the average load that has to be despatched. As to the fate of the balance it will be well not inquire too closely, but a guess may be hazarded that it spends a longer time at sea than it does in a train. While this state of things continues in regard to the postal arrangements, it is almost useless for the Department of Overseas Trade and British industrial and other organisations to launch elaborate campaigns for the promotion of British trade interests in the Near East. It is evident that the British postal authorities are unable of themselves either to devise better methods for the transmission of postal matter to the Near East, or to persuade the different Governments who control the railway routes to accord more equitable treatment to Great Britain. Indeed, until the matter has been taken up by the Cabinet as a whole, there would seem to be little prospect of amelioration. The whole question, we believe, is under consideration in Paris; but unless the British Government bring home to the countries controlling the transport of mails that it cannot tolerate the existing allocation of postal weight, there is little hope of improvement. If congestion and the shortage of rolling stock are urged, then it is evident that other arrangements ought to be taken in hand without delay, such as the introduction of an aerial post.

Mr. Montagu is certainly unlucky in his attempts to secure an adequate representation of Indian opinion in the office over which he rules. On paper he has the reasonable number of three Indians on his Council, but two of them have found it necessary to visit their homes, and for the next few months he will be dependent solely on the latest recruit, Sir Sankaran Nair, whose knowledge is necessarily limited to a small section of the country. Worse than this, Lord Sinha, who has made his mark so quickly as Parliamentary Under-Secretary, is also an absentee, and rumour is already hinting that his term of office is likely to be brief. It is, of course, an advantage that the Secretary of State's counsellors should be in close touch with Indian opinion, but continuity, which counts for something even now, will count for much more when the reorganisation of the office is complete, and it would undoubtedly be more satisfactory if the eminent Indians appointed to Whitehall could manage to endure its rigours for a reasonable term of years.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Cabinets and Cliques.

Mr. Lloyd George has gone to Paris, and several members of the Cabinet have followed him, happily combining public duties with private amusement. Officially, there will be no politics at home until Parliament meets next month, but unofficially the gladiators are exercising their muscles. Mr. Churchill having attacked Labour for inefficiency, Lord Birkenhead attacks the Coalition, of which one imagined he was "magna pars," as "invertebrate"; to which the answer is that its real trouble is that it has too many, rather than too few, joints in its backbone, and that, like those strange monsters of the entomologists, it has so many eyes that it does not always know which way to look, and often gets frightened at the sight of its own shadow.

Lord Birkenhead, who is still more familiar to the public as "F. E.," declares that the remedy is a National Party, which, after all, turns out to be very much the same thing as Mr. Churchill's Centre Party, or even Mr. Lloyd George's Coalition. But there is one difficulty in the way. Three years ago General Page Croft started a National Party. A good many people joined it, but at the election its candidates were unhorsed with amazing unanimity, and the party now consists of a leader, General Croft, and one follower, Sir Richard Cooper. But this brave pair, a sort of political Beatie and Babs, consider they have a copyright in their name, and no doubt the Law Courts would uphold their claim. So, if Lord Birkenhead insists on a National Party, he will have to fight under General Croft's banner, which is the very last thing the Lord Chancellor is likely to do.

Meanwhile, Lord Robert Cecil, who frequently acts the part of the candid friend, points out that it does not much matter what one calls oneself, so long as one has proper principles; and that a National Party whose only motive is to fight Labour will not be a National Party at all, but a class party. These home-truths are very inconvenient to statesmen in a hurry, but vastly amusing to the general public, which does not take the current controversies with the seriousness of Westminster.

Lord Haldane, who usually works underground, like the ghost in "Hamlet," has now come out with the public declaration that Labour ideals are up in the heights, while Liberal practice apparently is down in the plains. It is thought by the cynics, and not the cynics only, that this declaration is meant to express Lord Haldane's willingness to accept the Lord Chancellorship under a Labour Government when it comes. For some inscrutable reason, Labour is said to admire Lord Haldane—its best friends rather resent the libel—and to have picked him out for office on "the day." But there are others who say that this love for Haldane is because the

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only other candidate for the Labour Lord Chancellorship is Lord Buckmaster, who is too acidulated and pessimistic altogether. The suggestion, however, that there are no other alternatives for legal offices under a Labour Cabinet is rather amusing to those who know the Bar and politics. Labour may not have many open followers or secret admirers at the Bar, but soldiers of fortune have been heard of before now, and they worship the rising sun at the Temple as much as at Westminster.

Strikes.

Labour difficulties have soon broken out again. A strike of insurance agents, a small (if a novel) thing in itself, is causing some interest because of its possible effect on the question of industrial assurance. Socialists appear to be watching it with an eye to nationalisation propaganda.

The ironmoulders' strike, which has dragged on many weeks, was settled last week after long negotiations between employers and the trade union, the Government intervening. But the men refused to accept the terms their own union had made, and officially, therefore, the strike drags on, to the great detriment of industry, this trade supplying many other trades with key materials. It is said, however, that in some places they have refused to stay out any longer, and that work is being resumed by slow degrees.

The discussion, rather than the actual threat, of another railway strike has been with us all the week, and the situation still remains obscure. The trouble briefly arises from the following facts: The Government, with Mr. Thomas, the railwaymen's leader, assenting, have tried to fix wages on a sliding scale in a ratio to prices, in order to break the vicious circle of alternate rises in prices and wages. It is the sound economic way, but economics have a distressing method of ignoring human prejudices, and one of our most inveterate prejudices is that wages are wages independent of any sliding scale, in other words, that "a quid is a quid," although it is demonstrably not even "half a quid" any longer. Mr. Thomas has recommended the railwaymen to accept the sliding scale agreement, but apparently a majority of the railwaymen refuse. Their attitude is that they want their wages secure, whatever happens: if prices go up they will ask for more, and get more; if prices go down they propose, like the rest of the world, to lie low and say nothing. But the prospect of prices falling, at least for the next five or ten years, seems so extremely remote that the whole discussion is somewhat academic.

Food Prices.

The official figures of the food prices current in 1919 have now been issued, and they furnish a study of some interest. In January last they were 130 per cent. higher than in July, 1914; by March decreases in the prices of meat, margarine, and eggs had brought the figure down to 120 per cent. In April reductions in tea and cheese led to a further fall, to 113; in May the usual summer reduction in milk prices brought the figure to 107, and in June it was a mere 104 per cent. of pre-war figures.

Perhaps that was too good to last. At any rate, the index finger rose again: in July to 109, in August to 117, in October to 122, November 131, and in December 134 per cent. above 1914. "The moving finger writes," but unluckily it goes on writing, and nearly always in the same direction. The experts warn us that the movement is likely to be continuously upward in 1920, and that any problematic reduction of prices, which is theoretically possible in 1921, will be more than swallowed up by increases of rent and rates. In that case, there would seem to be something to be said for taking refuge on a desert island.

But there are compensations in these topsy-turvy days. Three ladies who were left a small independence some years ago found that taxation at one end and high prices at the other rendered it impossible to live in decent comfort, and they were wise enough not to realise their capital at a heavy loss. Being clever with their needle, they began doing fancy work, and when they discovered that the drapers gave them a pound for an article priced (and sold for) five guineas in the shop-windows a day or two later, they decided to open their own shop. They began by themselves in 1916, by 1918 they employed two assistants, and they have just sold the business. They have doubled their original capital by doing so, and are now better off than in 1914.

Drapery Trusts.

The drapers, by the way, seem to be following the lead of the banks in amalgamating small into big, and big into colossal businesses. It is not long since Debenham's, already owners of Marshall and Snelgrove's, purchased Harvey Nichol's, and now Barker's, of Kensington, have bought Derry and Toms for something over half a million. Other purchases of a similar kind are rumoured to be pending, and at least two firms, Debenham's and Selfridge's, are understood to be contemplating enormous expansions. When big combines occur in other trades, the Labour Party and the Socialist usually suggest that the process makes the path of nationalisation easier, and there may be truth in that view, but the Fabian Society has not yet suggested nationalising the drapers. One pities the politician who tries to get the woman's vote with that plank in his platform.

Faith Healing and the Church.

The suggestion is being made that one of the subjects for discussion at the forthcoming Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops should be the reality of faith-healing. The suggestion, of course, comes from America, the home of Christian Science. It is, perhaps, not likely to be received with very much enthusiasm by the episcopal authorities on this side, who usually prefer "safe" subjects at these rather formal and stereotyped debates. But now that the Church Congress has discussed spiritualism, there is no particular reason why the Lambeth Conference should not pay some attention to another form of the influence of mind over matter.

Air Seasons.

The announcement is made that season tickets are now issued on the London-Paris air service. The price is £120, which franks the holder for twelve journeys to or fro. It is not only the announcement, but the manner of making it, that shows the advance of flight. It has been published as an item of general news in small type in the daily Press.

The Library World.

The high-priced illustrated book, so popular before the war, but practically suspended for the last five years, appears to be coming into its own again. Following Sir William Richmond's "Assisi," Mr. John Lane has published "The Last Crusade," Mr. Donald Maxwell's story of the Palestine campaign. It is illustrated by a hundred beautiful sketches in colour, monochrome, and line by the author, some of which, notably the frontispiece, "Jaffa," and "The Street Which is Called Straight," have rarely been surpassed as finished examples of delicate colour-printing. Another, the sketch of an aeroplane over Damascus, cannot but give rise to very curious reflections. It should be added that the letterpress which accompanies the drawings is of a higher standard than that of the usual picture-book—too often views "et praeterea nihil."

In very different vein is "The Skilled Labourer, 1760-1832," by J. L. and Barbara Hammond. The authors have already dealt with "The Town Labourer" and "The Village Labourer" in previous studies, and the present appears to complete their analysis of the foundation of the industrial age. These works represent a valuable and original contribution to industrial history, relying largely on hitherto unpublished evidence. The authors appear to be somewhat pessimistic in their picture, but it must be remembered that they deal with an England that has long since passed away. Our present industrial system is certainly full of flaws, but by comparison with a century ago it shows enormous progress.

Some of the innumerable devotees of music will enjoy Mr. H. J. Watts' "The Foundations of Music," now published by the Cambridge University Press. It is a sequel to his previous volume, "The Psychology of Sound," which was meant more especially for physiologists and psychologists, a work which has won general recognition as a contribution to a notoriously difficult and controversial subject.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, December 28.

A Declaration by the Milner Mission.

For the past few days it has been definitely stated in the vernacular Press that the Milner Mission was on the point of issuing a declaration to the Egyptian nation; and, as might be expected, the most extravagant interpretations of its contents have been circulated, more especially in regard to its recognition of the political aspirations of the people. This declaration was published to-day, and it runs as follows:—

The British Mission has been struck by the existence of a widespread belief that the object of its coming is to deprive Egypt of rights which it has hitherto possessed. There is no foundation whatever for this belief. The Mission has been sent out by the British Government, with the approval of Parliament, to reconcile the aspirations of the Egyptian people with the special interests which Great Britain has in Egypt and with the maintenance of the legitimate rights of all foreign residents in the country.

We are convinced that with good will on both sides this object is attainable, and it is the sincere desire of the Mission to see the relations of Great Britain and Egypt established on a basis of friendly accord which will put an end to friction and will enable the Egyptian people to devote the whole of their energies to the development of their country under self-governing institutions.

In pursuance of this task the Mission desires to hear all views, whether of representative bodies or individuals who have the welfare of their country at heart. All opinions may be freely expressed. There is no wish on the part of the Mission to restrict the area of discussion, nor need any man fear to compromise his convictions by appearing before it. He will be no more compromised by expressing his opinions than the Mission will be compromised by hearing them. Without a perfectly frank discussion it is difficult to put an end to misunderstanding and arrive at agreement.

As can be seen, the versions current have proved to be unfounded, but, on the other hand, it must be conceded that the document goes a long way towards meeting the situation. It sweeps aside all assertions that the Mission has come to rob Egypt of any of her rights; it proclaims, what all of us, except, apparently, the Egyptians, realised, that its object is to reconcile the country's aspirations with the special interests of Great Britain and of the foreign colonies; it puts on record that it is imbued with the friendliest intentions towards the country, and that its sole desire is, on the basis of a friendly accord, to end the strained relations which have existed, and enable the Egyptian nation to devote its energies to the development of the country under self-governing institutions; and it concludes by an invitation to all and sundry to come and give it the benefit of their views, at the same time giving an undertaking that they will be free to discuss any question, and that their appearance before it will not compromise them in any way.

A more sincerely worded and conciliatory declaration could not be conceived. The Mission has been hard at work interviewing responsible Egyptians, some of whom have had the courage to visit it openly, while others have preferred to discuss matters unofficially and as discreetly as possible. Now, having ascertained the general views held by the people, it has considered that the time has come for an appeal to be made, not because without their collaboration it is unable to fulfil its task, but because it wishes, if possible, to have that collaboration, and desires to give the Egyptians a chance of knowing that this is its wish, and that they can record their views without fear of the consequences.

Its Reception by the Zaghlulites.

Immediately the notification was published, the Cairo Committee of the Zaghlul Delegation summoned a meeting and issued a statement to the effect that it would have liked Lord Milner's declaration to have been clear and more explicit, and to have contained a recognition of Egypt's complete independence, but unfortunately it has been confined to an extension of the area of discussion which had previously been restricted within the circle of the Protectorate, and while this shows that the English are convinced that the Egyptians reject the Protectorate completely, it does not do away with the apprehensions of the Egyptians in regard to the British political declarations made prior to the arrival of the Mission, and in no circumstances will it move the nation to change its attitude. At the same time, the old Nationalist party met and declared that it would accept nothing less than complete independence and the British evacuation of Egypt, whilst the Press, undoubtedly responding to a *mot d'ordre*, has begun publishing hostile articles.

The time has been too short to be able to ascertain the effect of the Mission's declaration or of the Delegation's decision. Nevertheless, I have been able to establish that the terms are by no means distasteful to the Egyptians, even to some of the Extremist element, many of whom realise that this is probably the last opportunity for them to express their views to the Mission, and that if the latter is "boycotted," this in itself will not bring about the removal of the British Protectorate and of the British troops. There is no doubt that, left alone, they would accept the invitation offered them, and it now remains to be seen whether the Zaghlul clique is still able to exercise its influence over the rank and file whom the declaration appears to have divided—at any rate, at the present moment.

The next week or so may prove very critical for the Egyptians, who are, so to speak, at the cross-roads. They are being afforded a last chance to collaborate in the task which the Mission has before it, and if they do not respond to the invitation they will never with justice be able to plead before the world that they were not consulted in the drafting of the terms of the new constitution which is to be given them, for the Milner Mission has certainly spared no efforts to obtain their collaboration therein.

The Question of an English School.

The High Commissioner on Friday last presided over a meeting called to consider the question of the education of the children of the British community, a question which has been referred to at length on several previous

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occasions in this correspondence. In 1916, owing to the difficulties brought about by the war, it was decided to open a school at which children who were prevented from going to England as usual for their education could, at any rate, start their studies until the difficulties referred to had passed away. At the same time, it was hoped that this school would come to fill the glaring omission made by not having a national school in Egypt, where all other foreign communities have for many years had their own schools, at which not only their own children, but also children from the other communities—including the British—and in many cases from the Egyptian population, have been educated.

Unfortunately, finances did not prosper, and after about two years' existence the school had to be closed, with a loss of about £800. It was felt, however, that the time had come when the British Government should take an active and practical interest in the question, and should follow the example of foreign Governments, all of whom handsomely subsidise their national schools abroad. Steps were taken to approach the Treasury. The High Commissioner wrote an admirable despatch on the subject, and Mr. A. T. Loyd, formerly of the Ministry of Finance, and who was then working at the Foreign Office, undertook to plead the case with the Treasury. His efforts met with success, and at the meeting he was able to announce that the Treasury had agreed to grant the sum of £600 towards a fund for buildings and give an annual subsidy of £1,400 a year for the first two years. At the same time, it was pointed out that the only hope of getting this grant increased or made permanent is for the community to prove to the Treasury that the object is worthy of its interest, not only by putting the school on a sound foundation, but also by supporting it liberally out of its own pocket.

It is a great satisfaction that the British Government should have decided at last to follow the example of European countries—and the public-spirited gentlemen who undertook the task of persuading the Treasury are to be congratulated on their success. It is now up to the British community first to see that this encouragement is justified, by subscribing handsomely towards an object which one and all agree is a most necessary part of the organisation of the British community in Egypt, and, secondly, to ensure, by the election of a working committee, that the school is run on proper lines and becomes a credit to the community.

Government Appointments.

Various official appointments have been made during the past few days. Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton and Mr. Sheldon Amos have been confirmed in the posts of Adviser to the Interior and to the Ministry of Justice respectively, in which they have been acting, the former since September and the latter for the past three years. Mr. F. T. Dallin has been appointed Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Finance in succession to Mr. R. S. Patterson. The latter's appointment as Adviser to the Ministry of Education was gazetted about six weeks ago, and he has been succeeded as Director-General of the Department of Direct Taxes, by Mr. R. Vaughan Wild, of the Ministry of the Interior, who, it may be mentioned, did admirable work at Tantah during the troubles last March; while Judge Percival has been appointed Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal. The post of Sudan Agent, left vacant by Sir Gilbert Clayton's appointment to the Ministry of the Interior, has been filled by the promotion of Mr. R. E. More from the Governorship of Khartoum. In the latter connection I feel it is only right to point out that although the Sudan Agency has, technically speaking, become vacant only since General Clayton's transfer to the Interior, the work during the past three and a-half years has, to a very large extent, fallen on his assistants, and mainly on the shoulders of Mr. A. P. Bolland. In the latter Mr. More should find an invaluable assistant in the work which, since the war, and owing to the closer connection between Egypt and the Sudan, has increased beyond all recognition, and has taxed the energies of the permanent staff to their utmost.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 5.

The Chamber Adjourned.

When the Chamber of Deputies adjourned on Thursday for a month a hope sprang up that we had seen the last of the series of political crises which have kept Roumania in a ferment for the past few months and prevented her settling down to a calm survey of her post-war situation. The Government had succeeded in passing a certain number of urgent measures, one of the last of which was a bill empowering the Minister of Finance to raise an internal and an external loan. No limit was set to the amount of these loans, nor were any details vouchsafed as to the price of issue, rate of interest or guarantees. The Minister of Finance demanded, and was given, an absolutely free hand in the matter, although he assured the Chamber that no foreign loan would be contracted upon terms which could be interpreted as in any way humiliating to the country. He also stated that no attempt would be made to arrange for a loan abroad until the Government had succeeded in drawing up a budget showing an excess of income over expenditure A hint was given that the new taxation necessary would be levied on the propertied classes in the form of a capital levy and of a graduated income-tax.

The mention of a foreign loan seems to have raised the hopes of all the political parties of the Old Kingdom, who are practically unrepresented in the new Cabinet, which consists almost entirely of Transylvanians, Bukovinians, and Bessarabians. It was immediately bruited about that the Government would be obliged to co-opt one or more of the leading statesmen from the original Kingdom of Roumania, so as to convince the lending Power of the stability of the Cabinet demanding the loan. Rumours flew about concerning a possible *rapprochement* between the old Liberal Party and General Averescu. M. Take Jonescu is emulating Brer Rabbit, but his followers point to him as the one Roumanian statesman on cordial terms with the Entente. This is an exaggeration, of course, but it is certain that M. Jonescu is known to many British and French statesmen, while the members of the present Cabinet are political newcomers.

The British Purchase of Wheat.

In the meantime one of the first steps towards the consolidation of Roumanian national finance was taken just before the adjournment, when a Bill was introduced authorising the Government to take over the assets and liabilities of the Bureau Britannique. This latter institution was created to handle the ten million pound wheat purchase which the British Government made here in 1916, during the period of Roumanian neutrality. Of the total amount contracted for a little over half had been delivered into the hands of British agents here by August, 1916, when Roumania entered the war. Of this, some eighteen thousand wagons were subsequently turned over to the Roumanian War Office, which agreed to replace the wheat within six months of the signing of peace. When the time came it was discovered that it would be impossible to export this large quantity of wheat without jeopardising the wheat supply of the country. By the present arrangement the Roumanian Government will take over liability for the total purchases of the British Bureau, less only that amount of

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wheat destroyed by the agents of the Bureau, in order to prevent its falling into the hands of the Germans.

Payment will be in sterling bonds bearing interest at 5 per cent. and redeemable at par on April 1, 1922; the rate of exchange accepted by both Governments is 26.22 to the £, this being the rate at which the wheat was purchased. In case the exchange prevailing on the date of redemption should be over this amount, the Roumanian Government will reserve the privilege of extending the term.

The Royal Vacation.

The Royal Family have gone to Bistritza, in Transylvania, for the Christmas vacation.

The Princess Elizabeth has been no more fortunate than other travellers by the Simplon Express, for she lost all her baggage on her return from Paris last week.

The Y.W.C.A. in Roumania.

On January 2, at 11 a.m., under the combined auspices of the American and British Y.W.C.A., a *foyer* was opened for Roumanian girls at Strada Dr. Marcovici, 7. H.M. the Queen, accompanied by Princess Elizabeth, was present at the opening ceremony, as was also M. Iorga, President of the Chamber of Deputies, and the rooms were crowded with visitors. After the usual short service of benediction, Miss Hodgkin, the local secretary, gave a brief address, in which, after thanking the Queen very heartily for the warm interest she had shown and the kind support she had lent to the scheme in its initial stages, she explained that the purpose of the *foyer* was to afford a meeting place for free intercourse to girls of secondary education and of all Christian denominations. Classes at nominal fees will also be held, and a number of Roumanian ladies have already offered their services in various ways. It is hoped that branches will soon be opened in Transylvania and other parts.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, January 5.

Christmas Festivities.

The small British colony in Belgrade spent a pleasant Christmas in good seasonable weather, with the country covered with snow, though the hard frost had broken a day previously. There was a bright and well-attended dance at the Scottish Women's Hospital, and a few days later there was another very cheerful function at the Serbian Relief Fund, in the old shooting-box built by Milosh, first Prince of Serbia, where splendid work is being done teaching broken men trades, setting them up in life again, and, above all, giving them renewed self-confidence.

The Italians at Fiume.

The Italians are still abusing their power in the districts which they continue to occupy by force. A prominent Slav lawyer, Dr. Krvaritch, was recently under arrest at Fiume, on the grounds of "high treason" and spying. While he was exercising one morning recently one of d'Annunzio's precious *arditi* was playing with his revolver, when it went off, and the bullet passed through the brain of Krvaritch. No Slav will ever believe that this was an accident. A less tragic incident occurred at Primosten, near Shebenik, where the Italian military authorities attempted to carry out a requisition of oil. The infuriated population turned out with axes and clubs, and sent the *carabinieri* flying downhill into Shebenik.

On the Montenegrin side we are now hearing less of Italian activities, but on the Albanian frontier they have been trying the old game of stirring up the ever-restless frontier tribes to an invasion of Serbian territory; the Arnaouts were led by Italian officers and reinforced by Italian gendarmes. By a surprise attack in superior numbers, the Albanians succeeded in cutting off a detachment of about a score of Serbian frontier guards with an officer, and are reported to have taken them off to the Klementi country. The Serbs had three killed, and a few wounded. The enemy's casualties are unknown. Order has now been restored on the frontier, and the Serbian authorities have lodged an energetic protest with the Italian command at Skadar, calling for the immediate release of the captured men.

Honours for Serbians.

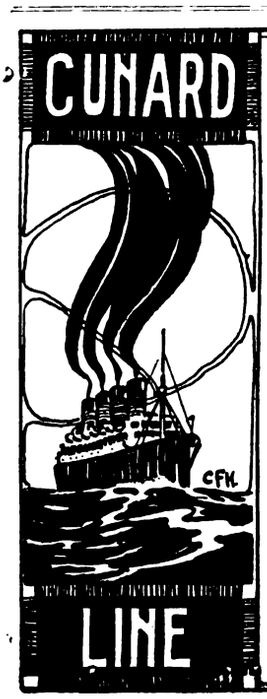
Intense gratification is felt that Bishop Nikola Velimirovitch should have recently had the honour of being received by King George, and at the unusual honour shown to this talented Serbian prelate, in being permitted to preach at St. Paul's at the Thanksgiving Service for the liberation of Serbia, recently held. This is the only occasion, we believe, on which a service has been held there on behalf of a foreign people and that a foreign divine has been allowed to preach. Serbs, if not a highly religious people, are extremely sensitive, and have very deep feelings, and well know how to appreciate this signal token of friendship on the part of their English Allies and friends. A long and detailed account of the service has appeared in the *Politika*, from the gifted pen of that fine old historian, M. Chedo Miyatovitch.

France, too, has been honouring Serbs. On December 30 the French Society of Commercial Geography in Paris granted a medal to Dr. Ivan Tsviyivh, the eminent ethnographer, Rector of the University of Belgrade, as representative of "the people that has from the earliest days arisen in defence of science and the rights of humanity." A medal was also granted to M. Grgur Yakshitch, Serbian Consul at the Piræus, at present chief of the Press Bureau of the Serbian Delegation at the Peace Conference.

Kara George's Bell.

A little more than a hundred years ago, when Kara George liberated the Shumadia and Northern Serbia from the Turks, that astonishing peasant-genius made a present of a bell to the town of Shabats, with an inscription on it recording the gift. It was fated that the liberation should be but a short one, and a few years later the Turks returned across the Drina, before the final emancipation, and took away the bell as a souvenir to Serajevo. The Serbs in Serajevo have recently found the old bell, lying put away and forgotten all these years, and have returned it to the citizens of Shabats. Unfortunately, the fine old church in Shabats, like most of that long-suffering town, has been battered to pieces during the three times that the enemy have invaded the devoted province; and the skeleton of a tower cannot carry the bell; so a temporary tower has been erected, and on January 7, which is the Orthodox Christmas, the old bell will ring out in joyful peals its symbolic message of the final liberation of the Serbian people from its two secular enemies, the Turks and the Hapsburgs.

Mir, a Sofia newspaper, says that the repeated demonstrations organised by the Socialists against the Bulgarian Government are aimed at bringing about a change in the present *régime*.



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ASSYRIAN THANKS TO BRITISH

We publish below a document full of human interest, and one that shows in a charming manner a feeling of gratitude of a somewhat rare order. It is in effect a manifesto by the Nestorians, from the mountain region of Hakkiari, now in the refugee camp established by the British at Bakubah (or Baqubah). These Nestorians number, we believe, some 17,000, and there are about 17,000 more from Urumia. The total number of refugees in the camp, including Armenians, is 50,000. An article upon the Nestorians and of the part they have played in the war was contributed to THE NEAR EAST a few weeks ago by the Rev. W. A. Wigram.* Several schemes have been suggested for repatriating the refugees, but it has not yet been possible to carry them out, owing to the disturbed state of the mountain regions.

The English of the document is the Nestorians' own, and it could not be changed without injuring the touching simplicity of their thanks.

THANKSGIVING.

Our brother men, sisters, wives and the children of the nation.

It is just one year now that we have received the beneficiences and favours in Baqubah, through the kindness of the most excellent British Government. Therefore, since we cannot make repayment by money, let us raise our voice and proclaim our gratitude for this goodness as much as, letter by letter, we can possibly remember.

Firstly.—Do you remember the time of our arrival, sick and exhausted? We were accommodated in large white magnificent tents, arranged by generous officers, and how many were put into each tent. This is the wonder we saw. How these sections, in each from fifty to sixty tents, were arranged, the camp being fashioned like European towns, their suburbs the sections; and how long it took us to learn their names and situation.

Do you remember how we were instructed not to drink water from the canal, but only from that which was brought in pipes; how we were murmuring, saying "We cannot drink this, for it has the taste of medicine"; and how these pipes had been put under the earth of the desert, ready when we arrived. You saw how this work reached completion in every section. Again, when we arrived here the latrines were ready and the workers thereof received good payment, under the care of a kind British soldier, who was always burning the refuse, lest bad odours should affect us. How all men were ordered to go to one place only. You saw all this work done perfectly in every section. Bathing places were arranged by the canal, and all men once a week were ordered to take soap from the stores and go to wash themselves, while hot water was prepared, under the care of two British soldiers—all this in order to keep us clean.

You remember that others were put to sweep the section, to remove all rubbish, empty tins, and all poisonous and dirty matter, and to cast it into a pit dug in each section specially for this. This digging of pits was a continual work, and the constant cry was heard "Come on, Jaldi Chair" ("Come on quickly to the pit") to the workmen of the section. The headman of each tent was made responsible for the cleanliness of his tent, both inside and out, for which duty he received pay.

The officer in charge of a section nearly every day visited each tent in the section to see if it was clean and in order. Often he inspected the sanitary condition of the latrines, the trenches (drainage), the open spaces round the section, cook-houses, etc.

Every morning a soldier visited each tent asking, "Is there any sick?" and should anyone sick be found, he was sent to the hospital in a stretcher; after which a Red Cross motor-car visited each section to collect the sick.

Orders were issued that washing water, when finished with, should be poured in a special pit. Should any trace of disease ("contagious") be found in a section, the person was sent to a disinfecting bath, and if it occurred in a tent then all the occupants and their belongings were disinfected. If a man happened to die in a tent, the headman was imprisoned and the tent's rations were reduced for a long time.

The honourable majors in each area used to visit the section, inspecting the sanitary conditions. General Austin and Colonel Cunliffe-Owen often used to walk through our camp, seeing to the order and cleanliness.

The visit of the doctors to the sections was a continual one, in order to discover any germs of disease.

When the weather was wet great care was taken to open and close the tents. "Makhi li qunjeeta" (put it to the corner) was a common expression on every tongue at seven o'clock in the morning, and those whose tent sides were not rolled back to the corner their ration ticket was taken away. Always the officer knew from where the wind blew, and that side towards the wind was closed. The same was done in closing the tents.

Sweeping out the flies in the morning, when they were benumbed by the cold, was an order. The flies were gathered in a rug and thrown into the incinerator.

The first step before entering a section was that of "segregation," as you know.

In all these ways, and more, that the British did their object was to protect us from disease and by these means we were kept clean, and as a result we are living now.

Secondly.—Two large hospitals for curing our sick people were arranged—one for males, the other for females. In cleanliness and good order they were set up. Rail couches were provided for every sick man or woman, furnished with clean, white sheets and bedding. The clothes of the sick were always changed, those people of the same disease being located in the same line or lines of tents. Thus the patients were transferred from ward to ward, from place to place, until they were cured, when they returned to their section. Food also was provided to suit the kind of disease, and according to the strength or weakness of the person. Many times a day medicines of different tastes, sour or sweet were given to the patients. They were looked after under the gentle care of Mrs. George and the major of the General Hospital. We thank the Indian doctors and employees for their love and sympathy towards our patients. They have astonished the Assyrian mind. Besides these two general hospitals, they arranged tents for dispensaries —one for each two or three sections, to distribute medicines in the morning and afternoon for slight illnesses. Motor-cars in the morning and afternoon used to come and collect the sick, should there be any, and take them to the general hospitals. These dispensaries every day were visited by the chief doctor.

Instructions were issued that should a woman be in childbirth she should report at once to the dispensary, in order to be taken to the hospital, where the baby would be taken care of. On returning to the section she took a note to the effect that the baby should be provided with milk and a feeding bottle, etc.

Thirdly.—*Water.*—This was another great thing by which we remained healthy. Water was brought from the river, twenty minutes away, through large pipes, and to the sections through smaller ones. The water was cleansed by being disinfected with medicines at its source (the engine), where it was drawn from the Diyalah river. Two large tanks were placed in each section, and they were filled with water from the pipes which ran up to the top of the tanks. A brick house was built round them in order to keep the water cold during the hot weather of the desert of Baghdad. To each section chatties were also given to keep water clean and cold. Policemen were appointed to see that the supply of water should be in order. The more we drank of this water, so much more were we healthy.

Fourthly.—*Rations.*—While we were on our way we did not think it would be possible to supply us with sufficient bread; but when we arrived here they gave us in sufficient quantity flour, salt, rice, beans, peas, *ghee*, oil, tins of bully beef (often fresh meat) and vegetables. Almost all these were issued daily. A British soldier and a policeman took round to the tents milk for the babies, coffee and tea for the people.

Fifthly.—*Wood and Cookhouses.*—The wood which we burned in Baqubah came from India, and was issued to us daily. Cookhouses and ovens in sufficient quantity were built in each section.

Sixthly.—Soon after our arrival at Baqubah the British provided us with material for clothes for every person, together with cotton, needles and buttons. Everyone was given a blanket. At the end of May a shawl was given to us, which we called "mandeela," to wrap round our heads. Everybody received from four to eleven yards, and we were instructed to wear it on the head as a protection against the sun.

Seventhly.—Two cookhouses, long buildings running from east to west, were built in each section. Between the two a space was left in which was made a water soakage pit. There was enough open ground also for sufficient ovens to be built for the baking of bread for all the section.

Eighthly.—Cooking and frying pots were given to each section. They were called "kattelook."

Ninthly.—Trenches were dug before every line of tents (for drainage), and small canals flowing into a central one and again into a larger one at the end of the section.

Tenthly.—*Orphanage.*—This was a great act of charity. A section was arranged for the orphans of the nation, and all who were without protection, males and females, were gathered together and put in charge of a British superintendent and an Assyrian supervisor, with women as mothers over the children. Teachers were appointed for their education, and they were provided with clothes and rations, etc.

Eleventhly.—Schools were opened and almost all the children were accommodated. A part of these schools were paid for by the American Mission.

Twelfthly.—Recruiting and training of the two battalions of the Assyrians. This was the best and kindest act which the British did for us. They told us that this contingent would be trained and prepared for use, both at the present time and for the future of the nation, until the latter should be settled in its own places. The first battalion has now been sent on with the British Army to punish the treacherous Kurds, our old enemy. The second battalion is still remaining to guard us here.

When we turn our memory back we remember that from Hamadan to Baqubah stages were appointed for the daily parties or batches. We received rations for ourselves and for our animals too, and we were safeguarded under military escorts from Sain-Kala to here.

Partly from our own knowledge, and partly from the tales of our fathers, we all know that we lived in Kurdistan under the protection of the British Government since seventy-five years ago, on account of their influence in the Turkish Empire. It was they who caused Bedr Khan Beg and Nur Allah Beg to be punished by being exiled to Crete, because they destroyed a part of our Ashirate. Since that time to the beginning of the general war the instructions of the late Queen Victoria never ceased to be carried out.

The Government from which we have received so much good, and still are, how shall we repay it, O! Assyrian Nation? Reply: We have nothing to repay it with but thanksgiving and complete obedience.

Let us pray God to increase it, and make it more victorious. Amen.

QUASHA YOKHANNAN ESHU.
Secretary, National Assyrian Committee.

December 2, 1919.

* "Assyrians During the Great War." In THE NEAR EAST, December 12, 1919.

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IN CONSTANTINOPLE TO-DAY.

An Englishman formerly resident in Constantinople, who has lately returned from a short visit to that city, sends us the following description of conditions reigning there to-day:—

The city is filthier than it was forty years ago; the roads are in a sad state and badly need repairs, not having been touched for more than five years. It is much over-populated. Besides the Allied troops, officers, etc., there are many Russians, Roumanians, Greeks, Armenians, and others, who have left the provinces and sought refuge in the capital; and many Europeans, and Jews from Salonika, Egypt, and Palestine are flocking to the Eldorado that is to be—after the signing of Peace and the definite settlement of the status of the city. Meanwhile chaos exists, there being no recognised authority or governing body; everybody does practically as he likes, and in cases of trouble or difficulty one does not know to whom to appeal. This is especially the case of anyone who is not a subject of one or other of the Allies; but even in the case of an Allied subject one is never sure of obtaining redress through one's own authorities. This is due to jealousy and the intrigue that is going on, particularly, I regret to say, on the part of some of our so-called friends against the British. At the same time it is a standing joke with some of our own people that "if you want to get anything done you must apply to your Patriarch"—implying, of course, that Greeks, Armenians, and Roman Catholics can obtain redress more easily than the average British subject, owing to the petitions presented on behalf of the "persecuted" Greeks, Armenians, and so on.

The cost of living is exorbitant, almost incredible. At the same time, while English people are rationed for sugar, coal, etc., in Constantinople there is no rationing whatever, and one can obtain anything—if only they pay the price. (I was told this was the case also during the war.) All shops are now well stocked; there are no end of pastry-cooks, confectioners, etc., where any amount of sweetstuffs can be procured. In pre-war days, when we wanted cream we had to order it forty-eight hours beforehand, whereas to-day cream can be had in quantities at 300 piastres the oke. Naturally, milk is scarce, and what can be had very expensive—1s. 6d. to 2s. the quart. Large quantities of condensed milk are being consumed.

There is a great deal of amusement and "jollification" going on, consequently plenty of "refreshments" of all kinds are being consumed, and as this goes on till the early hours of the morning, a great deal of electricity is wasted.

Shopkeepers are profiteering to their hearts' content. As a result, all labour has to be paid for at figures which one never dreamed of in the years gone by.

Traffic is very much congested. You see Turkish police, British Tommies (M.P.), French *poilus*, and Italian *carabinieri* regulating (or attempting to regulate) the traffic, notwithstanding which there are daily cases of people being run over by motor cars or lorries, all military, and among which the principal offenders, I am very sorry to say, are the French. A local newspaper commenting on one occasion said, "The Briton imagines he is in London, and by holding up his hand he can stop or regulate traffic as he likes; the Frenchman imagines he can do so by polite parlance and arguments; and the Italian thinks that he can do so '*par élégance*,'" referring to the dress of the Italian police, with his Napoleonic hat, white gloves, and cape.

With all this there is any amount of buying and selling, and everyone appears to be making money; all talk in thousands, no one in tens and hundreds. The morals, customs, and consciences of the people have very much altered, the only things which remain unchanged are the Bosphorus and the blue sky. There is, of course, a great shortage of houses and accommodation for all purposes, due to the devastating fires which occurred during the last four or five years—I understand the number of buildings destroyed exceeded 20,000. Besides this, there has been an enormous increase of the population.

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MONTENEGRO AND THE ENTENTE.

The following is the tenour of an appeal addressed in the first week of January by the Royal Montenegrin Government to the Governments of Great Britain and France:—

The loan which the Montenegrin Government has regularly received from Great Britain since her exile has been cut off since last July, and France stopped it in October of the same year. Having confidence in the solemn engagements of the Great Powers in view of Montenegro's rights, the Government of Montenegro, since then, has been compiled, having to keep up her State administration, students, and refugees, to make private loans; the total sum of these loans exceeds 600,000 francs. The Montenegrin Government, however, finds even this way impossible for carrying on with the State administration. Accordingly all the Government employees, from the Ministers downwards, students, and many refugees with their families, are absolutely left on the street. Many of them to-day have nothing to eat.

I had the honour, in my letter of November 14, 1919, of attracting the attention of the British Government, as well as the Governments of the other Great Powers, to the fact that the subvention given to the Montenegrin Government was their moral and just duty, until the question of Montenegro is decided, because the same Government had given Montenegrin territory to an occupant, and had impeded the return of his Majesty the King and the Government of Montenegro to their country, thus hindering the restoration of Montenegro, in spite of all their earlier and solemn engagements to the contrary.

Unfortunately, as on many other occasions, the Governments of the Great Powers have passed over these claims in silence. The awful situation of many of my countrymen and their families, who in the middle of winter are plunged into the greatest misery, compels the Government of Montenegro to ask, not for her rights, because she would ask in vain, but for charity from the Government of Great Britain and from the Governments of other Great Powers.

In the name of these humane reasons, I have the honour to beg his Majesty's Government, alone or in accordance with other Governments of the Great Powers, to grant to the Government of Montenegro the sum of 200,000 francs out of the same credit from which the former loans have come. This sum is necessary to relieve the employees and refugees until they are able to find work in factories and other places, and for the payment of loans, which the Government has made to some creditors who are French citizens.

I am sure that the British Government will agree with me in this, that the dignity of Great Britain and of her Great Allies will not allow the representatives and employees of Montenegro to die of hunger and cold on the streets of Paris, and that Great Britain will not forget that these representatives and employees were received in France in 1916 as guests of the Allies, and that Montenegro voluntarily threw in her fate with the Allies in 1914, as his Excellency the President of the French Republic recognised in his celebrated speech last year, and also that Montenegro thus voluntarily sacrificed almost a half of her army and a third of her population.

As the necessity is urgent, I am taking the liberty to beg the British Government in the name of the Montenegrin Government to condescend to give their answer as soon as possible, so that, in the case of a negative answer, I could make an appeal to some neutral and philanthropic institutions.

At the same time, I beg the British Government not to consider this event, however painful it may be, as the end of the Montenegrin Government and by that the settling of the Montenegrin question. The injustice from which the Montenegrins suffer are so great and her rights are so sacred and indisputable that the members of the Government as well as the other Montenegrins who continue to defend their rights are ready to die, if it is necessary, of hunger rather than capitulate and help in that way the apparent justification before humanity and history of one of the greatest international crimes that history has ever known, a crime which has been committed for over a year against their unfortunate but, in spite of all, glorious country so deserving at the hands of Christian moral and civilisation.

Y. S. PLAMENATZ.

THE RE-BIRTH OF EUROPE.

At King's College, Strand, on January 9, the Right Rev. Dr. Nicholai Velimirovitch, Bishop of Zica, delivered a very eloquent lecture upon "The Spiritual Re-birth of Europe." His main thesis was that religion alone could found and maintain a civilisation. In dealing with the religions other than Christianity he said that they all contained part of the Truth, but that only in Christianity were all the particles of Truth fused into a whole. Turning to spiritual life in Europe (from which he excluded Great Britain and Russia), he declared it to have suffered a great decline. This he attributed largely to the French thinkers of the eighteenth century, and to the worship of Politics, Science, and Economics. These were the latest gods of men; and Religion, which once was the centre of the European's life, had now retreated to a minor position on its circumference. Hence the outlook for Europe was very black indeed—not for Christianity, for that easily could go to Asia—but the menace to European civilisation was very great. It could, in fact, only be averted through constant prayer and Christian example. His lecture showed Bishop Nicholai to be an immense spiritual power and a thinker of the first rank. He spoke in English to an audience largely composed of Anglicans, and his notable words made a deep impression.

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THE MOSLEMS OF YUGOSLAVIA

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, December 29.

The kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is also a Mohammedan State of considerable importance. The land-owning class of Bosnia and Herzegovina are the Mohammedan *begs* who are true Serbs in blood, descendants of the old feudal aristocracy, who went over bodily to Islam at the time of the Turkish conquest in order to preserve their privileges. These are often patriotic Serbs, and they all speak good Serbian. During the war Austria handed over a large number of these to the Turks, and quite a number of them were taken prisoners of war by our army in Palestine; for their heart was not in the fighting. But in Macedonia and the district known as Stara Serbia—that is, Rashka, the district of Novibazar—the Mohammedans are mostly real Turks —that is, Turkish in blood, and not only in the usual sense that the name is used in the Balkans, where "Turk" is generally synonymous with "Mohammedan."

The Moslems of both districts saw the advisability of combining for political purposes, and set to work to organise themselves. It was at first suggested that they should all combine on purely religious grounds, and form a distinct and united Mohammedan party; but the more advanced among them pointed out that the day has gone by when a political party can be founded on religion. Zuhdi Bey said that between the Moslems of Macedonia and Stara Serbia on the one hand, and those of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the other, there was nothing in common but religion; and Hidayet Effendi caustically remarked that the *begs* of Bosnia were their brothers, it is true, but their purses were not sisters, and that the Bosniaks would simply make use of their Macedonian kinsmen to save their *chiftiks*. So the suggestion of a common party was rejected, and after a somewhat heated discussion at a meeting recently held at Skoplie ten points were adopted as the planks of their platform. These are as follows:—(1) Religious autonomy and the union of all the Khalifate. (2) *Sheriat* courts for marriages, family matters, and wills. (3) Preservation of the *vakufs* and *merifs*. (4) Free use and official use of the respective mother-tongue, where non-Serb, in the schools. (5) Abolition of the Christian form of prayer in schools which Mohammedan children attend. (6) Acceptance and confirmation of a definite number of Moslem representatives in the Constituent Assembly proportionate to the strength of the total Mohammedan population of the kingdom, and their recognition as an integral part of that body. (7) Exemption of the *vakufs* from allotment and division for compensation. (8) Exemption from agrarian reform of the *begliks*, "with special regard to the general solution of the agrarian problem." (9) Compensation to *begs* for revenues unpaid during recent disorganisation by the tenants. (10) The restoration of the land to the position in 1912; that is to say, non-recognition of tenants settled on the land since 1912, either by Serbian or enemy administration, without the consent of the original owner. Finally, it was resolved not to form a separate party, but to support whatever existing political party would promise to make these points part of its programme.

The Serbian Press regards these demands as decidedly bold, especially as prior to 1912 many of these Turks distinguished themselves by their violent opposition and hostility to everything Serb. It will be interesting to see the results. Doubt is expressed that any party will accept them on these terms, though it is said that the Radicals once made them even finer promises, which, however, Midhat Bey accepted with a grain of salt, and consequently set to work to organise his co-religionists.

HELP FOR THE MOSLEMS IN SMYRNA.

The British Red Crescent Society has received from an eye-witness an account of the distress and suffering among the Moslem inhabitants of the district of Smyrna (Aidin), in Asia Minor. Villages and farms have been wiped out, houses have been deliberately burnt down, and no fewer than 100,000 people are homeless. The Rev. Mr. Frew, who administered the British Red Crescent help in Thrace, Macedonia, and Constantinople in the Balkan War, has written offering to go to Aidin, and the society has sent him, through the Foreign Office, £800 for relief purposes. This will mitigate barely a fraction of the distress, and the society appeals for further help. Contributions may be sent direct to the society's bankers, Messrs. Coutts and Co., 440, Strand, W.C.2.

According to intelligence received from Montenegro, Commandant Lassovitch, commanding the Montenegrin troops, with a detachment composed of the battalions of Koutche-Zeta, has attacked the Serbian positions at Podgoritza-Pousi, forcing the main body of Serbian troops to retire into Albania. The surrender of a Serbian battalion is reported.

A BRIGAND OF TO-DAY.

(From Our Belgrade Correspondent.)

A real brigand—one of the old-fashioned, brutal sort—came by his death, not very long ago, in a very appropriate way. The Haiduk Velichko had been engaged upon this profession for some time before the war, had been captured by the police, but managed to escape. The Austro-Hungarian authorities did not worry their heads much about him; they caught him once, but he got away again. He was daring, resourceful, and relentless, and always worked alone. One day, during the enemy occupation, he called at the village of Yablanitsa, near Valjevo, and paid a visit to the wife of a prosperous merchant named Kosta Alexitch, who was in Switzerland, and extorted a considerable sum of money from her. The owner of the adjoining inn implored a couple of Hungarian gendarmes who were there to lend him a rifle so that he could go and shoot the villain, but they refused, and declined to go themselves, doubtless out of respect for the hand grenades which he carried on him. Some months later Kosta returned from exile, when Velichko paid another visit; he called Kosta out, and, as the latter had known him for many years, he quietly came out and fell into the trap; the brigand caught and bound him and his son, too, and held them as hostages by which to extort more money. He made the distracted wife go round on a house-to-house call to raise money to redeem her husband and boy, and even then, being dissatisfied with the result, he led off all three to the forest and told them he was going to kill them. In a weak moment he gave them a minute's respite to say good-bye to each other. Kosta embraced his boy and his wife, and with lightning-like suddenness sprang on the brigand, and the two were soon rolling on the ground fighting with bare hands for life and death. Kosta was the more powerful man, but the brigand was desperate and gradually getting the better of the struggle, especially as Kosta was not quite free from the ropes that bound him, till his wife found a pair of scissors in her pocket and cut the ropes. The two men rolled down a slope in a deadly embrace, each trying to throttle the other. Then the mother cut her son's bonds, and the boy came to his father's rescue. He was unarmed, but he caught sight of a dagger in the brigand's boot, whence he had not been able to disengage it. The lad drew the knife, slit Velichko's throat, saved his father, and the three returned in triumph to the village to announce the good news.

ANGLICANS AND EASTERN CHURCHES.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has recently appointed a Committee on the Relations of the Church of England with the Eastern Churches. The functions of this committee are to foster the growth of friendly intercourse between the Churches of the Orthodox East and the Anglican Communion; to act as the official advisory committee to whom official communications from the Churches of the East may be referred; and to advise as to the making of such official communications from the Church of England to the Churches of the East. The Archbishop has also requested the committee to take into its purview similar questions touching the relationship of the Church of England with the separated Churches of the East.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

CONSTANTINOPLE AND THE KHALIFATE

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The perennial Eastern Question has entered on an acute, and it is to be hoped a final, stage. In view of the vast importance of the issues involved, I would ask your permission to deal with them from a physical and a political standpoint. The Bosphorus, Dardanelles, and intervening waters are physically a continuation of the Danube—that main highway of commerce for Central Europe, Southern Russia, and the Balkanic States. By virtue of its position astride these narrows, Constantinople is destined by Nature to be the hub of empire. On its possession was built the far-flung dominion of Byzantium and Turkey. A Power in occupation of Constantinople controls the postern gate of Europe. The political side of the Eastern Question turns on the significance of the Khalifate. It is well known that the Prophet Mohammed found materials in older religions for the creed that bears his name. From St. Augustine he borrowed the conception of *Civitas Dei*—God's Kingdom on Earth—connoting a close union between religious and civil authority. In 612 A.D. he assumed the title *Rasúl Illáh*—"The Emissary of Allah"—and after his death, which occurred in 632, the Faithful elected his father-in-law as the first *Khalíf Rasúl Illáh*—"Successor of Allah's Emissary," and supreme ruler of Islam. Considerations of space forbid me to follow the Khalifate's vicissitudes. At one time it bade fair to overrun three continents; but it entered a long period of decadence, and the beginning of the sixteenth century found a titular Khalif established in Egypt. In 1516, however, that country was conquered by Selim I., who fourteen years later assumed the title of Khalíf, and transferred its seat to Constantinople. Until comparatively recent years his successors' claim to supremacy in Islam received scanty recognition from their subjects, and pious Moslems generally ignored them, inasmuch as the House of Othman has no connection whatever with the Koreish tribe, to members of which Mohammed expressly restricted the choice of Khalíf. It is worthy of special note that the Indian Mutiny—largely engineered by Mohammedans—broke out thirteen months after the triumphant conclusion of a war undertaken by Great Britain in order to keep the Sultan at Constantinople. The revival of obsolete pretensions arose from the growth of the Pan-Islamic movement, to which Abdul Hamid's astute propaganda gave birth, and his successor is daily prayed for as Khalíf in Indian mosques. It is well to remember that Great Britain and France are governing 120,000,000 Moslems, whose susceptibilities must be reckoned with. On the other hand, the divorce of temporal from spiritual authority violates a fundamental canon of Mohammedanism. What, then, becomes of the current proposal to give the Sultan a status similar to that of the Pope? It is obvious that, unless this thorny question be handled with tact and knowledge, we shall see the Khalífate made a rallying point in a concerted effort to rescue Islam from an alien yoke. The future of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus is of equal moment. It is, of course, impossible to leave them in Turkey's grip, and doubtful whether any single Power should be mistress of that wonderful *lusus Naturæ*. There is, however, a precedent for dealing with it in the International Navigation Commission, which was established in 1856 in order to regulate traffic at the mouths of the Danube. Although its powers lapsed *de jure* in 1914, its functions are still exercised by English officials. I venture to think that the Commission should be again internationalised, and that its powers should extend over the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, which are geographically lower reaches of the Danube.

I am, etc.,

January 14, 1920. F. H. S.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN BULGARIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Late and current events have made it awkward for a Bulgarian to appear before a decent public. The neighbours of the Bulgarian, without exception, have overwhelmed him with the produce of their crafty energy to vilify a crushed, unlucky enemy, their ally and leader of yesterday.

A few good, honest, incorruptible men have courageously stood up for right and justice, but their efforts have been a drop in the ocean of calamities prescribed for Bulgaria—Bulgaria, a child of British liberalism! Yes, the lever which moved and acted for the liberation of the Bulgarian people from utter destruction by the Turks, such as is going on with the Armenians, was the soul of British liberalism, with "the Grand Old Man" at its head. The Russians merely executed a task agreeable to their interests. (This last remark, however, must not be accepted as in any way diminishing in the Bulgarian's mind the immense service Russia rendered the Bulgarian race in liberating it from the Turkish yoke. This service will ever remain as the greatest rendered to the Bulgarian, and for it he will always be grateful, notwithstanding appearances, notwithstanding what interested parties may say to the contrary).

But my object is not to discuss either a political question or the sad situation of Bulgaria. My object is to draw attention to a fact not met with, I believe, in any of our neighbour States, friends and allies of England, and enemies of Bulgaria, a fact which may not be unpleasant to the English mind, and with which not a few well-informed Englishmen are acquainted.

In a recent number of your paper I read of a course of instruction in the Serbian language started in King's College. Well, we Bulgarians, the outcasts, have done and are doing better in this respect than our neighbours. The Serbians are waiting for the English to learn Serbian for better and closer relations between them and the English. We Bulgarians, on the contrary, have been cultivating the English languages for generations past, and have not ceased to do so in our present abandoned position. The Bulgarian has been recognised by the students of nations as positive, with nothing ephemeral in him, sturdy, and hard-working, and naturally very reserved, certainly not vainglorious, or a squanderer of his substance. He is the same to-day, under calamity, as he was yesterday, with a brilliant future, full of promise, before him.

There is not a town in Bulgaria in which you may not meet with several ladies and gentlemen educated in English. In Sofia there are as many as 200 acquainted with the English language, and many are learning it. This education in English has been obtained in the American schools in Bulgaria, in Robert College and the Girls' College in Constantinople, both American institutions, in America and England. There has never been an English school in Bulgaria. German schools there have been, French there are several,.

While the Germans, of course, did a great deal to spread their language in Bulgaria, and the French have always done so, and are doing so now, the English have never thought it worth while to give their mind to it. The interests of the English language in Bulgaria were left in the hands of the Americans, and undoubtedly they have done their work well. But in this case it is the Bulgarians themselves who have taken up the task, on their own initiative, for their own benefit in the first place. There is no doubt, however, that behind this leaning towards the English idea, this initiative to spread the English language, there is a conviction, notwithstanding present conditions, that there is something in the English to be depended upon and trusted for the future final settlement of things, because England has been the hope of Bulgaria in the past.

In 1911 an English-speaking League was instituted. It necessarily had to suspend its work during the wars which soon followed. Early last spring it was started afresh, and is doing excellent work, bringing together socially all speaking English, and encouraging the culture of the English language. Art. II. of its constitution says:—

"The object of this League shall be: (1) To become familiar with the Anglo-Saxon language, literature and ideals and to encourage the same object in the country. (2) To promote mutual understanding, freer intercourse and more friendly relations between Bulgaria and Anglo-Saxon countries. (3) To encourage Bulgarian students residing in Anglo-Saxon countries in their efforts to obtain education; and also to create a sentiment which shall be advantageous to all honest Bulgarians temporarily residing in the same. (4) To welcome and befriend Anglo-Saxons of good repute who may be visiting or residing in Bulgaria."

The number of the members of the League is now over 150. The Board arranges for public lectures, in English, which are always well attended. The shelves of the League's library, however, require books, and its reading room daily papers and periodicals. For these the League will have to depend upon the interest Englishmen and Americans will take in its work.

In the rooms of the League, every other Thursday, social gatherings take place, at which tea is served by the younger lady members, while a programme of vocal and instrumental music is executed by select artists and amateurs. These social gatherings are frequently attended by members of the British and American Military Missions, but as diplomatic relations are not as yet renewed with Bulgaria, these gentlemen, very discreetly, decline the League's hospitality, and pay for whatever they may order—tea or cake. These social gatherings in the League's rooms are a great success and attraction.

But the League's real work is in the three-monthly courses in English which it has undertaken, and carries on. We are now nearing the end of the second three-monthly course. The first three-monthly course was started with sixty-one scholars, the second one with eighty-three. The classes are held three times a week, between 6 and 8 o'clock p.m. The scholars are young military officers, clerks, and young professional men and ladies. I think that such work as the League is doing should be commendable to all Englishmen who really believe in the educational spirit that the English language carries with it.

Of course, at first we had not the necessary books for the classes; these were finally obtained through the kindness of the gentlemen of the British Mission here. This assistance, however, is the only outside support the League has ever received. I dare not say more. We Bulgarians are still under a heavy cloud.

I am, etc.,

P. M. MATTHEEF.

Sofia, Dec. 15, 1919.

It is reported that the Serbian military authorities occupying Montenegro have proclaimed a General Election for the Parliament to be held at Belgrade. The Montenegrin Government in Paris have addressed a formal protest to the Great Powers against this further infringement of the national rights of Montenegro, carried out without reference to the Peace Conference.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Bessarabia.

In a recent issue of *New Europe* the difficult problem of Bessarabia was summed up in an article by M. Ion. G. Pelivan as follows:—

It must be said that the work accomplished up to the present in Bessarabia on the part of the former Kingdom of Roumania is one of abnegation and sacrifice which is not sufficiently appreciated by the outside world. The kingdom has brought peace to Bessarabia. It is the Roumanian soldier who, under arms for five years and without respite and repeatedly decimated by the enemy and by the sufferings of war throughout his defence of the frontiers, secures for the Bessarabian peasant and *bourgeois* the possibility of peaceful and productive work, while his own land lies fallow. It is the kingdom which subsidizes the whole organism of organic life—administration, schools, justice, church—in Bessarabia, whose total revenue amounts only to 30 per cent. of the money spent. On the other hand, wherever there is a question of an appointment or the exercise of some right, the Kingdom tactfully effaces itself in favour of the citizens of Bessarabia. How could such an unselfish policy fail to rally all Bessarabia to the standard of Union? There are, of course critics and malcontents, as in every country, since the Government does not exist which can satisfy everybody. But at the same time these criticisms are not directed at Roumania, but at the rulers of Roumania. The critics are drawn from certain opposition groups which feel themselves as truly Roumanian as the party in power, but who think that they could do more for their country.

One thing, however, is still required, in order that every citizen, without exception, may be free to devote himself to the fruitful work of developing the production of the country. That is the final settlement of the equivocal position in which the Supreme Council still elects to keep not only Bessarabia, but all the countries emancipated from Russia. So long as it hesitates to give its sanction to facts, which at the same time it is powerless to change, so long there will always be reasons to fear for the maintenance of peace. There will always be the necessity of remaining on the alert, with nerves and arms braced to meet a possible danger. And in this way the development of productive forces will always be fatally hampered.

Morocco.

The Morocco correspondent of *The Times* describes, in the issue of January 9, the nature of France's record in Morocco. He explains the difficulties, and how they have been overcome:—

From time immemorial it has been the northern part of Morocco which has been the seat of anarchy. This country is much less rich and productive than the south, and the tribes are wilder and more warlike, partly, no doubt, because they have less to lose. In the districts surrounding Fez there are a diversity of races—the Jibala, the Rifis, and the Atlas Berbers. They meet on the common ground of warfare and loot, with the French nowadays, formerly with each other. Even to-day a number of their tribes have accepted the French domination and fight on their side. Courageous and fine fighters, there is much that is admirable in the characteristics of these tribesmen, and the French are the first to acknowledge it. Where they have submitted they have become useful and loyal subjects of the Sultan and the Protectorate. Many of them fought in France, and fought valiantly. In thought, in civilisation, and in initiative the Berber tribes are far nearer to the European than the Arab—and they are a white race in every sense of the word.

The country in these districts is wild and the mountain fastnesses are almost inaccessible. The policy of General Lyautey has been to blockade the tribesmen in their mountains and to cut them off from their supplies of grain and from their agricultural lands, which lie at a lower elevation. Once this has been accomplished, negotiations are opened, but not until the tribes realise the fact, and have experienced it, that force is on the French side and can be further applied if necessary. It is a policy that has been, and cannot fail to be, eminently successful. Once negotiations are begun, offers of employment are made, and generally very few days elapse before the tribesman has laid aside his rifle for the pick and, earning a wage previously undreamed of, is busy helping in the construction of the great arteries of roads which the French have built all over the Protectorate.

The writer's conclusion is:—

The history of the French Protectorate of Morocco during the war is one of which France may well be proud. In spite of every difficulty, progress was made in every direction. In spite of danger, of diminished forces, of inadequate artillery and material, the French and native troops, never failing in their spirit of sacrifice, saved the situation. The danger is past. There remain the finishing touches which are wanting to complete the pacification of the entire country.

The Future of Turkey.

The Times of January 7, in a leading article devoted to "The Future of the Turkish Empire," attempts to justify the expulsion of the Turks from Europe upon historical grounds. It says:—

Most moderate and reasonable Musulmans perceive that the Turkish administration has for ever ceased to exist in the wide areas south of the Anatolian and Kurdistan plateaux. What is not so generally realised, either in the world of Islam or in Western Europe, is that much of the so-called Turkish Empire was of comparatively modern growth, as history goes. The Ottoman Turks did not move westward across Asia Minor, as is too often supposed. They first came into prominence in Western Anatolia, and gradually extended eastward towards Armenia. They crossed into Europe and established themselves over the greater part of the Balkan Peninsula long before they overthrew the last of the Greek Emperors by storming Constantinople. British arms had been carried to victory in the Persian Gulf before the Turks conquered Southern Mesopotamia and took Basra. The attempt to establish Turkish dominion in the Yemen really began only in the seventies of last century, and was always incomplete. On the western shores of the Persian Gulf the appearance of the Turk was even more recent, and was confined to a few posts very lightly held. Much of the fabric of the Turkish Empire in Asia, as we have known it, was of no great antiquity, and was so weakly constructed that it swiftly fell to pieces under the impact of a great war.

It then states its main theme that Constantinople in the hands of the Turks must of necessity be a danger to the peace of Europe.

For three hundred years or more the presence of the Turks at Constantinople has been the real source of most European wars. If we look farther back, we still find the Turks at the bottom of European strife. They were one of the principal causes of the recent unprecedented war, for if Germany struck her greatest blows in the West she found her chief incentive in the wild conception of a German Confederation stretching through Constantinople to the shores of the Persian Gulf. Europe can never again know lasting peace until the Turks return to the uplands of Anatolia, from whence they came. Constantinople will always remain an apple of discord while it is under the Turkish flag. To the contention that banishment to Asia will drive the Turks into the arms of the Bolshevists we may reply that, so far as these

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tendencies exist, they will remain unaltered whether the Sultan dwells in Constantinople or in Konia. On the other hand, it is certain that no decision to maintain Turkish rule on a single rood of European soil could be invested with the elements of permanence. Constantinople would continue to be a centre of intrigue and an object of ambitious aspiration and rivalry, as it has been for centuries. It would be a seed-bed of war and an incessant provocative of the dreams which lead to war. The only safe solution is the transfer of the Turkish Government to Asia Minor. The method by which they should be replaced is a question which the Allies in council must decide. Clearly, under present conditions, no single Power can be put in possession of this coveted spot where Europe and Asia meet. That the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus should be neutralised and thrown open to the ships of all nations is a matter of common consent.

The Middle East.

In *Everyman* of January 3, Mr. Arnold J. Toynbee writes an interesting article upon "Our Position in the Middle East." He comments upon the disturbing facts in the Middle East, rejects the German-Turkish-Bolshevist propaganda theory as the explanation of all ills, and proceeds to discuss the relationship between us and the inhabitants of our eastern dependencies. On this subject he says:—

Our relationship with our Oriental fellow-citizens was already causing us heart-searchings before the war, and the war has not altered the problem, though it has accelerated its natural development. Englishmen undoubtedly have a talent for putting undeveloped or derelict countries in order, and for giving a "wash and brush up" to backward races or to civilised peoples ruined by barbarian invasion and internal breakdown. But how far does our talent extend? No cure is complete till the patient has been rendered capable of looking after himself, and a remedy that keeps him permanently in the doctor's hands may be worse than the original disease. This is perhaps the point in which British rule in the East is most open to criticism. Our success, it is contended, in curing the most glaring evils we found has been bought by the sacrifice of potentialities for further progress. Finding the native governing class corrupt and oppressive, we simply replaced them by British administrators and turned them into irresponsible critics, when we might have made them our pupils and partners. We gave the peasantry justice and economic prosperity, but by neglecting their education we have left them as powerless as ever to defend their own interests if the protecting hand of the British administration were withdrawn. And as for the town-workers, a recent class in the Middle East, brought into existence by the industrialisation that has followed the political connection with Europe, we have given them little protection or none, but have allowed them to be exploited under conditions forbidden in our own factories by legislation a century ago. In other words, we have implanted political aspirations without providing the means for their satisfaction, and set economic processes in motion without bringing them under social control. This is the really serious complaint against our policy. It can neither be proved nor disproved till it has been put to the test by the great experiment which has been initiated in India, and by the parallel steps which we are bound in honour to take in Egypt and Mesopotamia. But there is no doubt that the indictment contains an element of truth, and the anxiousness of the present transitional period is increased by the baneful influence of the war on an already strained relationship.

Turkey.

In the *Outlook* of January 10 there is a fair-minded article upon "The Future of Turkey." The writer's final paragraph is:—

With the utmost wish to conciliate Moslem opinion, it remains, however, that if the Turk is to stay on the European side of the Bosphorus at all, he cannot stop on the old terms. He came as a conqueror, and now he is conquered and must settle an account with the Europe which for centuries he flouted and outraged. Constantinople can be, if we may say so, his spiritual home, and the Sultan can actually reside there with such court and dignity as he chooses to keep, not because his people deserves well of us, but because France and Britain have millions of subjects who owe him, as their religious ruler, a measure of allegiance. His position there will be in some ways analogous to that of the Pope at the Vatican. Over some parts of Turkey in Asia he will doubtless exercise real authority, or authority will be exercised for him by his Ministers, but as far as Constantinople is concerned his period of temporal power is at an end. After the experience of Gallipoli, not to mention the Goeben and Breslau, there can be no question of again allowing the Turk to dominate the Straits. On that point at least complete agreement may be expected. Restored Russia, if the idea of a restored Russia be not altogether too visionary, must have a way clear to open seas. Little as we can do for her, that passage can and must be kept open under the guardianship of civilised Europe until better days come.

Article to Note.

"In Constantinople During the War," in the *Moslem World* (January).

Archæological high schools are to be established by the Greek Government at Constantinople and Rome.

A Japanese Legation is to be created at Athens.

Mgr. Pisani, the new Apostolic Delegate to India, was received in audience by the Pope on January 12.

MUSICAL NOTES.

The new Modern Trio has found a short cut to popular favour. The programme which it gave at the Wigmore Hall on January 7 consisted of Dvorak's Trio in F minor, Frank Bridge's Fantasy in C minor, and Brahms' Op. 101 in C minor, and it greatly pleased the audience. The violinist was M. Melzak, the 'cellist M. Mannucci, and the pianist Mr. Krish. In the Dvorak they performed with enthusiastic imperfection; the violinist had too strong an attack, the 'cellist was not impetuous enough, and the pianist found it quite difficult to remember that he was not a soloist. Dvorak's Trio has many beauties, but it is not a beautiful work; its linked sweetness is far too long drawn out, and the repetitions, in however cleverly disguised a form, are much more ingenious than necessary. In the Fantasy in C minor (Bridge) the individualities of the players were successfully merged, and the piece was performed with excellent tone and finish. Bridge writes chamber music more satisfactorily than most moderns, and in the Trio's presentation of his work there was no fault at all. The Modern Trio have it in them to attain the front rank, for they are all extremely capable players. It is not that their skill varies, but that their respective powers of technique and interpretation seem to find a fusion of strength difficult, which makes me think their proper *metier* is the solo rather than the trio.

M. Mischa-Léon, who gave a song recital at the Æolian Hall on January 10, has already attained wide and quite deserved popularity. His programme was made up chiefly of modern French (Félix Fourdrain, Rhené-Baton, Albert Roussel), modern English (Elgar and Holbrooke), recent Scandinavian (Heise, Gunder Knudsen, Grieg), and recent German songs (Weingarter, Hans Hermann, Richard Strauss). The French and Scandinavian songs he sang in their own language, but the German, with insufficient reason, he sang in English. The reasons of his popularity are obvious: he can be dramatic, strong, sentimental, and tender with equal ease and charm, and his volume, though not excessive, is equal to all the demands a small hall can put to it. The songs which he sang best were "Le Bachelier de Salamanque," by Albert Roussel, possibly the most interesting composer of the young French school; "Speak, Music," by Elgar; "Skönne Fra Beatrig," by Heise; and "If slender Lilies wandered forth," by Weingarter. Five of his songs were encored, and though they were not the best, his performance of them fully merited repetition. A very interesting, but not very successful, feature of the recital was the fact that the songs of Elgar and Holbrooke were sung with a Double String Quartet. The accompaniment was too strong, and generally attached too much importance to itself. Mr. G. O'Connor Morris was at the piano for M. Mischa-Léon. He more than fulfilled his duties by the superfluous and irritating practice of playing as a prelude to the song a few empty and vulgar chords. Otherwise he was very helpful.

On a quite different plane from M. Mischa-Léon's was Miss Dora Gibson's recital at the Æolian Hall on January 13. She has neither elasticity nor versatility, but she is extremely good at one thing—namely, the old spacious arias of the eighteenth century. Her singing of Glück, Tenaglia, and Catalani was artistically of a high order; her middle notes, in particular, were very full and rich. Apart from the rather English accent of her French and Italian, these arias were a delight to hear. When, however, Miss Gibson came to some modern songs by Ireland, Angus Morrison, and J. A. Carpenter, her deficiencies became more apparent. Her control was not certain, and her high notes were hard. The Russian group of songs with which Miss Gibson concluded her recital was chosen ill and performed ill. The first, a Russian Folk Song, arranged by Kurt Schindler, was neither very Russian nor very like a folk-song; the second, a genuine folk-song, was sung too artfully; and of the last two, both of which were by Rachmaninoff, only the second, "Spring Waters," made any effort to interpret the words. Miss Gibson (to judge from her choice of songs and her singing of them) has many of the qualities that ensure popularity, but her actual and irreproachable merits are few. She was assisted by the Philharmonic String Quartet, who played the first movement and scherzo of a quartet by Debussy and two Idylls by Frank Bridge. In modern music like this the Quartet are excellent: they suggest almost as much as they say. Their finish is not incomparable, and certainly their souls do not form a collective one, but their enthusiasm and skill are on a very high level. They played Debussy with any amount of freshness, and easily created the atmosphere necessary to his work. The Bridge Idylls were hardly so satisfactory: they are rather disjointed, and it was difficult to appreciate this presentation of them as a whole.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"HOW JERUSALEM WAS WON: BEING THE RECORD OF ALLENBY'S CAMPAIGN IN PALESTINE." By W. T. May. (London. Constable and Co. 21s. net.)

"PRISONERS OF THE RED DESERT." By Capt. Gwatkin-Williams. R.N. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"THE ROAD TO ENDOR." By E. H. Jones, Lt. I.A.R.O., with Illustrations from Photographs by C. W. Hill, Lt. R.A.F. (London: John Lane. 8s. 6d. net.)

"THE LEOPARD'S LEAP." By "Boxwallah." (London: Melrose. 6s. net.)

HOW JERUSALEM WAS WON.

The romance and picturesqueness of the great campaign in Palestine, as well as its brilliance and far-reaching success, give the many books which are now appearing relating to it a wide circle of readers. Mr. Massey's book will, we think, stand pre-eminent as the work of one who had opportunities greater than any other writer of seeing every step of the war from first to last. His graphic contributions to the Press must have been read by millions who, through his pen alone, were able to follow week by week a campaign in which he was the only "official correspondent of the London Newspapers." In this book Mr. Massey has handled his materials afresh; it is no republication of hurriedly-written dispatches, but a complete and, within the limits of a compact volume of 300 pages, an exhaustive account of the progress of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force from the close of the "Desert Campaign" until the victorious conclusion of the first great advance.

The tragic episode of the two earlier battles of Gaza had left the British Army at a standstill outside that city "with moral sensibly diminished," "in a state of lassitude engendered by a belief that they were settling down to trench warfare for the period of the war." It fell to General Chetwode—to whom the author gives a just and well-deserved meed of praise—to reorganise and to reinspire the army. They became infused by his energy; they saw him in the front line almost every day, facing risks they ran themselves, and thoroughly investigating every detail of improvement. Preparations on a vast scale were already well in hand, and even the main outlines of the plan for the final break through, before General Allenby himself arrived to take over the Chief Command. Intensive training of the troops preceded by months the "zero day" when at one word the whole great machine was set in motion which in a few brief days crumpled up the whole Turkish resistance. The tale of Gaza and Beersheba has been told and retold. It was not lack of courage or even of guns which failed our enemies; they were thoroughly out-generalled. At least, three times General Kress Von Kressenstein seems to have been absolutely befogged as to our plans. The pursuit up the Maritime Plain; the extreme difficulties, especially those of the mounted men, on account of scarcity of water; the magnificent and spectacular charges of the Yeomanry at Huj, at Mughar, and at Abu Shusheh (Gezer) are all described in vivid detail. Of the London Territorial Division the author cannot say enough. "These cockneys are the best men in the world . . . . the cockney makes the perfect soldier." It is impossible to quote the warm words of praise equitably distributed to each unit in turn through this great fight. The advance upon Jerusalem is fully described, the account being greatly elucidated by the map. The Turks had all the advantage of position, and to win through at last was a military feat which must ever remain among our very greatest.

The chapter on "Making Jerusalem Secure" tells in greater detail than did the newspapers of the Turks' utter failure to recapture the city on December 27, and of the splendid counter-attacks which drove them headlong to beyond Bethel. Little has been written of the crossing of the Auja, north of Jaffa, a proceeding which is here fully described as "A Great Feat of the War."

How perfectly the operation was conducted—noiselessly, swiftly, absolutely according to time-table—may be gathered from the fact that two officers and sixteen Turks were awakened in their trench dug-outs at the ford by the river-mouth two hours after we had taken the trenches. Two miles behind the river the Lowlanders captured the whole garrison of a post near the sea, none of whom had the slightest idea that the river had been crossed. The whole of the Turkish system covering the river, trenches well concealed in the river banks and in patches of cultivated land, were rushed in silence and captured. Muamnis was taken at the point of the bayonet, the strong position at Hadrah was also carried in absolute silence, and at daybreak the whole line the Scots had set out to gain was won and the assailants were digging themselves in. . . . The forcing of the passage of the Auja was a magnificent achievement, planned with great ability by General Hill and carried out with that skill and energy which the brigadiers, staff, and all ranks of the division showed throughout the campaign.

Very different—though equally successful—was the advance to the banks of the Jordan. Here, instead of waterlogged ground and cultivated fields, our army had to thrust back the Turks from the waterless "Wilderness of Judæa." Down the centre of the line of advance lay the Jericho high road, strongly guarded by the powerful fortress at Talat ed Dumm, of which, it is said, "it is hard to imagine a better defensive position." Up frowning heights and down the roughest torrent beds the Londoners and the Anzacs carried all before them, and by February 21st Jericho, the N.W. shore of the Dead Sea and the western side of the Jordan up to the mouth of the eastern river Aujeh were ours. Subsequent events—equally stirring and dramatic—are reserved for a second volume.

A glowing tribute to our Airmen and an Appendix of Official Turkish and British military documents conclude the volume. The sketch plans are very helpful to the text, and the thirty-nine new and original illustrations are excellently chosen.

These vivid and clearly-written descriptions of these great events will charm the general reader, while no scientific student of the History of the War can afford to neglect these observations by one who had unique opportunities of seeing everything at first hand.

CAPTIVES OF THE DESERT.

This is the record, written by their captain, of the adventures of the crew of H.M.S. Tara, whose ship was torpedoed off the North African coast, in November, 1915. They were taken prisoner by the Turks, marched into the interior, and left in charge of the Senoussi, in a desolate spot in the Libyan desert, and were finally rescued by the Duke of Westminster with a fleet of armoured cars, in March, 1916.

There are three reasons why this book cannot fail to interest all its readers.

In the first place, it is an instance of the terrible hardships and suffering which were endured by small isolated bodies of men during the war in all parts of the world. Many of these experiences are only now becoming generally known, and the knowledge of so much suffering above that which became tragically familiar during those dark years will add yet greater strength to man's horror of war. The book is a record of six months' perpetual hunger—a longing and craving for food which the author seems actually to feel again in memory as he writes this book three years afterwards—and of illness, with nothing to help or relieve it except increasing kindness to the weakest on the part of comrades who could only, by such sad comparison, be called well. But most difficult to read because of the great suffering described therein are the accounts of the march from the coast to the prison "camp" at Bir Hakim, over the cruel stones of the desert, and of six dreadful nights which seventy-five men were forced to spend in a dry well, 18 ft. in diameter, 10 ft. high in the centre of the vault, and with no means of ventilation except one tiny hole. We never lose sight of the captives' magnificent courage and amazing faith that they would eventually be found and saved.

Secondly, the book is well worth reading as an enthralling tale of adventure. From the sailing of the captured crew into Port Bardia through an entrance in the cliff "like an Aladdin's cave," to the wonderful moment when the impossible at last happens and the weary, almost hopeless, prisoners see the long line of khaki-coloured cars arriving, there is no incident or touch of picturesque detail wanting to make a romance such as one might expect from the imagination of one of the great writers of stories of adventure. The third point of interest is one that should appeal especially to all who wish to study the Near East and its inhabitants. Captain Gwatkin-Williams gives a vivid and entertaining account of the life of the wandering tribes of North Africa. He attempted an escape, and with the two Turkish soldiers who re-captured him, spent several days in Bedouin encampments. He tells us: "With all their squalor and filthy ways, these Bedouins always gave me the idea of being aristocrats. . . These sons of Esau have most patrician features and an engaging, devil-may-care generosity of manner. . . I could enter into their feelings, understand and sympathise with their ways." In spite of a rather irritating profusion of exclamation marks, Captain Gwatkin-Williams writes in a way which carries us along very easily. He tells us nothing which is not of interest or of importance to the working out of his dramatic

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story, and he also finds room for much that is most entertaining.

THE USE OF THE "CRAZIEST ROAD."

In these absurd days when Spiritualism appears to be coining money from deluded victims, it is refreshing to read a book which, by the preferring of actual incidents, is, not deliberately, but of itself, a very weighty argument against the claims of Spiritualists. Here is the story of two British officers, prisoners of war at Yozgad, in Anatolia, who, starting Spiritualism as a game to offset the dreadful monotony of life, eventually used it as a means of escape. In the words of the author: —

Spiritualism enabled us to kill much empty and weary time. It gave "True Believers" satisfactory messages, not only from the world beyond, but also from the various battle-fronts—which was much more interesting. It enabled us to obtain from the Turks comforts for ourselves and privileges for our brother officers. It extended our house room, secured a hunt club for our friends, and changed the mind of our commandant from silent and uncompromising hostility to a post-prandial friendliness ablaze with the eloquence of the spook. Our spook in Yozgad instituted a correspondence with the Turkish War Office in Constantinople. . . . . It even altered the moral outlook of the camp interpreter, a typical Ottoman Jew. . . . Finally, what concerned us more, it helped us to freedom.

To extract incidents from the book would be an inadequate method of dealing with it, for every page of it is eminently readable. There is plenty of humour, plenty of feeling, and plenty of vivid writing. Lt. Jones was excellently equipped for his task of bamboozling the Turks; he had been a resident judge in Burma for many years, and knew well the strange customs of the folk there, and he employed his knowledge of Welsh and held back his knowledge of French with amazingly happy results. Lt. Hill was a most worthy partner to him, being an expert conjurer, and a most skilful mechanician. But what, above all, saved these two men was their indomitable resolution to escape. It was not an easy thing to have to deceive their fellow prisoners of war (and the British at Yozgad were surely one of the very best sets in the war), but their untameable passion to escape overcame everything, and about a fortnight before the armistice with Turkey they achieved their purpose.

Readers of another excellent book—"450 Miles to Freedom"—will here meet many of the things mentioned in that book—the Commandant, Kiazim Bey, the hockey-ground, and the Hunt Club, for example. That book and the one under review are among the best published on the war; they are simple, fine, and British.

We can do no more than advise our own readers (and all others) to buy this book at once. If they are interested in Turkey, there is much here that is at once original and illuminating; if they are Spiritualists, they will receive a tremendous (but certainly deserved) shock, but they cannot neglect it; and if they are British, they will glow with pride at the reading of this tale. This book was written for entertainment; it ends in making one think.

BURMESE LIFE.

The plot of this book is relentlessly tragic. Its value is not increased by the fact that it is told in a style which might be just tolerable in a story with a very light plot. In that case, it could possibly be regarded simply as an excuse for the author to sketch in his mildly interesting pictures of Europeans living in Burma and of the country, which he apparently knows fairly well. The subject of "The Leopard's Leap" is thoroughly sordid, and the character drawing quite superficial. In addition to the unpleasant impression it leaves, is a sense of acute irritation at the incongruity of the manner in which it is related.

BOOK NOTES.

G. K. Chesterton, one of the most brilliant of English journalists, has gone on a visit to Palestine. He intends to publish, through Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, a book of his impressions. In view of the scope which his subject will afford him, the book should be one of his best efforts.

Mr. B. H. Blackwell, the Oxford publisher, will publish shortly "Kossovo: Heroic Songs of the Serbs," a metrical translation of Serbian national poetry by Helen Rootham. Some of Miss Rootham's work was first published in the *New Age*, a journal which has done notable work in making public Slavonic literature. The poems are to have an introduction by Maurice Baring, whose name is well-known to readers of this column.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Vae Victis." By Edward J. Thompson, M.C. (London: The Epworth Press. 1s. net.)

"All the King's Men." By Lieut.-Col. W. P. Drury. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 7s. net.)

"Beyond Baghdad with the Leicestershires." By E. J. Thompson, M.C. (London: The Epworth Press. 3s. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. January	1919. January.		1338. Rabia II.	5680. Tebet.
16	3	Friday	25	25
17	4	Saturday.....	26	26
18	5	Sunday	27	27
19	6	Monday	28	28
20	7	Tuesday	29	29 Shebat.
21	8	Wednesday	30 Jomada I.	1
22	9	Thursday	1	2

In an official *communiqué* it is stated that the Sultan of Turkey is ill.

Mrs. Eckstein and Miss Eckstein have left London for Algiers and Tunis.

M. Vaida-Voevod, the Roumanian Prime Minister, has left Bucharest for Paris.

M. Tilea, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on January 13 for Paris.

Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge left England on January 12 for the Danube to resume his official duties.

General Sir Charles Townshend, the defender of Kut, tendered his resignation to the War Office on January 10.

Mr. Edward Hope-Vere, First Secretary to the Residency at Cairo, has arrived at 39, Gloucester Square from Egypt.

Sir John Stavridi, the Greek Consul-General, left for Paris on January 8, on a visit to M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier.

M. Vesnitch, Serbian Minister to France, left Cannes on January 10 on board the French destroyer Bambara for an Adriatic port.

Sir R. Ghose, member of the Viceregal Council, has given 11½ lakhs of rupees for the purposes of applied chemistry at the Science College, Calcutta.

Mr. E. Hilton Young, M.P., left London for India on January 10, to attend the sittings of the Financial Relations Committee. He expects to return in April.

King Ferdinand of Roumania, accompanied by the Prime Minister, will shortly visit Paris in connection with the signature of various documents concerning Hungary.

The Hon. Mrs. John Scott Napier left London on January 8 to join the steamship Mantua at Marseilles for Ceylon. Mrs. Napier will be absent for some months.

Sir Benjamin Robertson, as representative of the Indian Government, will lay before the South African Commission of Inquiry the Indian view on the question of the position of Indians in the Union.

Mr. Roland Michell (ex-Commissioner of Limasol) will give a lecture on "Cyprus" to the Central Asian Society on January 21, at 4.30 p.m. The lecture will be given at the Royal Society's Lecture Room, Burlington House.

Mr. Theodore E. Casdagh, Consul for Greece in Manchester, has been unanimously re-elected chairman for the Egyptian Section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce for the year 1920.

At the University of London, Professor A. J. Toynbee will lecture on January 21, on "The Problem of Constantinople and the Black Sea Straits," and the Rev. H. A. Popley, on February 6, on "Indian Music."

M. Yovan M. Yovanovitch, lately Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, with Madame Yovanovitch, President of the Serbian Red Cross, left Victoria on January 8 for Belgrade. At the station to bid them farewell were M. Gavrilovitch, the Minister representing the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; Colonel Georges Ostoitch, Military Attaché, the *personnel* of the Legation, and members of the Committee of the Serbian Red Cross Society.

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Sir Henry Manning, Governor of Ceylon, and Sir W. Joynson-Hicks and family left Colombo for Madras on January 7, the former to confer with Lord Willingdon about forthcoming legislation in Ceylon in regard to labour.

Mr. Alec Theophilus Callinicos delivered a lecture on January 13 at St. James' Schools, Higher Broughton, Manchester, on "Constantinople." The chair was taken by the Rev. Parry, B.D., and the lecture was illustrated by lantern slides.

The Queen of Roumania has had sent to her a telegram by the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires saying that the children's matinée at the Royal Court Theatre had secured for the benefit of the distressed children of our Roumanian Ally nearly £550.

Our Jaffa Correspondent writes (December 18): The engagement is announced of Mr. H. N. Fiani, ex-British Consular Officer, at present the Adviser to the Military Governorate, Jaffa, and Miss Emily Mantoura, the eldest daughter of Mr. A. Mantoura.

Mirza Abdul Ali Khan, Sadigh-es-Santaneh, Persian Minister at Washington, arrived in Paris a few days ago to have an audience with the Shah. Sadigh-es-Saltaneh is well known in London, where he was stationed for a number of years.

Mr. Herbert Samuel left Victoria on January 11 for Dover, *en route* to Palestine, to which he is going at the invitation of Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, with a view to advising upon questions of administration and finance relative to the development of that country. He anticipates an absence of two or three months.

The following gentlemen are recommended by the Civil Service Commissioners to the Secretary of State for India for acceptance as selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service, subject to their being found eligible in point of health, and on the result of any other inquiries he may desire to make. The names are given in order of merit: Captain A. J. Hopkinson, Major W. McC. Sharpe, Captain M. N. Clarke, Captain R. E. Boucher, Captain G. Y. Loveband, Lieutenant J. B. Irwin, Lieutenant J. M. Sladen, Lieutenant W. W. M. Yeatts, Lieutenant P. J. Scotland, Captain W. Christie, Gunner A. McD. Clark, Lieutenant A. Gledhill.

The body of Prince Jaafar Mirza, the youngest son of H.H. Prince Firman Firma and brother of H.H. Nosrat-ed-Dowleh, the Persian Foreign Minister, was removed on January 12 from the Kensal Green Cemetery, to be conveyed to Glasgow and thence to Kazimain, for burial within the precinct of the Shrine of two Shiah Imams. Prince Jaafar died last year while he was studying in Harrow School. The Persian Chargé d'Affaires, together with the members of the Persian Legation and Sir Harry Foster (Persian Consul-General), and several distinguished members of the Persian colony, were present at the ceremony. Monazem-es-Saltaneh, Second Secretary of the Persian Legation, accompanied the body of the Prince to Glasgow.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Gregoire Michaesco has been appointed Commercial Attaché to the Roumanian Legation.

Mr. Alan Lenox Conyngham Stuart (President of the District Court of Larnaca) has been appointed Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Cyprus.

Dr. Dusan Rextar has been appointed Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

General Sir J. A. L. Haldane, K.C.B., D.S.O., will shortly take over the command of the troops now in Mesopotamia.

Mr. Leonard Christian Adami, Indian Civil Service, has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Patna, in succession to Mr. Francis Reginald Roe, Indian Civil Service, who has retired.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Nile on the Ministers of Agriculture, Education, and Wakfs (Pious Foundations), and has appointed Madame Mohammed Said Pasha as Lady-in-Waiting to the Sultana.

The King has been pleased to appoint Sir Harold Stuart, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., to the post of British High Commissioner on the Inter-Allied Rhineland High Commission. Mr. Malcolm Arnold Robertson, C.M.G., a Counsellor in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service, has been appointed Deputy British High Commissioner. Sir H. Stuart has had a distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service, which he entered in 1881. He was Home Secretary to the Government of India from 1908 to 1911, and member of the Executive Council, Madras, from 1912 to 1916. Mr. M. A. Robertson entered the Foreign Office in 1898. He has held a diplomatic appointment at Bucharest, among other places.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred in London of Father John Strassmaier, S.J., a well-known student at the British Museum, and a noted Assyriologist.

Colonel Robert D. Murray, late of the Indian Medical Service, died on January 12, in London, in his sixty-ninth year. He took part in the Burmese Expedition in 1886.

Major-General Isaac Ketchen, late of the Royal Artillery, died on January 12 at Bournemouth, at the age of eighty. He joined the Army in 1857 and took part in the Jowaki Expedition in 1876.

Brigadier-General Charles Henry Spragge, C.B., died at Torquay on January 9, in his seventy-eighth year. General Spragge first saw service on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897-8, for which he had the medal with clasp, while in the Tirah campaign he was Brigadier-General commanding the Royal Artillery, and was present at the action of Chagru Kotal and at the capture of the Sampagha and Arhanga Passes.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Launcelot McLean Farmer died on January 7 at 4, Lowndes Street. He was gazetted in 1861 to the 60th Rifles, the 2nd Battalion of which he commanded in 1890-4. With that battalion he served in Afghanistan, and took part in the Mari Expedition in 1879, when he earned a mention in despatches and the medal. Prior to going on active service in Afghanistan he was from 1873 until 1876 A.D.C. to Lord Northbrook, then Viceroy of India.

The death is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Kellett Harley, D.S.O., 7th Hussars, in his 53rd year. Colonel Harley entered the Army in 1890 and served with distinction with the Chitral Expedition of 1895. In the defence of Chitral Fort he gained the D.S.O. He was with the Sudan Expedition of 1897 and 1898, and was severely wounded at the battle of Atbara. Colonel Harley, who was with the British Mission, G.H.Q., Italy, in 1918 and last year, was a descendant of Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford.

Colonel Charles Herbert Shepherd, C.B.E., D.S.O., Hon. A.D.C. to the Governor of Bengal, commanding 1st Garrison Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, died at Calcutta on January 2, aged seventy-three. Colonel Shepherd served through the Burmese War of 1887-89 and the Chin-Lushai expedition of 1889-90, receiving the medal with two clasps and the D.S.O. He rejoined the Army in 1914, serving throughout the war in England and India, and completed fifty-four years' service in May, 1919. He was made a C.B.E. in 1918.

The death of Sir H. A. B. Rattigan, Chief Judge of the Chief Court of the Punjab, is announced in a Reuter message from Bombay. Sir Henry Adolphus Byden Rattigan was the son of the late Sir William Rattigan, K.C., M.P., and was born in 1864. In 1889 he went to India and became an Advocate of the Chief Court of the Punjab. He was appointed Legal Remembrancer and Secretary to the Legislative Council in the Punjab in 1900, and officiated several times as a Judge of the Chief Court until 1905, when he was appointed an additional Judge, becoming a Judge in 1909 and Chief Judge in 1917.

The death occurred on January 8 of Sir Henry Meredyth Plowden. Sir Henry, who was born in September, 1840, was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1866, and he later went out to India and joined the Judicial Department of the Punjab. After serving for seven years from 1871 as Government advocate and officiating Judge of the chief Court, he was appointed a Judge of the chief Court, and was senior Judge from 1880 until his retirement in 1894. Sir Henry was a distinguished cricketer in his school days at Harrow, and afterwards at Cambridge, where he was in the 'Varsity Eleven from 1860 to 1863, and captained the side at Lord's in 1862 and 1863.

The attention of subscribers to THE NEAR EAST *is drawn to the increase in the annual subscription, which has been raised to 25s. for the United Kingdom (postage included) and 30s. abroad (postage included).*

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THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 31.

Since last I sent you these notes we have had an exceedingly gay time in Cairo, culminating in a veritable orgy of jollification during Christmas week. The most prominent features amongst the social fixtures have been the entertainments at the Residency. Lord and Lady Allenby, who seem bent on giving as much pleasure as they can to the community, have indeed entertained on a large scale. Their Excellencies have given several dinner parties, among them being one to which Lord Milner and his colleagues and the British Advisers were invited, and another at which the Prime Minister and several of his colleagues were guests. On Christmas Day another large party was entertained, and an impromptu dance followed in the drawing-room.

The *pièce de résistance*, however, so far, has been the dance which was given on Monday evening, mainly for the benefit of the Army sisters and officers of the local garrison, but to which a few other guests were invited. For this occasion the ballroom, so full of memories of K. of K., who had it built towards the end of his tenure of office, was once more brought into use. The fact that the corridors on either side have been closed in to provide office room for the additional staff which the war and increased activities of the Residency have rendered necessary somewhat dwarfed the room, but nevertheless all those who were present thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and the grey dresses with their scarlet capes and snowy caps of the nurses gave a quaint and unwonted touch to the scene. Lord and Lady Allenby were indefatigable in moving amongst their guests throughout the evening, and the dancing—in which "The Chief," as he is affectionately dubbed by his juniors, repeatedly joined—continued to the gay and seductive music provided by the Hussars Band—and in the intervals by the ever-accommodating Major Murray—until a very late hour.

In addition to the Army sisters, headed by the Senior Matron, Miss Dodd, and the garrison officers, the guests included Sir R. Rodd, General Sir John Maxwell, Mr. and Mrs. Spender, Sir Gilbert and Lady Clayton, Lady Fane, Major-General and Lady Newlands, Brig.-General and Mrs. Wavell, Mr. and Mrs. Alcock, Mrs. Bird, Mr. Keown Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. de Cosson, Miss Devonshire, Col. and Mrs. Elgood, Mr. and Mrs. Geary, Air Commodore Groves, Dr. and Mrs. Madden, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Merton, Mr. and Mrs. Peckitt, Miss Peebles, Dr. and Mrs. Philipps, Miralai Russell Bey and Mrs. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Selby, Major and Miss Tweedy, Major Waley and his *fiancée*, Miss Ades.

The first dance of the season at the Continental proved very successful. The grill-room and dining hall were packed beforehand and the dancers were enthusiastic over the floor of the new ballroom, which was used for the first time. A most enjoyable series of quartet concerts have been arranged at this hotel, and the programme of those given so far has been most excellent with regard to both selection and execution. Among those entertaining at dinner on Christmas Eve were General Sir Vire and Lady Fane, whose guests included Lady Stradbroke and her daughters, Air Commodore Groves, Lady Palmer, Col. and Mrs. Hine Haycock, while visitors included Captain and Mrs. Armine Willis, General Sir Vire and Lady Fane, Mr. Gordon Vereker, Sir Arthur Webb, Baron Alfred de Menasce, and Lieut.-Col. Newcombe.

The season at the Sultania Opera House has started, and promises to be a great success. The operas so far given have been "Lorelei," "La Tosca," and "Andréa Chenier," and several novelties are promised in the near future. Considerable adverse comment has been aroused by the attitude of the impresario towards the Press, to whom he refused to issue passes. While from his point of view there is no need to advertise the opera (since practically all the seats are taken by subscription), this cavalier treatment of the Press cannot fail to react unfavourably on the members of the troupe, whose future career depends on the notices they obtain wherever they perform. Another complaint is that the same opera is given four nights running. Since the most usual form of subscription is for a bi-weekly performance, this is not at all to the liking of the subscribers. This neglect of the Press, and incidentally of the interests of the singers, and the lack of consideration for the subscribers are novelties to Cairo.

Christmas Eve is always a gay time at Shepheard's Hotel, and this year proved no exception to the rule. A gigantic Christmas-tree in the Egyptian Hall caused much joy to the host of little ones who played around it during the afternoon. The hotel was simply crowded out at tea-time, tables having to be laid in the corridors—in fact, wherever any space could be found. It was, withal, a most festive scene, and the general fun was much added to by a Tombola in which all tickets drew prizes! From what I saw, the lottery gave as much pleasure to the grown-ups as it did to the younger generation, and the gay afternoon was fittingly crowned by an impromptu dance, which did not end until Christmas morn had been ushered in. Great doings are promised for New Year's Eve, but the early departure of the mail prevents me from giving details this week. Among those stopping at this hotel are Lord Eustace Percy, Lewa Burges Pasha, Countess d'Hautpol, Sir Robert Williams, and Lord Dewar.

Mena House Hotel has reopened, and has already been the scene of many gay gatherings. The Grand Hotel at Helwan has also reopened its doors, and both are being well patronised. Many, including Sir Paul and Lady Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Ward-Boys, Sir David and Lady Bruce, and Col. Arkwright, took the opportunity of spending the Christmas holidays there. As was predicted in my previous letter, there has also been an exodus to Upper Egypt, and during the next week or so many residents are proceeding southwards, including the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, who propose to pay a short visit to the Sudan.

The racing at Ghezireh and Heliopolis continues to be excellent. The race for the Sultan's cup at Heliopolis drew very good interest, and resulted in a popular win for Ishak Pasha Hussein, who is one of the strongest Egyptian supporters of the Turf, and whose horses can usually be counted on to obtain a place. Christmas week is giving us three race meetings—one at Ghezireh and two at Heliopolis; while in addition we have had one or two excellent regimental meetings.

The Continental was recently the *venue* of a very successful bazaar in aid of the Y.W.C.A. Lady Allenby kindly opened it on the first day, and at the end of an explanatory speech by Sir Murdoch Macdonald, in a few well-chosen words, gracefully wished the venture good luck. There were stalls without number, all of them laden with large stocks of wares to tempt buyers, and by the end of the afternoon there was very little left unsold. Among those holding stalls were the Hon. Mrs. Home, Lady Oakes, Lady Fane, Mrs. Greg, Mrs. Quibell, Mrs. Peckitt, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Percival, and Mrs. Madden, while one of the side rooms had been most artistically arranged as a children's fair by Mrs. Llewellyn Phillips, who is certainly to be congratulated on the manner in which her efforts attracted the older members of the community as well as the little ones.

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FINANCE IN THE NEW INDIA.

Those of our readers who have followed the public discussions on the new Indian constitution must have been struck by the apparent neglect of all financial considerations. India is poor, and a poor man should cut his coat according to his cloth, but on this occasion the country has ordered not merely a coat, but a complete outfit, without pausing to consider how the bill is to be paid; and while we do not blame the authorities for subordinating financial questions during the debates of the past year, we are of opinion that these questions should now receive their due share of public attention, since there can be no doubt that the new constitution will involve a heavy increase in expenditure, or, in other words, a progressive enhancement of taxation, and taxation is a matter in which the public are necessarily concerned. The new constitution will cost money, and the question is where the money is to be found. In seeking for an answer, we have to remember that Indian revenues are notoriously wanting in elasticity; very nearly the whole of the ordinary receipts are pledged in advance; new taxes are hard to invent, and the increase of those which exist is practicable only within narrow limits. In this respect, however, the Central Government is more fortunate than the provinces, which are now to enjoy a large measure of autonomy; apart from the contributions to be levied on the provinces, it will receive the rapidly expanding net revenue derived from the railways, and can look for substantial aid from Customs and income-tax, while, relatively to its means, the burden of new expenditure will be comparatively small. In the provinces, on the other hand, the increased burdens will be heavy, and the prospects of a rapid growth of revenue are slight; provincial finance will, therefore, dominate the situation for some time to come, and it will be worth while to present the problem in its broadest aspects, eliminating those technical details by which the significance of the facts is so commonly obscured.

The ordinary Indian province already spends all the money it can get, and very nearly the whole of its expenditure is "necessary," so that the margin available for new enterprises is absurdly small. Now these "necessary" expenses are bound to grow: Legislatures, Ministers, and Councils will all cost money, while the long-deferred increase in scales of salaries is just beginning to take effect, and, without going into the figures in detail, it may be said that the provinces will start next year with no appreciable margin for development. But development is the essence of the whole matter. The new constitution is at once a symbol and a stimulant of the growth of national life, and if that metaphorical expression means anything, it means that each individual life should have a reasonable chance of realising its capacities. India is very far indeed from that ideal. Year by year many thousands of lives are wasted before their capacities are known, and still more are blighted merely for want of opportunity; the need for expenditure on sanitation and education is incalculable in the strictest sense, but in every province the amount required is out of all proportion to the sums now spent, and even the most courageous Indians shrink from the burden which they are called upon to undertake. At the same time, there is an equally urgent need for material development, for increased facilities of transport, for the improvement of agriculture, for help in establishing new industries, measures which will enrich the country in the long run, but the returns from which will take years to reach the Treasury. The cost of these developments will fall mainly upon the provincial budgets, the rate of expenditure on them will go far to determine the future progress of the country, and unless material needs are met, social and intellectual advance must be postponed for an indefinite period. Wherever the provincial administrator looks, he is faced by imperative demands, and the conclusion is inevitable that in the new conditions the whole scale of expenditure must eventually be raised far above what was deemed possible or desirable by the thrifty, and sometimes timid, authorities of the old regime.

Almost the first business, then, of the new dyarchic Government will be the attempt to devise large and productive schemes of provincial taxation, and it is apparent, from the somewhat superficial observations recorded on this topic by the Government of India, that they will be allowed a tolerably free hand in their unpopular task, so long, at least, as the central revenues are not threatened. The task will be difficult as well as unpopular. Suggestions for "fancy" taxes are, indeed, numerous, but no one who knows the country will look for a large immediate revenue from such sources as amusements or advertisements, while taxable luxuries are few, and we fear that Legislatures composed largely of practising lawyers will be slow to impose fresh burdens on the indulgence in litigation which in India may fairly be described as luxurious. The Excise revenue has been repeatedly enhanced of late years, and nothing short of a wave of popular intemperance would raise it sufficiently to meet the new needs; it is conceivable that a province experiencing the effects of a sudden industrial revolution might drink and drug itself into temporary financial equilibrium, but even schools and universities may be too dearly purchased, and all friends of India will join in the hope that no such calamity is in store. Abandoning the idea of any large and sudden increase in revenue from such sources as those to which we have referred, we see only two courses before the new administrations; they may proceed cautiously at first, taking a little here and saving a little there, devote their modest surplus mainly to material developments which will bring a quick return, and postpone for a time the larger programmes of education and sanitation; or they may fall back on the unearned increment of land in the country as well as in the towns, the one great source of income on which Indian despots and oligarchs have relied for so many centuries, and finance their ambitious schemes either by a direct enhancement of the land revenue, or, like innumerable predecessors, by the imposition of supplementary cesses, destined to be incorporated in the revenue in process of time. The constitution of the provincial Legislatures is as yet so uncertain that it would be folly to venture on a prediction regarding their choice between these alternatives, but it is by no means improbable that the initial grouping of parties will be determined by differences of opinion on this particular question, the more ardent reformers pressing for a bold financial policy, while men of moderate views may hesitate to risk the hostility of the powerful landed interests. The position will in any case provide a critical test of the statesmanship of the new authorities; we are content to see the decision in their hands, and we ask only that they should not be fettered at the outset by interference from above. The need for vigilance is shown by the fact that the Joint Committee of Parliament have recommended legislation which would in effect endow Indian landholders with a large proportion of the unearned increment now available for the needs of the country as a whole. Such legislation would, in our opinion, be utterly indefensible at the present juncture. We are calling on the provinces of India to manage their own affairs, and considerations of justice, as well as policy, require that we should refrain from curtailing their discretion in disposing of the only great source of revenue which they now command.

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A DANUBIAN FEDERATION.

By "Wayfarer."

The tidings that the Supreme Council is meeting again in Paris are possibly expected to have the same soothing effect as had that blessed word "Mesopotamia" on an audience perhaps as strong in the faith and probably as limited in number. The mountain is in the throes again and hopes to produce, among other events, a solution of the Adriatic difficulty. Also the Hungarian delegates have arrived in Paris to sign a peace which should help to clear the situation in Near-Eastern Europe, if only it arrives at showing the Hungarians their proper place in the general scheme of things as results from the war they provoked. In the meantime other factors have been active in a direction which is likely to affect the whole course of Europe's political and economic development. It was from Vienna that the dogs of war were unleashed, and it is from Vienna that Dr. Renner, the Austrian Chancellor, has set out for Prague to plead with the Government of the Czecho-Slovak Republic for the re-establishment of economic relations which Vienna was wont to dictate to the subject Czechs. There are indications that this step may be followed by others; Poland is said to be willing to come to an economic understanding with Czecho-Slovakia, and it is by no means likely that Hungary will care to be left out. This move would react strongly on the other States of South-Eastern Europe, the Danubian States, and notably on Yugoslavia. Here, then, appears to be the beginning of a real "League of Nations," based on economic conditions by which political relations will be regulated. And this is happening without the guidance of the Olympians of the Supreme Council; let us hope they will have the sense not to interfere.

In this new movement, which may well extend to the Adriatic and the Black Sea, the lead is taken by the able men who guide the destinies of a new State, the Czecho-Slovak Republic. Though this country does not, strictly speaking, come within the range of THE NEAR EAST, it is well to take note of its position and of the lines along which it plainly intends to develop its outward economic relations. Bohemia, unlike Hungary, never centralised all industrial enterprise in the capital; so there are a number of important industrial cities, of which Bratislava is likely to become the most prominent. A singularly attractive little town is Bratislava (Pressburg, or Pozony, according to Czech, German or Magyar version), lying with its back protected from the northern blasts by the wooded spurs of the Carpathians, facing the broad Danube and the wide Hungarian plains. For many centuries a happy and prosperous community, it has its flourishing industries and its important Danube traffic growing yet more voluminous as Vienna decays. To this must be added the possibilities of the Morava, which flows into the Danube near Bratislava, and which will connect up the Central European waterway, the Danube, with the North Sea and Baltic by way of Elbe and Oder. So the Danube is about to resume its work of centuries in connecting up the peoples that live on its banks in friendly commerce, at the same time relieving the worn-out and rather arbitrarily planned railway system of the late Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The admission of Austria, or whatever remains of the Duchies of Upper and Lower Austria, within a Danubian Federation may cause misgivings in a certain group of European politicians. They argue that nothing should be done to revive Austria, possibly under the Hapsburger again, as a dominant factor in European politics. But Austria is "down and out," and is about the only enemy of the Entente that realises that it has been beaten, and that it is indeed undergoing a just punishment for its crime against humanity. Left to itself Austria will die, but, as a deceased political body with an unholy past, would be a distinct danger to the peace of Europe, whereas gathered into a federation of States considerably stronger, the little good left in Austria might be turned to some useful account. There was at one time a suggestion that Austria would seek refuge with the confederation of German States, or German Empire, as it persists in calling itself, and this met with serious objections in certain quarters of Entente diplomacy, as strengthening the German element in Central Europe. This objection is surely based on groundless fears. To a close observer of tendencies which became manifest at the very outbreak of the war, it is obvious that German Austria has always been a source of weakness to "Teutschtum," that it is obviously more so now, and that any federation of the Austrian Duchies with the German Empire will eventually lead to a sharper phase of the "Kultur Kampf" and an eventual segregation of German Protestants and German Catholics into hostile camps. There remains, then, this opportune movement, inaugurated by the Czecho-Slovak Republic, of combining those whose economic existence is influenced by, if not dependent on, the Danube, into some economic understanding. True, this combine may in rough outline recall the defunct Dual Monarchy, but its composition is very different. Taking its prospective members from North to South, we have first the Czecho-Slovaks, efficient and purposeful, and full of confidence in the future of their State.

Then Austria, starving and crippled, calling only for a pittance to keep body and soul together for yet another day, and, therefore, hardly likely to recall expensive Grand Dukes in order to revive the vanished Habsburg tradition. Hungary next, perhaps the most difficult problem because least understood in this country, where really next to nothing is known either of the Magyars or their history. There is a sort of tradition of friendship between Hungary and England which, after careful inspection, boils down to little more than is suggested by the old song of the "squire of low degree who loved the King's daughter of Hungary"; there have been sporting amenities between Englishmen and Magyar magnates; and early Victorian sentimentality welcomed Hungarian political refugees to this country. The casual visitor to Hungary was not allowed to see what was going on underneath the superficial *bonhommie* of those Hungarian sportsmen; how every effort of other races in the land, Croats, Roumanians, and Ruthenes, to fit themselves for service in the higher offices of the State without disowning their racial traditions was ruthlessly suppressed by the minority of Magyars and international Semitic financiers. The stupid cruelty of Austrians paled before the ferocity of the Magyars in invaded Serbia. Having been beaten in war, the Magyars must face the consequences and appreciate the fact that they are no longer a power, not even a little one; but are nothing but an incident in the resetting of racial questions on lines more equitable than the former rulers of Hungary (and its people) were capable of conceiving or willing to carry into execution. But the Hungarian, opportunist as he is, may remain a possible danger to the peace of Central Europe. This Michael Karolyi proved sufficiently when he handed his country over to Bolshevism in order to scare the Olympians. He succeeded, too; but as the Hungarians, thanks to the efforts of Roumania, who knows her Western neighbour very well, have found that Bolshevism does not pay, they are trying other methods. This time they are posing as the victims; Magyars and international finance—under the guise of Roman Catholics and Unitarians—are appealing piteously against alleged religious persecution at the hands of the Roumanians. The Roumanian is not a saint, and does not profess to be one; he is, at least in the Banat, in Ardeal and Bukovina, what his Hungarian oppressors have made him; and this latest Hungarian move is no doubt clever propaganda, as it appeals to the muddle-headed religiosity of the kind that sends flannel petticoats to the ladies of Central Africa, who would much rather go on wearing nothing. For all its cleverness, this propaganda may yet defeat its own ends, as it is near to overstepping the limits of poetic licence.

But it is Hungary as economic factor, not as a picturesque mediæval survival, which should concern us. In this respect is Hungary meeting with just retribution. In order to make the oppression of the subject races easier and of more effect, not only the political but the economic life was centralised in the capital: outside Budapest Hungary has no large manufacturing

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centres, not even in the districts of Petrosany and Medias, rich in raw material. Towns like Arad, Kolosvar, Zagreb were really little more than enlarged markets for country produce. Now that the provinces inhabited by Croats, Slovaks, and Roumanians have been incorporated each in its respective motherland, Hungary's state is that of having a heart too large for its body. There remains to Hungary nothing but an overgrown capital amid a purely agricultural country, a capital with thousands of factory hands whose livelihood depends upon the disposition of their neighbours to part with raw material. The commercial importance of Budapest is therefore considerably impaired, and it no longer compels the affluence of raw material from subject provinces, but is rather dependent on the goodwill of the State into which those provinces have been merged. If Bratislava continues to grow in importance, Budapest will sink to a second-rate status as a Danube port. The Hungarians are probably fully alive to this fact, and will therefore not be found adverse to any suggested resumption of economic relations with their neighbours. We must except the Roumanians, for whom the Hungarians seem to cherish a deep hatred, and against whom their ingenious propaganda is chiefly directed. This should eventually bring them to consider closer relations with their southern neighbours, the Yugoslavs. The kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes ranks second only to Great Roumania as a Danubian country; for though it controls a lesser length of the river than does Bulgaria, the Yugoslav section of the river drains the rich agricultural lands of the Serbian Banat, of Syrmia, and Baranya, as also the valleys of the Save and Bosna with the increasingly important industrial centres Zagreb and Serajevo.

The possibilities of " S.H.S." are not yet sufficiently realised by the British public. This is due to various causes, chiefest among them an insidious anti-Yugoslav propaganda, and also that people's ineptitude as propagandists in their own interests. There yet obtains in many circles an idea that the Yugoslavs are not far removed from brigands, picturesque and illiterate. A visit to the town mentioned above would help to remove this impression, and throughout the country of S.H.S. there is a very marked movement towards more intimate relations with Western, and more especially English, thought and culture. The charge of illiteracy and want of culture which is often brought against the Yugoslavs, and originates in Italy, would be amusing were it not so unjust. Statistics on the subject of illiteracy would probably show that Italy has no reason to claim any superiority in that respect over her Adriatic neighbour.

The Yugoslavs are taking their economic development very seriously, and up till now their efforts have been hindered rather than helped by their friends and Allies. They now have foodstuffs to export, and this fact is about to lead to a resumption of economic relations with starving Austria, again a move in the direction of a Danubian Federation, as traffic would pass through Hungarian territory, and this would act as an inducement to the Hungarians to set their house in order and get to business, in fact, to seek inclusion in the inevitable economic scheme. So the very thing that Italy has been trying to prevent bids fair to become a reality, and in a measure it is Italy's doing. Italy's policy from the thrilling days of the Congress of Rome in April, 1918, up till quite recently, has tended to frustrate any co-operation of the Danubian States (which co-operation could only be regarded as a step towards a peaceable settlement) by separating those states into rival groups, by encouraging Hungary and Bulgaria. Of these two, the one tried to wring concessions from a sacred Supreme Council, by adopting Bolshevism, and the other showy symptoms of socialistic unrest, possibly due to disappointment. According to Signor Nitti, the policy of Italy, which up till his advent to power recalled Sismond's history of the City Republics, has undergone a change. The vexed question of Fiume is to be settled. Fiume has, says Signor Nitti, a sentimental value to Italy: so has Rjeka for the Yugoslavs, and so it always had before the Venetians held the city for a short period in the 16th century, before the Hungarians stole it, and throughout the weary times when Hungarians encouraged the Italian colonists against the original Slav owners, even allowing the former to translate its name into their own language.

Throughout all the gloom and anxiety caused by the Supreme Council's want of decision and direction in dealing with Adriatic difficulties, the conduct of the Yugoslavs is the one bright spot. It would not have required any great military effort to dislodge D'Annunzio and his brigands; perhaps even persuasion in pecuniary form might have availed; yet the Yugoslavs restrained themselves, in loyalty awaiting some decision from the Supreme Council. Their action has entailed one serious loss to themselves: Field-Marshal Mishitch, one of the greatest leaders this war has produced, felt it impossible to remain in command of the Yugoslav armed forces under the affront offered to his victorious army by his country's Allies. Their failure to act in face of D'Annunzio's outrage was more than any honest soldier could stand, so Voivoda Mishitch, kindest of men, most modest of heroes, has retired from his high position. The Yugoslavs, who are rapidly losing their illusions as to the friendly relations of at least some of their Allies, have their own ideas as to the Fiume question. They consider that Italy's claim on Fiume is based on the fear that it may adversely affect the commerce of Trieste, that Italy's intention is to kill Fiume as a port, and that this would certainly happen even were Fiume to become a free port under an Italian mandate. They may be mistaken, but it must be admitted that their conclusions are not altogether groundless. In the meantime, while the Fiume question remains undecided, they are turning elsewhere to "the evils that they know" possibly, but evils which they are now in much better case to cope with. There is a modern German saying " in Geldsachen hört die Gemüthlichkeit auf," which, being interpreted, meaneth that there is no occasion for " bonhommie " in business matters, so the Yugoslavs may well resume business relations with their former enemies, if their friends are disinclined to trade with them. This applies particularly to the British business man. He is not altogether to blame, for the uncertainty which has reigned in Central Europe since the Armistice has not encouraged a venturesome trade policy. Moreover, the British business man has not been adequately supported by his Government. There has been much talk of helping trade, but little has come of it. Yugoslavia is as yet without consuls, and no commercial councillor has been appointed to that country, and, even were these posts filled, it is doubtful whether the Government would have found the most suitable men. For instance, Fiume requires a strong man to represent British interests—the usually worthy type of consul is not a big enough man for so exacting a position. It is a Treasury question, and while the Treasury is harassed by finding large sums for extravagant projects at home, it can hardly be expected in these days of political advertisement to spend much on representation abroad. The incipient economic federation of Danubian States offers great possibilities to the British business man, among new States which are only too keen on his expert co-operation. It makes for peace and for considerable expansion from the North Sea to the Baltic, to the Adriatic and the Black Sea, and will surely influence the reconstruction of Germany. It rests with the British business man, then, to take his due place in a scheme which will do more than all the Supreme Councils or Leagues of Nations towards leading Europe into the "Way of Peace." Needless to say, his old trade rival, the German, is already taking a lively interest in this new development of Central European affairs.

A Reuter message states that on December 29, 1919, the Roumanian Parliament, consisting of deputies from all parts of Great Roumania, ratified solemnly the decrees for the union of Bessarabia, Bukovina, and Transylvania.

An official report on the lately disclosed plot against the present Greek *regime* states that the aim of the conspirators, all ex-members of the Greek Army, was to seize power after having previously assassinated M. Venizelos and the principal leaders of the Liberal Party.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

Bessarabia is in for a bad time on February 8, according to a gentleman who is described, alliteratively, by a local paper as "the well-known weather prophet who lives in Wimbledon." This authority predicts that on the date mentioned Bessarabia will be visited by an earthquake; and as his predictions in this line are said to have an uncomfortable way of "coming off" I feel quite glad I am not in Bessarabia, nor likely to be on the fateful day. The prophet foretells other earthquakes, for South Africa (February 20) and Central Europe, "about 48 degrees No. Lat., about midnight on March 2." There is also to be a volcanic eruption in the East Indies on February 7; so that, on the whole, Mother Earth seems to have a busy time ahead. To my mind, the most uncomfortable touch in this long catalogue of evils to come is the statement that the earthquake of March 2 (prox.) is mentioned as "a repetition of that of September 2, 1884, in Austria." I never did have a good opinion of earthquakes, and if they are of such a vindictive, sulking nature as this, my opinion of them will sink still lower.

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Modern journalism is very enterprising, as we are constantly being reminded by the modern journalists. We all know, for instance, how the "5 o'clock editions" of the evening papers make their appearance at some time well before 3 o'clock in the afternoon, with the other editions running them very close; and how both morning and evening papers give us "bright" and "snappy" reports of everything that happens just as soon as it happens, occasionally before it does happen, and sometimes even when it does not happen according to expectations. But perhaps the greatest differences between the modern journalism and the old lie in the way in which the former concerns itself with personalities, and the familiar note—not to say the note of familiarity—which runs through its jazz-like performance. Whether this helps us to form a truer judgment on men and things, I cannot pretend to say. I merely note it as a phenomenon.

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What led me to this disquisition was a paragraph in the account sent from Paris, by the representative of one of the Sunday papers, of the final ceremony in the Peace negotiations. This picturesque writer (that is, I fancy, the correct expression!) informed his readers:—

"When the representative of Bolivia had signed, the 'Tiger's' shrill voice was heard ringing across the hall: 'Any more want to sign?'"

What I want to know is whether we are to accept this description as accurate, and to conclude that the Prime Minister of the French Republic has no sense of the fitness of things, or whether the "picturesque writer" allowed his imagination to run away with his judgment. In the latter case there is no more to be said; but If M. Clemenceau really did behave as he is represented to have done—what an admirable railway porter he would make!

***

That reminds me, by the way, of a little tale I heard about the Peace Conference. Just as the Bulgarian Delegates were about to enter the room to sign the Peace Terms, the head of one of the Great Powers turned to a secretary and said: "Let me see, are they a republic or a kingdom?" No: it was *not* Mr. Lloyd George. Teschen has taught him quite a lot. But—poor Bulgaria!

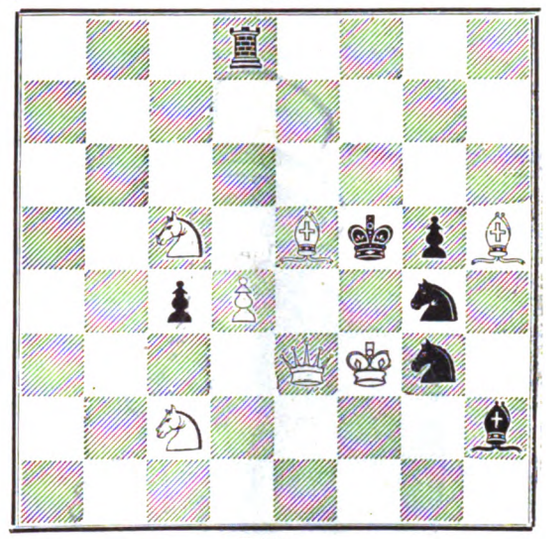
CORSAIR.

A MUSEUM FOR PALESTINE.

The Palestine Museum has been established in Jerusalem, and is to be open at present on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (the Sabbaths of the three religions of Mohammedanism, Judaism, and Christianity). The museum has hitherto existed as part of the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts founded by the Zionists, and although it was only established in 1906, it already contains over 3,000 exhibits, including, in addition to statuary and paintings, a valuable collection of ancient coins, many specimens of ancient pottery, glass, and brassware, Palestinian birds, animals, reptiles and insects, minerals, embroidery, jewellery, and articles used in Jewish ritual and ceremonial. Jewish artists in all countries have promised pictures, sculpture, etc., and a special section is to be established referring to the British conquest of Palestine.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 10.
Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

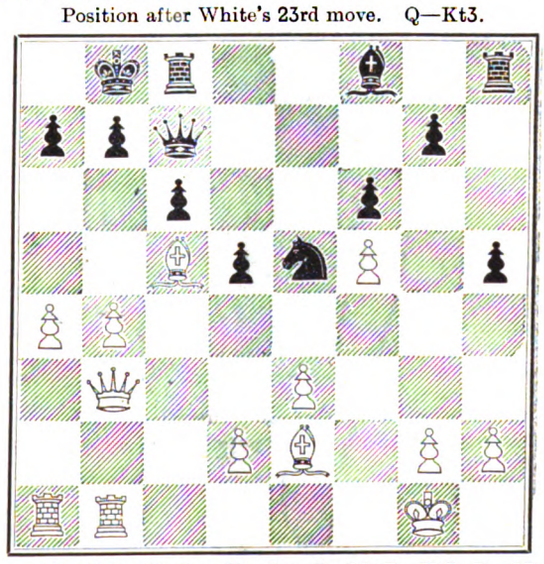
The above problem, by F. Vaux Wilson, jun., Philadelphia, won the first prize of the Good Companion Chess Problem Club for November, 1915.

Solution to Problem No. 9.—1. Kt—Q4, P x P; Q—KKt8; if 1 . . . . Kt any 2. Q—B6(ch); if . . . . P—K4, 2. Kt—Kt4.

Solution to Problem No. 8.—1. Q—K6, R—QB7; 2. Q—KKt6; if 1. . . . B—K7; 2. Q x KP.

The following game was played in Section C of the City of London Chess Club Companionship. Opening Irregular. 1. P—KB4, P—QB3; 2. P—QKt3, P—Q4; 3. B—Kt2, B—B4; 4. P—K3, Kt—Q2; 5. Kt—KB3, P—K3; 6. Kt—B3, KKt—B3; 7. B—K2, Kt—K5; 8. O—O, Kt(Q2)—B3; 9. Kt—Q4, P—KR4(1); 10. Kt x Kt, Kt x Kt; 11. P—B4, Kt—Q3; 12. P x P, KP x P; 13. Kt x B, Kt x Kt; 14. B—Q3, Q—Q2; 15. Q—B2, Kt—Q3; 16. P—B5, 0—0—0; 17. B—Q4, K—Kt; 18. P—QR4, P—B3; 19. P—QKt4, Kt—B2; 20. KR—Kt, R—B; 21. B—B5, Kt—K4; 22. B—K2, Q—B2; 23. Q—Kt3(2).

Position after White's 23rd move. Q—Kt3.



23. . . . Kt—Kt5; 24. B x Kt, P x B; 25. P—Kt3, B—Q3; 26. B x B, Q x B(3); 27. P—Kt5, P—B4; 28. P—Q4, P—B5; 29. Q—R3, Q—Q2; 30. P—Kt6, P—R3; 31. R—KB, R—R4; 32. QR—K, R—K; 33. R—B4, R x P; 34. R x P, R—B6; 35. R—R4, P—Kt4; 36. R—R6(4), K—R(5); 37. K—Kt2, P—Kt6; 38. R—R4, Q—K3; 39. P—R3, P—B4; 40. P x P, P x P; 41. Q—Kt2, Q—K5; 42. Q—Kt, R x KtP(ch) and wins (6).

(1) Black opened with several indifferent moves, of which this is a notable example; but though weak now it proved subsequently of very considerable value when Black, hard pressed, launched a counter-attack.

(2) At a *prima-facie* inspection it would appear at this point to be White's game. But by a simple manœuvre, for which the last few moves have been the preparation, Black is able to force exchanges, leaving himself with a won game.

(3) Now White's position has lost its strength.

(4) Putting the Rook out of play.

(5) Necessary because the threatened check was retaining the Queen for defence.

(6) There is now a mate in nine as follows:—43. K x R, Q—B6(ch); 44. K—R2, Q—B7(ch); 45. K—R, Q x R(ch); 46. K—Kt2, Q—R6(ch); 47. K—Kt, Q—Kt6(ch); 48. K—B, Q—B6(ch); 49. K—Kt, R—R, and mates in two moves.

KARO-CANN.

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WHEN the rates of exchange are adverse or irregular and a grim struggle lies ahead, the British nation looks to its leading manufacturers for special effort—and not in vain.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Complaints are still reaching me regarding the shortcomings of the postal and telegraphic services between the United Kingdom and the Near East. The latest is from a correspondent who has just returned home after several months spent in Constantinople. "The services," he writes, "are simply scandalous, and the result is that British trade is suffering, while the French, Italians, and others are reaping an advantage. The British Government ought to take steps to remedy matters without delay." As I have pointed out time and again, the question is one which emphatically calls for prompt action on the part of the authorities, who are in a position to know the reason for the unsatisfactory state of affairs, and should be able to devise a remedy without much difficulty. If it were a question of all countries being treated alike it would be a different matter, but that is not the case, for France and Italy appear to have no difficulties in regard to communications with the region in question.

***

My correspondent proceeds to comment on the trade position with regard to Constantinople. "Imports and exports," he points out, "are naturally restricted until the treaty has been signed and more shipping has been released. Trade, therefore, cannot develop, and, besides this, there is the everlasting question of exchange, which makes every good business man very careful and renders any extra big transaction very difficult." He further remarks on the great activity that has been shown by foreign countries. "The French, Italians, Spaniards, and Americans are all dumping goods into the city," he continues, "and I anticipate great competition in the future. Before the war one hardly ever saw any American mercantile tonnage in Constantinople, and not more than one Spanish steamer per annum would find its way to the Bosphorus, but since the armistice both these flags have been seen in those waters almost weekly without exception."

***

This simply bears out what I have said in these columns with regard to future competition for the Near East markets. But, granted that other countries have made the fullest use of their opportunities in 1919 in the Near East, and that it was only in the latter part of the year that British merchants were beginning to bestir themselves, there is little in the position now as I see it that need give rise to pessimism. In his brief reference to trade my correspondent does not give the whole picture. The past year was in every sense an abnormal period, and one which, from the commercial point of view, can scarcely be taken as a criterion for the future. Certainly no one would dream of attempting to obtain any useful conclusions by a comparison of the trade figures with those of the pre-war year or with those of the current year. Our competitors as a whole were first in the field mainly because they were better prepared for the renewal of the commercial conflict; some of them, be it noted, had been only indirectly affected by the war, and were thus in a most favourable position. But while they gained, to use a colloquialism, a "flying start," it yet remains to be seen how far their enterprise has been successful.

***

On this question I have received an interesting communication from another correspondent. "As was only to be anticipated," he writes, "America of all the Allies stood in the best position to supply the immediate needs of Europe, and she was not slow in taking advantage of the opportunity that offered itself of capturing the Near East markets. Speculative shipping of all kinds of goods was carried on on a vast scale, reaching remarkable figures. This activity caused no little anxiety among British merchants who, hampered by Government control, labour troubles, lack of transport, and shortage of labour, felt that markets of the utmost importance to the United Kingdom as a mercantile nation were being wrested from us. A few months were sufficient, however, to prove the groundless nature of these fears, and to-day the British trader is rapidly forging ahead in a manner that excites the admiration and wonder of the world."

***

"After all," adds my correspondent, "it is really not to be wondered at that, despite the entrance into the field of new and redoubtable commercial rivals, the British trader, once he was able to resume unfettered competition, should be successful. Have not some of the Near Eastern markets been studied and catered for by the British merchant for hundreds of years? He does not gamble with merchandise. He knows what is wanted, and only sends what can be paid for. He has the confidence of Near Eastern merchants, and I am in a position to state that his goods are to-day in ever increasing demand. Any possibility of the Americans capturing the Near East markets is not now entertained for a moment. The huge shipments sent by America to the Near East are not likely to return the huge profits expected, and one need not be surprised should some heavy losses eventually result, due to want of knowledge of the market and ignorance of the class of merchandise required."

***

It now rests with the shareholders of the three Presidency Banks to pass their verdict on the scheme for the amalgamation of these institutions to form the Imperial Bank of India. It is open to question, as I think I pointed out recently, whether the end in view, the development of banking facilities in India, could not have been achieved by another method, the establishment of a new banking institution; but at the same time, if India is to have a national bank, there is undoubtedly much to be said in favour of the fusion of the three Presidency banks. Incidentally, there is one important factor which is not without bearing on the situation. It will be remembered that not many months ago there was a prospect that one of the great joint stock banks would acquire control of one of the Indian exchange banks. In a circular sent recently to the shareholders of the Bank of Bengal it was suggested that developments of this character were probable at an early date, and it was stated that to combat this and to retain their prominent position it becomes absolutely necessary that the three Presidency banks should consolidate by amalgamation.

***

On the following page will be found an important despatch from our Cairo Correspondent on Egypt's finances in 1918. The revenue amounted to £E27,661,289 and the expenditure to £E23,384,326, there being thus a balance of £E4,276,963. It is pointed out in an accompanying Note that the surplus cannot, however, be taken as a true index of the position. The revenue has in some respects been inflated by the abnormal conditions, while the difficulties of obtaining material have prevented Administrations from expending credits.

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EGYPT'S FINANCES IN 1918-19.

Substantial Revenue Surplus.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, Deceniber 26.

The final accounts for the 1918-19 financial year have at last been published, and the figures show a remarkably prosperous result. Revenue came to £E27,661,289 and expenditure to £E23,384,326, thus leaving a surplus on the year's working of £E4,276,963. The revenue exceeded the estimates by £E4,761,289 and the expenditure the figure forecasted by £E134,326. From the surplus a sum of £E67,304 has been taken, as representing the seigniorage on coinage during the year, and has been added to the silver reserve fund, which now stands at £E1,452,561; whilst the balance of the surplus, viz., £E4,209,659, has been added to the general reserve fund, bringing the latter to £E10,979,838 on April 1, 1919.

The extraordinary manner in which the finances of the country have expanded during the past six years is well brought out in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue. £E.	Expenditure. £E.	Surplus. £E.
1913-1914	17,703,898	17,659,961	+ 43,937
1914-1915	15,389,124	16,857,783	—1,468,859
1915-1916	17,759,418	16,594,666	+1,164,752(1)
1916-1917	19,927,274	17,240,606	+2,686,668(3)
1917-1918	23,166,074	22,496,948(2)	+ 669,126(3)
1918-1919	27,661,289	23,384,326	+4,276,963(3)

(1) Apart from this surplus an amount of £E1,270,407 was written off for depreciation of reserve securities.

(2) Including a grant of £E2,967,956 to the British Government towards war expenditure.

(3) In 1916-1917 £E996,000, in 1917-18 £E389,257, and in 1918-1919 £E67,304 were transferred to Silver Reserve Fund to meet possible loss on recall of silver coinage issued during the war.

Revenue exceeded that realised during 1917-1918 by £E4,495,215, and expenditure that of the preceding year by £E887,378. The main increases in revenue were, customs £E1,029,660, tobacco dues £E345,804, excise £E218,723, railways £E1,987,443, telephones £E251,005, ghaffir cess £E148,259, interest on investments £E445,251, and extraordinary receipts £E200,820. The only item showing a decrease of any importance was miscellaneous receipts, which fell off by £E199,177. On the expenditure side, the chief increases were frontiers districts £E109,674, Education £E72,617, public health £E189,565, irrigation £E144,018, railways £E523,048, mechanical service £E136,393, ghaffirs £E188,445, War Office £E570,722, war gratuities £E924,782, whilst important decreases were recorded under telephones £E269,006 and war expenditure £E2,449,246. It is interesting to note that the railways telegraphs and post office paid their way, the deficit under telephones being due to the fact that the purchase price of £E750,000 is being paid out of revenue, and the past financial year bore the balance still due to the company. The attached table shows the extraordinary development which the revenues of the country have undergone since the first year of the war under each of the important headings.

	ACTUAL REVENUE				
	1918 £.E.	191 £.E.	1916 £.E.	1915 £.E.	1914 £.E.
Direct Taxes	5,612,291	5,608,712	5,575,338	5,594,314	5,254,096
Customs:—					
Customs	4,169,168	3,159,508	2,714,854	1,839,270	1,362,181
Tobacco Dues	2,156,523	1,810,719	2,125,309	1,990,868	1,742,995
Excise	580,398	361,675	—	—	—
Port and Lights Dues ..	91,428	68,383	115,077	150,175	324,707
Fisheries	58,422	50,317	35,377	34,214	39,044
Stamp Duty	51,234	68,415	49,684	40,130	38,511
Assay Dues	31,720	29,664	17,650	3,502	2,085
Judicial and Registration Fees:—					
Mixed Courts	1,056,809	1,074,260	881,004	747,037	727,248
Native Courts.....	430,922	444,741	413,060	427,876	405,938
Mehkemehs and Courts of Wards.....	119,208	108,293	82,501	62,618	61,917
Railways	6,991,105	5,003,662	4,460,897	3,724,348	3,176,220
Telegraphs	237,726	188,928	150,355	167,921	123,071
Telephones	251,005	—	—	—	—
Post Office	402,831	359,758	313,681	300,761	287,686
State Domains	989,288	1,033,845	865,585	810,848	368,005
Military Exemption Fees	191,340	173,480	104,780	86,240	107,380
Ghafir Cess.....	833,634	685,375	—	—	—
Pension Contributions ..	143,808	140,768	135,704	137,416	143,792
Interest on Funds	1,615,521	1,170,306	649,218	390,756	301,027
Miscellaneous Receipts and Dues	881,874	1,081,051	1,103,107	1,028,900	690,562
Extraordinary Receipts..	745,034	454,214	133,093	222,224	217,041
Refunds	—	—	—	—	15,618
Total.....	27,661,289	23,166,074	19,927,274	17,753,418	15,389,124

The inflation of the revenue is, of course, due to the special conditions created by the war, and in a note issued with the final account the Ministry of Finance points out that the surplus realised this year calls for material reservations. In the first place interest on investments (coming from the note issue) and extraordinary receipts, which are the items showing the greatest increase over estimates, rising from £E1,246,000 to £E2,350,000, are swollen by circumstances the continuance of which cannot be relied upon to give equally favourable results year by year. Secondly, the increase of £E1,350,000 over estimates recorded in Customs receipts is due to the abnormally high level of prices. On the other side of the account, it is pointed out that although supplementary credits amounting to no less than £E1,853,773 were granted during the year, the estimate was only exceeded by £E134,326, which shows that the administrations to which they were granted were unable to carry out the work projected, mainly due to difficulties in the way of procuring material and supplies and to lack of labour. The most notable instances appear to have been the public works and the state railways, where the expenditure was respectively £E444,000 and £E1,063,000 less than the estimate. These sums are postponed expenditure rather than true savings, and, considering that the arrears of maintenance to be made good in the course of the next five years in the case of the state railways alone are estimated at £E7,000,000, one must agree that the surplus of the past financial year, although very satisfactory, cannot be regarded as a true index of the country's budgetary position. The financial stability of the Egyptian Government is on the face of it excellent, since it has been possible to build up the reserve since 1913 to double its pre-war figure; but unless that total is very much to be depleted it will be necessary for the financial authorities to open up new sources of revenue to meet not only the heavy arrears of maintenance, new works, etc., which have had to be postponed during the past five years, but also the demand made for economic and social development, and the shrinkage which existing sources are sure to undergo in the near future.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE IN ROUMANIA.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest states that a steamer from the United States of America recently discharged at Galatz a quantity of merchandise, of which the following appeared to be the principal items:—Caustic soda, oxide of zinc, candles, shaving soap, ordinary soap, borax powder, stearine, nails, wire, tin, galvanised tin, screws, and ironware, together with 50,000 pairs of shoes and a quantity of coffee, paper, salt fish, saccharine, and a small quantity of window glass, toilet articles, typewriters, machine belting, asbestos, motor-cars, socks, cotton goods, cotton thread, and a few thousand pairs of stockings.

A number of American commercial travellers are strenuously endeavouring to sell their merchandise in this market. They appear to meet with a certain measure of success in selling what may be called distinctively American goods, such as thread and half-silk socks and stockings, American-shaped boots and shoes, typewriters, and some few other articles, such as special toilet articles, i.e., American shaving soaps, but in articles such as cotton sheeting and cotton piece-goods they do not seem to be able to withstand the competition of Manchester firms. The same conditions apply to a great extent in the iron and steel trades, although one or two quite large sales have been made, c.i.f. Galatz, upon a cheaper basis than could have been done from the United Kingdom.

Lord Allenby has issued a proclamation removing restrictions on the import into and the negotiation of securities in Egypt.

The death is announced of M. Victor Béret, secretary of the Suez Canal Company.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the six days ended December 31 were:—Cattle markets, £1,407; general markets, £591; total, £1,998; total for year, £64,266. The figures for the corresponding period in 1918 ended December 31 were:—Cattle markets, £743; general markets, £378; total, £1,121; total for year, £55,199.

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The Egyptian Cotton Crop.

By John A. Todd

1.—THE PRESENT POSITION.

The recent spectacular rise in the price of Egyptian cotton has naturally aroused a great deal of discussion as to its causes, and as to whether it has yet reached its limit. These causes go a long way back into the history of the crop. For many years before the war the crop had been on the whole steadily increasing, though the increase was not keeping pace with the expansion of acreage. The extension of the Egyptian crop is limited by the irrigation facilities available, and as these had been increasing ever since the British Occupation, it was natural that the acreage should show a steady upward tendency.

On the other hand, it had become apparent even before 1909 that the average yield per acre was steadily diminishing, and the disastrous crop failure of that year only brought matters to a head. From that time till the outbreak of war considerable progress had been made towards tackling the problem of water-logging. The scheme evolved would have had the double merit of restoring the Middle Zone to its former productivity, and at the same time adding to the available area about a million acres in the derelict Northern Zone, which would have meant a very desirable addition to the total crop. Unfortunately, it was found that the reclamation works which would have to follow the completion of the drainage scheme required even a larger water supply than was then available, and so the White Nile Dam scheme had to be taken up. Thus the process of remedying the harm done and adding permanently to the acreage under cotton in Egypt, was likely to occupy some years; but a certain amount of progress had been made before the war, and the prospects of the Egyptian crop in 1914 were brighter than they had been for a long time.

Reduction of Acreage.

The war unfortunately played havoc with all these schemes. The slump in prices in the autumn of 1914 destroyed for the time being all confidence in the demand for cotton; and in any case the war made it impossible to go on with huge engineering schemes. Thus, during the war, as will be seen from the following table, the acreage suffered serious diminution; but this was rapidly being recovered in 1917 when the exigencies of the war again compelled a serious reduction of the area to be put under cotton in 1918, in order that the supply of locally grown cereals might approach more nearly to the abnormal demands of the Army and civilian population, aggravated by the difficulty of bringing foreign supplies into the country owing to the submarine menace. Thus the crop was again thrown back, and the 1918 crop was smaller even than that of 1909. The recovery which might have been expected in 1919 was to some extent spoilt by the serious disturbances in the spring of the year, and the acreage is still far short of pre-war records, but the estimates of the crop have been round about 6¼ million kantars. We are thankful for small mercies in these days!

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRICES OF THE EGYPTIAN CROP, 1913-20.

Season.	Acreage.	Per cent. on 1913.	Crop.	Yield per Acre.	Liverpool Prices (pence per lb.)		
					Lowest.	Highest	Av'rage
	Feddans.		Kantars.	lb.	F. G. F. Brown.		
1913-14	1,723,094	—	7,684,172	444	8·15	10·45	9·44
1914-15	1,755,270	102	6,490,221	369	6·30	8·30	7·34
1915-16	1,185,004	69	4,806,331	406	7·50	11·90	10·42
1916-17	1.655,512	96	5.111.080	310	11·60	31·50	21·56
1917-18	1.677.310	97	6.307 618	375	28·56*	35·50	30·97*
1918-19	1,361,000	79	4,820.6:0	355	26·59*	30·19*	27 85*
1919-20	1,573,662	91	*6,000 000*	*3 0*	—	—	—

The figures in italics are estimates. * Sakel.

Lower Average Yield.

There is, however, a further unsatisfactory feature in the statistical record of the crop during the war, namely, the marked accentuation in certain years of the reduction in the average yield per acre. An examination of the statistics on this point brings out two things. In the first place, there has been a very marked fluctuation in the average yields, and, second, even the best year since the war does not give an average yield equal to that of pre-war years. This suggests two causes. First, the old trouble of water-logging has not yet been cured (as, of course, we know it has not), because the years of lowest yield are the years of high flood, while the years of lowest flood gave the best yields. Second, the cause of the continued reduction in the average yields of the best years is the ravages of the pink boll worm. This also was due to the war, for the measures which were introduced by legislation just before the war could not be enforced owing to the impossibility of getting the necessary plant from Europe. It is to be hoped that this difficulty will now be got over, and that the damage done by pink boll worm will be steadily diminished in future years; but the position of the Egyptian crop will never be satisfactory until the much more deeply seated evil of water-logging is dealt with thoroughly and conclusively.

Government Control.

The last phase of the effect of the war upon the crop was the Government control of the 1918 crop, which came to an end on July 31, 1919. The sudden jump in price which immediately followed, very naturally gave rise to the impression that the control had been keeping prices down, but it is only fair to point out that this was by no means true of the control throughout its whole period. On the contrary, the control was responsible for maintaining the price throughout the season at a comparatively steady level, which was during a large part of the year much higher than would have been the case if prices had been left free to follow the general tendency of the market, as represented by the price of American cotton. The following table shows the relative prices of American and Egyptian cotton during the season, and it will be seen that, when American cotton slumped heavily during the season, the control held Egyptian prices up, but in the latter part of the season American recovered and Egyptian was kept steady. On balance Egyptian prices probably gained substantially by the control:—

AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN PRICES, 1918-20.

Date.	American Good Middling Boweds.	Egyptian F. G. F. Sakel.	Premium Per Cent	Date.	American Fully Middling.	Egyptian F. G. F. Sakel.	Premium Per Cent.
1918.				1919.			
Aug. 1 ..	21·57	30·19	37	May 2 ..	17·89	26·59	50
Sept. 6 ..	24·58	30·19	22	June 5 ..	20·10	27·09	35
Oct. 4....	24·06	29·40	22	July 4....	20·04	27·09	35
Nov. 1 ..	21·89	29·40	34				
Dec. 6 ..	20·79	27·56	32	Aug. 8 ..	19·13	31·00	56
1919.				Sept. 5 ..	18·75	30·00	55
Jan. 6....	19·20	27·30	42	Oct. 3....	20·38	30·00	48
Feb. 7 ..	17·77	27·30	54	Nov. 7 ..	26·30	37·50	42
March 7..	15·96	27·09	70	Dec. 5....	26·37	49·00	86
April 4 ..	17·24	26·59	54	1920.			
				Jan. 2 ..	30·41	55·00	80
				„ 13 ..	29·93	64·00	114

The fact remains, however, that Egyptian prices jumped substantially on the removal of control, but, as will be seen from the continuation of the table into the current season, the rise was not maintained, because American fell again in August and September. The great rise which has taken place in both American and Egyptian since is due not only to causes affecting the American crop particularly, but also to the special conditions affecting the Egyptian crop. The former will be dealt with in a subsequent article. In the meantime it may be noted here that history has apparently been repeating itself with regard to the prospects of the Egyptian crop. The sudden rise in Egyptian in November has all the appearance of being due to the realisation by those on the spot that the crop was not going to be so large as the most optimistic estimates had forecasted. The market has been caught short again, as it has been several times in recent years, and the difficulty of finding cotton to fill contracts has sent prices soaring. At the same time it must be pointed out that the relative prices of American and Egyptian are not so alarming as they look. A premium of over 100 per cent. has been seen on at least two occasions since 1909.

AMERICA AND EGYPTIAN COTTON.

United States spinners continue to absorb a big proportion of Egyptian cotton. Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co. announce that for the week ended January 3 shipments amounted to 8,750 bales, and last week to 4.250 bales, bringing the total since August 1 to 133.026 bales, compared with 11.792 bales in the corresponding period of 1918-19 season and 13.530 the previous year. Of the total shipments so far this season of 472.197 bales, Liverpool has received 175,672 bales and Manchester 96,188 bales.

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ENGINEERING.

New Method of Testing Steel.

A new method of testing steel has been introduced recently, and it is claimed that it possesses advantages which render it interesting especially in industrial laboratory work. It is pointed out that in analysis most physical and chemical methods either necessitate the complete destruction of the sample of the metal dealt with, or else render it entirely unfit for any subsequent use.

The chief advantage claimed for the new method, in which use is made of the property of magnetism, is that it is non-destructive, and from this point alone it may be conceded that it has a certain commercial value. The new process, as was pointed out in a recent article, enables us to detect structural changes due to heating or cooling or as an indication of mechanical properties, this being so because the mechanical properties of steel are functions of its chemical composition, and also of its micro-structural and mechanical conditions. Further, the micro-structure and mechanical condition, such as internal strain, are determined by the thermal history, and the amount and kind of the mechanical work which has been done on the piece. As has been said, the magnetic properties of steel are likewise functions of the same variable conditions, and it follows that any change produced in one set of properties is certain to be accompanied by a corresponding, though not necessarily proportional change in the other.

It is possible to show graphically the relations between the properties, or, rather, the quantities measured in the course of a complete magnetic test, and recently an investigator showed by sets of curves the variation in permeability of annealed carbon steel with various carbon contents and the effect on the coercive force of drawing or re-heating a one per cent. carbon steel after quenching. The latter affords clear evidence of the cementile transformation in the case of water-cooled steel which took place between 200 and 300 deg. Cent. The transformation evidently took place during the quenching, when oil was used in place of water, due to the slower rate of cooling through the critical stage.

The method of magnetic analysis may be employed either during the test for the solution of theoretical problems involved in the hardening of steel or by the engineer carrying out the tests as a non-destructive method of test to supplement those already in use. The magnetic laboratory of the U.S. Bureau of Standards has developed a method for determining the degree of magnetic uniformity along the length of a specimen of substantially uniform cross-section, and this method is peculiarly suitable for studying conditions met with in steel rails, and experience has furnished sufficient evidence to show that magnetic testing may be used to advantage even in fundamental investigation.

Testing Tool Steel.

In a particularly interesting note in the *Journal* of the Birmingham Metallurgical Society a writer deals with the inaccuracy and ineffectiveness of the methods at present in vogue for testing the cutting qualities and durability of tool steel. He is particularly severe on the practice obtaining of running samples of tools to destruction at ruinously high speeds with a view to collecting the required data, and hazards the opinion that a less drastic test would suffice, provided the necessary data could be collected.

Something has been said previously as to this point, and an alternative method was suggested some little time ago by an authority. Speaking generally, it may be taken that the life and correct cutting speed of a tool depends principally, if not wholly, on its resistance to wear at low speeds. As a matter of fact, at an excessive speed the heating or softening of steel which takes place at a high speed conduces to excessive wear, and conditions are consequently introduced which the tool does not meet with in practice. From this it follows that a tool made of a certain quality of steel might have a comparatively long life in ordinary workshop practice, and yet might be quite unable to stand up to the high speed and deep cut at which it was operated in the test. The wear would then be caused mainly by abrasion. As the writer referred to says, this is unquestionably the more normal condition than when the life of the tool depends on its resistance to burning, owing to the heat generated when operated at an abnormal speed. He contends, and rightly, that tests which cause the tool to fail through softening in from one to three minutes cannot give any true indication or measure of its value for ordinary wear.

It is essential that the element of time should form part of all tests made upon tools and tool steels, and as a second authority once contended, no tests should be considered as giving any definite scientific data in which the running time is less than, say, twenty minutes. As a matter of fact, short time tests may even give entirely wrong data when steel is compared with stellite or other materials and alloys, as whilst the latter might offer greater resistance to damage by heat, the former might still have a greater power of resistance to ordinary abrasion, and thus might actually be of greater value for ordinary workshop and machine tool use.

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MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

A Box-Nailing Machine.

It is reported that there is an increasing demand throughout the Near East for all classes of wood-making machinery, especially to prepare native timber for making boxes, which are annually required in millions for the packing and exportation of currants, sultanas, figs, dates, oranges, lemons, onions, sponges, etc. The special features—solidity and high efficiency—of the modern British wood-working machines are well known in the East generally, but not so their manufacturers, who thus allowed their American, French, German, and other competitors to have in recent years almost the full run of those markets. Mention has often been made in these columns of new or improved types of British wood-working machinery which were considered as meeting the requirements of the trade in the East. A nailing machine which has recently been seen working at a show, would undoubtedly be of great interest to box-makers and fruit exporters in the Near and Middle East. The system of nailing by this machine is a new, simple, cheap, and secure method of nailing up many classes of materials for boxes and packing cases. A saving of timber, combined with increased strength and security, is thereby effected; fewer machines and less floor space are required, and a great reduction in labour is obtained. The nails are preferably driven angularly across the intersection of the boards, instead of through the outer face of the box side or end, and are then turned back into the timber in "hook" form, making it practically impossible to withdraw the nails without destroying the timber or box. This is effected by any standard type of nailing machine having as an adjunct the vice attachment of the machine referred to.

The Vice.

This vice automatically grips the under or vertical board while the nails are being driven, whilst its back jaw carries a series of nail-turning dies, so shaped as to turn the nails back into the timber in hook form. The advantage of this system may be summarised as follows: Two years' use in a large box factory in this country has proved the output of two of these machines in small boxes to be equal to that of four ordinary plain nailers, and as the vice prevents the nails running outside the timber the usual repairing tables are rendered unnecessary. These two features alone reduce the cost of labour for nailing to about half its present rate. Boards from 1/16 in. to 1 in. thick can be nailed up in the commonest classes of either soft or hard timbers; warped boards are automatically straightened out by the vice pressure before the nails are driven, and this ensures level, accurate, and flush work on every face. The risk of pilferage is obviated by the hooked nails. It is claimed, moreover, that 25 per cent. saving in timber is effected on most small boxes and 50 per cent. in wood on the ends of small boxes.

New Harbour Protection.

The Brasher air-screen, of which much has been said recently, was invented by an American Government engineer. It consists of a line of perforated pipes laid on the bed of the sea and connected with an air compressor. When a gale springs up, compressed air is driven into them and rises in the form of bubbles to the surface at all points where there are holes. The effect of the bubbles is to interfere with the wave action and to afford considerable protection to craft lying on the leeward side of the pipes. The device was first used for the protection of a pier 4,000 ft. long, built at El Segundo, in California. In the winter after the pier was built half of it was washed away, and its owners were considering the abandonment of the port when the air-screen was installed with satisfactory results. The simplicity of the apparatus and the ease

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Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,745,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 295,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 25·30 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT. — From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ¾ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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of its installation are strong points in its favour. It appears to have considerable possibilities in connection with protecting exposed jetties and vessels being salved.

Tar Oil as Fuel.

It will be very interesting to the large number of users of Diesel engines in the Near East to hear that the use of tar oils in these engines opens up new prospects for this type of internal combustion engine in the matter of fuel, the price of which is now, and likely to remain for some time, at a very high figure, owing to the cost of freightage, etc. The Germans had invented a pilot ignition apparatus, much on the lines of various vapourisers that are now being put on the market, to enable heavier oil than petrol to be used in the ordinary petrol engine. It is said that a means has been discovered of using tar oil without a pilot ignition apparatus, and is effecting a saving of 50 per cent. in fuel costs by the partial use of tar oil; whilst in another instance a new form of ignition apparatus has been evolved which effects a saving of 47 per cent., using a small proportion of crude oil for the ignition charges. So far as is known, the apparatus is not on the market commercially; but, according to authentic opinion, it will form a nucleus of a development which will have a two-fold effect—namely, reducing the running costs of Diesel engines and developing a home fuel industry through the medium of gasworks.

LANCASHIRE COTTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Although the tone of the market continues quieter, there has been no loss of strength on the part of producers, and prices have again tended to harden. Undoubtedly increased difficulties are now being experienced in arranging fresh business. High prices and long delivery terms are checking negotiations between buyers and sellers, and a falling-off in the turnover has to be recorded. A feature of interest has been the further stiff advance in Egyptian cotton, the rise since a week ago being about 10d. a pound in Liverpool. It is reported that the Egyptian Government proposes to put a tax upon the export of cotton which will amount to about 1d. a pound. There has been active buying for Lancashire, the Continent, and the United States. Some people here believe that values in Alexandria will go up to 150 dollars. Business in yarns has been disorganised, and many producers have refused to quote. Users who have wanted small lots to meet urgent requirements have had to pay extraordinary figures for quick delivery. Although inquiry continues extensive, there has been rather less buying in piece goods for the Near Eastern outlets. Most cloths are distinctly dearer than at the end of last year. Favourable advices are being received as to clearances in Cairo. India has provided a very fair demand, but buying has been rather patchy. Steady buying has transpired for South America, chiefly in printing descriptions. The home trade has given rather less support. Manufacturers remain very independent. American yarns have moved off quietly at full prices. Certain numbers in twists are getting scarcer. Bundles have been in active request for India, but delivery has been very difficult to arrange.

CONDITIONS IN MALTA

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, December 21.

Recent imports have included a large consignment of eggs from Egypt. This has brought down the price from 2s. 9d. per dozen to 1s. 10d. Sugar is scarce, and the market price is from 1s. 5½d. to 1s. 9d. per rotolo—28 oz.

There is a great scarcity of hotel and house accommodation, and as a result attention is again being directed to the need for a new hotel. But so far there is no indication that local capitalists are taking any interest in the question.

The commercial railway tariff operating in the Trans-Caucasus, says H.M. Consul at Batoum in a recent report, is most complicated and very voluminous, as it covers several hundred pages of closely printed matter. Below, however, the rates charged for the transport of articles in which British readers are most likely to be interested, are given. The rate charged for carrying petroleum products from Baku to Batoum by tank car is Rs. 5.78 cs. per poud; for mineral oils, *i.e.*, kerosene by pipe-line, Rs. 5.53 per poud; solar oil and distilate, Rs. 5.56 per poud; steam and traction engines and machinery, to Tiflis, Rs. 3.40 per poud; to Baku, Rs. 5.24 per poud; textiles, haberdashery, boots shoes, other than rubber, articles of clothing, and wearing apparel—to Tiflis, Rs. 7.05 per poud; to Baku, Rs. 14.33 per poud; refined sugar—to Tiflis, Rs. 5.77 per poud; to Baku, Rs. 11.81 per poud; sand sugar—to Tiflis, Rs. 5.76 per poud; to Baku, Rs. 11.80 per poud; colonial produce—to Tiflis, Rs. 7.06 per poud; to Baku, Rs. 14.42 per poud; tea—to Tiflis, Rs. 7.06 per poud; to Baku, Rs. 14.42 per poud; fire bricks—to Tiflis, Rs. 3.98 per poud (on 1,000 pouds); to Baku, Rs. 5.22 per poud (on 1,000 pouds).

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard s.s. Sydney Reid, for Piræus, Constantinople, Varna, Constantza, and Novorossisk, will close for cargo at Swansea on January 22.

The Cunard s.s. Antigone, for Galatz only, will close for cargo in London on January 25.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Trentino, for Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersyne, Cyprus, etc.) will close for cargo at Liverpool on January 24.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Serbino, for Algiers, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on January 17.

The Moss Line s.s. Amarna, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on January 31.

The Anchor Line s.s. Scindia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on January 27 and at Liverpool on February 5.

The Bibby Line s.s. Herefordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on January 26.

The Power Line s.s. Pangbourne, for Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador, will leave London about January 25.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Almanzora, of 15,500 tons gross, the latest of the company's liners, sailed from Southampton on her first trip to Spain, Portugal, Brazil, and Argentina.

Shipping at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, December 21.

There has been a number of movements. The Triad and Trent have arrived from Gibraltar to-day, and the Marlborough has left for Constantinople. The following have just left port:—The Seraph for Port Said and Alexandria, the Cardiff for Constantinople, and the St. Issey for Taranto, Corfu and Cattaro.

There has been a new development in shipping which has created great interest locally. P. Cutajar and Co. have made arrangements with the Steamship Corporation of New York for one steamer per month to call and collect local cargo for America. Probably the s.s. Jefferson County will inaugurate the service, sailing from Smyrna after loading coastwise from Piræus.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from a recent report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Stamboul, December 20.

Manufactures.

The high prices continue at Manchester and other centres of production. Here one noted this week a marked alteration owing to the arrival of some merchants from Batoum, who made some purchases for the Caucasus. The news from the ports of South Russia (Odessa, Sebastopol, Rostoff) continues unfavourable. There is no improvement to report in the political situation; and there is talk even of requisitions of merchandise which will be carried out at Odessa and Rostoff. Stocks here continue to increase, and it can be foreseen that if local commerce is not relieved by the demand for Russia, merchants will find the necessity of having recourse to the banks for facilities.

Produce.

Sugar.—The market has been very brisk this week as a result of the news of the increase in Java and America, and prices have risen from £80 to £84 the ton. This increase would have been greater, but fifteen wagons of sugar from Trieste sold c.i.f. at 451 lire per 100 kilos has had the effect of stopping the movement.

Coffee.—The increase continues. Purchasers, foreseeing a still higher level of prices, are trying to obtain stocks.

Rice.—The market has been quiet, and transactions have been insignificant.

Oil.—The price of American remains between £T5 and £T5.15 the case. Oil from Batoum, awaited for some weeks, has made its appearance here.

Exports.

The demand for all the commodities for export, in general, is more and more active, and the prices reached a new high record for the week under review. Opium.—Sales of the week, 63 cases—53 cases Carahissar and Akchéhir, old, at Ps. 785-800 the oke against 760 the previous week, 6 cases Carahissar, new, at Ps. 755-765 against 735, 4 cases Carahissar II. at Ps. 725. Mohair.—An increase took place of Ps. 5 to 6 the oke. Arrivals, 700 bales. Sales, 830 bales at Ps. 98-102 extra, Ps. 90-95 I., Ps. 85-88 II., Ps. 75-80 Konia.

Wool.—Arrivals of the week, 185 bales. Sales nil. Nominal price from Ps. 48-53 the oke. Silk.—The level has risen this week to Ps. 1,850 the kilo. Sales have not been more than 5 or 6 bales, stock becoming more and more scarce.

Cereals.—Transport by rail has been temporarily interrupted owing to the collapse of a viaduct near Touzle. Cereals from the interior are unloaded at Dérindjé, and from there transported by sea road to Constantinople.

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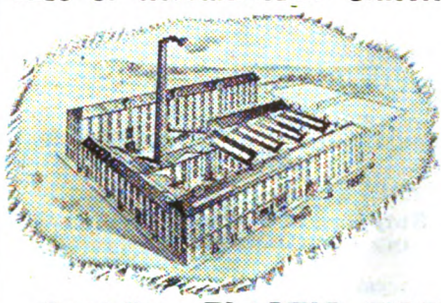
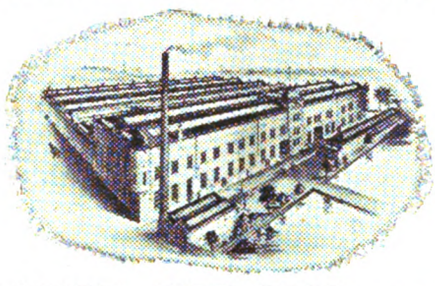
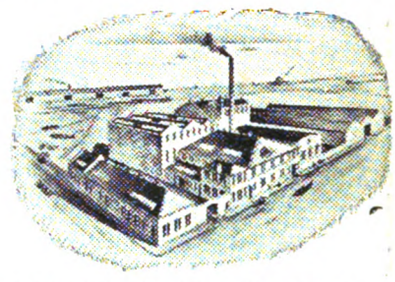

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.—There is little change to record. The demand continues strong for currants in sound condition, but the supply is inadequate.

Sultanas.—Inquiries have been very brisk, but stocks remain short.

Sugar.—There has been a strong demand for manufacturing purposes. There was a marked rise in consumption during 1919, this being 1,532,938 tons, while the imports amounted to 1,598,633 tons. Reports regarding this year's French beet sugar production are more favourable. It is estimated that the output will amount to 150,000 tons, as against 100,000 tons. A great increase in acreage is anticipated for the subsequent crop.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been a firm market. La Plata January-February Hull has been done at 41s. per cwt., while transactions have been effected for February-March at 40s. Rapeseed has been steady, with Toria Hull January-March at 48s. Cottonseed has been in demand, and large supplies are in prospect, over 600,000 cwt. being in transit to this country.

Oilcakes, etc.—Linseed cake continues a strong spot at the maximum of 500s. Palm kernel cake has weakened to 280s. Other transactions have included coconut cake at 390s., arachis cake at 440s., and soya bean cake at 500s.

Linseed oil has been done at 107s. 3d. spot, 106s. 6d. for January-April, and 100s. for May-August. Cottonseed oil has been quiet; prices range between 92s. to 110s. Rape oil and ground nut oil are all firm, but quotations are unchanged. Turpentine is now 193s. spot and 194s. 6d. January-April.

Coffee.—At auction this week 4,271 packages were offered. The demand was fair and steady rates prevailed. Costa Rica bold greenish was done at 147s., and peaberry at 146s., while East Indian extra bold greenish came to business at 160s. There has been a firm tendency in futures. Quotations are: March 125s., May 123s. 6d., July 122s. 3d., September 121s., and December 119s. 6d. Imports during December amounted to almost 800,000 cwt., and this increase has had an effect on prices. As regards the output, it is probable that there will be a further upward movement in prices. Among the factors tending in that direction, prohibition in America is expected to have no small influence.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended December 27:—

The sales this week on our market amount to 74 cases at 800 to 900 piastres per oke, which is equivalent to 15s. 6d. to 21s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange dropped a bit—viz., Ps.370. per £ sterling for cheque and 1.05 dols. cheque for one Turkish paper £. The arrivals to date are 1,251 cases, against 95 at some date last year.

IMPORTANT B.S.A. DEVELOPMENT.

The Gun and Rifle Department of the Birmingham Small Arms Co., Ltd., has been formed into a subsidiary company, the proprietorship of which will remain with the parent company. This subsidiary company will be known as B.S.A. Guns, Ltd., as from January, 1920. In future, all communications regarding B.S.A. arms should be addressed to and all remittances made payable to B.S.A. Guns, Ltd., Small Heath, Birmingham.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the C. E. B. report for October:—

Dura and Dukhu.

Red Sea Province.—The merchants seem to experience little difficulty in procuring dura from the Blue Nile, and are selling it here at a price little higher than that of Government dura. The sale of the latter has been stopped.

Khartoum Province.—The dura situation has become easier, and a certain amount of stored grain appeared in the markets for sale in view of the new crop. The rain crop in this province is negligible. Furthermore, reports from Geili District are very bad, owing to a heavy visitation of "dud" to the dura shami and similar crops on Sagia land.

White Nile Province.—Practically no dura of the new crop came into the markets in October. Government dura has remained on sale throughout the month.

Berber Province.—The dura crops, both butuk and dameira, at Mikeilab and Beuga are excellent. The average market prices of dura per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos) were:—White dura. £E3 900 m/ms.; Feterita, £E3 070 m/ms.

Maize.

Berber Province.—Average market price P.T. 360 per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos). There has been local difficulty with the sakia crops near El Damer owing to the shortage of maize seed, the cultivators having sold too much at high prices, and now having difficulty in obtaining seed. This has been met by importing maize from Shendi, where the Gendette maize crop is now being harvested.

Sesame.

Mongalla Province.—September.—The sesame crops are looking well at Yei, but more rain is wanted.

Kordofan Province.—28 ardebs of 330 rottles (148 kilos) were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of £E3 740 m/ms. per ardeb.

Dongola Province.—The average market price was £E7 200 m/ms. per ardeb of 360 rottles (162 kilos).

Ground-Nuts.

Upper Nile Province.—The Renk groundnut crops are exceptionally good.

Sennar Province.—Two tons of groundnuts were exported by rail during the month.

Dates.

Halfa Province.—Merchants are buying at P.T. 170 and P.T. 180 per sack. In the Delgo District transport is difficult owing to the shortage of boats and falling Nile.

Dongola Province.—The average market price was £E2 160 per ardeb of 250 rottles (112 kilos).

Livestock, Hides, and Skins.

Red Sea Province.—26 cattle and 219 sheep have been exported viâ Sudan during the month.

Darfur Province.—September.—Trade in livestock has been flourishing at Fasher, and larger numbers of cattle and sheep have come to the market than in any previous month. The average price of bulls for the month was £E7 200 and of sheep 720 m/ms.

Berber Province.—370 cattle and 10,979 sheep and goats were sold in Damer market during the month. The building of a quarantine at Damer has been commenced.

Sennar Province.—245 cattle were imported from Abyssinia viâ Kurmuk, of which 232 left for Kosti, and the remainder were sold locally.

Upper Nile Province.—About 300 cattle were despatched north during the month from Tonga, Malakal, Kodok, and Melut.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended December 10 amounted to £E19,545, making the total for the year £E248,153.

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE.

Direct regular steamship service with about weekly sailings outwards and homewards between

GOTHENBURG and ALGIERS, PIRÆUS, SMYRNA and SALONICA.
" " ALEXANDRIA, JAFFA and BEYROUTH.
" " CONSTANTINOPLE, ODESSA and other Black Sea Ports.

Also calling at other ports in Scandinavia, Levant and Black Sea (as inducement offers).

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" SMYRNA: " PIRÆUS: " ALEXANDRIA: W. F. van der Zee.
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Or to the Head Office:

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE, GOTHENBURG.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: LEVANT.

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(Established by Imperial Decree dated January 1, 1917.)

Subscribed Capital - £T. 4,000,000
Paid-up Capital - £T. 2,000,000
Reserve Fund - £T. 140,000

HEAD OFFICE: **50, Voivoda Street, Galata, Constantinople.**

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Managers: FERID BEY. SOUBHY ZIA BEY.

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(PALIOS LINE.)

Head Office - PIRÆUS.

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

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Codes used—Scott's (1906) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.

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Codes Used:
Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919.

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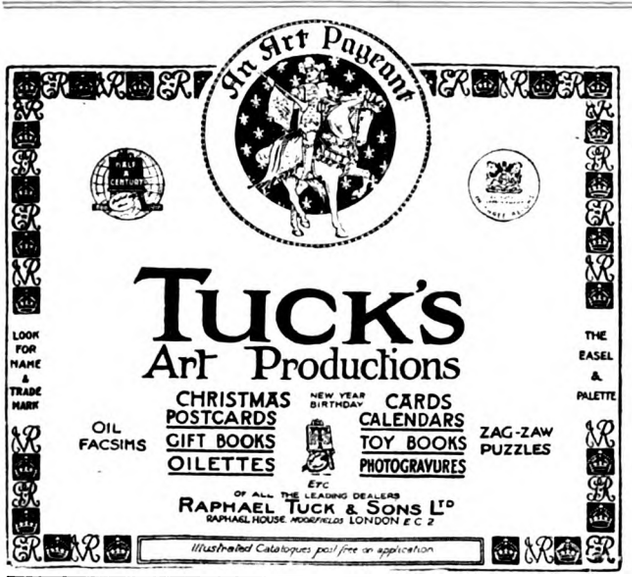

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

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COMPANY MEETING.

ASSOCIATED COTTON GINNERS OF EGYPT.

The following is the report of the directors, with statement of accounts as at August 31, 1919, submitted to the shareholders at the fourteenth ordinary general meeting held at Alexandria on December 29:—

We have pleasure in placing before the shareholders, for their approval, our fourteenth annual report together with the audited accounts to August 31, 1919. The British Army employed during the year some of our factories, as they did in previous years. The quantity of cotton ginned in our factories during the year 1918-19 was cantars 700,821.47, against cantars 910,994.52 in 1917-18, and steam-pressed cantars 4,781.94, against 53,027.45 in 1917-18. The following are the results to August 31, 1919:—

	£E.	£E.
Factory profits		59.697.-
Less: Sundry repairs and renewals in the factories		2.268.-
		57.429.-
Less: Expenses and Management at head office, Alexandria	3.556.-	
Interest on debentures	£E.5.024.-	
Less: Interest earned	1.716.-	
	3.308.-	
Sundry expenses	1.237.-	
Insurance premiums	2.230.-	
Commissions	322.-	
		10.653.-
		46.776.-
Less: Depreciation on buildings and machinery	10.391.-	
Depreciation on stores and materials	6.986.-	
Debentures redeemed	3.900.-	
Depreciation on Mazout installation	1.976.-	
		23.253.-
		23.523.-
Less: Statutory reserve, 10 per cent.	2.352.-	
Dividend, as per statutes, of 6 per cent. to shareholders	21.060.-	
		23.412.-
Leaving a balance of		111.-
We have therefore to deal with the following amounts:—		
Statutory dividend of 6 per cent.	21.060.-	
Above-mentioned balance of	111.-	
Amount brought forward from last year	18.605.-	
		39.776.-
of which your board proposes to distribute as dividend to the shareholders 1s. 3d. per share, making		21.938.-
and to carry forward		17.838.-

Having found a favourable opportunity of disposing of the building materials of the ex-Choremi factory at Birket-el-Sab, these were sold. We regret to have to inform you of the death of Mr. Michel Sinadino, who has been a member of our board since the foundation of this company, and who has devoted his energy to the benefit of the company. You are now asked to approve and adopt the report, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account, as presented for the year ending August 31, 1919. You have also to appoint auditors for the ensuing year, and to fix their fees. Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co. are eligible for re-election.

It is stated that during 1919 Greek shipowners bought seventy-five foreign steamships registering from 100 tons to 9,400 tons.

The traffic receipts of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the week ended December 27 amounted to £6,116.

Mr. Oliver Vaughan Gurney Hoare has been elected chairman of the board of Cox and Co. (France) in the room of the Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton, who has resigned.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

London County Westminster and Parr's Bank.

The accounts of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank for the past year show that the net profits, after providing for bad and doubtful debts and all expenses, amount to £2,455,007. This sum, added to £377,560 brought forward, leaves available £2,832,567. The dividend of 10 per cent. paid in August last absorbs £494,969. A further dividend of 10 per cent. is now declared in respect of the £20 shares, and the maximum dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum on the new £1 shares will be paid. The sum of £1,000,000 has been set aside for investment depreciation, £100,000 transferred to the bank's war memorial fund, £100,000 to premises account and £165,721 to reserve, bringing the reserve up to £8,750,000, leaving a balance of £414,226 to be carried forward.

Cox and Company.

The balance-sheet of Cox and Company at September 30, 1919, shows:—Dr.—Capital, £650,000; reserve fund, £425,000; current, deposit and other accounts, £22,552,363; acceptances for customers, £543,800; total, £24,171,163. Cr.—Cash at bankers and on hand, £5,712,253; at call and at short notice, £3,350,000; bills of exchange, £3,752,378; Treasury bills (British and Indian), £301,000; British Government stocks (of which £8,421 War Loan is deposited with the British Government and £136,000 Exchequer Bonds with the Government of India), £3,321,300; India, Colonial (of which £50,000 Colonial stock is deposited with the British Government) and other securities, including 340,909 "A" shares of £1 each, 10s. paid, Cox and Co. (France), Limited, £832,150; advances to customers and other accounts, £5,895,459; liability of customers for acceptances (per contra), £543,800; bank premises, £318,133; balance of items in transit between head office and branches and exchange adjustments, £94,690; total, £24,171,163.

Jhanzie Tea.

The interim report of the Jhanzie Tea Association for 1919 states that telegraphic advices indicate that the total crop amounts to 2,824,560 lb., an increase of 279,150 lb. as compared with last year and 84,560 lb. over estimate. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent., or 4s. per share, less tax.

NEW COMPANIES.

Slavo-British Trade Corporation.

The Slavo-British Trade Corporation, Ltd., was registered on January 6 with a capital of £350,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To promote trade between the British Empire and the Slavonic countries of Russia, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia, or other European and Asiatic countries, etc., and to enter into an agreement with the Anglo-Russian Institute, Ltd. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—C. Clemens, 2, Little Essex Street, W.C., accountant; N. K. Smitt, B.Sc., F.C.S., 254, Barcombe Avenue, S.W.2; E. Jarnatowsk, 19, Colville Terrace, W.11, Polish merchant; A. Raidl, 14, Church Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W., Czecho-Slovak merchant; M. B. K. Smitt, 96, Queen Street, E.C., managing director Anglo-Russian Institute, Ltd.; B. G. Narischkmil, 65, St. Charles Square, W.10, C.E.; B. T. Timotheieff, 26, Torrington Square, W.C.1., Russian merchant. The first directors are to be appointed by the subscribers. Solicitors: Ashurst, Morris, Crisp and Company, 17, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C.

Dickwella Tea.

The Dickwella Tea Co., Ltd., was registered on January 1 with a capital of £80,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on in British India or elsewhere the business of tea and general planters, etc. First directors: F. A. Roberts, 138, Leadenhall Street, E.C., managing director of Jorehaut Tea Co., Ltd. (chairman), Sir James F. Stuart-Menteth, Bt., Rownhams Mount, near Southampton; C. C. Forster, 11, Montagu Place, W.1, retired Ceylon tea planter; H. Miller, C.I.E., Holloway House, Heybridge.

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A true palliative in NEURALGIA, GOUT, TOOTHACHE, RHEUMATISM.
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The Best Remedy known for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS.
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ELECTRIC POWER FOR PALESTINE.

By Victor L. Trumper, M.R.A.S.

The scheme which has been noted in several journals recently for the supply of electric power and light to Jerusalem and the rest of Palestine by means of water-power drawn from the Mediterranean through a tunnel to the Jordan valley is worthy of close consideration. Palestine must advance in commercial as well as political importance, and a cheap supply of power and light would be a big factor in the development of the country.

Jerusalem looms so large in the public eye that one is apt to forget how very small it really is, both as to area and population, and consequently the profit on any lighting scheme derived from Jerusalem itself would not be large enough to justify any great capital expenditure such as the 37-mile tunnel would entail. There remains to be considered the supply for the rest of the country. It is probable that this part of the business would be more profitable than the comparatively limited supply of Jerusalem.

To make a supply of power commercially economical the distance to be transmitted should be as short as possible; in other words, the supply should be in the centre of the consumers; and as the principal demand for power and light, other than that for the city of Jerusalem, will probably come from Samaria and the district northwards, it follows that a power station considerably farther north than Jericho would be more advantageous.

The plan outlined of a 37-mile tunnel, which is attributed to a Norwegian engineer, would need at least another fifteen miles of open canal to bring it from the coast to the foot of the hills where the tunnel would start; and the amount mentioned, £8,000,000, might be considerably exceeded before the Mediterranean was flowing into the Dead Sea.

Is it necessary to go to this prodigal expense to procure ample power to drive all the plant needed for even the largest installation? It is with great diffidence that I give my opinion, but I think I am within the mark in saying that an unlimited supply of water with a 100 ft. fall would supply all the power needed for any plant that might be erected. Such power is already in the Jordan valley, and does not need to be brought from the Mediterranean.

It is well known that the fall of the Jordan between its egress from the Lake of Galilee and the Dead Sea is over 600 ft. The fall of the river level after it leaves the lake is about 40 ft. to the mile, and this rate of fall gradually lessens till in the southern reaches it is only about 9 ft. per mile.

Supposing a power station was placed near the northern end, it is probable that an open channel of only five miles in length would give the necessary 100 ft. fall for the water; if the station was placed further south, where the fall of the river is only 10 ft. per mile, it is possible that an open channel of nearly 20 miles in length might be necessary. However, whether the channel was five or twenty miles long, its cost would only be a minute fraction of the eight-million-pound scheme.

Careful surveys would, of course, have to be made to tap the river at the best spot, so that its shifting bed would not leave the entrance to the canal dry, but the engineering difficulties with an open channel are very small compared with those that would be entailed by a rock-cut tunnel. The surplus water from the canal could no doubt be used to irrigate a large amount of the hill side terraces which abound on the edge of the Jordan valley.

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

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BANK OF EGYPT LIQUIDATION.

Mr. H. Brougham, as Senior Official Receiver and Liquidator of this bank, which was ordered to be wound up in October, 1911, in giving notice of his intention to apply to the Board of Trade for his release, has issued a statement showing that the assets (including uncalled capital) have realised £2,777,885, which is the total amount of the receipts, £3,330,458, less the advances by bankers, and receipts for account of third parties—together £552,575. The total estimated value of the assets in the statement of affairs was £2,709,482.

The liabilities of the bank at the date of the winding-up order amounted to £1,958,186, made up as follows: Acceptance holders, £1,467,522; current deposit and other accounts in London and Egypt, £499,969; and preferential creditors, £895. An arrangement was made with the acceptance holders whereunder they agreed to take 50 per cent. of their acceptances in cash and the balance in loan certificates carrying interest. The above-mentioned advance of £550,000 from bankers, with the liquid assets of the bank, provided the funds to pay the acceptance holders their 50 per cent. in cash, and clear off the creditors in England and Egypt on deposit and current accounts. The bankers' advances and the loan certificates were discharged in full, with interest, by February, 1913. The whole of the unsecured creditors thus received 20s. in the £ on their claims, with interest, where payable, which absorbed a total payment of £2,013,635.

The total costs, fees, and expenses amounted to £166,715, of which £45,431 was incurred in London and £121,374 in Egypt. The latter were of necessity much larger than those in London, as the principal part of the assets were in that country, and had to be realised there.

A final, or ninth, return of 15s. 11½d. per share is now being made to the shareholders, making, with the previous returns, a total repayment of £12 5s. 11½d. per share, or only 4s. 0½d. less than the call of £12 10s. per share made upon them by the Liquidator. Having regard to the financial position in Egypt during a considerable period of the Liquidation, to the fact that the greater part of the assets were located in that country, and to the difficulties of realisation there, the result of the liquidation must be considered satisfactory.

The Senior Official Receiver and Sir William Plender (the Special Manager) feel that they are greatly indebted to the members of the Committee of Inspection for their assistance in dealing with the various and numerous questions relating to the realisation of the assets. Mr. Brougham also wishes to acknowledge and express his gratitude for the great assistance that has been rendered to the liquidation by Sir William Plender, the Special Manager. His considerable business experience, coupled with his close acquaintance with those who were officially connected with the bank's affairs, have been largely responsible for the success of the liquidation and the return of so large a sum to the shareholders.

COMPANY RESULTS.

The Bank of Madras has declared a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, together with a bonus of 2 per cent. Rs. 2,00,000 have been transferred to investments, and Rs. 2,81,000 carried forward.

The transfer books in respect of the cumulative 6 per cent. (participating up to 8 per cent.) preference shares (issues 1909-1911 and 1918) of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., will be closed from January 17 to 30, inclusive, for purpose of preparing dividend warrants payable on January 31 for half-year ended September 30.

The directors of the Delhi Umballa Kaika Railway have declared a final dividend for the year ended September 30, 1919, of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent, on the ordinary stock, making 14 per cent. per annum. The dividend and bonus will be paid, less tax, at 4s. 9d. in the £, and will be payable about the end of February, 1920.

The London manager of the Tata Industrial Bank has received a cable from head office, Bombay, to the effect that profit earned for the half-year ended December 31, including Rs.1,54,836 brought forward, amounts to Rs.8,12,957.

Building lands are being put up for public auction at Salonika in accordance with a new scheme. The total value of the land represented in land bonds now reaches 97½ million drachmae.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 7:—

Rain nearly general Southern India and local in Central and Western India. During the week ending December 27 sowing spring crops continued North-Western India, neared completion Central India. Harvesting autumn crops continued Bombay, Central India and to the North-West. Harvesting paddy progressed North-Eastern and Southern India. Sowing progressed Madras. Cotton picking continued except in Burma. General crop conditions good. Useful rain fell in the Punjab, but more required.

Second rice forecast: Acreage, 76,888,000; out-turn, excluding Madras and United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, 26,448,000 tons (last year's corresponding forecast, 74,363,000 acres, 19,005,000 tons). Third cotton forecast: Acreage, 22,186,000; yield, 5,668,000 bales (last year's corresponding forecast, 19,577,000 acres, 3,282,000 bales). First rape and mustard: 3,293,000 acres (last year's corresponding forecast, 2,950,000 acres). First linseed: 2,245,000 acres (last year's corresponding forecast, 2,002,000 acres).

Bombay Cotton Market weak. Fully good broach April-May Rs.535. Piece goods market quiet. Calcutta jute market quiet but steady. Heavy jute goods strong and rising. Hessians quiet but firm. No change in bank rates. Bombay mill hands' strike is now practically general; seventy-five out of the eighty-five mills are closed.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

This again has been a week of great activity and rising prices in all Egyptian securities. A very large business has been done: the movement has, in fact, almost developed into a boom. In Government securities exceptionally there has not been much doing, but both Egyptian Unifieds and 3½ per cent. Prefs. close ½ higher at 74 and 61 respectively. City of Alexandrias have continued a dull spot and on some small sales have dropped 3 points to 67.

In Bank shares National Banks are 1¼ higher at 23¾. Agriculturals have remained firm, but the pref. shares are ⅛ down at 6½. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have moved up ¼ to 17½.

Delta Light Railway prefs. have come to business at 6½, a rise of ¼.

In Land shares the business has been on a large scale. Aboukirs close 5s. higher at 41s. 3d., but still higher prices have been paid, and the debentures have jumped up about twenty points to 137. In Béhéras a sensational movement has carried the shares up 8½ points to 28, and, as the rise has proceeded, shares have become more and more difficult to obtain. A renewal of interest has been taken in Egyptian Consolidated Lands, which have risen 7d. to 3s. Delta Lands, after being quiet for so long, have at last come into demand, and have had the big proportionate rise of 7s., closing at 23s. 6d. after being dealt in at even higher prices. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have risen 1s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. Mortgage Company of Egypt prefs. are ¼ up at 6⅝, but the debentures are quoted rather nominally 7 points down at 75. In New Egyptians a very large business has been transacted, and the shares are closing 5s. up on the week at 39s. 3d. Sidi Salems have risen 3-16ths to 3 9-16, and Sudan Plantations, after being up to 9, close half a point up at 8⅝. Union Foncières have also been persistently inquired for, and are closing 7-16ths higher at 5⅞.

Among the Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations (now 15s. paid) are a steady market round ⅝. A fair amount of business has been done in Alexandria Waters round the current level. Egyptian Hotels are ¼ up at 2½. Markets have risen 1-16 to 23s. 9d., and Salts are 2s. higher at 52s. 6d. Khedivial Mail prefs. are a dull spot at 3⅝, a decline of ¼.

In Greek securities there has been some renewal here and there of Continental liquidation, with the result that Greek 81's close 1½ points lower at 52 and Greek 84's half a point lower at 52, the 5 per cent. 1890 Loan one point lower at 51½. On the other hand, Rentes have advanced 1½ points to 45 and Fundings and the 1902 Loans are both half a point higher at 51½ and 58 respectively. Bank of Athens shares are 1-16th higher at 71s. 3d.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B, after being down to 4 13-16, close a good market to-night and are ¼ higher at 5¼. Roumanians have risen 2s. to 24s. 6d.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Jan. 7	Price Jan. 14
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52⅛	52⅛
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51⅛	51⅛
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28⅛	28⅛
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	70	67
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	73½	74
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	60½	61
Greek 5%, 1881	53½xd	52
Do. 5%, 1884	52½xd	52
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49½xd	49½xd
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	43½	45
Do. 5% 1890	52⅛	51½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	51½d	51½
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	57⅛	58
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	48	48
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	67	67
Do. 5% Currant	93	93
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	82	82
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	66½	66⅜
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	59	59
Do. 4% Unified	39	39
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅜xd	6⅜
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68½	68½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70½	70½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17⅛	17⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	36/3	36/3
Bank of Athens	70/-	71/3
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	6½	6½
British Trade Corporation	10	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅛	9⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅛	10⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
London County and Westminster	16½	16½
National Bank of Egypt	22⅜	23⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6¼	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	78⅛	78⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	11½	11½
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	57⅜	57½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	52	45
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66¼	66¼
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	65	65
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	36/3	41/3
Do. 6% Debs	117	137
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	20/-	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	19⅜	28
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	28/-	28/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	2/5	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	16/6	23/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/-	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅛	3⅛
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	36/3	36/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61⅛	61¼
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	82	75
New Egyptian Co.	34/3	39/3
Sidi Salem Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Sudan Plantations	8⅛	8⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅛	5⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	6/-	12/6
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	17/9	17/9
Egyptian Hotels	45/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	23/9
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	50/6xd	52/6
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	99⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/3	18/3
Morum's Oriental Stores. Partptg. Pref.	17/6	17/6
Suez Canal	178	178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	102	100
Chinese 4½% 1898	73	67½
Do. 5% 1896	85	83
Argentine 5% 1890	76⅛	79⅜
Do. 5% 1907	82½	79
OIL.		
Algerian	5/6	4/10½
Anglo-Bulgarian	10/3	10/6
Anglo-Egyptian B	5	5¼
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/9	25/-
Do. 5% Debs.	83	83⅜
Anglo-Roumanian	9/9	9/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/9	5/3
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	8/6	8/6
Roumanian	22/6	24/6
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez, 1915 (fully paid)	8/-	9/6
Traian (Roumanian)	10/2½	10/2½

Advance sales of the tea crop, November, 1919, to June, 1920, have been effected in Ceylon at 62 cents per lb.

The production of cinnamon in Ceylon is attracting considerable attention owing to the high prices prevailing.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Dec. 5. Rs.	Dec. 12. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	63	62½
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	2070	2250
Bank of Bombay	2280	2700
Bank of Madras	1350	1800
Bank of India	150	150
Tata Industrial Bank	62½	56½
COAL.		
Baraboni	18	18
Bengal	910	860x
Burrakur	52	48
East Indian	38	42½
Equitable	50	46½
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	69	65
Standard	71	69½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	300	365
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2375	2409
Bowreah	706	730
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	775	820
Central India	3175 / 1587½	3050 / 1525
Elgin	125	118
Gold Mohur	1800	1800
Khatau Makanji	5600	5600
Muir	120	120
New Ring	—	540
Phœnix	815	850
Svadeshi	3000	3100
JUTE.		
Alliance	750	762
Barnagore	205	200
Budge Budge	585	600
Clive	240	295
Dalhousie	490	505
Delta	650	635
Fort Gloster	895x	1002x
Gourepore	1467½	1125x
Howrah	44½	44½
Kamarhatty	1022	986
Kanknarrah	798	775
Khardah	520	520
Kinnison	972	1005
National	440	440
Standard	680	655
Union	895½	890
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	652x	652x
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	245	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	210	210
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General St'm.	165	155x
Indian Iron and Steel	110 / 90	110 / 90
Marshall Sons and Co.	16	15¾
Titaghur Paper	375	375

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON DECEMBER 27.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	21⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	88
" " Div.	Frs.	115
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	17⅛
" priv.	£	4¼
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	118
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1½
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5⅜
Société des Immeubles	£	7⅛
Bonded Stores	£	15½
Unifiée	£	74⅛
Privilégiée		61⅛
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
Nungovich Hotels	£	10½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5½
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅛
" Ord		103/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	23⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4¼
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	150
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		39/-
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	455
" Div.	Frs.	420
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	349
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	8⅛
Egyptian Salt and Soda		58/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	693
" Fondateur	Frs.	950
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	432
" 1903 "	Frs.	297
" 1911 "	Frs.	287
Consolidated Land	P.T.	8
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	39/32
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	365
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2⅛
Urbaines & Rurales		32
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅞
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	32

The Mysore coffee crop is reported to be excellent.

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Jan. 7	Jan. 14
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61½	60⅝
Various dates	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	66⅜	66⅛
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	82
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	70	71½
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	73⅛	73⅛
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	83	84
	Eastern	7⅞	7⅞
	Mercantile of India A	40½	40½
	National of India	57	57
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	7/3	8/6
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	13/9	13/9
	Burma Corp.	13⅜	13⅜
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	13/6	14/-
	Champion Reef Gold	3/-	4/3
	Mysore Gold Mining	1⅛	1
	Nundydroog	14/6	16/-
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	16/9	18/-
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	21/3	21/3
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	2½	2⅜
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	45/-	40/-
	Brit. Burmah	2¼x	2⅛xd
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	19⅜	22
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	23/6	23/6
	Do. 5% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10	10
RAILWAYS.			
	Assam Bengal	56½	53
	Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	142½	141
	Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	56⅞	56
	Bengal-Nagpur	120½	130
	Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	106	105⅜
	Burma Railways	111⅜	112
	Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
	E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13⅛	13⅛
	East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	13⅛	13⅛
	Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13⅛	12⅜
	Madras and S. Mahratta	111⅛	110⅜
	Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	136	134½
	Nizam's Guaranteed State	85⅞	85⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.			
	Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	38/6	38/6
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	10	10
	P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	85⅛	85
	Do. Deferred	595	635
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
	Assam Co.	70½	69⅜
	Bengal United Tea Ord.	16⅜	16⅜
	British Indian Tea Ord.	8⅞x	8⅞xd
	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	16⅜	16⅜
	Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	13/10½	13/3
	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	7⅜	7⅜
	Consolidated Estates	7½	7⅛
	Darjeeling Co.	27/9	27/3
	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	66/-	66/-
	Dooars Tea Ord.	62/6	61/9xd
	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	19/3	20/4½
	Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	71/3	69/4½
	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	37/-	35/9
	Hewagam Rubber Co.	21/10½	22/3
	Jhanzie Tea Association	11½x	11½xd
	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	24½	23⅜
	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	20/6	19/4½
	Lanka Plantations Ord.	30/-	29/-
	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	58/6x	58/6xd
	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	48/6	48/-
	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14½	14½
	P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	33/1½	32/3

It is expected that the new railway to Badulla, the capital of Uva, in Ceylon, will be ready for traffic early in 1921.

The Governor of Ceylon is visiting Madras during the present month to discuss the question of labour supply from that presidency on behalf of the Ceylon planters.

The trade figures of the Sudan for the first ten months of last year were:—Imports, £E4,030,816, an increase of £E540,740 on the corresponding figures of the previous year; exports £E2,261,995, a decrease of £E1,161,312 on the previous figures.

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

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ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA, LTD.,

with which are incorporated
THE PUNJAB BANKING CO., LTD.,
THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,
AND
THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Head Office - SIMLA.

Authorised Capital -	Rs.	1,00,00,000/-
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital - - -	,,	86,82,400/-
Reserve Fund - - -	,,	37,00,000/-
Reserve for Depreciation of Government Paper	,,	13,00,000/-

BRANCHES.

Abbottabad, Agra, Ajmere, Allahabad, Ambala, Amritsar, Bareilly, Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Dalhousie, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi City, Delhi Civil Lines, Ferozepore, Gwalior, Jullundur, Karachi, Kasauli, Lahore, Lahore Cantts, Lucknow, Meerut, Multan, Murree, Mussoorie, Naini Tal, Nowshera, Peshawar Cantts, Peshawar City, Quetta, Rangoon, Rawalpindi, Sialkote, Simla (Town Office), Srinagar (Kashmir), Ujjain (Gwalior State).

SUB OFFICES: Baragar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Morana (Gwalior), Nushki (Quetta), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior). Sadar Baza (Delhi).

LONDON BANKERS: Messrs. BOULTON BROS. & CO., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C.
LONDON PROVINCIAL AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, Ltd., 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, Ltd., Bartholomew Lane, E.C.

Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.
Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other branch.
Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected, Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.
Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.
The Bank undertakes **Banking Business** of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.
Rules of Business and any further information can be obtained on application to Head Office or any of the Branches.

HEAD OFFICE, *Simla*. G. W. BLACK, *Manager*.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £2,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £2,900,000.

Court of Directors.

SIR MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, *Chairman.*
SIR DUNCAN CARMICHAEL.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
WM. FOOT MITCHELL, Esq.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.

Managers.—T. H. WHITEHEAD and W. E. PRESTON.

Sub-Manager.—J. S. BRUCE.

Agencies and Branches.

AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	KUALA LUMPUR	SAIGON
BANGKOK	HANKOW	MADRAS	SEREMBAN
BATAVIA	HONGKONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BOMBAY	ILOILO	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
CALCUTTA	IPOH	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
CANTON	KARACHI	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CEBU	KLANG	PENANG	TAVOY
COLOMBO	KOBE	PUKET	TIENTSIN
DELHI		RANGOON	YOKOHAMA

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY and MIDLAND BANK, Limited.
THE LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER and PARR'S BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general banking business connected with the East.

DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.3.

Authorised Capital, £2,000,000. Called up, £800,000. Reserve Fund, £110,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £1,200,000

Branches:

AMARA. BAGDAD. BASRA. BASRA CITY. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA. HILLAH. MOSUL.

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bt. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
JAMES H. BATTY, Esq. — J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. — SIR JAMES LEIGH WOOD, K.B.E., [C.B., C.M.G.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1, 2 or 3 years at five per cent. per annum and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at two per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

(Sgd.) **F. H. SUTTON,** *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM, PORT SAID, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, TANTAH, MANSURA, HAIFA, JAFFA, JERUSALEM, MALTA, and GIBRALTAR.

Subscribed Capital £1,600,000 | Paid-up Capital - £600,000
Reserve - - - £710,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

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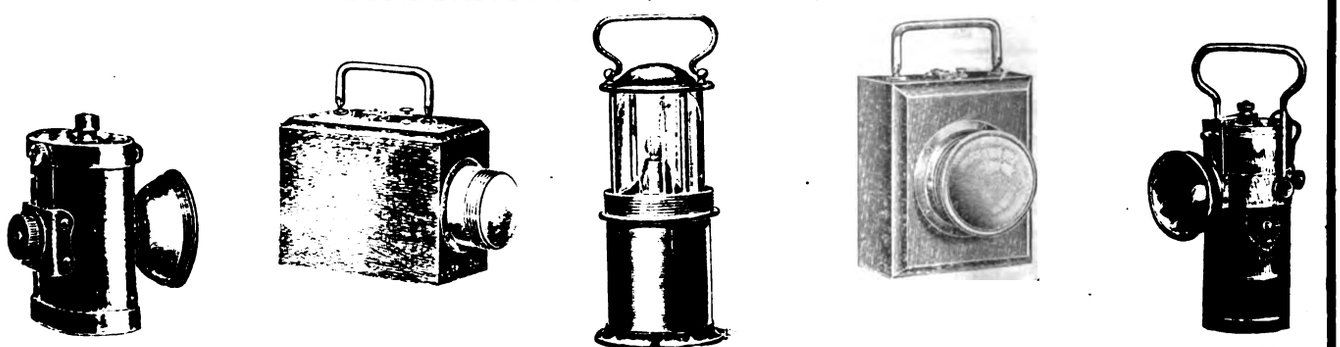

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 455.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A Roumanian newspaper is publishing certain documents relating to the Peace Conference. One of these is a dispatch from the Roumanian Delegation, addressed on May 22, 1919, to the Government at Bucharest, and is signed by M. Bratianu. "We have been obliged," says the Roumanian Prime Minister, "to give the Americans a declaration binding us not to negotiate with anybody else regarding the oilfields, and pledging ourselves to return to them the exchange bills which are at the Bank. The Americans were immovable and had already given orders to stop the revictualling [of Roumania]. We held that, whatever were the rights of the National Bank, it would have been a great mistake to give them a pretext for withholding supplies." As it is clear that the publication of these documents is intended to serve some political purpose in Roumania, it may not be wise to build too much upon their textual contents. The United States Government, however, will no doubt know how to reply to the incrimination contained in this passage, which implies that the Americans were using their relief measures in Europe as a lever for obtaining economic concessions from the people to whom they were dispensing charity.

In their attitude towards their late enemies the Allies can hardly fail to establish degrees of criminality, and according as an individual people stands high or low in such a list, so will any efforts on its part to rehabilitate itself be likely to be rebuffed or reciprocated. One determining factor, however, in this respect should be the extent to which the desire for the restoration of touch with the Allies, in particular with Great Britain, is accompanied by a genuine attempt to keep the peace all round. The Magyars, it is understood, are anxious to resume something like their old relationship with this country, but the compliment ought not to be returned so long as there is the least suspicion that the Hungarian Government favours any policy calculated to disturb the peace of the Near East or embitter its own relations with its neighbours.

According to a Roumanian report a Hungarian plot has been discovered in Transylvania in which the Budapest Government is believed to be an accomplice. The plan, it is alleged, was to exploit the discontent of the Magyar officials who are still in the employ of the Roumanian Government with a view to paralysing the whole administration of the country. A clear duty rests upon the Allies—either the Supreme Council or the League of Nations—to call for a complete elucidation of this matter. If there should have been, as stated, official Hungarian instigation, disciplinary measures ought to be enforced against Hungary for this violation of the comity of nations. If, on the other hand, there should be found to have been no foundation for connecting the Budapest Government with the action of certain Magyar officials in the employment of the Roumanian State Railways, the Bucharest Government would be the first to admit excess of zeal, and would accept a reprimand for seeking to embitter relations with a neighbour on insufficient evidence.

Now that her fate is seriously under discussion in Paris, Turkey shows signs of a very natural uneasiness. The Grand Vizier has handed to the Allied Representatives a scheme of reforms; and though few Deputies had arrived in the capital, Parliament was opened on January 12, doubtless to be ready for emergencies. The project put forward by the Vizier is concerned with judicial reform, and proposes the institution of a Committee of foreign jurists, which shall control all tribunals and have certain penal powers. Without being in possession of full details, it is, of course, impossible to criticise the scheme; but, according to the *Morning Post's* Constantinople correspondent, it is likely to miss success because it would leave the executive control in the hands of the Turks. It is to be supposed, however, that the Turks are open, especially at this time, to advice from the Allies. With good will, the project may, therefore, yet serve as a scaffolding for the erection of a respectable building.

The Sultan's Speech from the Throne—which was read by the Grand Vizier—disclaimed once again, on behalf of the Crown and the Nation, the responsibility for Turkey's joining in the war. Unfortunately for Turkey, while it is no doubt quite true that the nation was not consulted on the matter, and that if it had been consulted it would almost certainly have been against taking the fatal plunge, it cannot be denied that the nation did follow, and follow meekly, those who led it along the road to ruin. When the Sultan's Speech went on to refer to the occupation of Smyrna by the Greeks and of Adana by the French, it reached ground on which it is easier to feel sympathy with the Turkish point of view. The occupation by the Allies after the Armistice of territory that was in Turkish occupation at the signing of the Armistice was a mistake, if only because it permitted to one party to the bargain what was strictly forbidden to the other. Whether the occupying Power has done.

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or does, well or ill with the charge practically handed over to it by the Allies has nothing to do with this point. No occupation of Turkish territory should have been allowed by the Allies as a whole until such territory should be definitely handed over by the Paris Conference with due regard to form and ceremony.

The latest available reports make the situation in Syria appear rather more serious than earlier messages. One correspondent announces that in the fighting at Mutallah (a Druse village in the Merj Ayun region) the French had over fifty casualties and were forced to retreat with the loss of several guns. In all probability these particulars lost nothing in importance on their way to Egypt, whence they were forwarded to London; but it is notorious that the Druses, who are famous fighters, have not taken kindly to the presence of the French in their country, so that if they took part in the fight it would be likely to be a stiff one. The latest version regarding the capture of General Gouraud's Chief of Staff is to the effect that he was waylaid by "a Syrian band" and held to ransom for the modest sum of £2,000: but that General Gouraud telegraphed to the Arabian Government "ordering" his release in 48 hours, and that he was actually released in 36 hours.

A special correspondent of the *Morning Post*—who, if he be the same that has written lately on Syrian affairs, is particularly well informed—states positively that the Emir Faisal has not reached any agreement with the French Government, and that it is to consult his people that the Prince has returned to Syria. The correspondent goes on to remark that "in view of the fighting which is taking place up and down the country," and of the initial successes obtained by the Syrians, the Emir will find it no easy task to restore peace between the French and the Arabs by means of any compromise. Reports from other sources fully bear out this writer's views, and it is to be feared that unless the unforeseen happens, the French will soon be forced to realise that Syria of 1920 does not think as did Syria of, say, 1861.

The Milner Mission has spent a week in Alexandria, where it has been in close contact with leading business men, and with other interests that must be considered in preparing any programme for Egypt's future. The visit is reported to have had very satisfactory results. The news from Cairo is, however, not so good. The Zaghlulist Committee has proclaimed that Lord Milner's Note does not afford a basis for discussion, and therefore does not change the situation. This attitude is attributed to the receipt of a telegram from Zaghlul Pasha himself, who still clings obstinately to the "complete independence" formula. At the same time, the announcement may be due to a desire to check those Egyptians who have already shown a disposition to take the opposite view and openly to avow it. That the moderate view must prevail in the long run is not to be doubted.

The young Copt who last month attempted to assassinate Wahba Pasha was put on his trial before a Military Court on January 16, and the following day was found guilty and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. The authorities are to be congratulated upon not allowing the trial to be postponed, and upon the celerity with which it was conducted, affording another example of the advantage of entrusting such trials to the military courts.

The analogy between frontier troubles in India and industrial troubles at home is brought out very clearly in the messages published last week. When a strike occurs or is threatened, the authorities usually come to terms with the leaders, and then the leaders try to get their followers to abide by the settlement. Similarly, when the Indian Government makes peace with tribal leaders, it is only the first step in a somewhat lengthy process, for the leaders are not necessarily able to bind the tribesmen as a whole, and from this point of view we may say that the Mahsud affair is pursuing the normal course. In both cases, again, there is more "secret diplomacy" than the public like; the trade unions prefer to conduct their business behind closed doors, and the tribal leaders are almost equally inconsiderate, so we must be content to wait for the result, and we can only say that the latest indications are hopeful, though the risk of further fighting in the spring has not yet been eliminated.

It is a real pleasure to turn from such ill-organised communities and glance at the conditions prevailing in the orderly and progressive State of Mysore, the last Administration Report of which has just reached us. The State suffered with the rest of India from unhealthy and unproductive seasons, but emergencies are the test of administration, and they were met in Mysore by reasonable and tolerably effective measures, while the work of industrial development went steadily forward despite the difficulties of obtaining machinery, which have elsewhere been accepted as an excuse for marking time. In one way the Report is a little disappointing, for it is studiously impersonal, and we miss the clear, and sometimes caustic, comments by which some Indian Rulers enliven their official publications; we should like, for instance, to know exactly what the Maharaja thinks regarding the future of village life and of the co-operative movement among his people. But council-government has drawbacks as well as advantages, and the tenor of the Report is in strict accordance with the constitution and traditions of the State.

The problems of village life are, of course, not peculiar to Mysore. The vast majority of Indians live in the villages, and it is in the villages that the future of the country will be decided, so that we could wish to hear more about them, not merely from the present rulers, but from the politicians who aspire to be rulers by-and-by. Under the new constitution, the development of village life will be in charge of Ministers chosen from the provincial legislatures, and the fact that the first Ministers are almost certain to be townsmen gives occasion for a little anxiety, since townsmen are apt to be serenely confident that they know what is good for the villages, and serenely ignorant of what the villages really want. The villages must win in the long run, for they will have most of the votes, but they may suffer while they are learning how to use their powers.

A good instance of the mental attitude to which we refer is the remark attributed to Mr. Madhava Rao in a recent interview: that the deep cleavage between the Brahmins and other classes in Southern India is not a political matter. The townsman can define and distinguish, and when he has classed a particular phenomenon as social, he can proceed to the inference that it has nothing to do with politics. The uninstructed villager, on the other hand, looks at life as a whole; he is not interested in classification, but he knows when something hurts, and he will have no hesitation in importing social grievances, and also economic difficulties, into the political field. For good or for evil, provincial politics will be concerned for some time to come mainly with social and economic questions, and if town-bred politicians will not study these questions from the villagers' point of view, they may begin by making him rather more uncomfortable than he is now; then he will probably turn nasty, his grievance will be redressed, and the cogwheel of progress will register one more painful notch.

The selection of Sir Frank Sly to succeed Sir Benjamin Robertson as Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces completes the list of the provincial rulers who have to do the spade work for the new constitutional edifice, and judging by his past record his share will be efficiently done; he knows the provinces almost as a Londoner knows his back-garden, while his friends credit him with an endowment of genial tact and sane optimism, qualities which will be particularly valuable at the present juncture. His evidence before the Joint Committee showed that his heart is in the work which lies before him, and he enters on his office with our cordial wishes for its successful accomplishment.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

Relations with the Bolshevists.

The Government change of attitude towards the Bolshevists is likely to receive a mixed reception, quite apart from larger questions of policy. The public is frankly tired of Russian adventures, Archangel expeditions, and the rest; the cold fit has succeeded the hot. But on the other hand it has no belief whatever in the alleged desire of the Bolshevists to reform and inaugurate a reign of perpetual peace and goodwill; and those who are loudest in pressing the Bolshevist virtues on our notice are precisely the same folk who were indefatigable a couple of years ago in depicting the moderation and gentleness of the Prussian.

Many people are frankly puzzled in these days when each Government department issues its own news and its own glosses, which frequently contradict another Department's news and glosses; it all adds to the fun of the fair, but, like the new siren on the District Railway, it is a little disconcerting to the unsophisticated. So far as one can judge from these literary efforts, Mr. Churchill is convinced of the need of fighting Bolshevism in Russia, in Asia, and, indeed, everywhere; Mr. Lloyd George apparently thinks that reasonable grounds of agreement can be discovered, that the blockade can be raised, and trade relations more or less restored. For the time being Mr. Lloyd George has won, but he had to go to Paris—in other words to put a couple of hundred miles between him and Mr. Churchill—to get his own way. Even then the fiery Secretary for War followed him across the Channel at the first opportunity; and as the whole British Government cannot permanently reside in Paris, the conflict will eventually have to be fought out in Downing Street.

Our Russian policy appears to be the sport of fate, changed more by circumstance than freewill, and altered once a month. The true fact is that nobody in politics really knows what solution to offer of this problem. Mr. Churchill's unique strength is, wonderful to relate, his consistent conservatism on this matter—whenever he sees a revolutionary head, he wants to hit it. Mr. Lloyd George, perhaps with some faint memory of his own wild days, appears to have a little sympathy with the revolutionaries. But Labour is equally divided. Theoretically, Labour approves of Soviets, elimination of the *bourgeoisie* and the extinction of capital; but in practice Labour is horribly embarrassed by Lenin's denunciation of British Labour leaders as smug traitors, who are worse than capitalists; and it does not want to commit itself too far. The upshot is general indecision and vacillation on all sides.

Paisley.

A pretty little comedy is playing itself out at Paisley. The seat is vacant, and it has always been held by a Radical; even at the last election the Coalition was not recognised in that stalwart stronghold. At the present time, therefore, the Coalition whips feel it is quite useless to run a candidate, and, since it is rather difficult for a Government to allow a seat to go by default, they breathed a sigh of relief when the rumour spread that Mr. Asquith would be asked to stand. The ex-Prime Minister is the one man of the late Liberal party whom they could afford not to oppose. But it appears that the Paisley folk are not so sure that they want Mr. Asquith; for he is only a Yorkshireman after all, and Paisley, being in Scotland, thinks a local Scot is better than any Yorkshireman, ex-Prime Minister or not. There was a delightful moment when it seemed that Mrs. Asquith might be asked to stand, but that was too good to be true. Now it is practically certain that a Paisley Radical may stand; in that case a Paisley Labour man would also run; and the Coalition would be compelled to find a candidate too.

Party Formations.

The political clubs and the country as a whole have been discussing the Lord Chancellor's proposed new National party, which, it is now generally recognised, is only another name for Mr. Churchill's Centre party. The quidnuncs have suggested that Mr. Churchill hopes to lead it, but that seems extremely unlikely to happen. Many people admire the abilities of the Secretary for War, but few have forgotten his lurid political past, and Antwerp and Gallipoli are not promising introductions to a future Prime Minister. Mr. Lloyd George, too, is not the man to be shunted easily. The strongest factor in favour of the new party, or permanent Coalition, is the increasing strength of Labour; but Labour has its own serious divisions, although, being in opposition, these are naturally less noticeable. Probably for the next two or three years, or perhaps longer, home politics will be unstable, and there will be a general manœuvring for position.

Strikes and Labour.

Fortunately the industrial position seems more hopeful. The railwaymen have suddenly, and by a narrow majority, decided to accept the Government's offer, so we are spared a repetition of the Labour strike. The ironmoulders, too, are admittedly anxious to get back to work; and the insurance agents' strike, which occupies a large space in the newspapers for various reasons, is not of much importance to the community.

For some reason which is not quite clear, the Labour campaign on behalf of nationalisation, which was to have electrified the country this month, seems to have been put off. There are whispers of dissensions among the Labour leaders themselves as to what constitutes nationalisation, and they may perhaps feel that the time is not yet ripe for this particular propaganda. When it does come, it promises to be as educative in the political sense as the old Free Trade-Tariff Reform controversy—and probably as inconclusive.

The House Famine.

The shortage of houses is steadily becoming more serious, and a great deal is likely to be heard about it when Parliament meets again. It is not indeed the fact that building is at a standstill, for in travelling about England nowadays one sees a good deal going on. But close inspection shows that it is new factories, or enlargements of old factories or business premises that are occupying the bricklayers; hardly ever does one see a new house under construction. The enlargement of business premises argues well, of course, for the prosperity of the country, but one hears strange stories of "daily-breaders" being driven to live fifty or sixty miles away from their offices because of the impossibility of finding nearer accommodation. Even the remote East Coast resorts, where in pre-war days a winter visitor was as rare as a whale, has developed a semi-suburban population this year, and the local house-agents, who used to sleep through the cold season like a snake gorged with its summer prey, have woken up sufficiently to ask preposterous rents. When frantic advertisements appear in the London papers, offering £50 to anybody who will inform the advertiser where he can get an eight-roomed house—there is one in Monday's *Times* of this kind, and one often sees similar despairing efforts—the rapacity of the agent is explained by the impotence of the prey.

Should a Doctor Tell?

Legal and medical circles are greatly exercised over the question, which has arisen this week in the Courts, whether a doctor should reveal the confidences of his patients. The judge, in a divorce case where the man was suffering from an infectious disease, ordered the doctor who had treated him to give evidence; the doctor objected, but in the end obeyed, and divulged the nature of the malady. The decision has naturally caused much discussion, for most people had imagined that the secrets of the consulting-room were as inviolate as those of the confessional.

Some medical men in speaking of the case have gone so far as to say they would have risked being committed for contempt of court rather than divulge knowledge acquired confidentially, and this probably represents the attitude of the faculty as a whole. The Bar appears to be divided in its opinion; but it is surely difficult to maintain that a solicitor has a right to refuse to divulge knowledge acquired from his clients in the exercise of his profession, and to refuse a similar right to the doctor.

More New Issues.

The flood of new capital issues from the City, which abated over Christmas, has again broken out, and the year promises to beat all records in this direction. One or two Colonial Governments have also come forward for money, but their demands are modest in comparison

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with those of home industries. In most cases the issues are said to be over-subscribed.

One feature of the day appears to be the extraordinary multiplication of the small investor. It would be an exaggeration to say that the average working-man rings up his broker to inquire the current price of Oils or the chance of a deal in Chartereds during his dinner-hour, but things are beginning to move that way, and the man with only ten pounds to spare is just as keen to turn it into twenty as his wealthier brother is to make an extra thousand. I am afraid this keenness, combined with inexperience, will lead to the increase of bucket-shops; already one seems to notice an advance in the number of enticing financial circulars which invite one to double one's income by following the disinterested advice of So-and-so. These gentry, by the way, must have changed their methods. Before the war their prey were usually parsons and widows, but as neither class has any money nowadays, they must have discovered a fresh *clientèle*.

The Literary World.

The announcement of a novel by M. Clemenceau will not, perhaps, surprise the public very much, for the veteran statesman has done most things in his time, except preach a sermon. Anyway, the story, which is of the "triangle" plot vairety—two men and a woman—has been translated and published in England this week under the title of "The Strongest." Our British politicians are less versatile; they keep their fiction for their public speeches.

Two serious books worth notice are "The League of Nations," by Sir Frederick Pollock—the title and legal fame of the author sufficiently indicate its contents—and Lord Haldane's collected and, one hopes, final apologia, issued under the title "Before the War." Lord Haldane's literary style, like his oratory, is rather against him; we cannot see the wood for the trees, and he does not succeed in making clear the negotiations in which he was engaged with Germany. It is a disappointing book on the whole, but it can claim a place on the shelf of "memoires pour servir."

By far the most important of the documents published on the war, however, since the Armistice is the Kaiser correspondence which is appearing day by day in the *Morning Post*—it is to be hoped that the whole will be produced in book form, with the very able annotations which now elucidate the letters, in order to make them available to the general public.

The Kaiser appears in these letters as an astute intriguer, a man with little insight but considerable grasp of externals. He seems to have understood the material side of politics well; of the spiritual aspect he had no comprehension. But, then, very few had in Potsdam. Historians will probably differ considerably over their interpretations of these letters, in discussing Germany's policy towards Russia. It is a by no means easy problem to decide, and possibly the Kaiser himself varied in his attitude from time to time—whether it was better to retain a strong Russia as a buttress to the principle of autocracy, or to weaken Russia as a possible danger to Germany; the former seems the more probable from the letters, the latter from the facts.

But the popular fable that the Kaiser was mad may be dismissed after reading these letters. He was a restless, dogmatic, versatile, and uncomfortable person, but perfectly sane. Another fable, by the way, receives its death-warrant—the idea that he ever had any feeling of friendship for Britain. To this country, its policy, its people, and its press, he uniformly expresses his dislike. Probably he has not changed his opinion since his retirement.

Naturalists, and not naturalists only, will revel in Mr. Fitzsimon's "Natural History of South Africa," an important work in four volumes. It covers far too much ground for any adequate appreciation of its merits to be attempted here, but even the shortest reference must include an allusion to its numerous and attractive illustrations.

I cannot speak so highly of Mr. Harries' "Shakespeare and the Welsh," a large and learned tome published by Fisher Unwin. Since the remote days when Shakespeare was shown to be Bacon, the Germans have proved him to be a German, and Mr. Harries now demonstrates that he was Welsh. It was really inexcusable gaucherie of Shakespeare to have been born in the very middle of England, but that miserable blunder appears to make no difference to the critics with a hypothesis to prove.

Several other books deserve a word of notice. Flight-Lieutenant Edgar Middleton has published a history of "The Great War in the Air," in four volumes, through the Waverley Book Co. His account, which naturally deals mainly with the growth of the British air arm, is introduced by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu.

Some pleasant "Memories of George Meredith" have been issued by Lady Butcher, one of his many women friends. The cult of Meredith is perhaps a little dimmed these last few years, but there are probably a sufficient number of worshippers at the shrine of "The Egoist" to add this little book to their special Meredith shelf.

Mr. Hartley Coleridge has issued a two-volume biography of Coutts, the banker, through Lane. The work is admirably done, and although Coutts was a very dull person who made a fool of himself with an actress whom he married at the mature age of seventy-nine, his transactions with Fox and the Pitts and the politicians and gamblers of the late eighteenth century throw a good deal of light on the times.

A magnificent (and necessarily expensive) volume has been issued by Hutchinson's dealing with Westminster Cathedral. It is by Winifride de l'Hôpital, the daughter of the architect Bentley, and it is practically the story of his life. Bentley was brought up in the Gothic school, but he decided, and rightly, as the event proved, on the Byzantine style for the great Roman Cathedral. Byzantinism has not been very popular in England in comparison with Gothic, Renascence, or the sham Classical style which generally looks so absurd in the later Georgian churches in London; there are few examples of Byzantine outside Wilton and All Souls', Eastbourne. But Bentley and Westminster Cathedral have lived down their detractors. Some Philistines were rude enough to dub it a box of bricks when it was building; one now occasionally hears people go to the other extreme, and declare it a nobler pile than Westminster Abbey. However that may be, the story of its inception and completion under Bentley is extremely interesting. What would one give for a similar book on the great mediæval cathedrals, the very names of whose architects have been lost!

OCELLUS.

THE CHALDEANS.

An appeal, signed by Cardinal Bourne, Mr. J. W. Lowther (Speaker of the House of Commons), Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. Ronald McNeill, M.P., Lady Sykes, Mrs. Halford Hewitt, and Mr. Herbert Ward, has been issued for subscriptions towards the fund raised by the Committee (whose address is 9, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1) in aid of the thousands of suffering Chaldeans who survive the atrocious treatment of the Turks during the war. It is pointed out that the Chaldeans were treated with quite as much brutality as the Armenians, and their sufferings have been intensified by a terrible famine experienced in the last two years. They suffered largely because of their entire sympathy during the war with Britain and her Allies, but, though equally deserving, they have not shared the generosity extended to their kinsmen from Kurdistan and elsewhere by the British Government.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 5.

High Commissioner's Tour in the Sudan.

Lord and Lady Allenby left Cairo this morning by special train for Suez, where they embarked on a cruiser. The High Commissioner is proceeding on a trip to the Sudan, but on his way down the Red Sea will call at Jeddah, where he will spend three days, during which he will confer with the King of the Hejaz. Thence he will go to Port Sudan, and after spending a couple of days visiting Suakin, Tokar, Atbara, and Shendi, he will travel on to Khartoum, where he and Lady Allenby will be the guests of Sir Lee Stack, at the Palace. Their Excellencies propose to be away about six weeks, and during their stay in the Sudan will visit El Obeid, and will include a trip up the White Nile as far as Lake No.

It is stated that Lord Allenby's visit to the Sudan is in a measure connected with the proposed irrigation works, the sites for which he will inspect. I understand that another Commission is about to be appointed to study the projects from the point of view of the Sudan, and to report on the manner in which the water made available by them is to be allocated between Egypt and the Sudan. Definite information is, however, at present not available, but I hope to give more explicit details next week..

The Political Situation.

This week the political situation has undergone a further development owing to the intervention of the Princes of the Sultania family on the side of the Extremists. They announced their decision in the following letter addressed to Lord Milner:—

"We, Egyptian Princes, descendants of Mohammed Ali, present to you the following note:—

> "Inasmuch as the different sections of the Egyptian nation have expressed their patriotic feelings and their aspirations, by demanding the complete independence of Egypt; inasmuch as this is an ineffaceable and irrefutable proof of the sincerity of the Egyptian people, giving no opportunity to anyone to accuse it of acting under any coercion or any special influence, more especially as all the acts of the Egyptian nation, whole-heartedly united, show in a decisive manner that it acts spontaneously and that it is guided by the most noble sentiments of patriotism, we desire to inform your Lordship that not only do we associate ourselves with the demands of the Egyptian nation, but that we also join with it, so as to form one homogeneous body, to claim the rights of our fatherland, and to insist on the demand for the complete independence of Egypt."

While simultaneously publishing this letter in the vernacular Press—a lack of courtesy which Lord Milner astutely but without emphasis brings out in his acknowledgment—they at the same time issued a statement addressed to the Egyptian nation, announcing their sympathy with it in its demands and pledging themselves to support the claim for complete independence. Not unnaturally the Princes' action has been hailed with delight by the Extremist Press, which is publishing articles eulogising the signatories' patriotism and pointing out that this is the last conclusive indication of the unity of the nation at the present crisis.

There seems little doubt, however, that this is but another move on the part of the Extremists, who, having got El Azhar to declare for them, and having produced thereby no effect materially improving their position, have thought to obtain further support for their cause by roping in the Princes of the Sultania family. At the same time it would appear almost certain that the sudden intervention of the Princes at this juncture, after they had abstained from active and public participation in politics for so long, is due on the one hand to the intrigues, which, especially in this country, are part of the people's everyday life, and on the other hand to a desire for popularity and for closer association with, if not the assumption of, the leadership of the national movement.

It should be explained that for some time now negotiations have been going on between the Milner Mission and certain ex-Ministers with a view to finding a basis of agreement and to inducing Zaghlul to come back to Egypt and discuss matters directly with the Mission. These negotiations had reached a very advanced stage, but it is highly probable that the prominent part which these ex-Ministers were assuming in connection with the movement was not to the liking of other ex-Ministers who are in close touch with the Court, and who, by inducing the Princes to come forward and plump for complete independence at the present juncture, hoped to effect two purposes, one to check-mate their former colleagues in their move to the front and the other to take the national movement definitely out of purely Egyptian and place it in purely Turco-Egyptian hands, in the latter of which the reins of Government have reposed throughout the country's modern history until the present movement under the direction of Zaghlul Pasha, who is thoroughbred fellah.

Whichever way one looks at it, this new development appears to be but one of the many political manœuvres which are at present being made on all sides for an advantageous position in connection with the national movement, and it would therefore be unwise to attach too much importance to it, or to its effects on the situation.. At the same time there is just a possibility that it may in the long run prove to have been a move in the right direction, since it may lead to the formation of a group composed of elements which, albeit they stand for complete independence, would by their very nature be more inclined to discuss matters on reasonable lines.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, January 9.

Serbia and Albania.

Insolubly bound up with the Adriatic question is the problem of Albania, which touches Serbia very closely. Ever since the Slavs arrived in the Balkans, Serbs and Arnaouts have been neighbours, often friends, often enemies. In the days of the principality of the Zeta, relations were very intimate, and the fierce Ghegs of the Accursed Mountains and the Montenegrins often met in battle, sometimes as allies against the common foe, the Turk, sometimes as frontier and religious enemies. Skanderbeg himself was intimately connected with the Zetan Royal house; and there is no doubt that Albanian and Serb blood is largely intermingled to-day in Montenegro. Encouraged by the Turks, the Albanians have industriously progressed and settled in territories that were formerly purely Serbian. Names that are classical in Serbian history, such as Prizren, are to-day largely, if not dominantly, Albanian in character, and during the ghastly retreat through the snowy alps of Albania in 1915, while a few savages were picking off stragglers and old women, it was Essad Pasha's retainers who held the road for the broken Serbs through the passes of Central and Southern Albania. Besides, the Albanians are natural allies of the Serbs, though Turkish and Austrian intrigues have spared no effort in the past to stir up fanatical and racial hatred between the two nations. To-day, when many Albanians are looking for a recognition of their national status, the Serbs are turning with sympathy towards these interesting neighbours. The result of the break-up of Turkey-in-Europe was to create an "independent" Albania; but England consented to play catspaw to Austria, and virtually made it an Austrian protectorate, with a German dummy on the precarious throne. Albanians will not forget their amusement when Prince

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William "Duratski," or "The Foolish," as the Russian called him in derision, with an untranslatable pun on Durazzo, bolted back to his palace in terror on hearing the shots of welcome fired in his honour by these martial tribesmen; but that farce may be forgotten with a smile, provided that the Albanians do not receive some uninvited "protector" against their will. In the Albanian question, Serbia's outlook is very simple. The Serbs ask that their neighbour shall be left to her own free will, provided only that she be granted a fair frontier against tribal raids and possible aggression.

Italians Evacuate Korchula.

It is announced from Splijet that the Italians have evacuated Korchula (Curzola) in Dalmatia, which is a step in the right direction; also that d'Annunzio's paymaster has absconded with a million lire—which is a step in the wrong direction, though hardly surprising.

The Save Railway Bridge.

The railway bridge over the Save has been condemned as unsafe. It will be remembered that this vital connection was patched up, owing to the delay in obtaining the material ordered from the Reshitsa steelworks. Consequently, travellers by the Orient express are once more condemned to the expensive and tedious process of landing at Zemun, and crossing to Belgrade by ferry. But with brighter news from Roumania, and the promise of the release of the impounded articles, it is to be hoped that this long-suffering bridge will soon be put properly upon its legs again.

Fishing Extraordinary.

There is a spot on the Danube, just below Belgrade, where the butchers' men go to empty away the lights and entrails of their slaughtered beeves. The other evening passers-by were surprised to see these men savagely and energetically probing the water with iron rods. It appears that a huge *som*, or Silurus, attracted by the tempting bait, had swum up from the depths, and was voraciously devouring the luxurious dinner thus offered to him. He was so big that many of the men were afraid, but one, a wounded soldier, succeeded in spearing him through the tail, and he was quickly captured. He proved to weigh 135 kilos, or about 297 lbs.; and his lucky captors sold him at ten dinars a kilo—truly, a windfall. He must have been a hideous monster, for the dark greenish back and broad, flat head, with gaping moustached mouth, make this fish very unattractive. His jaws are armed with a formidable set of small but sharp teeth, and big specimens have been known to attack bathers, especially children, in the Black and Caspian Seas. But he is very good eating, especially when not too big, and the Serbs make him into a delicious soup. Our troops used to catch him in some of the lakes in Macedonia, and found him a welcome change in their rations. They called him the catfish, and he certainly resembles the horrid-looking catfish of the Plate and other South American rivers.

Serbian Christmas.

Although the Government has officially adopted the Gregorian calendar for all official and civil purposes, the Church retains the old Julian style, like the other Orthodox countries. Consequently, residents in Belgrade have two Christmas holidays, at a fortnight's interval. On January 5 half the population of Belgrade was carrying a live sucking-pig about; the next day the other half were carrying a pigling on their shoulders. Nobody, however smartly dressed, was ashamed to be seen with a squealing porker in his arms, though many pinched their noses to keep them quiet, with the result that the town resounded to a chorus of piggies with colds in their heads. Roast sucking-pig is a *sine qua non* for the Serbian Christmas. It is very usual to prepare him a day, or even two days before the festival, to roast him, and eat him cold on the great day. The day before Boxing Day, or, rather, two days before their Christmas, is called *Tutsin Dan*, i.e., the slaughter-day: it was accounted a good sign that there was a mist twining round the forests of Topchider on *Tutsin Dan*, for that is a sign that the summer will be a fine one. The day before Christmas is *Badnyi Dan*, the day of the yule log, which picturesque custom survives with all its force in Serbia. A suitable tree is selected, and after due ceremony, felled and trimmed and cut into three, one length longer than the others, dragged home, and the fire lit in a formal way. Supper is served with many old customs, the origin of most of which is lost in antiquity, but one member of the family sits up all night to keep the fire in. The officers of the Belgrade garrison proceeded formally to collect their *Badniak* or yule log, which has brought into the town with a cavalry escort, paraded through the streets, and the good old customs maintained.

MALTA.

VALETTA, January 5.

War on Rats.

The Governor has been pleased to direct that, with a view to keeping bubonic plague at bay, a reward of one penny shall be paid for every dead rat handed in at the local police stations. This is a very necessary step, as of late the Grand Harbour has been crowded with ships which in most cases have touched doubtful ports at one time or another.

Enteric fever has manifested itself at Musta, Notabile, and Rabata, which places have been placed out of bounds to all troops.

A Maltese Tenor.

Great excitement in the musical world has been manifested during the last few days on the appearance at the Teatro Reale, for a few performances only, of a real Maltese tenor, Dr. Isilio Calleja. As a vocalist and actor he has attained great fame in Paris, New York and Milan.

Political Leaders.

Well in advance the various political organisations are looking around for a leader for their newly promised Constitution. The names of several leading men are mentioned in this capacity, amongst which those of Dr. Sciberras, Commendatore Lewis Mizzi, and Dr. Carnana Gatto are most to the fore. It is to be hoped that it will not be a case of too many political cooks spoiling the country's broth.

Personal.

An engagement is announced of Lieut. Arthur Polhill, R.N., second son of Cecil Polhill, Esq., of Howbury Hall, Bedford, to Elizabeth, elder daughter of Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Martindale, of Belgrave Square, London, and 127, Str., St. Torri Sliema, Malta.

The Archbishop, Bishop Dom Maurus Carnana, O.S.B., G.C.O.G., K.B.E., has been presented by the "Old Ignatians" with a full-length picture in oils. The work, which is highly praised by experts, is from the brush of Carnana Dingli, Esq., a well-known local artist.

Miscellaneous.

The Governor has communicated to the Council of Government a dispatch from the Secretary of State on the subject of the Constitution of Malta.

The much-discussed ordinance to make provision respecting duties on excess profits made during the war has been promulgated.

The time limit for the exportation of cattle from the French zone of Morocco has been extended to March 31 next.

Five hundred and sixty-four workmen who had signed the French Labour Contract have left by the French s.s. Belgrano. The emigrants are a fine type of man, and a large number comprised those recently discharged from H.M. Dockyard.

January 7.

The New Constitution.

Lord Plumer on the 5th read publicly the dispatch received from the Secretary of State relative to granting to the island a measure of self-government and a reform of the Constitution to the Council of Government. Great interest was manifested and every seat available for the public was filled. Naturally, the dispatch only gave broad outlines, but the general impression conveyed is that of complete satisfaction.

Sixty more emigrants have left for Marseilles on the terms of the French Labour Contract.

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THROUGH PERSIA IN WAR TIME.—I.

By Ernest Betts.

By the middle of 1918 those of us who had survived the disasters of Kut and the dash to Baghdad began to consider that they had been sizzling in the Mesopotamian frying-pan long enough. We were getting inured to the overpowering atmosphere of the country, and we were wondering exactly what was going to happen next. As long as we were allowed to wonder in peace it was a pleasant enough pastime piling conjecture upon conjecture, until we had before us a solid wall of speculation. In the intervals we busied ourselves with other building operations. We began to erect complete hotels of mud to serve as officers' messes, and with this end in view we dug great cavities in the soft, terribly uninteresting Mesopotamian soil, and fetched great quantities of water from the Diyala River, and tamarisk and scrub from its banks. We sprinkled the Mesopotamian mud with the "bhooza," used as fodder for the transport animals, and patted it into bricks of a quite original shape. Further afield we constructed ammunition dumps, and asked ourselves whether they could possibly have any connection with an autumn offensive. We organised brigade cricket matches to relieve the monotony; we underwent concerts in the desert; we drank lime-juice by the bucket.

Then suddenly all this stopped. In the midst of fastening on the mud girders and the steel tamarisk branches for our Babylonian hotels, a rumour of unusual violence indicated that all our work was useless. We must stop working and prepare for activities of a less peaceful nature. Rumour turned to fact with certain words that fell from the lips of our Commanding Officer. In the course of one of his lectures to us he said that operations in Persia were imminent; that we were to be the operators; that marching in Persia was a stiff and stony exercise; that our Allies, the Russians, had had to fall back after they met us at Kizil Robat, and we must now undertake their task; that there would be another lecture the next day at 5 a.m., etc., etc.

Our wall of surmise became a mountain. We held discussions; we conferred; we made "weighty pronouncements." The question arose, was it better to scorch to death in a hot country or freeze to death in a cold? It was difficult to allocate ourselves an exact rôle in any Persian campaign. Policy in our part of the world, where policy there was, had been always an elusive thing. You had to run after it.

We thought that Persia was a neutral country, and that you must knock at the door of a neutral country before entering. For my own part, I was pleased enough. In Persia you can smoke a pipe in the comfort due to a reasonably cool climate: the furnace of Mesopotamia allows you no such consolation. Therefore it was an obvious advantage to leave Mesopotamia. I saw no object in regarding the future from any but an individual standpoint: I had given up imagining that from moment to moment I was saving the British Empire. So I bought my tobacco and awaited orders.

Orders came, and for the four hundred and forty-fourth time we prepared to move. I sat outside my tent watching the activities of the men as they rolled their blankets and scooped their jam-tins clean. It was evening, and a fine luminous dusk made everything glow with warmth. The fan-like heads of the date palms spread themselves out in an intense black silhouette against the crimson sunset, and a superb harmony of twilight colours was painting itself into the sky. This was the last time I should behold the lonely beauty of a desert evening, as it was perhaps the first I had ever realised what magic it contained.

Deserting rhetoric for plain disquisition, let me attempt to outline the system (such of it as there was) by which it was hoped to make our progress through Persia a success. To anyone the least familiar with the country it was clear that there were two problems to be dealt with by those organising the advance: the first, petrol, the second, supplies. It was found that Ford motor-vans taking petrol up to Hamadan for distribution purposes reached their destination with only sufficient spirit for the return journey. No reserve, therefore, could be accumulated; and as the supply of troops and material to our men up at the front was maintained entirely by motor transport convoys, a shortage of petrol would have been disastrous. The motor-lorries themselves could take with them only a negligible quantity, as they were packed far beyond their carrying capacity with troops, naval ammunition (why naval ammunition?), and guns. The curtain had nearly gone down on this drama of insufficiency before the problem was finally solved.

The second difficulty, that of supplies, was partly dependent, of course, on the solution of the first, but it gave rise to less anxiety than might have been expected. Local resources were heavily drawn upon, and convoys that had preceded us piled up ration dumps at various points on the road. Honey was a very frequent issue, but the commissariat on the whole was not on this lyrical scale.

But I must return for a moment to our starting-point. There was a narrow-gauge railway running (but generally walking) between our camp at Abu Saida—about sixty miles north of Baghdad—and the railhead at Ruz, which lies just south of the Jebel Hamrin Hills. We were to entrain at Abu Saida, and the toy engine and humorous open trucks were to convey us as far as Ruz—unless they all fell off the line before they got there. At Ruz we were to be unloaded and stacked in motor-lorries. These were to make their way up the Great Khorassan Road in five separate convoys. Four of them had already gone; ours was the fifth. It was not expected that we should travel in such perfect luxury for long, and the report ran that Hamadan was to be the final stopping-place for all the cars. Subsequently our destiny—but destinies have a habit of obscuring themselves.

Our train was to leave at midnight. By eight o'clock our arrangements for departure were complete, so that we had four hours in which to reflect on the world-shattering exploits we were on the eve of accomplishing. It was certainly time the men in the battalion were given something active to engage them. They were becoming comatose. It would do them good, I thought, to wake up and have it brought to their notice that the earth was still moving, and events with it. But considering the matter again, and observing the camp empty and silent of voice, my mind reverted to certain days of remarkable peacefulness and certain evenings of high jollity. Truth to tell, I had found comfort very comfortable, and so had everybody else.

Twelve o'clock came, and the train was not to be seen. One o'clock and still no train. Two o'clock—not a sign of it. As officers and gentlemen, unruffled by the jars of circumstance, we walked up and down the characterless desert and engaged in pleasant conversation. At ten minutes past two the train actually arrived, and with an ostentation that brought us all severely to our senses. Ten of us—five officers and five servants—crammed into one truck with all our kit and implements of war. We felt (and fought) like three babies in a perambulator. It was impossible to move without the risk of falling off the train.

We reached Table Mountain—a deceptive name, for it is only a great mound—at five the next morning, and at six identified each other from amongst the human wreckage. Table Mountain enjoys the reputation of having the stickiest climate and the worst rest camp, not in the world, but in the universe. But it was here we received the news. The *Baghdad Times* announced that the Staffords had occupied Baku. It was the Staffords who had formed the basis for a singular piece of humour on the part of the War Office. Orders were received for two hundred of them to be rushed across the Persian border in order to substantiate a statement by Mr. Bonar Law, or someone else, in the House of Commons, that British troops were already in Persia "to deal with the situation." Such was the tale we heard; and this hurried movement, which was badly supported, gave the Staffords little to laugh at afterwards, though possibly it quelled one or two prodding enquirers at home. The news about Baku was thoroughly exciting. But it was unintelligible. What earthly connection had we with Baku? Was Persia a mere road to the Caspian, or were there other things to be done in Persia? And where was Baku?

It would be untrue to say that the new aspect of affairs revealed by this development left us in a mood of indifference. Rather we had the idea that we were embarking on some large and rather dangerous project, the full details of which had been worked out by nobody. If anyone suffered, we would be the ones to suffer; and while none of us was averse to hardship or the perils of campaigning, we preferred not to be experimented upon in the early Mesopotamian manner.

(To be continued.)

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

I see that the price of dates is to "go up" again—and 33 1-3 per cent., too. That is to say that the Persian dates, popularly known as the "sixpenny dates," are to be eightpence a pound as from January 21. "The Ministry of Food," we are told, "is having to pay more for its supplies," and so—33 1-3 per cent. is clapped on for the retail buyer. I should like to know *how much* more the Ministry of Food is paying, and I should like still more to know what the cost of carriage works out at. If we have the price of food controlled, why not the cost of carriage? At any rate, eightpence a pound for dates so long after the war is surely excessive. And, by the way, who buys these dates? Personally, I do not remember seeing any offered at 6d. a pound, though I bought some very good ones at 9d. a pound quite recently. But the "sixpennies" have been scarce—probably they have been kept back for a rise. Truly, we live in strange times!

***

I wonder how many people have read the remarks which Mr. J. Swinburne made on "Music and Women" a few days ago before the Musical Association? He had the courage to say (some will call it foolhardiness) that women were possessed of neither understanding nor creative ability. Of course, he was at once attacked (for anything you may say against any form of "progress" is bound to be attacked in these days), but was he really so very wrong? To call him a misogynist is beside the point: the question is not whether woman should be loved, but whether or not she is an inferior creature. Now, for myself, I am not at all sure that the Moslem way of dealing with women is not the most expedient: in that system you do at least know where they and you are. Someone, no doubt, will reply: "Ah, but the Moslem woman is now tired of her subjection; and she is already semi-emancipated." Quite so: and what is the result? When the Turk ceases to have a hold over his women he ceases to be a Turk: but, as a matter of belief, I don't think this passion for progress in the form of equality of sexes will ever conquer Turkey and Arabia. I hope not, anyhow. Emancipation is a very sterile freedom, and the Turkish peasant woman will not mind in the least being called an inferior being provided that she "gets the goods" from her husband. After all, the woman of Western Asia is a very practical person, not given to idealistic longings; and it's far more what she has than what she is that she worries about.

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By the bye, it has long been my intention to compose a "Misogynist's Handbook," and although I have plenty of material from English, French, and Latin writers, I believe that in Turkish and Arabic I could get probably my richest haul. The more I think of the project the more I think (when sighing over the sad deceitfulness of these times) of it as a public duty. Even if I were to limit myself to Near Eastern authors I think I could get a representative selection of worldly wisdom. If any of my readers who have been disillusioned, or are about to be disillusioned, or cannot be disillusioned, wish to send along to me examples (not personal, please!) of female inferiority, their messages will meet with a courteous reception. Over them, however, will arise a tremendous wrangle in the Offices of THE NEAR EAST. For I must tell you (if I can get this to the printers without the Editor's blue pencil on it) that there are some on this journal who are the very reverse of misogynists.

***

When talking over these things the other day to one who knows the world and its ways better than I do, I was told that those words, if published, would raise a *furore* amongst certain readers. So that I can imagine these same readers chuckling with joy at the account of the latest discovery of Babylonian archæology. For those who have not noticed it I will give one or two details. Records have been found of a Babylonian colony, dated about 2400 B.C., at a place called Burus, which was three miles from the present Kaisariyeh in Eastern Asia Minor. This colony apparently had a well "advanced" form of civilisation, for "women's rights" were in full sway, and there was also a "woman's university" there. This university provided for its students the two faculties of "Literature" and "Arts," and in charge of each of these faculties was a "Principal." One would have thought that, having got so far, the women would run the whole show, but—this "Principal" was a male professor! It is interesting and comforting to know, therefore, that the folly of Burus did stop short somewhere. And it is explained that soon after these signs of progress showed their proud and independent heads, Burus was swallowed up by the wild tribes of the north. The internal decay which was attacking the Babylonian Government made it impossible to defend outlying colonies, and so this home of equal bliss disappeared. That, I say, is the official, natural, and therefore wrong explanation. Let me tell you (and I, as a Corsair, know well when States are strong and when they are weak!) that when a State takes as its ideals the two ineffable E's, Emancipation and Education, it is the beginning of the end. A State is strong as it attains freedom, but having attained it, it loses its virtue. If I may be serious for once, and apply to our own country the history of Burus, I must say it seems to me that the women of the country, upon whom the future largely depends, are striving, just as those of Burus strove, after the things that do not matter.

***

The account which THE NEAR EAST published last week of what the British did for the Nestorians during the war seemed to me very interesting, for two reasons. First, the frank and almost inexpressible gratitude of these people; and, secondly, the naive and almost inconceivable surprise which they appear to have felt at our methods of sanitation. Now, I do not know whether the Nestorians are to-day without skill in medicine generally; if so, they have lost an art which once they fully possessed. For when the Arabs, who had no physicians and knew nothing of sanitation, conquered the Greeks and Persians, they recognised the worth of philosophers and physicians, and took them over in batches from the conquered peoples. Many Nestorian Syrians were among these, and the physician of Mohammed himself, Hareth ibn Kalda, was a Nestorian. The Arabian civilisation was in many respects the result of a process of assimilation, and in this process the Syrians played a large part. These oppressed people, however low their condition is to-day, and however obscured their history, have a very real and living past. They are entitled, therefore, to the sympathy of more fortunately placed nations.

CORSAIR.

MR. H. SAMUEL AND PALESTINE.

Mr. Herbert Samuel gave some idea of the nature of his mission to Palestine, whither he has gone at the invitation of Lord Allenby to advise on matters of finance and administration, at a reception accorded to him in Paris by the Zionist members of the Committee of Jewish Delegations at the Peace Conference and by representative French Zionists. He declared that he would endeavour to keep the great Jewish schemes of colonisation before the attention of the British Government. He knew that the British Government was determined to introduce a modern system of agriculture into the country. They did not intend to build up a colonisation based on large-scale capitalism which would afford possibilities for the formation of large landed estates. They would consider primarily how to harmonise the interests of the small colonists and of the working masses with the interests of the whole country.

TRANSCAUCASIAN REPUBLICS.

The British Government have instructed Mr. J. O. Wardrop, C.M.G., High Commissioner at Tiflis, to inform the Georgian and Azerbaijan Governments that the Allied Powers represented on the Supreme Council in Paris have decided to grant *de facto* recognition to Georgia and Azerbaijan. This recognition does not in any way prejudge the question of the boundaries of the two Republics.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Syria.

The *Morning Post* of January 17 published a short article on "British Policy in Syria," written by an obviously well-informed correspondent. He says:—

Despite the statements to the contrary, Faisal has made no sort of agreement with the French Government. There may have been proposals and counter-proposals, but these never reached the concrete stage. Indeed, it is to consult his people as to their wishes concerning their country's future that the Emir has now gone back to Syria.

He then refers to the difficulties of the Emir Faisal's position, and concludes with the necessity of retaining the friendship of the Arabs:—

It is very difficult to see now, in view of the fighting which is taking place up and down the country, how Faisal will be able to suggest any sort of compromise between Syrian aspirations and French claims. The greater initial successes the Syrians have obtained, the more impossible will be Faisal's task. But we should not put down the cause of the trouble in Syria and Mesopotamia to Bolshevist propaganda. This trouble was brewing long before the Bolshevist successes. That it was contemporaneous with them was merely a coincidence. The unrest throughout the Arabic-speaking world of the Middle East indubitably arises from disappointment with the peace settlement. The Arabs are "an old and haughty nation, proud in arms." They have helped to smash the Turks, whom they despise as barbarian and semi-infidel. They thought to realise their age-long dreams of a revival of the great days of their civilisation, with its twin capitals at Damascus and Baghdad—perhaps an idle sentiment, but yet one we did not disdain to play on during the war. So far matters have not become so bad as this, and there may still be time, if the French adopt another policy towards Syria and we take some steps to show the people of Baghdad and the Euphrates valley that they are not to be separated from their kinsmen in Damascus and Syria, to avoid a castrophe. If the Arabs are our friends the Bolshevist menace in the hither Middle East will not be serious; if the Arabs are not our friends that menace will very soon extend to Egypt.

The Future of Constantinople.

The *Birmingham Post* of January 15, in a leading article, finds a way out of the Turkish difficulty in a compromise. Its conclusion is:—

We should like to see Constantinople, and that part of Turkey in Europe which goes with it, administered by the Turk, under due control and supervision, as a mandatory of the League of Nations. Such a procedure . . . would get rid of the necessity of finding a Western Power willing and suitable to take the mandate. It would obviate all the danger of interference with the Caliphate. It would avoid giving offence to Moslem opinion. It would not be inconsistent with the principles of self-determination. But would it deprive the Turk—and that is the point on which any plan must stand or fall—of that power for evil to Europe which he has held and exercised for five hundred years? We believe it would. When all is said and done, the Turk's power for evil has rested on two things—on his control of the Straits and on his power over subject Christian races. Now, whatever the plan adopted does one thing is certain: The Turk will never again control the Straits. All the Allies are agreed on that. The Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus—these must be absolutely free, for ever, to the ships of all nations. We cannot see that this will be harder to enforce because the Turk is a mandatory of the League and holds Constantinople for the League. It is a matter, surely, of naval and military precautions laid down in the Treaty and to be enforced by the League. Nor, again, does it seem impossible so to condition and control the mandate that Christian races under the Turk shall be safeguarded. Admittedly such a solution as this is imperfect. But we do not believe there is any perfect solution. To turn the Turk out completely, as we have endeavoured to show, is a policy attended with grave risks. It should be adopted only if all other policies have failed. And that brings us to another point. This Turkish mandate is an experiment—but it is not an experiment which rules out others. If it fails, as it may, the League of Nations will still be in a position to revoke its mandate, to adopt a more drastic course of action. It is easy to see difficulties and raise objections, easy to prophesy failure. But the fact remains that failure in this policy would result less disastrously than failure in any other policy advocated. To leave the Turk uncontrolled in Constantinople is unthinkable. To turn him out is to invite grave dangers all over the East. To give him a moderate and controlled sovereignty, carefully supervised, and subject to his attempting to meet the desires of the League of Nations—that seems to us a compromise reasonable in itself, and with possibilities of success held by no other proposals.

Armenia.

In that entertaining column of the *Morning Post* called "The Way of the World," there appeared on January 19 an interesting note on the Armenian Crown:—

Will the Allies' recognition *de facto* of the independence of Armenia bring forward any claimants to the kingship of that martyred country? The last Christian King of the ancient House of Lusignan was sent as a prisoner to Paris, where he died in 1393, but in quite recent times his descendants have asserted their rights to the Crown of both Armenia and Cyprus. The last well-authenticated claimant was Guy de Lusignan, who died in a Paris cellar in 1795, but a claim to direct descent was put forward in 1884 by Archbishop Khorian, who was chosen by the Armenians to represent them at the Congress of Berlin, and who won many supporters in this country to his claim that Cyprus should be made over to his family while awaiting the Crown of Armenia. One of the Archbishop's brothers married an English lady, while another wedded Mlle. de Nosrois, known in Parisian society as "Princess Marie de Lusignan of Cyprus, Jerusalem, and Armenia."

Articles to Note.

"The Calcutta University Commission," by Ernest Barker; and "Egypt and Palestine," by Major Lindsay Bashford, in the *Edinburgh Review* (January).

CORRESPONDENCE.

CONSTANTINOPLE AND THE KHALIFATE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Having lately returned from Constantinople, I should like to make clear to all your readers that almost without exception the inhabitants of that city—Turks, Greeks, Armenians, etc.—hope that the place will remain under British rule, whether mandatory or otherwise, and whether the Sultan be allowed to remain or not, rather than be handed over to an international body. The French are disliked to-day; the Italians are not popular; and the Turks consider the Americans are too sympathetic towards the Armenians.

All the nonsense which appears in the public Press in England with reference to offending the Moslems of Egypt, India, etc., if the Turks are sent out of Europe, should not be allowed to be published. It does more harm than good, as it is suggestive, and is at once taken up and made capital of by the few so-called Nationalists in those countries. There is not the slightest doubt that the majority of Great Britain's Moslem subjects, whether in Egypt, India, or elsewhere, admit that they were never so happy, free, or prosperous as they have been since they were under British rule, and they all sympathise with their co-religionists in Turkey, who have not been free or happy or prosperous under Turkish misrule, the despotic reign of Abdul Hamid, or the tyrannous misrule of the Young Turk party. The British Press ought therefore to advise all Moslems, whether under British, French, Dutch, or other European rule, to encourage the Moslems of the decaying Ottoman Empire to petition for a real Constitutional Government under British guidance, whether the Sultan remains in Constantinople or whether he goes to Broussa or to Konia. This is, in my humble opinion, the duty of the British Press. I think there would be no harm in allowing the Sultan to retain his palaces in Constantinople, where he might be allowed to reside during the summer months, and that the Straits of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles and Sea of Marmora, being free, would be a sufficient safeguard against further oppression on the part of the Turk in Europe. What I wish especially to lay stress on is that the Press, by its present style of suggestive publications, is doing more harm than good.

No matter what decision is taken by the Peace Conference with regard to Turkey, if the British, French, and Italian Governments show in a strong and determined manner that they mean to enforce the terms of the Treaty and have same respected in all countries, the inevitable will be accepted with a good grace all over the world, Moslems included. But we must have no weakness.—I am, etc.,

A. C. S.

THE TOMB OF ST. DEMETRIUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Reading recently "A Woman in the Balkans," by Mrs. Will Gordon, F.R.G.S., I came across the following paragraph on p. 128:—

"Some of the public buildings in Bucharest are imposing, handsome edifices, and the churches are often very decorated, the cathedral especially, in which lies the body of St. Demetrius in a glass case enshrined in silver.

"In time of calamity or famine the sacred body is carried through the city, followed by a great procession, headed by the archimandrite, the priests, and the people."

This was a surprise, as during my peregrinations in Saloniki I have visited the Church of St. Demetrius several times, there seeing what I believed to be the actual tomb of St. Demetrius.

If, as stated by Mrs. Gordon, the body of St. Demetrius lies in the Cathedral of Bucharest, will some correspondent kindly put me right concerning that which I saw in Salonika?—I am, etc.,

A. R. G.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

The remark was recently made at the Musical Association that singing has little connection with music. It is a comment which will inevitably shock many hopeful people—it has already shocked many hopeless people—but there is a great deal in it. For if you take English singing to-day, you find many artists and many singers, but you do not find many who are both. There are plenty of "big" performers who can sing, but their artistic purpose is always subservient to their commercial purpose, and no good will ever come from them. And there are tens of thousands of minor artists performing gallantly at the smaller halls who have a very keen desire to sing, but unfortunately know not how. The sensible critic's sympathy should go with these young artists, who at least have a soul. From the professional singer who has lost his or her soul will rarely come any music.

To this select band of artists belongs Mr. W. Johnstone-Douglas, who gave a song recital at the Wigmore Hall on January 14. It was at once a pleasure and a disappointment to listen to him. His programme was chosen carefully: it consisted of a cantata by Rameau for voice, violin, 'cello, and piano; six songs by Mr. John Ireland, and accompanied by him; and two songs by Mr. C. Armstrong Gibbs, with string accompaniment. These things were by no means equally good, but it obviously pleased Mr. Johnstone-Douglas to sing them, and one can but praise his selfish courage. He has a sense of interpretation which unfortunately is out of all proportion to his power to express it; hence what he actually sang was very different from what he meant to sing. The performance of Rameau was more interesting than pleasing, for the accompaniment was pleased to forget the deficiencies of Mr. Douglas' technique, and when its leader (Mr. Douglas) was (if I may say so) knocked out, it quite gaily took up the attack. Mr. Ireland excellently accompanied his own compositions, of which, however, only two—"The Heart's Desire" and "The Adoration"—can accurately be called songs. I am not sure that we ought not to feel alarm at this rather decadent tendency in Mr. Ireland: for at times it is only his sincerity that prevents him from falling into the lofty inanities of the Yellow-Book school. The most satisfactory item in Mr. Douglas' programme was his singing of Mr. Gibbs' song "Nod." The words are by our chiefest living lyricist, Mr. de la Mare, and the music to which they have been set is most fitting. The song has a soft, drowsy tune, with a broken rhythm in the accompaniment; and for a beautiful performance of it the composer, the English String Quartet, and the singer deserve the highest praise. The composer (Mr. Gibbs) is one whose future work everyone interested in music must watch: it may well be that he will attain as much distinction as the late George Butterworth, who before he was killed fashioned many lovely things out of the national idiom. The English String Quartet (Miss Marjorie Hayward, Messrs. Edwin Virgo, Frank Bridge, and Ivor James), who played Mr. Gibbs' compositions, are a set of players who both understand and feel what they play. They have not the finish and the unified effects of other quartets, but their balance is adequate, their tone is good, and their sense of music is very fine. The appeal they make does not come from any chilly polish or correctness, but it comes in a human and very certain way.

Miss Megan Foster, who, assisted by Mr. Ivor Foster, gave a song recital at the Æolian Hall on January 15, is a young Welsh singer who knows her art surely. She has a charming personality and an excellent voice, and she chose her programme in such a way as to make success absolutely certain. Her songs were mostly by modern English composers, written in the traditional and native idiom, and she sang them with perfect simplicity and artlessness. She failed in none of her efforts, which, however, were not wide enough. For, apart from a few French songs by Chausson, Debussy, and Ravel (all of which she sang most charmingly), all her songs were more or less in ballad form; and though these gave much scope for making differences in degree, it was something of a different kind that we wanted. Even the duets from Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and "Figaro," which she sang at the end with her father, were not sufficiently different from the rest of her songs to make a broad judgment possible. It is enough, and all that one can say, to remark that what Miss Foster sang was sung as well as such things can be. Further, it is certain that she has a big future, though whether it is to be on the conventionally successful lines is uncertain. If she can withstand the lures of popularity, she will rise very high. Mr. Ivor Foster, who assisted his daughter, is probably too well known to readers of this column to need much comment. He is a ballad singer, and always will be one. And though he has a fine voice, one fears that his songs are chosen for him. On this occasion he sang "Three Salt-Water Ballads," by Mr. Frederick Keel. Mr. Keel is a good composer, but in these songs his music has not reached the high level on which Mr. Masefield's ballads stand. "Trade Winds" is the best of the three, and it was the one which Mr. Foster sang best; the other two, which are written in nautical English, Mr. Foster spoiled by not singing the words as they are written. It should be noted that Mr. Foster sang for the inevitable encore Mr. Roger Quilter's "O Mistress Mine," a song that wears far better than was predicted.

The number of first-class British pianists is not large, and Mr. Maurice Reeve, whose recital I heard at the Æolian Hall on January 17, does not add to it. He chose to play familiar pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Scriabin, Liadow, Balakirew, and Schumann, and he should not have done so, because in all these different faults were apparent. For instance, the Bach-Liszt Organ Fantasie and Fugue in G minor were quite spoiled by a very faulty use of the pedal; the Chopin was played with the hardness of a mechanical instrument; the Balakirew (Islamey) is a piece the difficulties of which all readers with a knowledge of Near Eastern music must know to be tremendous, and it was imperfectly, though bravely, given; and Beethoven I have never heard rendered more perfunctorily. Mr. Reeve's technique is a little in advance of his imagination, but not very far; and even to normal competency his is a long road to travel. At present his tone and touch are no better than that of the pianola, which has the additional merit of accuracy.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE TURKS IN EUROPE: A SKETCH STUDY." W. D. Allen. (London: John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)
II.—"PIONEERS IN INDIA." By Sir Harry Johnston. (London: Blackie and Son, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)
III.—"NO MAN'S MONEY." By Henry Milner Rideout. (London: Jarrolds. 2s. net.)

I.—THE RISE AND FALL OF THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

Mr. W. E. D. Allen styles his sketch-study of the Turkish Empire a "chronicle of man's savageness and meanness." Regarded in due perspective, it marks a swing of the mighty pendulum which oscillates from east to west at intervals of five hundred years. In the 12th century of our era, the Osmanlis, a small clan of the Oghuz Tatars, were expelled from their pasture-grounds in Khorassan by Mongolian hordes. After many vicissitudes they settled down in Asia Minor under the protection of the Seljuk Sultan of Konieh, and developed a most efficient organisation for aggressive warfare. A hundred and fifty years later inveterate nomadism drove the Osmanlis westward; and they started on a career of conquest which brought them to the gates of Vienna.

In the fifteenth century Europe lay almost at their mercy. The Byzantine Empire, against which the tide of eastern invasion had hitherto beaten in vain, was in the last stage of decrepitude. The Feudal System which had enabled Christendom to defend its ideals by concerted action, had suffered disintegration from commercialism, religious hatred, and dynastic rivalry. So the Osmanlis, led by a succession of able and ruthless chiefs, were able to overrun the Near East. They found eager allies in the trading republics of Venice and Genoa; kinship in Tatar blood moved the Bulgarians to invoke their intervention. At the epoch-making Battle of Varna, fought in 1444, the flower of Europe's chivalry proved inferior to the Janissaries, a Prætorian guard established by Sultan Murad I. on the Roman model, which, centuries later, was copied by Prussia. A climax came in 1453, when Mohammed II., yclept The Conqueror, stormed Constantinople, which Napoleon has rightly styled "The Key of the World." Under Suleiman the Magnificent, a contemporary of our Henry VIII., the Turkish Empire reached its apogee, including as it did the whole of Western Asia, the Near East, and a large portion of Hungary. Suleiman was, in fact, the Arbiter of Europe. His encouragement of agriculture and commerce, his tolerance in matters of religion, his ability to select the best man for special functions, made him the superior of all European sovereigns of his day. But the empire, cemented together by statecraft and valour, carried in its bosom the seeds of decay. Suleiman was, perhaps, a solitary exception to the rule that Turks are lacking in administrative ability. The imperial dynasty was robbed of its brain-power by an atrocious custom which prescribed the slaughter of all males of the House of Ottoman at every demise of the Crown. Appointments to high office were determined by palace intrigues; and the harem's enervating influence rendered nearly every Sultan a *roi faineant*. The history of the Turkish Empire for three and a-half centuries has been a record of continuous decline. Its European provinces were lost in succession; and, but for the bitter rivalries which made Europe a house divided against itself, the Osmanlis would long since have been driven "bag and baggage" from Constantinople.

For patriotic Britons, Mr. Allen's sketch of modern developments is melancholy reading. He exposes the perpetual vacillations of our Foreign Office, the ignorant sentimentality of Parliament and the Press; the alternations of misguided strength and culpable weakness seen in our representatives at Constantinople. His peroration gives the key to a book worthy of close study by statesmen who are now endeavouring to solve the Eastern riddle:—

At the beginning of this book we asked: "How was it possible for an obscure tribe of nomad peasants from the depths of Central Asia to impose its dominion upon a dozen nations of Europe?" A study of the Balkans for the last five hundred years sufficiently answers this question. Intolerance, savagery, callousness, exploitation down through all centuries to the twentieth. How stupid is Man; not wicked, but always stupid!

Opportunist politicians are prone to handle contingencies as they arise, without giving a thought to the sequence of events which has led up to them. Yet the roots of the present are thrust deeply into the past, and the future looms before us as a resultant of forces which have been operating for centuries. Nor is the ruin of the Turkish Empire without salutary lessons for ourselves. Among its causes was an utter incapacity to sympathise with the aspirations of subject races, and a blind adherence to the Roman maxim *Divide et impera*. Only by incorporating such into a loyal and united community can Great Britain hope to weather the storms that threaten the fabric of civilisation.

F. H. S.

II.—ENGLAND, INDIA AND PEPPER.

This book, apparently one of a series, gives a popular and entertaining account of the early relations of India and Europe, based largely on the narratives of merchants, mendicant friars, and geographers. Trade is the key to these relations, for India was the treasure-house of precious merchandise to which Europeans were always seeking a way.

The author reflects somewhere on the changes brought about in history by one Indian spice—pepper. Here is a formula for the economic historian—the history of Indi-European relations told in terms of pepper. Nor is it quite fantastic. First, the Venetians tapping the overland trade from India along the caravan routes of the Near East and making Venice the distributing depot of Western Europe. Then an aggressive Islam gradually blocking those ancient routes, till pepper stood at 110 instead of 40 ducats a load on the Rialto. Of a sudden the discovery of a seaway via the Cape by the Portuguese, their brief commercial dominion in the Indian Ocean, the collapse of Venice, stricken by the competition of cheap freights. Next the frantic attempt of every maritime power to find a sea route to the Indies, Cathay, Zipangu, Taprobana, names which spell romance now, but then wealth beyond the dreams of avarice: the accidental, unfortunate discovery of America, whose existence never entered anyone's calculation (doesn't Lord Acton say that Columbus always tried to conceal the fact that he was the man who stumbled on that wretched obstacle?). Then the ephemeral prosperity of the United Provinces, due almost entirely to the riches of the Spice Islands; their neighbours' jealousy, which led them to entertain that epic resolve to quit Europe for the East Indies, where "they might rear, under the Southern Cross, amidst the sugar canes and nutmeg trees, the exchange of a wealthier Amsterdam." Lastly, the Englishman's fatal competition already roused by the Dutchman's attempted monopoly in pepper, its price jumping from 3s. 6d. to 6s. a pound: the incorporation of the East India Company and the final conquest of India by its "factors," Clive and Warren Hastings—what a romance!

But besides this, Sir Harry Johnston (and who is better equipped for the task?) gives a really informing account of Indian ethnology through the ages, and of that flora which made its wealth; and this is the chief excellence of an admirable book.

Elsewhere there are signs of haste in the preparation of the book. An index might have been added, and the maps are not quite good enough; one showing mediæval trade routes, or something after the fashion of those in Col. Yule's "Cathay and the Way Thither" (Hackluyt Society), would have been useful.

III.—NO MAN'S MONEY.

This is "a yarn," and nothing but a yarn, but it is a quite good yarn as far as it goes. The trouble is that it does not go far enough: that is to say, the author does not tie up his loose ends; and we get the impression that the book was intended to be two or three times as long as it is. It is to the author's credit that we should not resent its being twice or thrice as long; but as things are, we are inclined to be a little resentful at not being told what becomes of "Aunty Linah" or even of the silver rupees that give the story its title. The fact seems to be that Mr. Rideout is so keenly interested in his hero, Tin Cowrie Dass, and the British police officer, Weatherby Sahib, that he has not interest enough to spare to make the minor characters quite convincingly real. The scene is laid in India, but it is the India of melodrama rather than the matter-of-fact country that the Anglo-Indian sees and knows. It is, in fact, a kind of Oriental "Ruritania" or "Kravonia" that the book introduces us to; but Tin Cowrie Dass is a much less subtle bit of character-drawing than Anthony Hope would give us. He is, however, a likable fellow, and because we like him we can get quite interested in his adventures—which are certainly not lacking in excitement.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Causes of the War," by M. Bogitshevich, LL.D. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 5s. net.)

"Great Ganga the Guru; or, How a Seeker Sought the Real," by Kavita Kaumudi. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

We regret that by a printer's error the name of the author of "How Jerusalem was Won," which was reviewed in last week's NEAR EAST, was wrongly given in the heading as W. T. May instead of W. T. Massey.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. January. 22	1920. January. 9	Thursday	1338. Rabia II. 1 Jomada I.	5680. Shebat. 2
23	10	Friday	2	3
24	11	Saturday.....	3	4
25	12	Sunday	4	5
26	13	Monday	5	6
27	14	Tuesday	6	7
28	15	Wednesday	7	8

The Prince Regent of Serbia has left Paris for Belgrade.

To Viscount Allenby's Memorial Fund the Zionist Organisation has contributed £100.

Colonel Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, and Lady Roper Parkington have left Claridge's Hotel for Brighton.

The Persian Minister, who is recuperating in Switzerland after his recent illness, has derived great benefit from his stay there.

Lord Barrymore passed a good night after his operation on January 14, and is stated to be going on as well as can be expected.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, on the conclusion of the Peace Conference discussions in Paris, will, according to present arrangements, visit London.

The Shah of Persia has presented to the Queen of the Belgians the insignia of Grand Cordon of the Order of the Afstab, and the King of the Belgians has handed the Persian Minister in Brussels the Medal of King Albert.

The Spanish Ambassador will deliver a lecture before the Royal Geographical Society, at the Æolian Hall, 135, New Bond Street, W., at 8.30 p.m. on February 16, on "The Spanish Zones in Morocco."

A meeting will be held to-day, 3.15 p.m., at 95, Lancaster Gate, W.2, in support of the Indian Nurses' Hostel Fund. The chair will be taken by Lady Carmichael, and the speakers expected are Sir Sankaran Nair, Colonel O'Kinealy, I.M.S., and Dr. M. N. Mitter.

The marriage took place on January 15, at St. Martin's Parish Church, Scarborough, of Herbert H. Silley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., second son of Alfred C. Silley, of Constantinople, to Katharine Mary, eldest daughter of the late Ernest W. Boswell, of Leeds.

The marriage arranged between William Wilson, of Baghdad, third son of the late Thomas Mills Wilson, Glasgow, and Margaret, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Knox Hart, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, will take place on Tuesday, February 3, at St. Peter's, Piccadilly, at 2 p.m.

M. Constantinescu, Minister for Agriculture and Commerce in Roumania in the Government of M. Bratianu, leaves London this week for Paris, *en route* to Bucharest. M. Constantinescu, whose son is attached to the Roumanian Legation here, has been paying a short visit to London.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Capt. Harry Chapman Sinderson, R.A.M.C. (Special Reserve), younger son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Sinderson, of Epworth House, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, and Maude Elsie, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Mungavin, of Hampstead, N.W. Capt. Sinderson is now serving in Mesopotamia.

M. Michel Boerescu, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires in London, has received his appointment to Ministerial rank. This promotion, it is to be feared, will lead sooner or later to M. Boerescu's transfer to another diplomatic post, and his departure from London will be regretted not only by his fellow-countrymen in England, but also by his very wide circle of British friends.

The third of a series of lectures arranged by the Egypt Exploration Society will be given by Professor T. Eric Peet on January 23, at 8.30 p.m., in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House (by permission of the President and Council). The subject of the lecture will be "El Amarna, the City of Egypt's Heretic King." Tickets can be obtained free on application to the Secretary, Egypt Exploration Society, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

A public meeting, under the auspices of the British Armenia Committee, will be held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, this evening, under the presidency of Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P. The object of the meeting is "to urge upon the Peace Conference the fulfilment of the Allies' pledges for the liberation of the Armenians and other subject races from the Turks." The speakers will include the Rt. Rev. Bishop Gore, D.D., Lady Sykes, and Mr. Arnold Toynbee.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, Miss F. R. Scatcherd read a paper on January 19 at the Lincolnshire Room, 7a, Tothill Street, Westminster. Her lecture was entitled, "India and Her Friends: Wise and Otherwise," and was presided over by the Rt. Hon. Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E. Other lectures arranged by the East India Association include:—"Burma," by Sir Harvey Adamson, K.C.S.I., on February 9; "The Agricultural Development of India," by Mr. N. N. Sen Gupta, on March 15; and "India and the Covenant of the League of Nations," by Mr. K. Gauba.

The General Council of King George's Fund for Sailors has received a letter from Sir Henry Richards, K.C., K.B.E., enclosing a cheque for £5,000. Sir Henry Richards was chairman of the Executive Committee of the United Provinces Special War Fund, which he says amounted to over a quarter of a million sterling. During the Great War the fund was devoted mainly to the provision of motor ambulances at all fronts, including some to the Royal Navy. The gift now made to King George's Fund is part of an unexpended balance in England which the Executive Committee in India resolved should be distributed at the discretion of Sir Henry Richards on his return to England.

Mr. E. Rimbault Dibden, ex-curator of the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, whose services have been engaged by the Gaekwar of Baroda, is now on his way to India. Mr. Dibden is to superintend the collection at the new art gallery which his Highness has erected in that city. The Gaekwar's collection (says the *Liverpool Daily Post*) was formed in the years immediately preceding the war by Mr. Marion H. Spielman, F.S.A., but hostilities prevented its being established in its destined home. It comprises about 210 examples, and in forming it his Highness's intention has been to bring together examples representative of the development of the painter's art in Europe from early times until the present. It is expected that Mr. Dibden's mission will occupy some four months.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Daeschner, French Minister at Lisbon, has been appointed Minister to Bucharest.

Fatollah Khan Noury Monazam-es-Saltaneh has been promoted Second Secretary of the Persian Legation in London.

Colonel Richard Fielding Edwards (Chief Engineer, Malta Command) has been appointed an Official Member of the Executive Council of the Island of Malta.

It is announced that the King has approved the appointment of Sir Herbert Guy Dering, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., M.V.O., to be British High Commissioner at Sofia, pending the resumption of diplomatic relations with Bulgaria.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointments of Mr. C. F. Napier and Diwan Bahadur Calamur Kumaraswami Sastri to be Puisne Judges of the Madras High Court, in two posts which have recently been added to the permanent strength of the Court.

It is announced that the King has been pleased to appoint Major A. S. Meek, Supernumerary List, Indian Army, to be an additional Member of the Third Class of Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George for services rendered in connection with military operations in the Aden Hinterland.

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Mr. S. Casson has been elected to a Fellowship in Classical Archæology at New College, Oxford. He is an assistant director of the British School at Athens. During the late war he served, among other places, at Salonika, Constantinople, and was sent on a special mission to the Caucasus, Turkestan, and South Russia.

The following list of decorations and medals awarded by the Allied Powers at various dates to the British Forces for distinguished services rendered during the European War:—

BY THE SULTAN OF EGYPT.

ORDER OF THE NILE.

2nd Class.—Maj.-Gen. Sir A. W. Money, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.S.I.; Hon. Maj.-Gen. S. F. Mott, C.B., King's Royal Rifle Corps (Reserve of Officers); T./Maj.-Gen. G. de L. Ryrie, C.B., C.M.G., V.D., Australian Imperial Force.

BY THE KING OF ROUMANIA.

ORDER OF THE STAR OF ROUMANIA "WITH SWORDS."

Chevalier.—T./ (Hon.) Lt. G. D. Hayward, Special List; T./Capt. H. C. King-Stephens, Middlesex Regt.; T./Capt. R. A. Kyle, R.E.

ORDER OF THE CROWN OF ROUMANIA "WITH SWORDS."

Commander.—T./Lt.-Col. L. Billinton, R.E.; T./Lt.-Col. C. E. Foster, Royal Lancaster Regt. (Reserve of Officers); T./Lt.-Col. G. Walton, R.E.

Officer.—T./Capt. M. F. Horton, R.F.A.; T./Brig.-Gen. T. H. Keyes, C.I.E., Indian Army.

BY THE KING OF SERBIA.

ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE "WITH SWORDS."

2nd Class.—Maj.-Gen. W. H. Greenly.

ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE.

3rd Class.—T./Brig.-Gen. E. J. F. Vaughan, Devonshire Regt.

ORDER OF ST. SAVA.

3rd Class.—Col. H. C. B. Payne.

ORDER OF KARA-GEORGE STAR "WITH SWORDS."

4th Class.—Maj. A. P. Barry, Somerset L.I. (retired pay) (Reserve of Officers); T./Capt. A. J. S. Brown, R.F.; Maj. I. S. Cobbe, R.G.A.

BY THE SHAH OF PERSIA.

ORDER OF THE LION AND SUN.

1st Class.—T./Brig.-Gen. H. F. Bateman-Champain, Indian Army.

2nd Class.—Lt.-Col. W. C. Little, 1/6th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.

BY THE KING OF THE HELLENES.

ORDER OF THE REDEEMER.

Officer.—T./Maj. J. L. G. Carter, R.A.S.C.; A./Lt.-Col. E. V. H. Fairtlough, R.F.A.; T./Capt. (Hon. Maj.) J. C. L. Knight-Bruce, Special List.

Chevalier.—Capt. R. H. F. Duckworth, R.E.; Capt. W. L. Murphy, R.A.M.C. (T.F.).

ORDER OF KING GEORGE I.

Grand Commander.—Maj.-Gen. Sir A. W. Money.

Officer.—T./Maj. J. L. G. Carter, R.A.S.C.

Chevalier.—T./Lt. A. B. G. Biggerton Evans, S. Wales Borderers; A./Capt. F. C. Charnand, Special List; T./Lt. H. P. Kendall, 10th Batt. Hamps. Regt.

GREEK MILITARY CROSS.

2nd Class.—T./Maj. W. Bell, R.A.S.C.; A./Lt.-Col. E. G. Greenfield, R.W.F.

GREEK MEDAL FOR MILITARY MERIT.

2nd Class.—Maj.-Gen. Sir W. H. Rycroft.

BY THE KING OF THE HEJAZ.

ORDER OF EL NAHDA.

2nd Class.—Maj. and Brev. Lt.-Col. C. H. F. Cox, R.F.A.; T./Lt.-Col. S. F. Newcombe, R.E.; A./Lt.-Col. C. E. Vickery, R.F.A.

3rd Class.—Maj. W. A. Davenport, West Yorks Regt.; T./Capt. H. Garland, Special List; T./Capt. H. St. Clair Garrod, Special List; T./Capt. (Hon. Lt. in Army) H. M. Goldie, Special List; T./Lt. G. A. B. Gottlieb, R.A.S.C.; A./Maj. W. E. Marshall, R.A.M.C.

BY THE KING OF MONTENEGRO.

ORDER OF DANILO.

Grand Officer.—T./Col. Sir C. Thomson (Special List).

OBITUARY.

Sir George Dalhousie Ramsay, C.B., died on January 16 from bronchitis. Sir George, who entered the Civil Service in 1846, was employed at the War Office for forty-seven years. During that period he was for some years Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for War, and he also served as Secretary to the President of the Board of Control for India.

Colonel Frederick Coulthurst Elton, C.B., R.A., whose death recently occurred at Dover, was born in July, 1836. In 1854, when he was only seventeen, he joined the Royal Artillery, and was sent immediately to the Crimea. There he was awarded the Legion of Honour by the French. He was present at the fall of the Redan, and took part in the siege of Sebastopol. For services in the Egyptian War of 1882 he was made a C.B.

The death occurred at Cambridge on January 11 of Mrs. Margaret Dunlop Gibson. Mrs. Gibson, who was a daughter of the late Mr. John Smith, a solicitor, of Irvine, Ayrshire, took a great interest in Asiatic lore, and with her sister made a number of journeys to Syria and Palestine. She visited Sinai six times, and in 1892 photographed the famous Syriac palimpsest of the Gospels, whilst four years later they brought to England the first leaf of the Hebrew Ecclesiasticus.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Vatican is about to conclude a *concordat* with Bulgaria, after which a Bulgarian Minister will be accredited to the Holy See and a Papal Nuncio to Sofia.

Lectures on questions affecting the Near East are to be given in the Vatican with the object of facilitating the reunion of the Eastern Churches with Rome.

Princess Natalia Constantinovitch, the former wife of Prince Mirko of Montenegro, whom she divorced in 1917, has been married at Eastbourne to Count Gastone di Dudzeele.

An English edition of the Hebrew daily newspaper, *Doar Hayom*, is now being published in Jerusalem, under the name of the *Palestine Weekly*.

Representatives of the Sultan of Morocco have officially taken possession of the German Consulate buildings at Casablanca and Tangier, acclaiming in speeches the victory of the Allies.

According to a telegram from Tetuan, the Spanish have resumed military operations in Morocco, several posts being occupied without resistance.

The Government of India have accepted an offer of the Jodhpur State to present to the British Government a sum of about £93,000 as a contribution towards the expenses of the war.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1920.

BOLSHEVISM AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

After sowing the wind of indifference towards Bolshevism, the Allies are reaping the whirlwind. Nearly two years have passed since the storm-signals were first hoisted in the Middle East. The war was still in progress; the Germans had seen Pan-Turanianism well launched in the regions bordering on the southern half of the Caspian Sea, and were engaged in welding Bolshevism into a weapon of aggression. With the menace in the Western theatre at its height, there was then some excuse for the Allies' reluctance to do more than set a guard on Russia. But with the collapse of Germany the Bolshevists were left as the declared enemy of the established order of things, and of a type as malignant as the Germans themselves, although less formidably equipped. In the face of such a foe, the Allied plea of exhaustion was no more valid than it would have been at any time during the four years' struggle against the Central Powers; but it served the purpose of the Governments that urged it and satisfied the sorely tried peoples because no one in authority had the vision to insist upon the potential danger lying behind the Bolshevist movement. Self-protection, no less than the interests of the Russian people, who already appreciated something of the inwardness of the despotism that masqueraded under the name of liberty, ought to have prompted vigorous action against the terrorism that had usurped power in Russia. Japan was one of the Allies and, far from being exhausted, had been adding to her strength throughout the war. That she would not intervene in Russia except on certain definite conditions was to be expected; but if the Western Allies had possessed the will and the knowledge, there can be do doubt that a working agreement with the Japanese could have been evolved. Governments, however, which were floundering in a muddle of helplessness and contradictory promises in the Near East were not likely to find inspiration when dealing with the Far East. The negotiations with Japan were left in suspense; Allied faith was pinned on a Russian General of mediocre talents and on an Admiral with political leanings turned commander of land forces. But even with these figureheads it would have been possible to make headway against Bolshevism in its early stages, all unprovided as it was with the sinews of war, if adequate and sustained support from the Allies had been forthcoming. Half-measures, however, alone were attempted, with the result that the anti-Bolshevists lost confidence in the Allies and in themselves, and their opponents were enabled to overrun practically the whole of Russia and Siberia.

To-day, when the whole world ought to be at peace, the Allies have had to summon hastily a Council of War in Paris. The full extent of the Bolshevist danger is at last appreciated by politicians who have hitherto approached the subject only in its possible relationship to Labour politics at home. In Russia the forces of General Denikin have fallen back on the Don, with little hope of staving off the Red advance on his right, which aims at reaching the Caspian. Behind him in the Caucasus the situation is becoming daily more precarious. Georgia and Azerbaijan, neither singly nor together, can hope to resist armed invasion, while Baku already has its Bolshevist element, which would need but little reinforcement from outside to enable it to assert itself. In Central Asia the menace is even more imminent. The whole of Trans-Caspia has passed under Bolshevist occupation, and troops are being despatched towards the Persian, Afghanistan, and Chinese frontiers. In Turkestan the Red Army can rely upon the support of prisoners of war to the number, it is said, of nearly forty thousand, mostly Hungarians, and its victories over the forces hitherto opposed to it appear to have provided it with up-to-date war equipment. The railway service is profiting by the capture of the oil wells at Kizil Arvat, and the food situation in these regions is said to be improving. The complacency with which Bolshevism was regarded a few months ago as a spent force has been rudely shaken. The policy of inaction or of half-hearted encouragement given to the Russians who remained loyal to the interests of their country is seen now to have been a mistake. But the danger has assumed such proportions that no simple expedient, which might have availed two years ago, has the least chance of success against it. The Allies are even less anxious than they were last year to embark on military expeditions on a large scale, and for this reason may be expected to fall back on more devious methods to attain their ends.

Although the danger from Bolshevism is real, and calls for resolute action to cope with it, the adoption of panic measures at this stage is to be strongly deprecated. The first step to be ruled out of court is any proceeding that may be interpreted as an intention to parley with the Bolshevists either while their hands are dripping with the blood of their victims, or when they have been unctuously dried on proclamations announcing the discontinuance of the system of terrorism as the first outcome of the defeat of the anti-Bolshevists. We find it hard to believe that Bolshevism is destined to become a permanent system of government in the world scheme. On the other hand, the Allies hitherto have done their best to establish it by refusing to take up arms against it, and now will certainly assure it a long lease of life, if they seek to come to terms with it. With the threat to Central Europe we are less concerned, as Bolshevism has only to become sufficiently formidable in this direction to rally the necessary forces to ensure its downfall. In the Middle East the position is different. Here the danger, to all intents and purposes, confronts Great Britain alone among the Allies. Persia stands to be an immediate victim, but the Bolshevists would use the hapless Persians only as a means to an end. Their goal is India and the British Empire as a whole, and it is this aspect of the danger that makes the remissness of the British Government in the past so culpable. Even now the Bolshevist strength consists not so much in their armies as in their propaganda, and our efforts must be directed towards counteracting the latter no less than towards rolling back and annihilating the former. Whatever success may attend Bolshevism in the Caucasus, it will not proselytise among the Arabs to the south of it. But the spirit of unrest among these, already stirred by French action, may well be used as a medium for the spread of Bolshevist doctrine to Egypt and to India. For the moment Afghanistan appears to offer a more fruitful soil; but while the Afghans will accept Bolshevist propaganda and Bolshevist money, they are not likely to open their country to Bolshevist armies, and a change as sudden as that which eliminated the last Ameer may alter the complexion of Afghan relations with India. Bolshevism will want time to consolidate its successes before passing to fresh conquests. It requires, therefore, to be dealt with circumspectly, drastically, and with full knowledge. If the present Government cannot rise superior to mere stage effects, the time has come for others to take in hand the safeguarding of the British Empire.

NOTICE.

As there is no prospect of any reversion to the former custom of dispatching the Eastern newspaper mail at the end of the week, the publishing day of THE NEAR EAST has been changed from Friday to Thursday.

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THE TURKISH PROBLEM.

(From a Correspondent.)

Among the welter of unsettled problems before the world, that of Turkey is now to the fore, but for all the understanding of it that is visible some of its aspects might never have been placed before the general public. The question has been overlaid with a crust of inevitableness and diplomacy which is by no means natural. Missionaries and the novelists have led the ordinary man to picture a country of impenetrable Eastern despots sitting cross-legged in harems, while their savage soldiery crush an innocent Christian population under foot. This picture is ridiculously untrue.

The Turkish Empire from Busreh to Europe was centralised in the most exact and disciplinary manner, and the centre was Constantinople and the Ottoman Government. The revolution of 1908 deposed an autocrat and substituted in its place a scandalous oligarchy, but the ordinary man has no more say in it than a London cab-horse has in the election of an alderman. No action could be taken without orders from Constantinople, and Constantinople gave orders without considering the good of the people.

The Turkish Empire consisted, and at the time of writing still consists, of two parts: Constantinople and the rest. To know Turkey is to know the rest. To understand Turkey is to know Constantinople. The city is the capital of "Levantinia"—the home of the Levantine. The dictionary will not explain what he is, but three months of contact will enable you to recognise him anywhere. The city is a jumble of pieces of an ugly jig-saw puzzle which no one has yet made into a picture. Set in a girdle of wonderful seas, of wonderful hills, lit with gorgeous sunsets, it lies like a festering pool of iniquity, of all that is foul in human nature, of all the squalor of deformed city life. Ruling over it sits an effete Government, employing as its agents anyone of better brains or quicker intellect. The Government is as medley as the city; Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Albanians, Circassians, Kurds, figure in it, all equally bad, mean, dishonest, and treacherous. Outside it lies unofficial Constantinople, recruited equally from a variety of nations, striving in vain to make the city worthy of its unique position and potentialities.

The failure of Turkey is the failure of Rome. Rome fell because there remained no Romans, and Turkey will fall because in Constantinople there remain no Turks. They have become "Levantine-y." A Turk will trace in his family, perhaps, a Circassian mother, an Egyptian grandfather, here a rich Greek, always an Albanian or a Jew. He differs only in this respect that he forms the aristocracy of "Levantinia." Throughout the centuries many peoples have come to the city. The city of the Great Whore has sucked most of them in and spat them out Levantines—a people who are not a people, without patriotism, without honour, talking myriad tongues in jargon, the sole people in the world without one virtue. It is a city of intrigue, of backbiting and scandal, of cunning, treacherous men and dishonest women, living in squalid houses. Spread over all a fatalism which destroys effective action, and you have the citizen of Constantinople. It is a place of vast runnings about on petty affairs, vast intrigues on little things, no big ideas, no character, no drive, no continuous effort, no virtues. Round it, and in stronger contrast, lie the rolling downs of Mashlak, the deep shady valleys of Belgrade Forest, the Bosphorus with its green rushing current and its banks dotted with little lovable hamlets, the fathomless blue of the Marmora, and, beyond, the hills of Anatolia massing peak on peak away to the sunrise.

But it is from the city that this Turkish Government is drawn. The city forms the environment of the Government, and its spirit permeates the ideas of its rulers. It has not suffered even during the war; both the members of the Government and the citizen have profiteered and grown rich.

Beyond, away eastwards, lies Anatolia. We will leave the questions of Arabia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. Their future will not be Turkish. Anatolia: that is the problem. It is a country mainly of ragged mountains with rich cultivated valleys and picturesque villages clinging to the hillsides and stretching down the valleys. The climate is ideal, rarely too hot or too cold, with a fresh, clean feel in the air. To the south, below Konia, it becomes a little more tropical and unhealthy. It has produced untold wealth in past centuries, and it would do so again with a little effort. It is a land of unbounded possibilities. It is like a strong man's body lying under the spell of suspended animation. Beyond it lies Kurdistan, wilder and more savage.

Anatolia is peopled with Turks, Greeks, and Armenians, with a large majority of Turks. The people as a whole are peasants and small shopkeepers. Even the largest towns are merely magnified villages. The Greek and Armenian are far superior to their kindred of Constantinople, hardworking and thrifty. The Turk, on the other hand, is dirty, honest, ignorant, a truthful, religious peasant. An Englishman of the Middle Ages must in many ways have resembled him; he has certain elemental qualities which can be built on; he is brave and obedient to an absurdity. The difference between the Turkish and the Australian outlook on life was once aptly put as follows:—"If you went into a crowded railway station in Anatolia and said: 'Sit down,' the crowd would sit down. If you tried it in an Australian station, the crowd would knock you down."

It is practically impossible to hold a brief for the Turk in regard to his relations with the Greek and Armenian, but here, again, the popular representation has misled the world: the quarrel has been represented as one between Cross and Crescent. This is untrue, for the quarrel is as old as the ages. Left to himself the Turk would live happily with his Christian neighbours. The quarrel is based on the resentment of the dull, sturdy, and uneducated against those with sharper brains, better educated, and with the power to amass wealth. It corresponds to the resentment of the Russian against the Jew, but it will not come to a head unless whipped up by interested persons. It is the slow resentment of the gigantic primeval animal being crushed out of existence by puny opponents with better brains. The Government decided to massacre the Christians. The Turk was told that the Greek threatened to destroy him by means of a commercial stranglehold; that the Armenian was the enemy of his religion and a danger to his country. His resentment was fanned into flame, and then his obedience was called into play. He was ordered to kill. He killed; and he must pay the price.

Thousands of Europeans brought into contact with these peoples have found the same thing: the Greek and Armenian are thrifty, hardworking, crafty, ungrateful, and unattractive. The Turk has bravery, honesty, and a simple fatalistic philosophy of life. These are attributes which made him great in the sixteenth century. To-day they

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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WHEN the rates of exchange are adverse or irregular and a grim struggle lies ahead, the British nation looks to its leading manufacturers for special effort—and not in vain.

In the manufacture of pneumatic tyres Britain led the way, and the Dunlop Rubber Company, Limited will see to it that the advantage thus gained is retained as a national asset.

Dunlop

DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LTD.,
Founders of the Pneumatic Tyre Industry,
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are exploited. A good Government to-day must always be on the side of the worst element of the population. Extortion and cunning may be despised, but, being within the law, they must be protected. The gaols hold more fools than knaves. In qualities the Turk is supreme, in ability and brains the Greek and Armenian. Here is the old, old quarrel which Bolshevism and the British laws have both tried their hands at settling—the fight of those equipped for manual work against those fitted for brain work.

In cruelty neither side can throw stones. The standards of Europe will not hold in Anatolia. Whichever side is on top massacres with deliberate cruelty. In 1916 the Turk massacred the Armenians and Greeks; in 1919 the Greek in the Smyrna district massacred Turks with some accompaniment of rape and loot. The Armenians murdered thousands of harmless Moslems during the Russian advance on Van, and to-day regular troops of the Armenian Republic are murdering unarmed Moslems in the north-east of Anatolia and massacring women and children in the mosques. There is little to pick between them. The quarrel is another aspect of that between Labour and Capital, on more primitive lines than in Europe, and complicated and embittered by religion. It was exploited by the Constantinople Government for its own ends.

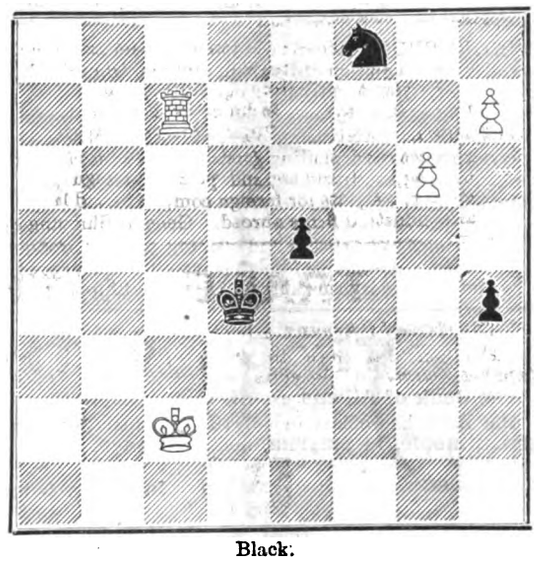
The facts to be grasped are these—at the head of Turkey to-day is Levantine Constantinople, ruling, whether under the autocracy of Abdul Hamid or the oligarchy of the Union and Progress Committee. On the other hand is the peasant population of Anatolia. The latter has suffered—the Greeks and Armenians by massacre and loot, the Turk by exploitation in ten years of war with famine rations, no pay, and appalling losses. There is but one hope for Turkey: the destruction of its present Government, root and branch; not the destruction of the Sultan, but of his Levantine surroundings and his Levantine Ministers. Until this be done Turkey will remain the ready prey of any unscrupulous adventurer or party. The guilty must suffer; but when justice has been done and the price has been paid, the Levantine Government should be destroyed and the people of Anatolia, Turk, Greek, and Armenian, be given a chance to make good. Turkey is represented in England as divided cleanly into the Turk and the Christian, eternally antagonistic. It is not. It is divided into Anatolian and Levantine, native inhabitant and bastard ruling race. Destroy the power of Constantinople and give all Anatolia a chance, Greek, Turk, Armenian alike in one mass. It will succeed.

Since his arrival in Khartoum (states the correspondent of *The Times*) Lord Allenby has been kept extremely busy. Among his engagements were a review of the British garrison, an inspection of the experimental farm at Shambat, an official dinner at the Palace, and a visit to the White Nile dam at Gebel Auli (some 30 miles from Khartoum), where Sir Murdoch Macdonald and Sir Arthur Webb met him and explained the project.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 11.

White.



Black.

White to play. What result?

The above position occurred in a recent game in the City Championship.

Solution to Problem No. 10:—1, K—Kt2; if Kt x Q (ch), 2, Kt x Kt (mate); if R x P, 2, Kt x R (mate).

Senor Capablanca gave his concluding simultaneous exhibition in England on January 18, when he met thirty members of the Maccabeans Club. He is now going to Holland, where he will meet Dr. Lasker, and it is at least possible that as a result of the meeting a match for the world's championship will be arranged.

THE SERBIAN RELIEF FUND.

The Prince Regent of Serbia has written a letter to the Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund, London, as follows:—

"Through the medium of the Serbian Relief Fund, I wish to thank the British public for their generosity and unfailing interest towards the Serbian nation. From the early days of the war, when the Serbian Relief Fund began its magnificent task of relieving our people, to the present day, when the country is once more free and independent, this splendid British organisation has never ceased its labours for a moment, and it is my earnest hope that we may count on its further co-operation in building up our sorely-tried land. There is hardly a nook in Serbia to-day where Serbian Relief Fund workers are not to be found, healing the sick, distributing food and clothing, or caring for a portion of our great number of war orphans. The committee of the Serbian Relief Fund has been to our people a glorious example of constancy and unselfishness in toiling for others, and I most particularly commend and appreciate the fact that its well-appointed staff in Serbia has been instructed to act in collaboration with Serbians, thus establishing British methods of work and thoroughness on a lasting basis.

"There is no doubt that the Serbian Relief Fund remains the excellent medium whereby the kind British public directly reach the suffering men, women and children of Serbia, and in the name of my people I again express my gratitude for all that they have done and are so generously continuing to do.

"(Signed) ALEXANDER."

A semi-official statement issued in Belgrade states that about 200,000 Serbs at present residing in Germany, and many Serbian families now living in Hungary and Roumania, desire to take up their domicile in Serbia.

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Every description of Banking business transacted.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

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Correspondents throughout Greece.

Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

CAPITAL - Drs. 1,500,000.
RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
Deposits and Credit Accounts, Drs. 100,000,000.

The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

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The Bank of Athens extends special facilities for business with the Near **East** to manufacturers, exporters and importers.

The Bank has offices in all the principal towns in **Greece,** also in **Egypt,** Cairo and Alexandria, in **Cyprus,** Limassol, in **Constantinople,** in **Smyrna,** and in **France,** Marseilles.

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £1,920,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

London Office: 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 2,364,793.

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MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT:
The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 25·70 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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The Bank has been established for the encouragement and development of Industry and Commerce, and undertakes every description of banking business.

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Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I notice that the forthcoming British Industries Fair is attracting considerable attention in the Near East, and I am not without hope that the various countries in that region, and in particular the Balkan countries, will be well represented at its opening. As constituted during the war, the Fair would possibly make only a limited appeal, but this year's event is in a different category altogether, and a visit to the three sections in London, Birmingham, and Glasgow will give the buyer from abroad an admirable birdseye view of the industrial potentialities of this country.

***

The latest news from South Russia is less unsatisfactory. General Denikin's position is stated to have become more stable—he is now holding the line of the Don—and the fact that this should be the case after so rapid and extensive a retirement gives cause for hope that in due course he may be able to do something more than meet the Bolshevists with merely defensive tactics. But there have been so many surprises in connection with Russia that it would be unwise to prophesy one way or the other. The one fact that stands out clearly from the present position is that Odessa and other ports of the Black Sea cannot be said to be in any immediate danger, and the presence of the Allied ships in that sea should have a most reassuring effect on the inhabitants.

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Meanwhile it may be noted that the threat to South Russia is having the effect on trade which I indicated when touching on the subject two or three weeks ago. For some considerable period now the demand from the South Russian market has decreased, and the latest report from Constantinople describes the position at the end of December as one of stagnation. The consequence, as was to be foreseen, is that there is a great accumulation of goods at Constantinople, with a resultant fall of prices there in some directions, piecegoods being ten per cent. below the prices obtaining in Manchester. This congestion must be regarded as merely a passing phase, for, once the situation in South Russia is clearer, stocks in Constantinople will quickly disappear.

***

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall's optimistic survey of the prospects for the cotton industry in his review of the cotton trade during the past year, a summary of which appears in another column, is merely in accordance with expectations. The result of the long drawn-out war was that many markets were denuded of supplies, and it follows that some time must elapse before supply can equal demand. So far there appears to be no sign of this happening. In Mr. Tattersall's view over-production is a long way off, and in this connection he mentions the fact that in many of the leading outlets the imports during the last few months have not been equal to the clearances.

***

That is one side of the cotton position as far as Lancashire is concerned. The other, the supply of the raw material, is the reverse of favourable. Lancashire is now, and must be for some years to come, mainly dependent upon the United States for cotton. But the United States cotton crop is decreasing, while internal consumption is going up rapidly, and, as was noted last week, American consumption of Egyptian cotton is also largely on the increase. In the circumstances it does not need a great effort of imagination to picture a time when, if adequate measures are not taken, Lancashire will actually be short of supplies. The danger is not a new one; it has been foreseen for years, but to-day the problem is a pressing one, and it is imperative that to meet it the promotion of cotton cultivation within the British Empire should be furthered in every possible way. Not the least difficulty is the fact that cotton is not always a remunerative crop. In America, for instance, one of the reasons for the decreasing yield of cotton is that farmers have found the cultivation of cereals and the raising of cattle more profitable undertakings. Illustrations can be given of the same thing within the Empire.

***

The position as regards the Egyptian cotton crop is now being dealt with in these columns by Professor Todd in a series of exceedingly important articles, the first of which appeared in THE NEAR EAST last week. He points out that, while for many years before the war the crop had on the whole been steadily increasing, the increase had not kept pace with the expansion of acreage, and the crop failure of 1909 "brought matters to a head." But the war came to cut short the progress made in dealing with the problem of water-logging and the schemes for extending the acreage under cotton. During the war he shows that there was a marked accentuation in certain years in the reduction of the average yield per acre. There has been a marked fluctuation in the average yields, and the average yield of the best year since the war has not been equal to that of pre-war years. Professor Todd states that this suggests two causes. Firstly, that the old trouble of water-logging has not been cured; and secondly, that the pink boll worm is the cause of the continued reduction in the average yields of the best years. "It is to be hoped," he adds, "that . . . the damage done by pink boll worms will be steadily diminished in future years; but the position of the Egyptian crop will never be satisfactory until the much more deeply seated evil of water-logging is dealt with thoroughly and conclusively."

***

As soon as the Treaty of Peace with Turkey is ratified it may be assumed that there will be important developments in connection with the oil resources of Mesopotamia. It needs no emphasis that the events of the last few years have been an ample demonstration of the necessity for the development of oilfields in territories that lie within the Empire, and in Mesopotamia, the responsibility for the government of which, it may be anticipated, will fall to this country, there are important oilfields. The question of concessions for their development is now engaging attention, and rumour has it that the intention is to grant a joint concession to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., and the Shell Combine.

***

The outstanding feature of the report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for the half-year ended September 30 is the marked increase in expenditure, which is largely due to higher wages, etc., and to the increased cost of renewals and maintenance. There was a marked rise in gross revenue receipts, the increase being Rs. 17.02,600, or 2.69 per cent., but on the expenditure side of the account the increase amounted to Rs. 80.51,500, or 23.08 per cent., with the result that the net earnings show a decrease of Rs. 63,48,900, or 22.31 per cent.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE COTTON TRADE IN 1919.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall gives an interesting review of the past year in the cotton industry in the current issue of his *Cotton Trade Circular*. In 1919, it is pointed out, spinners and manufacturers undoubtedly had a record year. As regards spinners, the activity did not commence until after Easter, but subsequently the demand has gone on increasing at advancing prices. There has been a big turnover for Holland and other countries of Northern Europe, while there has been an excellent demand for Eastern markets. India has bought freely, and the business for China has been surprisingly large, while a feature of interest, it is stated, has been the trade done for Japan. It is satisfactory to note also that there has been a healthy demand for the Levant and other Near Eastern markets.

During the first quarter of the year business in piece goods was very restricted, and up to the end of March numerous manufacturers, it is pointed out, scarcely sold anything at all, while prices fell from week to week. In April, however, a demand developed for China, and in the next few weeks a substantial business was placed with manufacturers. It is remarked that "it must be placed on record that China merchants were the first to realise that the time was ripe for increased activity. For a long number of years they have had the reputation of being the best buyers of cotton goods in the world, and undoubtedly their action in the spring of the past year was another indication of their commercial sagacity." The effect of this demand was a hardening in quotations, and the changed position led to operations by buyers for other markets, and the trade has subsequently gone on developing at increasing prices. India, the leading outlet, has lagged behind, but in the closing weeks of the year a marked improvement set in. There has been a large offtake for Egypt and other outlets in the Near East, while a healthy business has been put through for Central and South America. It is further noted that there was also an improvement in the turnover for several European countries, especially in fancy materials.

As regards the future, it is stated that the general outlook for the cotton industry was never brighter, and that it is probable that in 1920 all previous figures will be beaten. "The margin of profit in yarn and cloth," it is added, "is exceedingly wide. Although a large business has been done during the past year, there are no indications of the requirements of our customers being satisfied. Demand still exceeds supply, and producers are quite unable to meet in an adequate manner the wants of buyers. Values at the moment are on a very high level, but there is every probability of still dearer rates during the next few months. No relief for buyers is expected before the end of March at least. In the spring a good deal will depend upon the acreage for raw cotton in the United States. Growers may be stimulated to plant a large area, and there is a possibility of a fall in prices. An easier movement in raw cotton rates, however, is not likely to have any immediate effect upon yarn and cloth quotations, as spinners and manufacturers are so deeply sold they can afford to be very independent. . . . With regard to consumption of cloth, it must be pointed out that, although a big trade has been done during the past nine months, our shipments are a long way behind pre-war days, and the output of Lancashire has been very seriously affected by the shorter working week in the factories. Over-production seems to be a long way off. It is reported that in many of our leading outlets abroad the imports during the last few months have not been equal to the clearances, so stocks, instead of increasing, are decreasing. Dealers in foreign parts have still to replenish their supplies, and in this connection India has not arranged exports which are likely to satisfy consumers. Buying during the coming year will probably be irregular, but a sound, healthy trade is assured. Spinners of yarn are expected to experience a very profitable twelve months. The cotton situation is very harassing for many firms, and big prices have to be paid for the superior qualities of the raw material, but, notwithstanding these extra charges, business will probably be very remunerative."

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED.

LADY SECRETARY desires post abroad. Capable, experienced, work on own initiative, shorthand, typing, French, German. £4.—M.G., The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, W.

GOVERNESS desires post abroad. Usual English subjects, fluent French, German; advanced music. £100.—K.L., The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, W.

LANCASHIRE COTTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The tone of the market has continued quieter, but prices have been very firmly held, and in some quarters there has been a tendency for quotations to harden. Many more difficulties are now being experienced in arranging fresh contracts, chiefly owing to producers being deeply sold and unable to deliver against orders for many months ahead. Some ups and downs have been met with in Egyptian cotton rates, but the basis of values continues very high. Demand remains healthy. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton a rather restricted business has been done. Many spinners have refused to quote. Now and again stock lots are sought after and special prices paid. All producers remain in a very strong position, and can afford to be exceedingly independent. The output of the mills is much below the requirements of users. Some advices relating to American cotton have not been quite so bullish as recently. There is talk of a record acreage in the United States for next season. In piece goods for Egypt there has been a steady flow of demand, and some fair lines have been booked. Sized goods continue to be sold, and moderate lots have changed hands in printed and dyed descriptions. Very favourable advices are coming to hand as to clearances in Cairo. The outlook for the markets of the Levant continues encouraging. A steady demand has been met with for India, but transactions of weight have not been so numerous as a little time ago. According to letters just to hand, goods are going into consumption on a promising scale. Rather less activity has shown itself for China. Some useful lines have been booked for South America. Printing cloths remain deeply sold and stiff in quotation. In American yarns home users have not been disposed to purchase freely, but prices are well maintained, especially in twists. Export bundles remain in request for India. Coarse counts have been wanted for the Levant, but there have been many difficulties relating to delivery.

YUGOSLAV CURRENCY REFORM.

Reuter's Belgrade correspondent reports, under date January 15, that the following semi-official statement has been issued:—"The present monetary situation in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes is very involved, firstly on account of the circulation of crown notes issued by the Bank of Austria-Hungary which are not covered by metallic reserves, and, secondly, by the dual monetary system—that is to say, the co-existence of dinar notes on the former National Bank of Serbia, together with crown notes of the Austro-Hungarian Bank. A reform in the monetary system is thus necessary. However, the Government are approaching the problem cautiously in order to avoid a disturbance in the economic system. The dinar notes and the crown notes will be replaced by a single note the value of which will be inscribed in crowns and in dinar, issued by the National Bank of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. The present relation of the dinar to the crown—namely, one to four—will be maintained in the case of the new notes. Present holders of dinar notes will then receive for a coin of little intrinsic value, and without a metallic guarantee, other coin guaranteed by all the resources of the National Bank of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and by the entire credit of the kingdom. The decision of the Cabinet with regard to this reform is as follows: The Finance Minister will be able to proceed immediately with the stamping of the notes required by the bank with a view to the application of the monetary reform. Each note will bear, on both sides, an indication in crowns of the proportion of one dinar to four crowns. The Finance Minister is authorised to begin the recall of the crown and dinar notes at present in circulation, and to exchange them against the new crown and dinar notes as soon as a sufficient quantity are available. State banks will continue to make their discounts in two monetary units. As soon as the existing crown notes of the Bank of Austria-Hungary and the dinar notes of the National Bank of Serbia have been recalled, the new crown and dinar notes of the National Bank of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes will become the only means of legal tender. The value in gold of one and the other monetary units will be determined by special law."

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

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ENGINEERING.

Concrete Sewers.

The use of concrete for sewers has never been popular in England, but in certain other countries, particularly the United States, a much greater use has been made of this material for that purpose. A number of engineers have been more or less prejudiced against its use by reason of some early failures, which could clearly be traced to the use of badly-made concrete. Others have feared lest percolation should take place through minute surface cracks into the concrete and through to the surrounding soil, but both fears and prejudice have probably been diminished by the reports recently received from a number of municipal engineers where sewers of this type have come under their immediate notice. The reports cover thirty-two towns in the United States, and the general conclusion arrived at is that concrete, if well mixed and made with a small aggregate, has proved satisfactory under all ordinary conditions. The records and reports cover a period of ten years, and it seems that in every case the cost of material and construction has been less than would have been the case had brick been used for the purpose. It must be borne in mind that bricks themselves are not proof against permeation, and still more so is this the case with the mortar generally used for the work. Concrete for sewer work should, of course, be reinforced by steel rods or webbing, and when supported in such manner the sewers are not likely to settle or crack through settlement of the surrounding soil.

Removing Rust.

As a result of a number of practical experiments carried out some little time ago, an effective method of removing rust from iron and steel plates by chemical means has been evolved, which is not without interest to engineers generally at the present time. A mixture of two parts of sodium bisulphate, crushed to as fine a state as possible, with one part of common salt, is applied to the surface of the plate or girder. The mixture, after preparation, is wetted just sufficiently to permit it to adhere to the surface, and if it is left for some two or three days before removing the plate will be found to be quite clean. A quicker method is to brush off the mixture with a wire brush every two or three hours and apply a fresh coating, removing this in due course. As soon as the plate is clean it is scrubbed with an alkaline solution and dried quickly by an air-blast, if possible, a coating of paraffin oil being afterwards applied. This method is said to be more effective than ordinary sand-blasting.

MOTOR ROADS IN THE RED SEA REGION.

The general use of motor vehicles in the Red Sea commercial district has been retarded by the lack of highway development, says the United States Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard in a recent report. In the province of Hejaz there is only one highway suitable for the use of motor vehicles, and that is the 42-mile road from the port of Jeddah to Mecca. Only Mohammedans may go into the Hejaz, and consequently the European officials and business men residing in Jeddah, who might be expected to introduce the use of motor vehicles, have not had the opportunity to make use of the Jeddah-Mecca highway.

Yemen Province has no highways suitable for wheeled vehicles, but there are incentives which may result in some highway development as soon as the political future of that province is determined. Hodeidah is a Yemen port of some importance, and is the outlet for a considerable trade from the fertile Yemen highlands. The construction of a highway fit for motor vehicles across the desert hinterland from Hodeidah to the Yemen foothills, a distance of approximately fifty miles, would be a great help to trade. Produce from the Yemen Mountains could then come down to the edge of the desert coastal plain and be carried into Hodeidah in but a fraction of the time and at but a fraction of the cost involved in the present tedious and unsafe method of camel caravans. The transportation of imported goods from Hodeidah to the interior would profit likewise. A railway over this route has long been planned, and indications are that either the railway or a highway suitable for wheeled vehicles will be constructed within the near future. The narrow streets of Hodeidah do not offer any inducement to the use of motor vehicles.

On the opposite side of the Red Sea, in the Italian colony of Eritrea, there promises to be a market for motor vehicles. Highways are being built or planned which will offer a field for the sale and use of motor vehicles on the inland plateau between Asmara, Keren, Agordat, and other trade centres. There is at present a railway from the port of Massowah to Asmara. This railway is being built on to Keren, and will probably be extended to Agordat. If railway plans are carried out, it may mean some curtailment of highway construction, but it is apparent that the Italians are going ahead with the opening up of this colony in a way which will demand the construction of both highways and railways. There are as yet very few motor vehicles in use in Eritrea.

Somaliland and Abyssinia.

Jibouti, in French Somaliland, has broad streets and some roads extending a few miles outside the port, which afford facilities for the use of a few motor-cars. There are at present two cars in use there. It is not probable, however, that highways will be built from Jibouti to the interior. The hinterland is desert, and is already crossed by the Franco-Ethiopian Railway, which runs 500 miles inland to Adis Abeba. The railway affords all necessary facilities for interior trade and travel in the present undeveloped state of the country.

In British Somaliland are the ports of Zeyla, Bulhar, and Berbera. There is no immediate prospect of the building of highways into the interior from the two first-named ports, but a road suitable for wheeled traffic has been built from Berbera inland to the higher and cooler plateau back of the coastal desert plain; two or three small cars are in Government use over this road. The development of British Somaliland is, however, at present uncertain, and, unless there is some important attempt to open up the interior, it is not likely that highways will be built within the near future. This country at present offers no real possibilities for the sale or use of motor vehicles.

In Abyssinia there is at present no highway development. In and around the towns of Dire-Dawa and Adis Abeba, streets and roads could very easily be brought to a state fit for the use of a limited number of motor vehicles for local travel, and it is not improbable that this will happen. The materialisation of the present prospect of an active foreign interest in the development of Abyssinian trade will undoubtedly result in the building of highways suitable for the use of motor vehicles. Some definite developments in this situation should take place in the near future.

Motor Vehicles in Aden.

The commercial centre of the district is Aden, and here the greatest number of motor vehicles are in use at present. There are now in use in Aden 129 motor-cars, 33 motor-cycles, and 7 motor-lorries. On the small peninsula there are several miles of good roads or streets, but the longest straight run for a motor vehicle would be five miles, from one side of the peninsula to the other. One part of Aden is on the west side, and another on the east side of the peninsula. These two parts—five miles from each other—are connected by a frequent taxi service, maintained with automobiles. Just beyond the joining of the isthmus with the mainland is the Arab village of Sheikh Othman. From the two parts of the town and port of Aden, and over the isthmus, is a good motor road to this Arab village.

Beyond Sheikh Othman the desert continues to the Yemen foothills, which are an average distance of somewhat more than 75 miles inland. Road-building into the desert would not be too difficult, but there is as yet no real need for it.

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GREEK EXCHANGE.

Regulations for Control.

A recent despatch from H.M. Minister at Athens gives details of the decree, dated November 4-17, dealing with the control of exchange operations in Greece. Among the provisions of the decree are the following:—

Art. 1.—The purchase and sale of bills of exchange on foreign countries, of whatever type, as well as the transfer in general of capital abroad, under whatsoever form and by whatsoever means, is placed under control.

Art. 2.—(1) An Exchange Control Service is established by the Ministry of Finance, placed under the immediate orders of the committee as per Art. 1 of the Legislative Decree of August 19, 1919, to which service is entrusted the control of purchases and sale of bills of exchange, and the transfer of capital abroad, as per the orders therein contained. (2) The personnel of the Exchange Control Service consists of officials appointed by decision of the same Ministry.

Art. 3.—(1) The banks, banking institutions, and banking offices, and each and every company wishing to carry on business in foreign bills of exchange, are obliged, before every transaction, to forward a declaration of same to the Exchange Control Committee. (2) In the case of firms maintaining sub-offices, the relative declaration can only be made by the head office, who should refer same to the sub-offices. (3) On the basis of these declarations, the committee will compile a list of persons entitled to do business in foreign bills of exchange, issuing permits when considered expedient. (4) Persons included in the list compiled, according to Art. 3 of the Royal Decree of November 27, 1919, are not obliged to make a new declaration, as decreed in the above paragraph.

Bills of Exchange.

Art. 4.—(1) The sale of bills of exchange on the part of persons entitled to carry on business in foreign exchange, and the transfer of capital abroad, as per the above Art. 3, is not permitted without a special permit of the Exchange Control Committee on each occasion. (2) This permit is granted on a duly drawn-up demand of the interested parties, explaining fully the reasons for the purchase of the bill of exchange, and the export of capital. (3) With regard to the opening of credits for the purchase of merchandise, the demand must set forth the description and quantity of the merchandise purchased, and copies of documents proving the contract and the conditions of same must be attached to the demand, furnishing at the same time guarantees that the goods for which the bill of exchange is purchased will be imported within six months. The guarantee is personal: (a) for persons entered on the registers of the Chamber of Commerce on the publication of the present law, as regards limited liability companies; (b) for traders established in Greece for one year before the submission of the petition to purchase bills of exchange, this being certified by the relative Chamber of Commerce, or where such does not exist, by the competent Financial Ephoros (Commissioner), on the basis of the taxation returns in his possession, or by the relative police authorities, granted by simple declaration in writing, and is fixed for the prejudicial consequences at 40 per cent. on the value of the bill of exchange purchased; for others not included in the above categories, it is monetary, and fixed at twenty per cent. on the value of the bills of exchange purchased, and it is to be deposited at the bank through which the credit is opened. (4) The guarantee expires, as determined by the President of the Exchange Control Committee, and upon the production by the interested party, within the stipulated time limit, by demand to the Exchange Control Committee, of a certificate from the competent Customs authorities, certifying that the importation of the merchandise, the description and the quantity thereof, and the place of origin, as well as the original invoice. The guarantee likewise expires, as per the stipulations in the above paragraph, on the cancellation of the credit, this being certified by the relative bank. (5) The stipulated limit having expired, the guarantee becomes the property of the State, and is confirmed as public revenue, in the charge of the President of the Exchange Control Committee. On a petition, however, of the interested party, and on the decision of the Exchange Control Committee, the above six months' limit may be extended for a maximum of three months. (6) With regard to the simple remittances abroad, these are allowed on the furnishing of a guarantee only, as above, the production of proofs not being demanded.

Art. 5.—The sale of bills of exchange is exceptionally allowed without special permit referred to above, in the following circumstances:—(1) For expenses of maintenance of persons living abroad, when the value in drachmae of the draft purchased does not exceed 1,000 drachmae per month for each recipient. (2) For the service of actual private needs, when the value in drachmae of the bill of exchange purchased does not exceed 500 drachmae monthly at each remittance, the remittance to be made to a recognised foreign commercial house. (3) For the payment of coupons of Greek securities. (4) With regard to the purchase of merchandise, the conditions contained in paragraphs 3—6 of the previous articles are applicable, in accordance with the decision of the Minister of Finance.

Art. 6.—Persons appearing in the list referred to in Art. 3 of the present Decree are allowed, on the decision of the Minister of Finance, freely to transact purchases and sales of bills of exchange, on condition that the highest limit of available exchange in accordance with Art. 4 of the Legislative Decree of November 20, 1917, is not violated by these transactions. Art. 7.—The sale of bills of exchange on the part of persons or establishments not referred to in the list as per Art. 3 is allowed to persons appearing in the list in question only. Art. 8.—Persons appearing in the list as per Art. 3 are obliged to keep complete records of movements of exchange, as per the conditions fixed by the above articles.

Duration of Credits.

Art. 11.—The duration of credits opened (*crédits confirmés*) shall not be above three months. The extension of the limit is allowed in the decision of the Exchange Control Committee, on the demand of the interested party, and after production of the necessary proofs from which it appears, in the opinion of the committee, that the non-execution of the credit within the original period is due to "force majeure." Under these conditions the substitution of the merchandise for which the credit was originally opened, or the substitution of the beneficiary in whose favour the credit was opened, or the utilisation of the balance of the credit not executed for the supply of goods of another description, is permitted.

Art. 13.—It is prohibited, without the permission of the Exchange Control Committee:—(1) To grant loans or advances against deposits with local or foreign banks, in foreign currency or securities, and foreign movable values of any description. (2) To export from the country by any means whatsoever foreign bank notes or paper money, Greek and foreign securities, and every description of movable values, with the exception of Turkish, Bulgarian, Austrian, and Russian, of which latter the free export is allowed. The above paper money and bank notes and the above values in general, being exported without permission, are liable to seizure on the drawing up of a report regarding this, and they shall be deposited with the Cashier of Deposits and Loans in the name of the titulary owner, to whom they shall be returned on his demand on the raising of the prohibition, or on his return to Greece. They are likewise returnable to his power of attorney in Greece.

Art. 14.—Since, according to the regulations laid down, the export of Greek paper money or bank notes is prohibited, such paper money or bank notes exported in contravention of this prohibition shall be seized, a report being drawn up regarding this and deposited in a bank in the name of the owner.

Art. 16.—The payment by the opening of a credit (*crédit confirmé*) of the value of merchandise or produce imported from abroad, and of which a permit for export is demanded, shall be assimilated to: (a) Payment by bill in sound exchange, converted into drachmae, when the cheque is issued on the place of destination of the merchandise exported, and to the order of the exporter, and when from the correspondence accompanying the draft it is clearly defined that this cheque has been issued exclusively for the payment of the value of the exported merchandise and produce. (b) The payment by order for payment, in sound exchange, converted into drachmae, when it is likewise proved that this order concerns the payment of the value of the exported merchandise and produce. In the above circumstances the merchandise can be exported on a decision of the Exchange Control Committee, issued on the demand of the interested party, attaching the necessary vouchers or proofs.

Art. 17.—The Exchange Control Committee also decides upon demands submitted for the export of merchandise and produce paid for abroad by the capital of the exporter abroad, in accordance with Art. 1, paragraph 5, sub-par. (b), of the Legislative Decree of September 17, 1919. (2) Under this heading, sub-paragraph (b), paragraph 5, Art. 1 of the Legislative Decree of September 17, 1919, fall also merchandise and produce sent into Greece by foreign firms abroad, for which Greek capital has not been employed; the furnishing of guarantees, however, not being necessary for the export thereof. In these circumstances, also, the Exchange Controller decides as to the export, on the demand of the interested party, he submitting the necessary proofs.

Art. 18—The export of domestic produce is permitted, on the decision of the Exchange Control Committee, without the deposit of a guarantee, or the export of merchandise and produce of foreign origin, without prepayment of their value, when merchandise of equal value to that exported has been imported by the same exporter, and for the payment of which the exporter has not exported the bill of exchange to which he was entitled.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.—There is little fresh to report. If anything, the demand is increasing for both these commodities, but the position as regards supplies is uncertain.

Sugar.—A firm tendency prevails, the demand for manufacturing purposes remaining strong. There is no change as regards refined.

Coffee.—Available stocks are in demand at increasing rates. It is reported that much of the East Indian crop will be utilised locally, and as local and other markets are likely to attract Central Americans in default of higher prices here, it cannot be said that the outlook for supplies is any too favourable, especially taking into account other factors, such as the influence of prohibition on the consumption of coffee.

Oilseeds.—The firm tone in this market has continued, linseed being a particularly strong feature. La Plata is now 42s. 6d. for January-February Hull, 41s. 3d. for February-March, and 41s. for March-April. Rapeseed is unchanged, while cottonseed is a firm spot.

Oilcakes, etc.—This is nothing of interest to report as regards oilcakes. Oils are a shade harder for some descriptions. Linseed oil has firmed to 108s. 6d. spot, while it is 108s. February-April, and 105s. May-August. Cotton oil is firm. Turpentine is lower at 188s. 6d. spot, and 189s. 6d. January-April.

THE SMYRNA FIG TRADE.

Some thirty years back only about 10,000 acres of land in the Vilayet of Aidin were planted with fig trees, and an average crop of figs ran to about 9,000 tons; to-day the orchards cover some 25,000 acres, and 23,000 tons is the medium yield. Nevertheless, the continual advancing cost tends to show that, notwithstanding the increased output, the demand keeps steadily ahead of the supply. The fig-producing areas are, under normal conditions, exclusively tapped by the Ottoman (Aidin) Railway Company's system; the orchards, the majority of which are owned by Turkish peasants, being mostly to be found in the Meander Valley. The districts where the best figs are produced are Inovassi and Ortaxe.

As the purpose of this article is only to deal with the commercial aspect of the industry, its history, methods of cultivation, drying processes, etc., though exceedingly interesting, will not be touched upon; suffice it that the quality and virtue of the fruit grown in the Meander Valley is so far superior to that produced elsewhere that the Smyrna fig must necessarily always stand first on the markets of the world.

The peasant having dried his figs, they are transported to the nearest railway station and from thence conveyed, through the middleman, to the Smyrna market and there sold to the highest bidders. Taken in hand by the fig packer proper, they are worked to suit the requirements of the different foreign consuming markets. The methods of packing vary considerably, every market having its own particular preferences.

The fig output this year proved to be very disappointing. The yield—or, to be more correct, the quantity—of figs that actually reached the Smyrna market barely exceeded 10,000 tons. The reasons for this shortage may be given under the following four headings:—(1) Blight, the trees having suffered considerably from disease due to the excessive moisture consequent on the exceptionally heavy rainfall during the winter. (2) Neglected fertilisation; the processes necessary for the propagation of insect fertilisation having remained unexecuted owing to the exodus of the Turkish orchard proprietors from the districts occupied by the Greek troops. (3) Waste, being the result of the disturbed conditions brought about by the Greek military occupation. (4) Lack of communications; for although within the Greek sphere goods trains circulated more or less freely, railway communications throughout the districts controlled by the Turkish insurgents were completely suspended, with the result that the Smyrna market was for a time deprived of the finer quality of fig grown in the Meander Valley. Later on in the season, however, a fair proportion of this produce was surreptitiously transported on camel-back to the nearest railway stations on the Smyrne Cassaba and Prolongement line, and from thence to Smyrna.

The principal merchants who traded in figs this year rank, in the order of quantity, as follows (the figures given being the approximate number of tons):—The Smyrna Fig Packers, Ltd., 2,150; Hills Brothers (Aram Hamparzum), 1,850; C. J. Giraud and Co., 1,350; S. Malides, 1,000; D. Janik Elmassian, 1,000; F. A. Balladur, 400; Milton N. Catrevas, 300; Turk Anonyme Chirketi, 200; sundry minor merchants, 1,750; total, 10,000 tons.

The following are the countries to which this season's Smyrna figs were exported:—The United States of America, about 4,000 tons; the United Kingdom, about 5,500 tons; Continental countries (Entente), about 1,000 tons.

At the commencement of the season the maximum price-limit on figs entering the United Kingdom was fixed by the British Government Food Control at a figure below the prices paid by the U.S.A., with the result that practically all the arrivals on the Smyrna market were immediately bought up and packed for the benefit of American consumers. It was only when the Control raised its price-limits that a certain quality of fig could be profitably disposed of in the United Kingdom.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The *Bulletin* of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in December:—

Maize (Nili).—Harvest is practically complete. Unsheathing of cobs and storing of grain are in progress. The crop is an average one.

Sugar Cane.—The crop is in good condition, and the yield is estimated to be somewhat above the average. Cutting for the factories has begun in Asyût, and is about to begin elsewhere.

Wheat and Barley.—The weather was, on the whole, favourable, except in Beheira, and the water supply was ample until the closing of canals for clearance. Sowing is over; the plants have received their first watering, are in a good state of growth, and are hitherto free from pest attacks. The area under these crops appears to be smaller than usual owing to the large area being prepared for cotton.

Beans.—Weather was generally favourable except in Beheira and Daqahliya, and water supply sufficient. Sowing is practically over, and the early-sown crop is germinating well. The area under this crop is smaller than last year. The early-sown crop is flowering, while pods are developing in Upper Egypt.

Helba.—The plants are healthy, and the early-sown crop is flowering. Pods began to be formed in Upper Egypt. Cultivators cut the early-sown helba for local consumption.

Lentils.—The crop is in good condition, and flowers are seen in the early-sown fields.

Onions.—The crop is growing well, and transplanting is general.

Bersim.—Weather has, on the whole, been favourable, though somewhat too cold to stimulate the growth. Water supply ample, but shortness was felt in some provinces owing to the closure of canals. Cutting and grazing are in progress. Slight attacks of cut-worm and cotton-worm were reported from Beheira and Sharqiya at the beginning of December. While it has improved, the crop is still below the average.

DEVELOPMENT OF COCHIN HARBOUR.

It is considered that there will shortly be important harbour developments at Cochin, Madras, says the *Board of Trade Journal*. Specifications for a dredger have been called for by the Government from the India Office, and the services of an experienced engineer to carry out the harbour works have been called for from London. The Government of Madras are anxious to proceed with the Cochin Harbour development scheme at the earliest possible opportunity. As the dredger will have to be constructed, it would probably be a year or more before it would be ready, but in the meantime it is hoped that the new engineer will be obtaining all the necessary particulars, and that upon arrival of the dredger work will be commenced on the bar. In the opinion of the Port Officer, after some eight to ten months' dredging, ocean vessels should be able to enter the harbour. The question of providing wharves, dock accommodation, etc., will follow in due course.

Banque Franco-Serbe.

Capital Frs. 20,000,000.

Offices:

PARIS — MONASTIR (BITOLJ)
LONDON — USKUB (SKOPLYE)
BELGRADE — ZAGREB (AGRAM)

LONDON OFFICE: 27, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.

Every possible facility is offered to British Travellers and Merchants at the Bank's Offices in Serbia (*i.e.*, the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes). British parties travelling to these parts should see that their letters of credit are made payable at the Bank's Branches, where every assistance will be rendered to them.

Drafts issued. Bills negotiated. Advances made upon Documentary Bills. Telegraphic Address: "Francoserb, Stock, London." Telephone Number: 1110 London Wall.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

STAMBOUL, December 27.

Imports.

The prices of manufactured goods continue to rise in the countries of production. Everywhere prices here are, on an average, about 10 per cent. lower than those ruling at present in Manchester, and that following the stagnation for Russia.

Two steamers loaded with manufactures (the "Victoria" and the "Grodno") have arrived here, and three others (the "Belgravian," the "Corby," and a third) are expected shortly.

Stocks here continually increase. The low rate of the rouble, which has fallen to 400 the Kerensky and 90 the Romanoff, has contributed towards paralysing all business with the Russian ports. A very little business is done at Batoum only. A certain demand for Anatolia may be noted, but the irregularity of means of transport is an obstacle to business transactions.

Produce.

Activity in this market, and particularly in sugar, continues. A new rise to £4 per ton, from £84 to £88, has been registered in this commodity, owing to the lively demands from Smyrna. In Customs the price has risen from £T41 to £T43 the 100 kilo. There have been no arrivals, and stocks here are diminishing. They may be valued at about 700 wagons, of which a good portion is damaged.

Rice.—Equally in demand, especially in inferior qualities.

Oil.—The arrival from Batoum, noted last week, instead of lowering prices, has had no influence on the rates, which remain firm at Ps. 550 per case.

Exports.—The demand for Anatolian products continues, and the prices this week mark a new rise.

Opium.—The sales this week for England and America amount to 170 cases. During the last weeks Smyrna has shipped 150 cases on the average, destined for America and England. Opium is in demand in these countries, and prices are maintained. It is quoted in dollars 4½ at New York per lb., and 19s. in London.

Mohair.—Market lively. Sales for the week 200 bales (arrivals 200) at Ps. 98/100 for first quality, and Ps. 105 for extra.

Wool.—In demand at Ps. 52/53 per oke, but stock lacking.

Silk.—Market weaker. The article is offered at £T18½ per kilo. No business. Stock insignificant.

SALONIKA, November 30.

Opium.—Market quiet; the prices remain unchanged within the limits mentioned in our previous report (60 to 65). The disposable quantities are equal to those of last month, that is, about 10 to 12 thousand okes.

Tobacco.—Prices slightly higher than in October (27 to 31 drachmae per oke) with a tendency everywhere to rise. Very little business. The stock existing in October—about 30,000 okes—remains about the same.

Hides.—The season is over, and all the stocks are exhausted at high prices.

Wool.—Scarcely any movement. Demands are very rare, possibly due to the prices which remain high (Drs. 3.30 to 3.50 per oke).

Cocoons.—More than 5 to 6 thousand okes have been exported at prices higher than drs. 30 per oke. The stock is now completely exhausted.

The winter sowings have continued under the best conditions. In the South of Greece vine and fig culture has also commenced. The olive crop, which has likewise begun, will be 30 per cent. inferior to that of last year. According to all indications the olive production from the islands will not reach that of the year 1918. Floods have caused a certain amount of havoc in the west of Macedonia, and more serious damage in eastern Macedonia. The sowings which have been interrupted for some time have everywhere been resumed.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-45, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.

The report of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company for the year ended September 30 states that the net earnings of the whole system amount to Rs.23,44,352, against Rs.30,62,796 for the corresponding period of 1918. The company's share is Rs.10,11,284, against Rs.13, 74, 420. The actual rate of exchange during the period was, however, much higher than 1s. 4d., the book rate, and, adding the gain in remittance, the amount available for dividend is £84,965, against £99,815 in 1918. An ad interim dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1919, of 3 per cent., plus a bonus of 1 per cent., has been paid on the ordinary stock. After bringing forward the balance from last year of £32,852, providing for interest on debenture and preference stocks, interim dividend and bonus, contribution to provident fund, and making other adjustments, including £3,987 on account of Secretary of State's share of surplus profits for the year, the amount to be dealt with is £57,713. The directors recommend a final dividend of £3 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent. on the ordinary stock, subject to tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, and that the balance of £39,413 be carried forward. The dividend, with bonus recommended for the year, is at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. The receipts were Rs. 1,23,497 less, and the working expenses Rs.5,94,946 more than those of the previous year, and the net earnings show, therefore, a decrease of Rs.7,18,443. Coaching receipts increased by Rs.1,34,692, but goods traffic decreased by Rs.93,784, and sundries by Rs.1,63,844. Meeting, Gresham House, E.C., January 27, noon.

East India Distilleries.

The report of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories for the year ended September 30 states that, after paying interest on and providing for the redemption of debenture stock and the other expenses, there is a profit of £22,167. The directors recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £2,681, against £2,513 brought in.

Champion Reef Gold Mining of India.

The report for the year ended September 30 states that in the stamp and tube mills 140,553 tons of ore were dealt with and produced 69,688.34 oz. of fine gold, an average yield of 9 dwt. 22 gr. per ton. The current tailings from the mills, subjected to the cyanide process, produced 9,321.26 oz. of fine gold, an average yield of 1 dwt. 7.82 gr. per ton; 66,369 tons of old tailings, treated in the tube mills and cyanide works, produced 4,999.3 oz. of fine gold, an average yield of 1 dwt. 12.14 gr. per ton. Compared with the previous year, the value of the ore treated shows a decrease of 1 dwt. 10.4 gr. per ton. There was an improvement of 0.69 gr. per ton in the average extraction of gold. The total return of gold was 84,008.9 oz., a reduction on the preceding year's production of 10,230 oz. The proceeds of the sale of the gold amounted to £355,104. After deducting £18,322, the royalty payable to the Mysore Government, and adding £6,731 for interest, rents, etc., received, the total income is £344,513. Against this, expenditure amounting to £301,368 is charged, leaving £43,145 as profit on the year's working. To this is added £3,119 brought in, also £712 received from the Kolar Mines Power Station, Ltd., making a total credit to profit and loss of £46,976. The debits to profit and loss are: Income-tax, £28,746; depreciation of machinery and plant, £10,000; insurance and contingency fund, £1,000; Kolar goldfield prospecting department, £777; and donation to the British Red Cross Fund, £210—a total of £40,733. A balance is left at credit of profit and loss account of £6,243, and is carried forward. The outlay on capital account, consisting of £11,652 on buildings, machinery, and plant, and £1,111 on option property, amounted to £12,763, as compared with £28,078 for the previous year. During the period under review there was no amelioration of the adverse conditions caused by the war, and costs continued on a high scale. The increase of £15,918 in the total working expenses is chiefly due to the higher rates of exchange on remittances to India during the first eight months of the company's financial year. Negotiations were concluded in May, however, for the sale of one-half of the gold output of the Kolar mines for payment in India in rupees, and by this arrangement the heavy loss on remittances to meet the wages and other expenditure at the mines has since been avoided. The mining operations have continued without interruption, and development at the lowest levels has been vigorously carried on. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, January 29, at 12.30.

NEW COMPANIES.

Dickwella Tea.

The Dickwella Tea Company, Ltd., was registered on January 1, with a capital of £80,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on in British India or elsewhere the business of tea and general planters, etc. First directors: F. A. Roberts, 138, Leadenhall Street, E.C., managing director of Jorehaut Tea Company (chairman); Sir James F. Stuart-Menteth, Bt., Rownhams Mount, near Southampton; C. C. Forster, 11, Montagu Place, W. 1, retired Ceylon tea planter; H. Miller, C.I.E., Holloway House, Heybridge. Minimum cash subscription, seven shares. Qualification, £250. Secretaries and offices, Begg Roberts and Co., 138, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

During the three days on which our Stock Exchange has been open since our last report the market for Egyptian stocks and shares has again been exceedingly active, with a further rise in prices in most instances. There was an enormous demand to-day for Egyptian Unifieds, which spurted at one time 7 points to 81, closing 6 points up at 80, and an advance of 5 points took place in the 3½ per cent. Prefs. at 66, round which price a fairly large business was transacted. City of Alexandria bonds are also 1 point higher at 68.

In Bank shares Nationals finish ¼ higher at 24, and Agriculturals ⅛ up at 5 13-16. Land Banks are 3-16 firmer at 6 5-16.

In Railways, Delta Lights continue to be quietly absorbed around 6½.

Amongst Land shares some big transactions have taken place. Aboukir have risen 1s. 6d. to 42s. 9d., but Béhéra are exceptionally closing 1½ points lower to-night at 26½. Consolidated Lands have been in demand, closing 3d. up at 3s. 3d. Delta Lands, after a large business and a further slight advance in prices, finish 6d. lower at 23s. Foreign Trusts have again been a feature of strength, and are closing 1s. 6d. up at 17s. In Gharbieh Lands a further large business has been doing, and the price has risen ½ to 4. New Egyptians have been heavily dealt in, and after being up to 40s. 6d., close 6d. higher at 39s. 9d. Sudan Plantations are 1-16 easier at 8 9-16. Union Foncières, on heavy buying, rose to 6½, but finish ⅜ up only at 6¼.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 1-16 lower at 11s. 3d., but there has been a large demand for Associated Cotton Ginners, which have changed hands to-day at 22s. 6d., a rise of nearly 5s. since last week. Salts and Sodas close 1s. 3d. up at 53s. 9d.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians "B" have fallen back ¼ to 5, and Roumanians are 6d. down at 24s.

In Greeks the only change to report is a fall of 1 in the Greek 1910 Loan to 47. The 1914 loan has changed hands to-day round 63½, and the London issue is 2 points down at 65. Bank of Athens are also nominally 1-16 down at 3½.

OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders communicate the following information with regard to the gross receipts of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt on account of the Unified Debt and Lots Turcs:—Provisional receipts, eight months (March to October), 1919, £T4,276,375 (paper); definitive receipts, eight months (March to October), 1918, £T3,261,007 (paper). For the same period in 1913 the definitive gross receipts were £T3,556,204 (gold).

ROUMANIAN PRE-WAR TARIFF IN FORCE.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information, from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest, to the effect that the pre-war Customs tariff, both General and Conventional, is still in force in Roumania, and has not been subjected to any general modification, the only amendments being those regarding the importation of articles of luxury, and certain articles of prime necessity the importation of which is reserved to the State. The treaty with Germany is no longer in force, but the conventional tariff rates established by that treaty continue to be applied to merchandise the produce of countries which are entitled to "most-favoured-nation" treatment in Roumania.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Jan.14	Price Jan.19
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28½	28½
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	67	68
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	74	80
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	61	66
Greek 5%, 1881	52	52
Do. 5%, 1884	52	52
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49½xd	49½xd
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	45
Do. 5% 1890	51½	51½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	51½	51½
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	58	58
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	48	47
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	67	65
Do. 5% Currant	93	93
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	82	82
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	65½	66½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	59	59
Do. 4% Unified	39	39
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5½	5⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6½	6⅝
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68½	68½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70½	70½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17½	17½
Bank of Abyssinia	36/3	36/3
Bank of Athens	71/3	70/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	6½	5½
British Trade Corporation	10	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅜	9⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅛	10⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6¼	6⅛
London County and Westminster	16½	153xd
National Bank of Egypt	25½	24
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6¼	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	78⅛	78⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	11½	11⅜
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	57½	57½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	45	49
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	65	65
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	41/3	42/9
Do. 6% Debs.	137	137
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	20/-	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	28	26½
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	28/-	28/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	3/-	3/3
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	23/6	23/-
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	15/6	17/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	3½	4
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	36/3	36/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61⅛	61⅛
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	39/3	39/9
Sidi Salem Co.	3⅛	3⅛
Sudan Plantations	8⅜	8⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅞	6½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	12/6	11 3
Alexandria Water Co.	10/	10/
Associated Cotton Ginners	17/9	22/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/9	24/9
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	52/6	53 9
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	99⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5½	5½
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/3	18/3
Morum's Oriental Stores. Partptg. Pref.	17/6	17/9
Suez Canal	178	178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	100	100
Chinese 4½% 1898	67½	67½
Do. 5% 1896	83	84
Argentine 5% 1890	79½	80
Do. 5% 1907	79	83
OIL.		
Algerian	4/10½	5/10½
Anglo-Bulgarian	10/6	10/-
Anglo-Egyptian B	5½	5
Anglo-Persian Pref.	25/-	24/9
Do. 5% Debs.	83⅜	82
Anglo-Roumanian	9/9	9/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/3	5/3
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	8/6	8/6
Roumanian	24/6	24/-
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez, 1915 (fully paid)	9/6	8/10½
Traian (Roumanian)	10/2½	9/-

A communiqué issued at Delhi says:—The Government of India understand that the shipping accommodation for the homeward passenger traffic in the months of March, April, and May is likely to be inadequate to meet the demand for passages. Intending passengers are advised to book homeward passages for earlier months wherever possible.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Dec. 12. Rs.	Dec. 18. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	62½	63
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	2250	2200
Bank of Bombay	2700	2700
Bank of Madras	1800	18 0
Bank of India	150	150
Tata Industrial Bank	56½	58½
COAL.		
Baraboni	18	18
Bengal	860x	860x
Burrakur	48	49½
East Indian	42½	43½
Equitable	46½	46½
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	65	64½
Standard	69½	69½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	365	350
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2409	2400
Bowreah	730	730
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	820	820
Central India	3050 1525	3050 1525
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	1800	1800
Khatau Makanji	5600	5600
Muir	120	120
New Ring	540	540
Phœnix	850	850
Svadeshi	3100	3100
JUTE.		
Alliance	762	740
Barnagore	200	200
Budge Budge	600	603
Clive	295	295
Dalhousie	505	506
Delta	635	603
Fort Gloster	1002x	1002x
Gourepore	1125x	1125x
Howrah	44½	43
Kamarhatty	986	923
Kanknarrah	775	765
Khardah	520	520
Kinnison	1005	1005
National	440	440
Standard	655	655
Union	890	890
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	652x	652x
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	245	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	210	210
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General Steam	155x	155x
Indian Iron and Steel	110 90	110 88½
Marshall Sons and Co.	153	152
Titaghur Paper	375	375

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JANUARY 3.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	21⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	84
,, ,, Div.	Frs.	120
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	19½
,, priv.	£	4½
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	106
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅛
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5⅛
Société des Immeubles	£	7⅜
Bonded Stores	£	16
Unifiée	£	75
Privilégiée		61½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6½
Nungovich Hotels	£	11⅞
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
,, ,, Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3½
,, Ord		101/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	23⅛
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅞
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
,, Jouissance	Frs.	149
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		38/6
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	470
,, Div.	Frs.	420
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	308
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	7⅞
Egyptian Salt and Soda		48/4½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	697
,, Fondateur	Frs.	950
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	438
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	301
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	289
Consolidated Land	P.T.	9½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	4⅜
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	392
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2½
Urbaines & Rurales		3⅜
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4½
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	3½

A branch of the Tata Industrial Bank, Ltd., was recently opened at 2, White Lion Court, Cornhill, E.C.3.

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Jan. 14	Jan. 19
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	60⅜	60⅜
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	66⅜	66½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		82	82
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		71½	72½
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		73⅛	73⅛
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		84	84
Eastern		7⅞	7⅞
Mercantile of India A		40⅜	40⅜
National of India		57	57
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		8/6	9/-
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/9	13/9
Burma Corp.		13⅜	13⅜
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		14/-	13/6
Champion Reef Gold		4/3	3/-
Mysore Gold Mining		1	⅞
Nundydroog		16/-	15/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		18/-	17/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		21/3	22/3
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2⅜	2⅜
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		40/-	39/4½
Brit. Burmah		2½xd	3x
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		22	21
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10	10
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		53	53
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		141	140½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		56	54½
Bengal-Nagpur		120	120
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		105½	105½
Burma Railways		112	111½
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13⅛	13⅛
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13⅛	13⅛
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		12⅜	13⅛
Madras and S. Mahratta		110½	111½
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		134½	134½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		85½	84½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		38/6	38/6
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		85	84
Do. Deferred		635	650
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		69½	67½x
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16⅜	16⅜
British Indian Tea Ord.		8⅜xd	8½
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		16⅜	16½
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		13/3	13/-
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		3⅜	3⅜xd
Consolidated Estates		7⅛	8
Darjeeling Co.		27/3	27/-
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		66/-	3½
Dooars Tea Ord.		61/9xd	3x
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		20/4½	19/4½
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est		69/4½	68/9
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		35/9	35/6
Hewagam Rubber Co.		22/3	22/10½
Jhanzie Tea Association		11½xd	11½
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		23†	23½x
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		19/4½	20/-
Lanka Plantations Ord.		29/-	30/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		58/6xd	58/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		48/-	47/6
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		14½	14½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		32/3	32/3

L'Economista d'Italia states that, under the auspices of the Credito Italiano, the Breda, Terni, Officine Meccaniche gia Miani e Silvestri, and Molo Aratrice Companies have combined in forming the Società Italo-Orientale, which will concentrate its efforts on export to the Balkans and the Levant. The new company will have a capital of L2.5 mill., and its headquarters will be in Milan.

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Reserve for Depreciation of Government Paper	,,	13,00,000/-

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KHIVA	9,000	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Straits, China, Jap'n
*PESHAWUR	8,000	Jan. 28	Feb. 7	Calcutta via B'mbay
DEVANHA	8,000	Feb. 6	Feb. 14	Bombay & Karachi
NORE	7,000	Feb. 13	Feb. 21	Straits, China Jap'n
*PALERMO	9,000	Feb. 14	—	Australia

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AUSTRALIA	7,526	Jan. 29	—	Bombay & Karachi
CHANDA	6,169	Jan. 30	—	Madras & Calcutta
GOLCONDA	5,316	end Jan.	—	Pt. Sudan & E. Africa
COLABA	6,019	Feb. 6	—	Bombay & Karachi
MANORA	7,888	Feb. 11	—	Bombay & Karachi
NERBUDDA	7,911	Feb. 15	—	Madras & Calcutta
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CITY OF KARACHI	5,563	March 17	Bombay & Karachi
CITY OF LONDON	9,000	March 27	Bombay & Karachi

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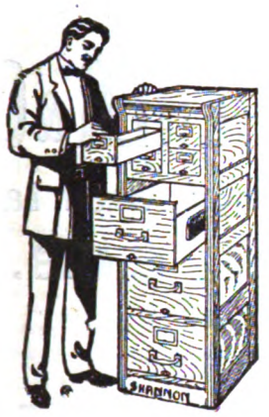
THE NEAR EAST

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE INDIAMAN"

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

No. 456.—Vol. XVII. Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.] THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1920. (Annual Subscription, By post, £1 5s. 0d (Home) and £1 10s. 0d. (Abroad).) Price 6d. Postage, ½d. Foreign, 1½d



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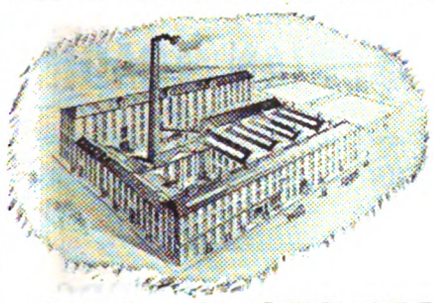

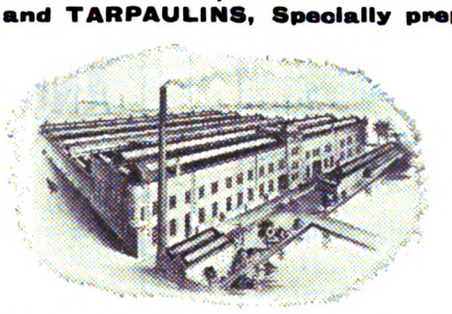

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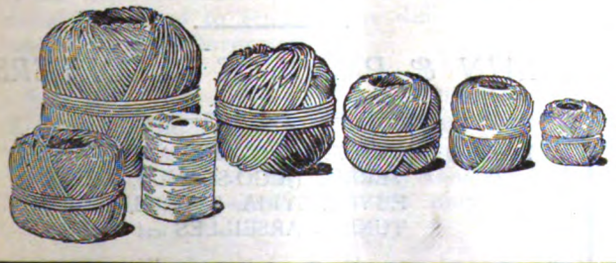

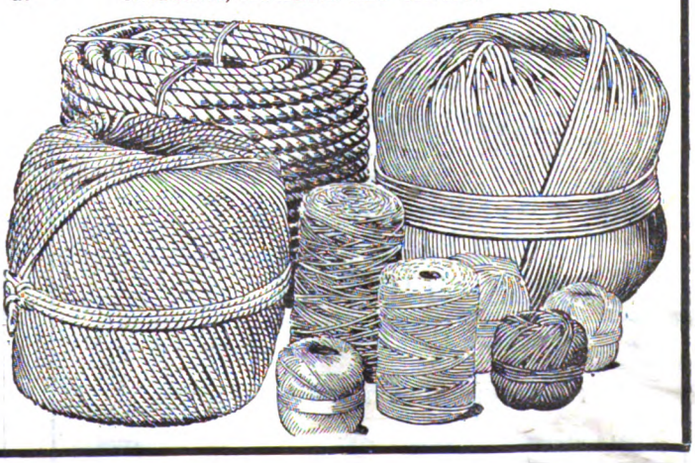

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 456.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Yugoslav statesmanship is being subjected to a severe test by Allied diplomacy at this time, and it is to be hoped that both Government and people will continue to keep themselves well in hand. It would be fatal to their interests to resort to extreme measures; on the other hand, the greater their confidence in the justice of their own cause the easier to bow for the moment to any unwisdom to which the Paris Conference may be committed. As the situation now stands, the failure of the Yugoslav Government to accept the Allied offer in regard to Fiume and the Dalmatian coast has left the Allies committed to the 1915 Treaty of London. The manifest inequity of this document provides its own condemnation, and injustice is to be added to it by a fresh arrangement regarding Fiume, which the Treaty tacitly left to the Yugoslavs. Whatever political arrangements may be made, the economic facts of the case remain obdurate. With Trieste and Fiume in Italian hands, the Yugoslavs can in course of time divert practically the whole of the trade of the hinterland to another outlet, to the ultimate ruin of both Italian ports. Neither Italy, Yugoslavia, nor the rest of Europe can desire this eventuality, and no doubt discretion will sooner or later take the place of shortsightedness, at a smaller cost to the Yugoslavs than a campaign against Italy or the building of a new port.

Very little news reaches us from Bulgaria these days, but what does come to hand serves to emphasise the wisdom of accepting only with considerable reservations the stories of risings and rebellions in that country. We are, indeed, left to wonder what real interests can be served by spreading these malicious reports. There have evidently been some Socialist demonstrations in Sofia, and a strike has temporarily paralysed the Bulgarian railways. It would be strange if Bulgaria escaped from the prevailing epidemic of unrest. But as the last thing that the Balkan Peninsula wants is the perpetuation of anything approaching anarchy in its midst, it would be thought that the responsible people in the adjacent countries would studiously avoid any action calculated to render more difficult the present task of the Sofia Government.

Repeated reference has been made in these columns to the erratic character of the mail service between this country and the Near East. Letters arrive, or—more frequently—fail to arrive, in a way that the ordinary man cannot understand, and the only explanation possible is not creditable to those responsible for the present arrangements. An illustration of the unsatisfactory results of the existing system is afforded by the arrival together last week of what would in pre-war days have been four separate mails from Constantinople. By the same post we received from our Correspondent in the Turkish capital letters dated in the first half of December and others that were posted on January 10. Such a state of affairs is simply scandalous, and it is not surprising that British merchants and others who have important business interests in the Near East are saying many hard things about its being allowed to exist. It is high time that our own Government gave those concerned to understand that a change must be effected with the least possible delay. Courtesy to one's friends is admirable, and a desire to spare their feelings even more so; but these things must not be too one-sided, and, after all, Great Britain, as well as her Allies, has interests in Turkey and the Near East.

The Hungarian Peace Delegation is reported to have presented a request that a plebiscite should be taken in Transylvania "with a view to giving it autonomy without impairing its economic union with Hungary," and that the League of Nations should send a Commission to "deal with the internal regulation of the nationalities question in Transylvania." What these phrases are intended to convey is not quite clear, but as to the intention behind the proposal there cannot be any doubt: Hungary, failing utterly to realize her position, hopes still to snatch some advantage by playing the game of intrigue by which she has benefited so largely in the past. Even if such a plebiscite as that asked for were to be taken, it is practically certain that Transylvania would prefer to remain as it is rather than play the Hungarian game. It spoke with no uncertain voice when, on December 1, 1918, it proclaimed its union with Roumania, and the Saxons of the region subsequently (January 21, 1919) voluntarily adhered to Roumania. That Hungarian intrigue has been busy since that time is not to be doubted; and for one reason or another, it may have achieved some small success here and there. But that there would be any real chance of Transylvania voting for union, even economic union, with Hungary, if the vote were fairly taken, is almost inconceivable.

General Milne, Commanding the Allied Forces in Western Asia Minor, recently had occasion to call attention to repeated infringements of the Armistice terms by the Turks. The Allied Commissioners thereupon

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addressed a Note to the Turkish Government, complaining of the attitude of the Turkish Minister for War and of his Chief of Staff. The former, it will be remembered, was very generally spoken of at the time of his appointment as a strong supporter of Mustafa Kemal and his "Nationalists," and his Chief of Staff apparently shared his views. Such being the case, it was evident that trouble was bound to arise sooner or later, and the only wonder is that the Allies tolerated such a state of affairs so long. They have acted at last, and with the inevitable result: Jemal Pasha and his Chief of Staff have both gone, and Mustafa Kemal's influence and prestige have suffered accordingly. As a matter of fact, the move may well prove a blessing in disguise to the Turkish Government, though the latter can hardly be expected to see through the disguise immediately. It is to be feared, however, that the present Cabinet is too "Nationalist" to work harmoniously with the Allied representatives. Yet, since all Turkey seems to be becoming more Nationalist every day, it can hardly be denied that the Government is tolerably representative of Turkish feeling.

The Egyptian Government has decided upon the appointment of a Commission to examine and report upon the projects for the further regulation of the Nile for the benefit of agriculture both in Egypt and in the Sudan. The schemes are so vast, involving such an outlay of capital and requiring such a long time for their execution, that nobody will question the wisdom of having the best advice before finally embarking on them: and certain criticisms to which they have been subjected make such a course still more advisable. Among other points on which the Committee will advise is the appointment of the cost of the works between Egypt and the Sudan.

The Cairo Correspondent of the *Times* understands that the Commission will be constituted as follows:—Mr. F. St. John Gebbie, Chief Engineer, Bombay, nominated by the Indian Government (Chairman); Dr. G. C. Simpson, meteorologist at Simla, nominated by the University of Cambridge; and Mr. H. T. Cory, nominated by the American Government. Mr. J. L. Capes, of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, will act as Secretary to the Commission; and it will be assisted by an English judge in cases where there is any conflict of evidence. It is understood that Sir Michael Nethersole was invited to preside over the Commission, but was unable to do so, probably because he found his health would not allow him to undertake fresh labours—unfortunately, his death, last week, is recorded elsewhere. His exceptional knowledge of engineering, and especially of canal works, would have made him the ideal chairman; but Mr. Gebbie will undoubtedly fill the post most satisfactorily, and his collaborators are both well chosen. The introduction of an American member is a happy thought.

Apparently incited thereto by a spirit of emulation aroused by the Milner Mission's visit to Alexandria and its announced intention of visiting certain provincial centres, leading Zaghlulites have been touring Egypt, speechifying and making collections on behalf of "the cause." This is strictly in accordance with the methods pursued by other agitators in other countries, and it has had the usual result of making trouble for the authorities. At Tantah, that Delta town which has achieved notoriety by its fanaticism and its apparent liking for riots and disorders, one of the leading Nationalists is reported to have made a super-inflammatory speech; and as a direct consequence the mob attacked an Indian patrol, and something like a pitched battle took place. According to a Reuter message one corporal was killed and two privates were wounded, while the mob suffered casualties to the same extent. Another report puts the total casualties at twenty dead and fifty wounded for two days' fighting. The agitator whose misplaced eloquence was responsible for this outbreak has been arrested.

A proposal is afoot to construct a new line of railway from Suakin to Tokar. Should it materialise, the project will result in the further opening up of an important cotton-growing area, to the obvious benefit of the Sudan. The Sudan as a whole is bound to see important developments in the near future, and it is to be hoped that Englishmen, or at any rate British subjects, will take a part not only in financing those developments, and in getting new enterprises into working order, but also in keeping them going when started. In other words, it is to be hoped that more Englishmen, of the right type, will go to the Sudan with a view to settling there. If it be urged that the climate and conditions are unsuitable, it may be pointed out that a considerable number of British officials contrive to survive these difficulties; and conditions in the Sudan to-day cannot be any worse than those which ruled in many parts of the East in, say, the days of Elizabeth and James I., when Britons established themselves in the Near and Middle East, and "made good" in face of extraordinary hardships and dangers.

On the afternoon of January 15 the first train to run through from Busreh to Baghdad reached the latter city, having left Busreh at midnight on January 13. The event is certainly an important one for Lower Mesopotamia, for though it is probable that for a long time to come most of the heavy "goods" traffic will still be carried by the river steamers, and even that many of the *Hajjis*, who set small value on time, will prefer the water to the land transport, yet the majority of travellers will doubtless soon come to regard the *vapoor* as the natural means of transit from place to place. It is interesting to note that in the course of a speech made at the inauguration of the new line General Sir G. F. Mac mun mentioned that there are now only 945 miles of railway in Mesopotamia, as compared with 1,113 miles during the war, the diminution being due to the pulling-up of unimportant lines.

Three weeks ago we commented on the wording of an official announcement that the Deir ez-Zor incident might "be regarded as closed for the present, so far as Mesopotamia is concerned." A semi-official statement issued on January 15 declared that: "The troubles in Mesopotamia appear to be by no means over," and added that Ramadhan es Shallash was still trying "to stir up the tribes in the area of the British occupation," and threatening to attack Abu Kemal. Another semi-official statement, issued in the latter part of last week, announced that the up-to-date adventurer was "calling in loans advanced by the Mesopotamian Administration to the people and sending his agents to stir up trouble far within the frontier." Moreover, Abu Kemal, it is announced, has actually been attacked (on January 11) by "a band of tribesmen about 300 to 500 strong." The attack was driven off with heavy losses, thanks largely to our aeroplanes, but a few houses are said to have been looted.

In spite of this annoying raid, Ramadhan's activities need not cause any serious alarm at present. Abu Kemal is a quite unimportant place, and even the least sophisticated of the tribes will hardly be eager to throw in its lot with a discredited leader who has bungled one raid rather badly. If only his efforts are met with suitable counter-propaganda, Ramadhan should find it extremely difficult to secure any considerable number of adherents. The attempt to connect this Euphrates disturbance with any Bolshevistic feeling on the part of the Arabs will be received with caution by those who know those Arabs. Ready to loot they always are, if they can see a reasonable chance of doing it successfully: and it is quite possible that they may have been stirred up, in this case, by agents of the Bolshevists. But any agent who sought to preach Bolshevist doctrines to them would very soon have cause to regret the attempt.

The chief interest of such news as comes through from India at present lies in the evidence it furnishes that political opinion, but lately so fluid, is rapidly crystallising into a small number of groups or parties, with "creeds" or "platforms" sufficiently distinctive to present clear-cut issues before the new electorate. The process is at once inevitable and essential. Reports of

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the political meetings held at Christmas-time appear to justify the conclusion that the old theory of a country united against an alien government is now definitely exploded, and, in the clearer atmosphere resulting from the change, the distinctions between parties are coming to be recognised as important facts, and not trifles to be ignored, or adjusted in secret conclaves. This progress towards reality is a definite achievement, and in our judgment will materially facilitate the work which is now in hand; organisation of individuals is almost the first step in any political development, and the sorting-out process of the last few months has brought India very much nearer the point where the new legislatures can be expected to function for the advantage of the country as a whole.

These truths are being realised in England as well as in India, and the separate organisation of the Moderate party in this country is now an accomplished fact. The Committee which has been formed is reasonably strong and representative, and it starts with the blessing of Mr. Montagu, who, we are sorry to learn, has been compelled by indisposition to suspend his official labours for a time. In our opinion it is a pity that an organisation of the kind was not brought into existence when the Reforms Bill first came under discussion, and large parts of England were drenched with misleading statements and unjustified invective. The lies have been given a long start, and the new Committee's task is consequently more difficult than it need have been, but it can still render useful service if its members will only bear in mind that what England wants is the truth, and as much of it as possible. Speaking for ourselves, we are prepared to welcome representatives of every group or party from India, provided that their activities conform to this elementary principle.

We are indebted to one of these groups, the London branch of the Non-Brahmin Federation, for a lengthy message intimating the failure of the negotiations in which they are particularly interested. It will be remembered that the Non-Brahmins of Madras refused, unwisely, as we think, to put their case before the Franchise Committee, which found itself in consequence unable to make definite recommendations for assigning to them the representation justified by their numerical strength. The Joint Committee advised a settlement by negotiations between the parties, or, failing agreement, by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Government of India; from the message which has been sent us we gather that Brahmins and Non-Brahmins have failed to agree, and we conclude that an arbitrator will now be appointed. We do not envy him his task, for feeling on the question runs high, but that is a reason for settling the matter without further delay. There are happily some grounds for believing that the best of the Brahmins will welcome a statesmanlike adjustment, and there is at least a chance that a definite ruling from above may be received with practical acquiescence.

Perhaps it may be as well to explain that while we welcome the activities of these Committees and branches, as of all Indian organisations which endeavour to spread the truth, or portions of it, in this country, we do not regard them as destined to play a permanent part in English life. Hitherto Indian politics have been centred in this country, and it is not so many years since the Congress itself derived its main inspiration from "home"; but as political life becomes more and more of a reality, the centre of gravity is bound to shift, and we look forward to the time when branches and committees will find their occupation gone, because the various parties will be able to operate effectively in India without their aid. We trust that the new organisations realise that they are essentially temporary, and will be prepared to extinguish themselves gracefully when their purpose has been served, or perhaps transform themselves into social centres where Indians visiting this country may be assured of a welcome from men of politics like their own.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Mr. Asquith at Paisley.

Politics were quiet during the week, but rumours were many. Most of them centred round the Paisley by-election, as to which excitable partisans are using the language of exaggeration which sounds so oddly since the war—"the most important by-election of the present century," and so on. They said just the same thing about Spen Valley and most other by-elections. The plain facts of the case are that Paisley has always returned a Liberal since 1832, that its Liberal Association only decided to ask Mr. Asquith instead of a local candidate to stand by a small majority, and that in a three-cornered contest with a strong Labour and a good Unionist candidate, anything may happen.

The contest will be chiefly important for its effect on Mr. Asquith's position, and he has himself referred to the coming fight as "a dark and difficult adventure," which is, to say the least, not the height of optimism. If Labour should win, it would be another nail in the coffin of Independent Liberalism; if the Unionist were to win—but the local pundits are clear that nobody need consider so improbable a contingency.

Meanwhile, Lord Birkenhead's proposed National Party makes no particular headway. He admits that the Coalition is here to stay; but he and Mr. Winston Churchill, an old associate of the Lord Chancellor's, are agreed that the future of the Coalition must be on an anti-Labour platform. A good many others are not so sure.

Local Currency.

A curious proposal which has some significance has been brought before the Wigan Town Council: it was suggested that local currency notes should be issued on the security of the local rates. The proposer had the idea that if his scheme were carried out it would enable local councils to escape the burden of paying interest. So far as his idea can be understood from the rather brief reports in the papers, his scheme would probably have the effect desired, at the price of still further depreciating the value of money, which, of course, is in effect much the same thing as paying interest in a roundabout and unscientific way. If the idea were generally followed up it would add an intolerable burden to life, for in addition to paper notes and silver and copper, every little urban district council would have its own local notes, which would be changeable at par in Puddleton but subject to a heavy discount in the rival and neighbouring district of Paddleville. Something of this kind used to happen in Italy and Spain in the old days; we may hope that the United Kingdom will succeed in avoiding it.

Wool Profits.

The papers are full at the moment of the extortionate profits which are said to have been made in the wool

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and worsted trades of late. The evidence has not been published, and argument and demonstration are therefore very much in the air; but the average man, who looks at his tailor's bill and groans, is convinced on that evidence alone that somebody is making a fortune out of his necessities. Bradford, which is the headquarters of the trade, is issuing *démentis*, and accusing the Government in turn of profiteering; the Socialists are clamouring for nationalisation of the wool trade—nationalisation is a kind of *idée fixe* with these good people; and the folk who still believe in a capital tax—a rather discredited idea in these days—are trying to blow up the decaying embers of interest in that particular direction. It would all be very amusing to the onlooker—if the onlooker had not to pay fifteen guineas for a suit that in pre-war days cost six.

Dr. Warre.

Perhaps no man in the British Empire is so widely known as a Headmaster of Eton; he has castigated and instructed a whole generation of Viceroys, Governors-General, Field Marshals, and other personages at the impressionable period of their lives and bodies. Dr. Warre was a very old man, and most of those who passed through his hands are now nearing middle age; if he did not bulk so large in the outer world as Arnold or Temple, of Rugby, he left his mark on Eton, and he kept up the great traditions of the school.

The outcry against the public schools, by the way, seems to have died down for the time being. All the greater establishments, and most of the minor ones, have long waiting-lists from the preparatory schools; and when the average parent, in spite of heavy taxation and high prices, insists on sending his sons to the public school which has been denounced as "a place which gives the minimum of education at the maximum of cost" the task of the agitator seems hopeless.

Coast Erosion.

From time to time the scare that England is disappearing beneath the sea is revived. There have been one or two bad falls of cliff lately in the Thanet region, and an old East Anglian church, long threatened, has finally disappeared into the North Sea. Some figures that profess to be authoritative have now been published, and these indicate that the loss due to coastal erosion is very nearly compensated by the subsidence of the sea in other places. The East Coast and Cornwall are losing ground—Essex and Suffolk are suffering in particular—but Sussex is gaining soil. It is true that what is lost is usually fertile ground while what is gained is generally sandy, and useless for agriculture. But, on the whole, England appears to stand much where it did.

Appeals for Funds.

"Those who have money, prepare to spend it now" is the latest adaptation from Shakespeare. There is no lack of opportunity, for one institution after another is making its appeal. The Masons are asking for a round million for a new central home; the Salvation Army more modestly requests half a million; the missionary societies, hard hit by the exchanges, are anxious to maintain and increase their work; every diocesan organisation is in difficulties; and the hospitals, no longer adequate for the increased population, find that drugs, chemicals, and food cost more than ever. Some of the political propaganda societies are also hunting for funds. Most of the objects are deserving, but one does rather get the impression that there should be a central clearing house for charities and public institutions, which would point out the wisdom of not all advertising at once—and also not all advertising at the moment when the Income-Tax man is making his appeal.

The Ex-Kaiser.

The Dutch Government's refusal to give up the ex-Kaiser to the Allies was not unexpected. The refusal is very moderately worded, but it is difficult to see what further argument can be advanced to a sovereign State which stands on the right of sanctuary. The Dutch would probably be very glad if Wilhelm II. would give himself up, but that solution is scarcely likely to be popular at Amerongen.

A German Quarrel.

Most of the German politicians who have sprung up since the war are unknown quantities outside Berlin, but the violent personal quarrel between Erzberger and Helfferich has roused some interest. The former has been accused by the late German Finance Minister—he who wished the Allies "to drag through the centuries the burden of heavy indemnities"—of making a huge fortune out of the war. To this Herr Erzberger has replied that he married money, and was already rich before 1914. Whether the accusation is true or false nobody, of course, can say; but it is clear that Herr Erzberger, the "cunning fox" of the Centre Party, is still a power in Germany and still distrusted.

The German Fleet in War.

An authoritative naval diary which was kept by Admiral von Pohl has just been published in Berlin. These records indicate that, despite the remonstrances of von Tirpitz and the forward naval school, which wished to engage in action with the British Fleet, the Kaiser restrained the German Navy, and insisted on the policy of "watchful waiting" and inactivity. The battle of Heligoland, fought at the end of August, 1914, in which the Germans lost several ships and the British lost nothing, confirmed him in his view. It is to be hoped that this diary, which appears from its extracts to be both authoritative and trustworthy, and not written, like the memories of von Tirpitz, to justify a point of view, will be published in England. It indicates incidentally that Wilhelm II. objected to air-raids, but he was overruled. He wished to confine them to purely military objectives, and to have objected to the bombarding of women and children; this account of his attitude seems the more probable when one recalls that he objected to the sinking of the *Lusitania* on the ground that "no gentleman would drown so many women and children." But in the air-war, as in the submarine war, he seems to have allowed himself to be convinced against his better judgment.

The World of Books.

Mr. E. T. Raymond's "All and Sundry" is a continuation of the series of "Uncensored Celebrities," which earned him the title of "the malicious Debrett." In the present volume are discussed President Wilson, "the synthetic man," Mr. Harold Begbie, who can "sob on every occasion," Dean Inge, Lord Esher, Sir A. Conan Doyle, and many others. In a day when adulation is too often served up, in the Disraelian phrase, "on a trowel," Mr. E. T. Raymond's appearance as "advocatus diaboli," with the requisite amount of caustic, will be welcome to everybody but the victims.

Some interesting secrets are disclosed in Admiral Sir Douglas Brownrigg's "Indiscretions of the Naval Censor." Sir Douglas was head of that branch of the Censorship, and he must often have been amused as well as worried at the methods of the Admiralty. It was Lord Fisher, he states, who refused to publish the loss of the "Audacious," not Mr. Churchill, as has been generally assumed—perhaps because there is so much likeness between Mr. Churchill and audacity. On the other hand, Mr. Churchill wrote one or two communiqués, on the Coronel battle and other matters, which were suppressed because Lord Fisher threatened to resign if they were published. The names of those responsible for the first notorious announcement of the Jutland battle are given, and also the reason why the German papers came out with the news of the loss of the "Hampshire" before the British—a matter on which so large an amount of conjecture has been built. The author remarks at the close of his very informative book that he wishes he could have told the whole truth; but he has told enough to add a good deal to our knowledge of the inner activities.

Mr. E. V. Lucas has issued a new volume of essays in "The Phantom Journal," which will no doubt be popular with his many admirers. The work as a whole has been dull in a literary sense, but we cannot expect a new masterpiece every day.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 12.

The Milner M ion.

Lord Milner and his colleagues left to-day for Alexandria, where they will spend some days, and will establish contact with the British and European communities. Meanwhile there is practically no change in the situation, and the Princes' declaration appears in general to have had little effect. It was followed two days later by an interview published in one of the vernacular organs, in which Sarwat Pasha (Minister of Justice in the Rushdi Cabinet), on behalf of himself, and Adly Pasha (Minister of Education in the same Cabinet) declared that Lord Milner's Note had created a new situation; that they, in concert with Rushdi Pasha and the members of the Zaghlul Delegation in Egypt and France, were examining the question of the attitude which the nation should take up towards the Mission; and that if it was decided to enter into discussion with the latter there was nothing to fear if this was done by a body representing the nation, which would know how to protect the interests of Egypt, and would only accept what it thought fit. The Cairo Committee of the Egyptian Delegation at once issued a manifesto contradicting the statement in the interview that negotiations were in progress with the Delegation, and stating that Lord Milner's Note could under no circumstances constitute the basis for negotiation, and could not move the nation from its attitude.

The statement of the Committee is little credited, except among the more rabid of the Extremists; but, on the other hand, this interview has served to confirm the impression that the more responsible Egyptians realise that the time has come for some action to be taken by them, and that it is not in the interest of the country for the attitude hitherto adopted towards the Mission to be persisted in. It is evident that there is a growing body of opinion in favour of entering upon official discussion with the Mission, and as a matter of fact one of the members of the Cairo Committee has left for France, bearing letters on the subject for Zaghlul Pasha, who, it is hoped, may be persuaded to return to Egypt for the purpose of discussing the question with the Mission. If he declines to depart from the attitude he has so far adopted the only course will be for the group which has been negotiating here to take matters into its own hands. In that case the important and interesting point will be whether they will in the circumstances command sufficient following to carry through whatever agreement they may come to with the Mission.

The present situation is an exceedingly complicated one, requiring delicate handling, and making it very difficult to say which way the cat will jump. There are so many cross-currents and so many personal interests involved that he would be very bold who would dare to predict how matters will turn in so far as the general attitude towards the Mission is concerned.

A New Irrigation Commission.

On Saturday last the Council of Ministers decided upon the appointment of a Commission to examine the irrigation projects which have been under discussion for some time for the regulation of the waters of the Upper Nile for the benefit of Egypt and the Sudan. These projects include not only the construction of irrigation works on the White and Blue Nile, but also regulation of the Lakes; and, taken in their entirety, they are intended to provide the water necessary to enable Egypt to develop to the utmost extent her own agricultural resources and to permit of the Sudan undergoing similar development.

The whole question of the regulation of the waters of the Nile, both in the Delta and nearer its sources, has, as is by now well known, given rise to some controversy. A Committee met in London last year to examine certain phases of this question, particularly charges brought against the Ministry of Public Works by Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy, which it declared to be unfounded; but the projects themselves were not referred to it. These are now to be examined in their entirety by the new Commission, the members of which, contrary to what the London Committee was able to do, will examine the data on the spot.

It should be pointed out that, although the charges above referred to have been continued, the new Commission will not deal with them except in so far as the examination of the details of the projects necessitates, but that the object of the Egyptian Government is to leave no stone unturned to assure itself of the complete soundness of the projects themselves. Its action in this respect, moreover, must not be interpreted as indicating any lack of confidence in its own technical experts; it merely follows on the lines laid down in connection with the undertaking of previous large public works, when the independent examination of outside experts was invariably obtained.

The new Commission will consist of three members—an irrigation engineer nominated by the Indian Government, a British physicist nominated by the University of Cambridge, and an irrigation engineer nominated by the American Government. It is the earnest desire of the Egyptian Government to avail itself of the best irrigation experience to be obtained, and so make the Commission as authoritative as possible, and this is the reason an American engineer is to be one of the members. For the purpose of sifting evidence on points of conflict the Commission will have the assistance of a British judge. Its terms of reference are: (1) to examine and report on the physical data on which these projects rest; (2) to report on the manner in which the waters made available as a result of these projects should be apportioned as between Egypt and the Sudan; and (3) to report on the proper apportionment of the cost of these works as between Egypt and the Sudan, and it will have power to take evidence on oath. It is believed that the new Commission will be definitely constituted very soon, and that it will shortly commence its work.

Incidentally, I understand that there is a proposal to create what might be called a Conservancy Board representing the Egyptian and the Sudanese Governments for the purpose of controlling the distribution of the waters available in the Nile between the two countries.

The Attempt on the Prime Minister.

The inquiry into the attempt on the life of the Prime Minister, Sir Youssef Wahba Pasha, has been concluded; and the assailant, Erian Effendi Youssef Saad, will come before a Military Court on the 15th instant, exactly a month after the date of the attempt. Seeing that the man accused of the attempt on the life of the late Prime Minister, Sir Mohammed Said Pasha, on September 2 has not yet been brought to trial, it must

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be admitted that in this case the authorities have carried the inquiry through very speedily. Nevertheless, considering that the man was caught *flagrante delicto* and confessed his guilt, it is difficult to see why he should not have been summarily dealt with. Even a month is too long to allow to elapse between the commission of a crime and the trial, especially in the East and under present conditions.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, January 19.

Serbs and Albanians.

There is one phase of the Adriatic question which has not attracted very wide attention, being overshadowed by the more prominent and pressing problem of Fiume, and that is the question of Albania. It is understood that Italy claims a protectorate over the whole of Albania; though Albania was recognised as an independent State in 1913, and Italy made no such claims then. While her claim to Valona and the dependent territory is justified on strategic grounds, it is difficult to find any argument in favour of her desire to secure the whole of Albania. For years Albania has been the happy hunting-ground of Austrian and Italian political agents, each seeking to spread the power and influence of his employers, and only just after the Balkan wars did we hear much of Greek pretensions. Northern Albania was largely dominated by Austria, though the influence of Italian culture was felt, for Skadar had had commercial relations with Venice for centuries, and the Italian language was generally known in Skadar and the coast villages. But further inland, all foreign influence became very shadowy among the wild hill tribes.

It is reported that the Council in Paris has given a sympathetic hearing to a deputation of Albanian *emigrés*, who pressed for the recognition of their national status, with no unwanted protectors, and it is to be hoped that they will be granted at least some proportion of the much-talked-of but little adopted right of self-determination. The undoubted services of Essad Pasha to the Allied cause, too, should be borne in mind. It may be argued that he was handsomely subsidised; but the fact remains that his assistance was decidedly useful, and many thousands of Serbs of all ages and both sexes have good cause to bless the *Essadovtsi*, as they call his retainers who policed his sphere of influence during the terrible days of November and December, 1915.

This brings us to the question of Serbo-Albanian relations. Capital is often made of the secular hostility between Serbs and Albanians; but this is very largely exaggerated. There is undoubtedly a large element of Albanian blood in the Montenegrins, and the purely Albanian portion of the population of Montenegro has lived on good terms, generally speaking, with the Montenegrins themselves since they became subjects of King Nicholas on the cession of Albanian territory after 1878. There is a substantial contingent of Albanians who live on quite good terms with the Serbs in Macedonia, and during the early struggles with the Turks the Albanians and Serbs of the Zeta, as Montenegro was then called, were as often brothers-in-arms as they were enemies. If the Serbs have cause to complain to-day of the raids by marauding bands of hillsmen who come down upon the villages and loot the cattle, the cause is rather the mediæval condition of the country, and not necessarily innate racial hostility. The inter-tribal warfare of the Arnauts is just as fierce as, and probably more bitter than, their hostility to their Slavonic neighbours. There is no inherent reason why Albanians and Serbs should not dwell side by side on neighbourly terms, making due allowance for the unruly character of the mountaineers and mediæval condition of the country. The Serbs ask only to be left in peace, that enemy agents shall cease stirring up the Arnauts against them, and that they shall have a reasonably secure strategic frontier given them. They strongly sympathise in the Albanians' demand for independence. If this is granted, given time, the Albanians should develop into useful members of European comity, for they are industrious and often gifted: and many a good soldier and administrator have they given to Turkey during the past four hundred years. A people that has preserved its national characteristics in so marked a fashion from the dawn of history should be given a chance. Borrowing something from Italian, something from Greek, something from Slav, and again something from Turkish, culture, they will certainly imprint upon all the impress of their marked individuality, and it will be exceedingly interesting to watch their development.

The Constituent Assembly.

Preparations are proceeding for the Constituent Assembly. Negotiations are in progress between the Government and the parties for representation of all shades of thought in the committee which is being formed to carry it through. On this committee, the Democrats and supporters of the Government will have fourteen representatives, and the Opposition *bloc* thirteen. The Speaker, Dr. Pavlovitch, will be an ex-officio member, and Dr. Smodlaka as a non-party man; the Yugoslovenski Club will be represented by Dr. Gostinchar, and Messrs. Banitch and Shevegel; and the Narodny Club by Messrs. Markovitch and Drinkovitch. In addition to these, the following six professors will represent learning: Drs. B. Boshniak, L. Pitomeu (Liubliana), V. Politch, M. Konstantinovitch (Zagreb), Slobodan Jovanovitch, and K. Kumanudi, with M. Yasha Prodanovitch.

A "Learned Society."

The struggles and vicissitudes of internal and external politics have not stifled intellectual movement among the Yugoslavs, and there is being formed a kind of association under the name *Obnova* (Renewal) simultaneously in Belgrade and in Zagreb, to encourage and assist learning in all its forms, above party, free from politics, and devoted to the learning and tradition which are the common heritage of Serbs and Croats alike. The *Obnova* will not supersede the literary institutions like the Matitsa Srpske of Novi Sad, the Matitsa Hrvatska of Zagreb, the Matitsa of Dubrovnik, Prosvijeta i Cairet of Serajevo, the Drushtvo Sv. Mohora of Liubliana, but will help them morally and materially; it will work by means of lectures, meetings, publications and the regular machinery of learned and literary societies, and will carry on that tradition of literary effort which has had so profound an influence upon the history of the Yugoslav people since the birth of the national idea a century and a half ago.

Agrarian Reform.

Agrarian Reform is proceeding in spite of criticism and the absence of Parliament. In what was previously Austro-Hungarian territory, a hundred thousand hectares have been divided up among the peasants. The population is divided into five categories, that is, large landowners, proprietors who let their estates, those who work their own land, small holders, and those who have nothing. Agrarian Committees are being formed in each commune, on which there will be one member to represent twenty constituents of each of these five classes.

A Plethora of Parties.

Preparations are in full swing for a keen contest for the municipal elections in Croatia, especially in Zagreb and in Osijek, but the number of parties and cross-currents make them very difficult for the foreigner to follow. A new paper, the *Zagreb*, has appeared, devoted solely to local affairs, but the parties outnumber the paper. In Zagreb there are the following: Christian Socialists, Popular Socialists, Democratic Union, Croatia Union, the Communists, Social Patriots, Peasant Party, and Radicals. What makes it more complex is that the lines of cleavage on municipal matters do not always correspond with the division on political matters. It is said that feeling runs very high, and the contest will be a bitter one.

Serbia and Austria.

Although the Serbs very naturally resented the attempts, wisely abandoned, of the Supreme Council in Paris to link the question of revictualling Austria with the war indemnity; they are now, of their free will, arranging to supply Vienna with food, as I have previously reported. A complete agreement has now been reached. Serbian misgivings and fears of a Monarchist

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movement in Austria are strengthened by the activities of Dr. Ivo Frank, whose name is insolubly associated with the anti-Serb party in Zagreb. As Dr. Frank was in favour with the Hapsburgs in the bad old days, but now appears in Graz as a Republican, while conducting a violent anti-union campaign, it is believed that his aim is the break-up of the Union and the establishment of a Republic as a stepping-stone towards a restoration of the Monarchy. It is stated that Italy, or at least some Italians, are supporting him, and that a meeting was recently held in Milan for this purpose.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 10.

Another Crisis?

While many deputies and senators took advantage of the special Parliamentary trains which the Government obtained from the hard-pressed Railway Directorate, and scattered to various parts of the country for the Christmas holidays (these are still celebrated according to the Orthodox Church calendar in Roumania, and, therefore, fall thirteen days later than our own), the political atmosphere can hardly be said to have cleared during their absence. Efforts are being made to form a new majority block in the Chamber amongst the different political parties of the Old Kingdom and certain elements of the new territories' representatives. The idea seems to be to furnish General Averescu with sufficient backing to form a new Government, in which the Liberal Party will also be represented. It is said that a difference of opinion has arisen between General Averescu and M. Také Jonescu regarding the advisability of continuing to press for a dissolution of the present Chamber on the grounds that it does not represent the country. In this connection it will be remembered that M. Také Jonescu's party, the Conservative Democrats, did not put up any candidates at the recent elections as it was felt that Opposition candidates would not have a fair opportunity in view of the strictly enforced censorship and diverse restrictions consequent upon the continuation of martial law. At the time General Averescu took the same stand, and the League of the People Party followed the advice of their leader. Now it appears that the Liberals have persuaded the General that by joining forces with them it may be possible to form an Averescu-Bratianu Cabinet. An alternative Government, also suggested, would include some of the Transylvanian leaders, General Averescu and M. Také Jonescu, and, presumably, the Bukovina and Bessarabia would be represented; but it does not seem probable that M. Také Jonescu would enter into any combination without a definite promise of new general elections.

Dr. Vaida-Voevod, the present Prime Minister, returned to Bucharest on Wednesday last from a brief visit to Transylvania, and a Cabinet meeting was held to consider problems arising out of the Bolshevist advances in South Russia. Permission to enter Bessarabia has been given to the numerous Greek refugees from Odessa.

Alleged Party Intrigues.

It has been freely stated in the Press that the Liberal Party are not confining their activities to the formation of a new Parliamentary *bloc*. The action of General Prezan, Chief of the General Staff, in mobilising the tram-drivers and guards, who had returned to work pending the outcome of the conferences between the men and their employers upon equitable scales of wages and conditions of work, is cited as an instance of the occult influence exercised through the General Staff by the Liberal Party. The three-weeks' long tram strike was telling on the nerves of the Bucharest population, and it hailed with joy the success of Dr. Lupu, the new Minister of the Interior, in persuading the men to go back to work and to leave the question of wages scales in the hands of a committee, on which workers and employers were to have equal representation, the Minister of Commerce acting as chairman and holding the deciding vote. The Bucharest tramway is generally regarded as a Liberal undertaking; their opponents are careful to point out that its stock fell from 6,000 to 3,000 lei after the defeat of the Liberal Party at the elections.

A more serious accusation was made in the *Chemerea*, which stated that an offer of peace terms made by the Bolshevists to the Roumanian Government by wireless was not delivered to the Government. As Roumania is still under martial law, the wireless station is under the control of the General Staff. The obvious solution of these difficulties would be the demobilisation of the General Staff, but this, it is stated, is not feasible until the demobilisation of the army is completed. Whether it will be found advisable to release any more classes is largely dependent on developments to the north, where the Bolshevists claim to be in possession of Odessa once more. News from Bulgaria is anything but reassuring, and Roumania will be forced to keep prepared for possible difficulties in this direction as well.

Bureau Britannique.

Criticism of the law passed during the last session of the Chamber authorising the Government to take over the assets and liabilities of the "Bureau Britannique" does not seem to take into account the fact that the British Government are foregoing their claim for the eighteen thousand waggons of grain lent by them to the Roumanian War Office, and which the Roumanian Government of that time agreed to replace in kind within six months of the signing of peace. Even if Roumania had sufficient wheat on hand to-day to permit of the exportation of this eighteen thousand waggons, the value of this quantity alone at current prices would vastly exceed the amount now being paid for the whole contract—less only those quantities destroyed by British agents or ceded by them to the Russians—whilst, if the British Government exacted payment at existing rates of exchange for their sterling expenditure of 1916, the Roumanian Government would be obliged to disburse five or six times what is now being paid at the conventional rate of 26.22 lei to the £ sterling. It is difficult to see upon what possible calculations the criticism of M. Vintilla Bratianu, that the British Government might have shown greater consideration for an ally, is based.

Peace Conference.

Dr. Ion Cantacuzino and Prince Dimitru Ghika, the new Roumanian delegates at the Peace Conference, have arrived in Paris, and great hopes are entertained that they will be able to arrange an acceptable interpretation of the Minorities clauses. The Prime Minister, Dr. Vaida-Voevod, will leave for Paris immediately after the holidays and will make a brief stay there. The Chamber meets again on January 26, and the Prime Minister is expected to return for this event.

Autumn Sowings.

The official statistics for the autumn sowings have just been issued, and are rather disappointing. Approximately a quarter of the area usually sown with winter wheat had been sown by the end of November. Sharp frosts put an end to the work soon after this, and it cannot be anticipated that the winter-wheat crop of next year will do more than supply seed corn for the following year. Any possible exports, therefore, depend upon spring cultivation. All grain stocks in the country

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have been immobilised, and after deduction has been made for the food supply of the country until the next harvest, the balance will be distributed for the spring sowing.

Export Credit and the Cernavoda Bridge.

News has been received that Roumania has been added to the list of countries who are to benefit by the British Export Credit scheme, although no details are forthcoming as to the amount allotted to her. It might be suggested in this connection that a proportion of the money which Roumania is to receive should be earmarked for the "Borcea Bridge." The imperative necessity of reconstructing the bridge, which is the span of the great Cernavoda suspension bridge across the Danube destroyed by the Roumanian Army in their retreat from the Dobrouja in 1916, will be obvious to anyone glancing at a map of the country. At present the nearest port to the capital is practically isolated, as the flimsy pontoon bridge over this arm of the Danube must be crossed by daylight. The train service is thus restricted to one train a day each way, and these are crowded inside and out, passengers clinging to the carriage steps and sitting closely packed on the carriage roofs—as indeed are all Roumanian trains to-day. During the summer the trip was not so bad, although the pontoon bridge was not in working order, and the river was crossed by ferry. Bands of gipsies gathered about and sang songs to while the hours away, while their more enterprising companions carried passengers' luggage from train to ferry. No one familiar with the customs of these picturesque vagabonds will be surprised to hear that small pieces of hand luggage had a way of disappearing *en route*.

A much more serious feature, however, is the fact that the pipe line destined to carry petroleum products from the refineries to the port of Constantza crosses the Danube on this bridge, and the temporary link which was placed on the pontoon bridge has not been working satisfactorily. The storage tanks at the refineries throughout the country are full to overflowing, and at many wells it has been found necessary to retard production. Petroleum is Roumania's most valuable available export at the present moment, and no permanent appreciable amelioration in the exchange question can be expected until the transport difficulties which at present limit exports to an inconsiderable amount are overcome. The Railway directorate has made arrangements with the petroleum producers for a large number of damaged trucks to be handed over to individual oil companies, who will repair them at their own workshops, and in return will enjoy the exclusive use of the repaired trucks for a certain period of time. In view of the difficulty of finding locomotives to move trains about it is likely that the oil companies will be forced to use the repaired tank-trucks as storage space, and the export problem will not be any nearer a solution. There is at present a proposal on foot to replace the five-inch pipe across the pontoon bridge by a six-inch pipe run under the waters of the river (the pipe down to the river bank is a ten-inch one), but this work is not to be begun until the river freezes.

Roumanian Oil for Fiume Refinery.

The *Moniteur Officiel* of January 6 publishes a decision of the Council of Ministers authorising the sale of 3,500 tons of crude oil to the Italian Government for the petroleum refinery at Fiume. The arrangement was made through the Italian Military Attaché in Bucharest, General Ferigo.

BULGARIA.

Bulgaria's Position—Prime Minister's Survey.

SOFIA, December 31.

On December 26, in a Chamber that was rather excited owing to recent events, M. Stambouliski, the Prime Minister, made a statement regarding his mission to Paris. In spite of many interruptions by the Communists and the Moderate Socialists, he spoke for four hours, and was able to put his facts brilliantly.

He had gone to Paris, he declared, in the interests of the State, which were supreme over all others. The Peace, though bad, had to be signed; otherwise Bulgaria would still be regarded as in a state of war. His main pre-occupation had been to prepare the ground for a modification, in the near future, of the onerous peace terms; and, secondly, he had made an attempt to bring about a reconciliation with neighbouring States. Before long, he declared, perhaps in three years' time, the world would demand a revision of the Treaty. But Bulgaria must prove that she had broken for ever with the old policy; not plans for new wars, but peaceful work and intensive cultural development would raise her in the eyes of the Western nations, and build a bridge to an understanding and reconciliation with the neighbouring States.

In his interviews with Entente statesmen, M. Stambouliski had sought to make it clear that the Bulgarian nation was neither Chauvinistic nor militaristic in spirit, but by nature inclined to peace and work. Further, he had laid stress on the fact that Bulgaria was conquered, not so much by force of arms, as by President Wilson's principles. The enemy, by means of pamphlets dropped from flying machines, had conducted propaganda among the Bulgarian troops, who had been thus told that the world would be regenerated, not by force of arms, but by the power of those humane principles in the name of which the Entente was fighting; Bulgaria's legitimate demands would be respected, and that consequently the war became absurd. Thus, war-weariness was bred in the soul of the Bulgarian soldier, and the present misfortune of the country was brought about. In order to help Bulgaria to emerge from her sad position, and in accordance with the will of the nation, M. Stambouliski addressed letters to MM. Venizelos and Pashitch, and General Coanda, heads of the Greek, Serbian, and Roumanian Peace Delegations, asking for reconciliation and neighbourly understanding.

As to the future prospects of Bulgaria, the Prime Minister expressed optimistic views. The sovereignty of the Ægean was not awarded to Greece; henceforth the Conference would be concerned with its fate. The Bulgarians' first task was to disperse the suspicions of them with which their enemies had saturated the atmosphere of Paris. The world looked on them as barbarians, incorrigible rebels, and disturbers of the peace in the Balkans. M. Stambouliski had done his best to remove that impression, and to inspire confidence in Bulgaria's sincere intentions to work in future for peace. He had received particularly pleasant impressions from his visit to Italy, where he was received with considerate attention by Italian statesmen and by the Pope.

M. Stambouliski paid a tribute to the Army, which had always kept itself above party, had defended the authority of the State, and had done its duty to the Fatherland with dignity. Finally, he pleaded fer-

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vently for the preservation of order at all cost, so that the ground should be prepared for a future revision of the Peace Treaty. Favourable conditions must be created for the development of the full strength of the Bulgarian nation; only a Bulgaria of work and peace would be of value to herself and to the world.

On the conclusion of his speech, M. Stambouliski was warmly applauded, not only by his own party—the Agrarians—but also by other parties in the Chamber.

Visit of General Franchet d'Esperey.

This morning, General Franchet d'Esperey arrived here, en route for Budapest. He broke his journey for a few hours in order to be presented to King Boris, and to return M. Stambouliski's visit. He was met at the station by the Prime Minister, by M. Madjaroff, M. Dimitroff, Minister of Railways, and by other Ministers and high officials; and at 11 o'clock he was received in audience by the King. At noon he had an important interview with the Prime Minister, who, I understand, was well satisfied with the result. At three o'clock King Boris returned his visit, at the hotel of the former Turkish Legation; and at five the General left by special train.

General Bridges, of the British Army, also arrived here from Constantinople, and left with General d'Esperey for Budapest.

Sofia's Cathedral.

In accordance with a decision of the Cabinet, M. Madjaroff, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Public Worship, has introduced in the Chamber a proposal to annul the action of the Radoslavoff Government in changing the name of the Cathedral from "St. Alexander Nevsky" to "Sts. Cyrille and Methode." The former name was chosen by the Bulgarian Holy Synod in commemoration of the Russo-Turkish Loan of 1877 for the liberation of Bulgaria. St. Cyrille and St. Methode were, of course, the Salonika brothers who converted the Bulgarians to Christianity, and gave them their alphabet.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 15.*

Sabah ed Din Bey.

The Cabinet has apparently survived the arrival of Sabah ed Din Bey, who seems to have succeeded in a remarkably short space of time in alienating the sympathies of all parties. His pronouncement concerning the Nationalists, which was reported in last week's letter,† deprived him of all hope of support from his quondam friends, without, however, satisfying his political opponents. It is nevertheless reported in the local press that the "Prince" (as the journalists persist in calling him) has consented to stand for Parliament, and that his nomination is practically certain. This is rather a drop from the position of Grand Vizier, which he was expected to fill, but half a loaf is better than no bread at all. It is somewhat difficult to understand the reason for the prestige which Sabah ed Din Bey has hitherto enjoyed. His father was not a favourite with Abdul Hamid, and left Turkey for France when Sabah ed Din was only a child. Only after the proclamation of the Constitution was Sabah ed Din able to return to his native country, and then it was but for a brief space. He became involved in reactionary intrigues and only escaped arrest through the influence of his mother, a princess of the Imperial family. Subsequently he was suspected of complicity in the assassination of Mahmud Shefket Pasha, and having fled from Turkey was unable to return until now. It is true that had it been applied his "decentralisation" programme might have saved Turkey from many misfortunes; but would Sabah ed Din Bey have been the man to try the experiment? On the whole, there is very little in his political career or in his personal accomplishments to justify his reputation.

Effect of Germany's Attitude.

In certain quarters there seems to have been a tendency to hope for a change in the situation on the strength of the attitude observed by Germany towards the Allies in regard to the signature of the protocol to the Peace Treaty. The Unionist paper, *Ifham*, suggested that the delay over the Peace Treaty with Turkey was, perhaps, after all, not a disadvantage, since "Time is a great master." On the whole, however, it is realised that all hopes of assistance from Germany are, at all events at present, vain.

Pan-Islamism.

Certain passages in the interview accorded recently by the Sultan to the correspondent of the Associated Press are worthy of note. In speaking of the interests of Europe in the maintenance of peace in the Orient, his Majesty said that this could only be guaranteed by leaving Turkey her independence, and added that *this was also the only means of pacifying the Islamic world.* With regard to America, the Sultan expressed his belief that that Power would not betray the hopes placed in her *by millions of Turks and Moslems.* In passing, American prohibitionists must have been pleased to hear that the Khalif expressed the great satisfaction of the Moslem world with regard to the application in America of the anti-alcoholic precepts practised by Moslems for centuries.

Somewhat more cryptic, but equally significant, are the utterances of certain Turkish newspapers. The following extract from the most extreme pan-Islamic organ, the *Turk Dunyassi* ("Turkish World"), is an example:—

"The strength of Islam resides not in its quantity, but in its quality. You will realise the truth of this assertion in studying the history of the two other religions which count the most followers: Christianity and Buddhism. Judaism being strictly a 'national religion' need not be mentioned. The Mohammedan religion is a power which assists the perfect development of Islam and the national ideal of every people. If the history of the first period of the Mohammedan religion is carefully studied, we think the truth of this statement will be acknowledged."

Mustafa Kemal's circular to the Powers of Europe referred, it will be remembered, to the danger of a conflagration involving "two continents" in the event of the peace terms being "unjust." Recent events would seem to show that such pronouncements are not quite all bluff.

The Nationalists.

The Cabinet seems to have ceased to struggle against the "government" of Sivas, and, according to official reports, the elections are proceeding with the completest calm imaginable, while such is the state of order and security that, one may deduce from official statements, Anatolia is like a church. Mustafa Kemal Pasha, Rauf and Rustem Beys were all elected to Parliament—without any pressure, of course; but to prove that there was no deception each has declined the honour. So the farce continues. If Mustafa Kemal had been in command in the later stages of the war in Palestine or Mesopotamia, instead of at Gallipoli and the Caucasus, he would perhaps realise more clearly how easily the farce may become a tragedy for his "National Forces."

Monsieur Picot.

The journey of M. Picot, late French High Commissioner in Syria, seems to have been singularly ill-timed, and it would be interesting to know who was really responsible for the idea. Happily, there is very little fear of any real harm being done, but it is a pity to give Mustafa Kemal and his followers the slightest encouragement in their hopes of a diversion caused by Anglo-French differences.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 22.*

The Elections.

The Constantinople elections terminated with a complete triumph for the Unionists, the eleven successful candidates being all more or less sympathetic to the ideals of the Committee. Among them was a Socialist candidate, Naaman Effendi, a foreman at the Zeytin Burnu powder factory. "Comrade" Naaman is the first "Labour" member to be elected by the Ottoman Parliament, and he states that he will defend the interests of the "proletariat" (blessed word!) against the "capitalists." Incidentally, he also declares that he was elected by the "Socialist-Nationalists," whoever they may be. As a matter of fact, there is strong reason

* Delayed in transmission.

† Published in THE NEAR EAST December 26.

* Delayed in transmission.

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to believe that the "Socialist" movement is only another move in the really clever game of the Unionists.

The almost universal success of the Unionists, however, seems to have created a certain amount of nervousness even in quarters that have been hitherto openly in sympathy with them. It is as if their complete triumph was altogether unexpected, and now that they have won in such a sweeping fashion it is realised that the effect upon the Peace Conference may be unfortunate. Even the *Vakit*, the editor of which was a close associate of Talaat, to-day deplores the complete triumph of the Committee.

Meanwhile there are persistent rumours to the effect that the Government contemplates preventing the Chamber from meeting. While the irregularities that have been committed in the elections and the widespread dissatisfaction would provide the Government with sound reasons for such a step, the official announcements to the effect that everything has proceeded in perfect order deprive the Government of the right to act upon those reasons, and it is said that the legal status of the Chamber will be called into question. The Constitutional law stipulates for a certain quorum in the Chamber, and this quorum cannot possibly be attained. Hence, from the legal point of view, the Parliament cannot meet.

It may be of interest to note that Sabah ed Din Bey only obtained 107 votes, while the "Labour" candidate, who was at the bottom of the list of the successful members, obtained 135. The present Minister of Foreign Affairs obtained only 98, and the Minister of the Interior only 41.

The Nationalists.

It was said at one time that as soon as the Chamber was convoked, the Nationalist Forces would have no further cause for existence, and would be disbanded. The Grand Vizier, through the medium of the Director of the Press, now declares that the National Forces will not do anything of the kind, but that they are resolved to defend the Eastern frontier as traced by the Sivas Congress. Mustafa Kemal himself in many a proclamation and telegram has never made any secret of the Nationalists' determination to resist what they would consider an unjust peace, but it has pleased the Government to maintain the fiction that the Nationalist Organisation had no other purpose than to restore Parliamentary Government.

How far the Nationalists will be able "to defend the Eastern frontier" remains to be seen. Presumably the phrase refers to the possibility of the Armenian Republic being awarded certain territories from the Eastern provinces. According to reports from sources that ought to be reliable, Mustafa Kemal's forces consist of only a few thousand men; poorly equipped and supplied. But it would be unwise to deduce from this that the Nationalists are only bluffing, for while the actual number of men under arms may not be very considerable, the fact that the National Forces can paralyse all communications in Anatolia at any moment proves that their organisation is sound, and that their adherents are very numerous.

A New Mahdi.

While the pan-Islamic campaign is in active progress both in Constantinople and in the provinces, a diversion has arisen at Baiburt, a small city half way between Trebizond and Erzerum. Here an individual, named Hassan Vasfi, has proclaimed himself Mahdi, and has secured a certain number of followers in the region. The Government has given orders for the Mahdi's arrest.

Anti-British Press Campaign.

It is strange that at the present moment when the British Army has been demobilised to such an extent that our miltary occupation of Turkey may almost be said to have become a matter of form, since our forces are far inferior to those which the Turks are permitted (*by the Armistice treaty*) to keep under arms—quite apart from the "National Forces"—we should be accused of selfish Imperialism and heaven knows what underhand intrigues in order to establish our dominion over Turkey. It is also strange—and highly regrettable—that such accusations should come, not from our late adversaries so much as from our own Allies, the French. August, 1914, has apparently been forgotten, at least by a section of French journalism. *L'Europe Nouvelle*, published in Paris, makes a speciality of attacking our Oriental policy, and every week its articles on the subject become more scurrilous and more libellous. In the number of December 6 *L'Europe Nouvelle* descended to personalities, and classed Dr. Frew, the well-known Constantinople pastor, as an "agent" of the British Government.

While this obscure publication is beneath contempt in many ways, it is unfortunately true that its capacity for harm is not altogether negligible, from the circumstance that it seems to be to the interest of certain people, who prefer to keep in the background, to see that the paper is circulated among Moslems in the Near East. Even the *Stamboul*, which is generally regarded as the "officieux" organ of the French Embassy in

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Constantinople, in a recent article could not avoid references to "agents" and British Imperialism, which is stated to pursue in the Orient "the most irresponsible of policies." That such statements are wrapped up in phrases affirming the necessity for the Anglo-Franco-American Entente only aggravates the offence. What may be innocuous and legitimate criticism under other circumstances, when published at the present moment in the *Stamboul* is indiscreet, to put it mildly. And as the *Orient News*, the only British paper in the Near East, keeps strictly to news and quite impersonal leaders or literary articles, it is also taking an unfair advantage.

In the long run such statements cannot do us much harm, but they raise false hopes and create a false impression, with a final result that may possibly be just the reverse of what the authors of such statements intend.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 29.*

What Do They Really Want?

Among the Turks of Constantinople it is a commonly expressed complaint that the European never moves away from the infected neighbourhood of Pera, and is therefore ignorant of Turkey and the Turks. Whether this be true or not, it would puzzle any but the Turkish mind to find an explanation for the strange vagaries of public opinion with regard to the elections. When Damad Ferid Pasha was Grand Vizier there was an outcry against his unconstitutional government without a Parliament, and the Press clamoured for an immediate general election, while Mustafa Kemal Pasha declared that the Nationalist forces simply existed to safeguard the Constitution and to see that the elections were properly carried out. The retirement of Damad Ferid Pasha and the convocation of Parliament would save the country, according to the Press. At last Damad Ferid Pasha had to yield to the popular clamour, and retired, and his successor immediately set to work upon the general election. In the course of these elections not only has the Government officially announced that everything has been carried out in perfect order and fairness, but any suggestion to the contrary was hotly contradicted by the Press, which could hardly find words to express its eulogies of Mustafa Kemal Pasha and his fellow-Nationalists. As for the Committee of Union and Progress, only the foolish and ignorant European could possibly believe that it had any connection with the Nationalists. All this seems to be forgotten to-day. First we have the *Vakit*, pro-Nationalist and Unionist, professing to deplore the Unionist victory in the elections, and now we have the *Tasfir-i-Efkiar* following suit. The latter paper sent a special correspondent to see Mustafa Kemal himself at a time when Anatolia was not very safe for travellers who were not *bien vu* by the Nationalists, and it was louder than any other paper in its praises of the patriotic work of Mustafa Kemal Pasha, as also in its denial of any possibility of the Unionists being associated with him. Yet to-day it writes.—"It is absolutely necessary to annul the elections. Only upon this condition can the future Chamber really represent the nation. If this liquidation is not achieved, our last hope of salvation will also have been sacrificed upon the remains of the Union and Progress, that sinister group which has been the cause of all our misfortunes."

The Committee—in Switzerland.

Meanwhile the *Alemdar*, edited by the son of Muhi-ed-Din Pasha, the Governor of Angora, who was arrested and ejected from his post by the Nationalists some months ago, has been making our flesh creep. The editor of this Turkish paper claims to possess documentary proof that the Unionist manœuvres that have had such a striking success in the elections were planned and directed by our old friends Talaat, Jemal, and Javid! With regard to the last, the *Alemdar* states that he escaped from Constantinople with the assistance of Izzet Melih Bey, of the Tobacco Régie, and proceeded viâ Rome to Switzerland, whence the Turkish Minister at Berne, Reshid Halis Bey, demanded his expulsion by the Federal Government, as well as that of Ismail Hakki Pasha, the War Office Supply millionaire. But just as the negotiations with the Swiss Government were coming to a favourable conclusion Ferid Pasha fell from power, and Reshid Halis Bey was dismissed from his post. Since then, says the *Alemdar*, the Unionists have had things all their own way in Switzerland, and a conference was held at Lausanne, attended by Nejmeddin Mollah, the Unionist ex-Minister of Justice, and Halajian Effendi, the Armenian Unionist ex-Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, among others, under the presidency of Javid Bey. Talaat and Jemal arrived in Switzerland in their turn, and the Committee, thus reconstituted, direct the Unionist campaign in Turkey. There is reason to believe that these statements are substantially perfectly true, but since the Allied Governments must be well aware of what is taking place there is no need to take the matter very seriously. What is more serious is the following statement of the *Alemdar*:—"The German Government is materially and morally assisting these sinister intriguers, and the Consulate of a neighbouring State of Turkey is acting as the medium of communication between the Unionists of the Empire and those who are now refugees in Switzerland and Germany."

In view of the striking proofs we have had of the duplicity of the German Government, there is every reason to believe the above statements; and unless we have forgotten the danger which Germany created in the East during the war we ought to watch the course of events with the greatest attention. For it is beyond doubt that Bolshevist Russia is only able to keep going with German assistance, and the way to Central Asia is now clear for German agents. In this respect, also, it is worth recalling that the German attitude towards the Allies recently had a certain reaction in Turkish political circles.

The Political Atmosphere

The news that the fate of Turkey is now seriously under discussion and that some progress has been made in the negotiations has generated a certain amount of electricity in the political atmosphere. For the last week further news has been eagerly sought, and it is not difficult to see that the Turks have a very lively fear of what is in store for them. For one thing, the close association of Great Britain and France in the matter has dissipated recent hopes of an Anglo-French misunderstanding, to achieve which a good deal of ink has been spilt and no inconsiderable amount of money has been spent. It is also realised, now that the fatal moment has arrived, that whatever may be the decisions of the Allies there will be no escape—National Forces or no National Forces.

There seem to be three principal currents of opinion among the Turks with regard to what they consider would be just peace terms: First, there are the Nationalists *à outrance*, who insist upon the complete territorial integrity of the whole of Asia Minor and the maintenance of Constantinople as the capital of the Empire; a smaller section would be willing to make certain territorial concessions to Armenia, but would "fight to the last drop of their blood" against the annexation by Greece of even a square centimetre of Anatolia; finally, there is a minute party which thinks the best plan is to confess frankly that the Turks are incapable of decent government, that they have been guilty of the most frightful crimes against humanity, and to implore the mercy and assistance of the Allies—to throw themselves upon the mercy of the court, as it were. But in all three cases there is a certain unanimity upon the matter of Turkish independence. The tiny minority alone would admit a mandate—for a limited period; the second party

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would like to be "assisted" for a period of years by England or France; while the die-hards will hear of no control whatever—nothing short of the abolition of the Capitulations and the most unrestrained freedom and independence will be acceptable to them. All three really want the same thing—the abolition of the Capitulations—but the die-hards want it at once, while the others are more or less willing to wait for it or to agree to a gradual process of liberation in proportion to the country's progress in the art of humane and just government.

The Caucasus.

In the meanwhile it is good to hear that the Caucasian republics are beginning to pull together, probably under the benevolent inspiration of the British representative in Tiflis, Mr. Wardrop. The Georgian Government has recently assisted in the conclusion of an agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and there is reason to hope that all outstanding questions will soon be amicably settled, thus putting an end to the bloodshed that has been occurring for the last twelve months or more. There is already an agreement between Georgia and Azerbaijan, and another between Georgia and Armenia. If the three republics could really form a solid *bloc* it would go a long way towards settling satisfactorily the Caucasian question in particular, and would have a healthy influence upon the Near Eastern situation in general. There is at present a conference at Tiflis of delegates from all three Caucasian States for the purpose of definitely settling all outstanding questions. The success of this conference will be a credit to its initiators, for until recently there seemed to be no more thorny question than that of bringing permanent peace to the Caucasus.

CYPRUS.

January 3.

Return of the Deputation.

The Archbishop and six of the members have returned to their homes; M. Theodotou and M. Nicolaïdes remain in London. All the returning members met with a very cordial welcome home, meetings being held and speeches delivered in their honour. Many Greeks are still of opinion that the delegates should return to London, and they are being assured in that case of full local support. The reply of the deputation to Mr. Lloyd George is published. It acknowledges the promise of full consideration, but expresses disappointment that the hopes of Greek Cypriots have not yet been realised.

Salaries of Officials.

Anxiety continues to be felt regarding the inadequacy of all salaries in the present state of affairs. Papers publish the reply of the Under-Secretary of State, given in the House of Commons, that the question is under consideration in respect of some Crown Colonies, and that the Home Government is giving careful attention to the matter as affecting other colonies, among which Cyprus is included. This, of course, also touches closely the matter of pensions. While insistence is urged here, as elsewhere, on the need of "a living wage" for those in harness, justice obviously demands that when old age is reached, after long service, the retiring allowance should *a fortiori* be sufficient to enable an official to live respectably, which is certainly not in many instances the case at present.

Bad Weather.

There have been heavy rains. In the north-west damage was done to the railway at some points, and traffic was interrupted for several days. The Kyrenia District, in the north, has borne the brunt of the storms. Torrential rains brought down volumes of water. Some 10 ins. fell in forty-eight hours, and 14 ins. in three weeks, which is phenomenal in Cyprus. Considerable damage has been done to properties. Some Government work at the Kyrenia Fort, one of the interesting relics of mediæval times, has been swept into the sea, causing serious loss.

MALTA.

Valetta, January 13.

Self-Government.

The idea of self-government keeps to the fore in Malta. The despatch from the Secretary of State concerning the matter has had time now to be understood, and is being widely discussed. Opinions as to the proposed change are conflicting. The most substantial point at issue is: Where do Imperial interests begin and end?, and this is a very important point indeed. In the past the drainage question, road construction, the police, capital punishment, etc., have been considered matters of Imperial concern, but there are quite a number of local legislators who would like an alteration in these matters. The Imperial authorities have vast interests to safeguard, but it is to be hoped that in the cavilling which there is bound to be over the matter, the advantages will not be overlooked. It appears to us that the Imperial authorities have made an honest effort to cope with the situation.

Scarcity of Food.

There is a great scarcity of bread and sugar in the island, and the poorer class are in a very bad way. The local government in the past have done much by subsidies, but the limit of the Exchequer has been reached. A still further effort, however is being put forth by adopting, where the family income is very limited and the families are large, a kind of sliding scale in prices. It should be mentioned that Malta is famed for its large families.

Echoes of the June Riots.

There are still echoes of the riots of June last, chiefly in connection with the wrecking of and looting from Farrugia's mill. The sentences meted out have been exemplary, and have ranged from two to nine years and six months, *Apropos* of the many sentenced for military and other offences, there appears to be a wish on the part of the public that free pardons should be granted, as has been done in Canada and India. Up to the present time there has been no official pronouncement on the matter. The hard times generally are causing a marked increase in thefts and crimes generally.

MONTENEGRO.

Report of British Mission.

The British Mission to Montenegro was organised last year, on the initiative of the citizens of the city of Glasgow, when a committee was formed under the chairmanship of the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir John Samuel consenting to act as hon. treasurer, and the fund being duly registered under the War Charities Act. In view of the conditions prevailing at the present time in Montenegro, it was considered of paramount importance, in order to ensure the purely benevolent and entirely non-political character of the Mission, that it should be placed under the charge of a British officer of repute and standing, and the committee were fortunate in enlisting the generous services of Lieut.-Colonel E. G. Cheke, R.F.A., who in September last left Paris *en route* to his headquarters established at Trieste.

The following are extracts from the latest report which has just arrived in London from the Mission in Montenegro itself :—

Antivari.

The population at Antivari is rather better off than most places in the country: the presence of French, Italian, and Serbian troops gives a certain amount of work to the male population, while the women work in the fields. Destitution is not very extreme, except amongst some of the very poor families in the district known as Turkish Town, most of whom are Moslems.

Virpazar.

The inhabitants of Virpazar are in a bad condition; food is very scarce. Work is very slack.

Riejka.

Most of the houses are commandeered by the Serbian authorities, and the best buildings have been turned into barracks. The population has been obliged to supply the Army of Occupation with mattresses and blankets, even having to go without any cover themselves.

Podgoritza.

At Podgoritza I found that the Americans were distributing a good deal of food, practically to the entire population; they have also distributed some clothing. There are three schools in Podgoritza, one a small Turkish school of no great account. The primary building is in a fairly good shape, although, as usual, too small for its 700 pupils. I have never seen boys so keen to learn as these young Montenegrins. They would take in more pupils if they could squeeze them in. The school has no supplies at all. The rooms are not heated, and the poor boys are all shivering with cold. The High School or Gymnasium, as they call it, is in a shocking condition. Austrian troops were quartered there and destroyed everything; rain comes in through the roof, the windows are without glass, nor have they proper seating accommodation or, indeed, enough room; no stove and no heating at all.

Kolashin.

This village in the heights of the Montenegrin Alps is at present completely isolated because of the destruction of two big bridges across deep chasms. Distress is very great. Food is very scarce.

To sum up briefly, the necessity for the relief of Montenegro, particularly of the women and children, is paramount. It is calculated that there are at least 80,000 children needing aid, in one form or another, those in the outlying districts up-country being in desperate need. It is calculated that a sum amounting to £25,000 will suffice to relieve the winter's distress. It is proposed to establish relief and feeding centres at Riejka, Cettigne, Kolashin, and Nitchitch, and we have made the port of Antivari the base for the reception of supplies.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

AN "ASIAN" SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I am not without hope that the "Eastern" or "Asian" Society, the formation of which you were good enough to allow me to advocate in THE NEAR EAST of January 9, will gradually materialise. It is quite clear that the thought has been running for some time past in the minds of those who are the best judges of its utility and practicability, and, what is more, even within the last few days signs have come from two of our great Universities that the thought is current there also. What we now want is the leadership of someone who stands high in the public estimation. The difficulty about such leadership is that the men who stand thus high are almost invariably absorbed in a multitude of other works. Day by day the political situation in Asia, Near, Mid, and Far, becomes more complicated and more indicative of peril for the British Empire; and to meet that peril unity of counsel and action is seriously needed.—I am, etc.,

A. C. YALE.

The Athenæum,
January 25, 1920.

THE TOMB OF ST. DEMETRIUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your correspondent, "A. R. G.," has *really* visited the tomb of St. Demetrius in Salonika. St. Demetrius, known in the hyperbolic phraseology of the Greek Church as "Thaumaturgus" and "Myrovlytes" (literally: he who discharges perfume), was born in Thessalonica in A.D. 260 and suffered martyrdom with his friend Nestor under Maximian in A.D. 290. Later on he shared the honour of patronship along with St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Salonika, who became famous for his struggle against Barlaam, Gregoras, and Akindynus on Monastical Ecstasy and Thaborian Light (middle of the fourteenth century). Since then the Metropolitan of Thessalonica, alone among the other prelates of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, has the right to the title of "Panaghiotatos," *i.e.*, His Holiness.

Popular legend in Macedonia attributed many miracles to St. Demetrius, whose icon represents a young Roman soldier on horseback and slaying with his lance Lyæus, the boastful opponent of young Nestor, in the Stadium of Thessalonica. In fact, St. Demetrius is a miniature of St. George, and both saints are considered in Macedonia as national saints, along with St. Naum, another favourite saint of he good Macedonian folks. St. Demetrius's tomb was situated in the beautiful homonymous Byzantine church which was unfortunately destroyed in the great Salonika fire, an irreparable loss to mediæval art.

According to a popular legend, when the Bulgars were besieging Salonika soon after Constantinople fell to the Latins (1204) St. Demetrius slew with his lance Iohannes Assen, Tsar of Wallachia and Bulgaria (commonly called Iohannitza, Kaloyannes, and Kynoyannes, *i.e.*, Little John, Good John, or John the Dog). During the first Balkanic war when Greeks entered Salonika (November 7, 1912) the inhabitants regarded their entry as miraculous and a good omen, because it occurred on St. Demetrius Day.

As for St. Demetrius Cathedral in Bucharest, I know nothing about it, but I presume that the author of "A Woman in the Balkans" saw the relics of a Roumanian namesake saint. It might have been also the shrine of another saint if the cathedral of Bucharest is "Trisypostatos," that is, dedicated to three patron saints.—I am, etc., THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, January 23, 1920.

PAN-SLAVISM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 22.

Lieutenant Marustchak, of the Italian Army, and President of the Carpathian Russians' Council in Italy, when passing through Constantinople recently on his way to join General Denikin's army, in the course of an interview made certain statements that "give one furiously to think." For one thing, Lieutenant Marustchak's remarks indicate that the Pan-Russian ideal is by no means dead. After recalling that the Council had presented to President Wilson and certain Italian statesmen a memorandum to the effect that the Carpathian Russians desired to be united to Russia, Lieutenant Marustchak stated that this people, numbering more than six millions, realised that Russia alone could deliver and protect them. "Consequently the Carpathian Russians are true Russian patriots," continued the Lieutenant, "hostile to every form of separatism, and especially to those Ukrainian ideas that were brought into being before the war by German and Austrian intrigues." It is also interesting to note that the General Benderoff who took part in the dethronement of Prince Alexander of Battenberg, Prince of Bulgaria, in 1886, and who afterwards fled to Russia, has been nominated General Denikin's Military Representative in Sofia, where he has already arrived.

An extension for six months of M. Abel's term of office as Governor-General of Algeria has been arranged.

A Rome message states that Signor Gerolumo Marizzi has been appointed Minister in Teheran.

THE ROMANCE OF THE EGYPTIAN MUMMIES.

Speaking on Egyptian mummies at a meeting of the Société Internationale de Philologie, held on January 19 at Taviton Street, N.W., the Rev. J. J. Pool said that it had been very much taken for granted that from time immemorial the Egyptians had preserved the bodies of their dead by mummification. But there was an earlier time when the dead bodies were disposed of by dismemberment and buried without ceremony. In the oldest graves skeletons were discovered mutilated in an extraordinary manner, as if to hide their identity. Reverence for the dead began when the Pharaohs, having conquered the prehistoric people of Egypt, ruled in the land, and the previous neglect was taken to indicate that the prehistoric people had no belief in the continued existence of the body in any form, and no faith in the resurrection. Mummification was the result of a revulsion of feeling, and a conviction that man would some day arise from the dead, even in his mortal body. It began about 4500 B.C., and continued for some centuries after the introduction of Christianity into the country, but gradually the new faith caused it to be abandoned. The Egyptians ceased to believe that the body must be mummified in order that the soul might return to it, when they held instead that at the resurrection man would receive back his body, even though it had been burned and scattered to the four winds of heaven. Thus by about 500 A.D. the practice was discontinued.

When mummification had been brought to perfection, said the lecturer, it was the work of a special guild, and the most expensive form cost about £250 of our money. By this method the brain was extracted through the nose, and all the viscera extracted through an incision in the side. The body was then filled with myrrh, cassia and other fragrant and astringent substances, laid in natron for seventy days, and finally wrapped up in strips of fine linen smeared with gum; there was a second less expensive method, and a third method, used only for the poor, which consisted in cleaning the body with some strong astringent and pickling or salting it for seventy days. The ancient Egyptians believed that to disturb the dead or destroy a mummy was the most impious of crimes. At first the mummy, after being placed in its case, was kept in the house; but accidents happened, and for greater security the priests ordered that all mummies should be removed to the tombs, where they would be under the protection of the gods. The ancients embalmed their loved ones, believing that they thereby secured them immortality.

ARMENIA AND THE ALLIES.

A public meeting convened by the British Armenian Committee was held on January 22 at Caxton Hall with the object of urging upon the Allies the fulfilment of their pledges for the liberation of the Armenians and other subject races from the Turks. Numerous letters from those unable to be present were received, among others one from Lord Bryce, saying that France as well as England and America had, through their leading statesmen, given definite pledges that the Turk should be finally expelled from Armenia, and we could not doubt they would stand by those promises.

Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., who presided, said the British Armenian Committee was not anti-Mohammedan nor even anti-Turk in the sense of being opposed to the Turkish people, for the wrongs of the Armenians were not so much due to the Turkish people as to the Turkish Government. Previous to the war the British Armenia Committee had sought to get for Armenia decent government within the Turkish Empire; its object now was to get the total cessation of Turkish government over the Armenian vilayets. Another thing it struggled for was the recognition of the Erivan republic. This little Armenian State had arisen in the extreme south of what had been the Russian Empire; it was struggling for recognition, and to have added to it the adjacent Armenian lands that were within the Turkish Empire.

Bishop Gore, Dr. Clifford, Lady Sykes, and Mr. Joseph Bliss were among the speakers. Mr. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., said that a reference had been made by Dr. Clifford to an allegation that bondholders were obstructing the way. A certain number of financiers had always found the corrupt Government of Turkey a happy hunting ground for somewhat speculative enterprises. Those same bondholders were now looking to Mesopotamia, where they would have trouble on their hands unless there was settled and civilised government over the border in Armenia.

A resolution was passed in accordance with the objects of the meeting, and another calling on the Allied Powers to advance money to the Armenian community, so as to meet the immediate needs of orphans and refugees, and assist in the work of repatriation and reconstruction. In this connection it was stated that there were between 200,000 and 300,000 Armenian orphans in Asia Minor.

TRAVELLERS TO ROUMANIA.

The Board of Trade has been informed that the Roumanian Government, in order to avoid being obliged to impose quarantine measures on travellers from countries in which plague or cholera has broken out, has requested the British and other Legations in Bucharest to take the necessary steps to compel their subjects to give their exact address to the sanitary authorities at the frontier, and to submit, in their own interest, to medical supervision at their residence.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

A Serbian correspondent sends a tale which indicates that the Near East is likely to produce a successor to the great and only Rockefeller, when that multi-millionaire's mantle is ready to pass on. It is a youth from Zayechar, who has shown signs of financial genius. As a student in France he had the privilege of a specially low rate of exchange granted by the Ministry of Finance, to assist such students to buy francs. Accordingly he borrowed 600 dinars, for which, at the privileged rate, he received 500 francs in Paris. He lived very economically, and at the end of a month saved 250 of them, which he returned to a friend in Serbia, who promptly sold them on the market at the current rate of 240 to the 100. Taking 600 dinars of the result, the friend sent another 500 francs to Paris, where our hero repeated his tactics. So the young man from Zayechar was able to pay off the original loan of 600 dinars and to live on his ingenious system of financial perpetual motion.

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Here is a true story told by a great lady about an experience that befell her a good many years ago. She was a young wife at the time, coming home from India, and her husband had placed her in the special charge of the captain. It was early in the season, and the Red Sea proved terribly hot, so that practically everybody on board slept on the deck; but the lady in question felt a shyness about it, and clung to her cabin. Then the captain spoke firmly to her. "You look downright washed out, Mrs. —," said he, "and you simply *must* sleep on deck. If you don't like the open deck, get the stewardess to have your bed placed just here," and he indicated a space at the head of the companionway, where there was air, with a certain amount of privacy.

***

The lady finally allowed herself to be persuaded, gave her promise, and accordingly asked the stewardess to have her bed made up on the spot indicated. The stewardess promised to do so; and that night, when she was ready for bed, the lady made her way to her new sleeping place. But to her surprise and horror she found it already occupied. An elderly gentleman, whom she knew slightly, was in possession, and when she ventured to suggest that he was making a mistake, he assured her positively that he was doing nothing of the kind—the bed was his, and he meant, in fact, to remain there. Perplexed and vexed, she spoke sharply. He retorted, also sharply. Sounds of mirth became audible from near by, and the distressed lady felt sure that Peeping Toms were about. "Really and truly, Sir Henry," she exclaimed, "the bed is mine, and I am going to have it." And thereupon she moved forward. The horrified old gentleman gave one growl, scrambled up, and fled incontinently, and the victorious fair occupied the evacuated position without a moment's delay. She was left in undisturbed possession—the defeated Sir Henry making himself more or less comfortable elsewhere, let us hope—and in the morning she awoke feeling fresher and more rested than for many nights. Down below she went to dress, and just outside her cabin met her stewardess. Wishing to thank the woman for making up the bed so comfortably, she began: "Oh, about my bed—," but the stewardess broke in: "Yes, ma'am, I am *so* sorry, but I clean forgot about it." It *was* the unfortunate Sir Henry's bed, after all.

CORSAIR.

Reuter's Busreh correspondent, in a delayed telegram dated January 17, writes:—The first through train from Busreh to Baghdad, containing British military and civil officers and Arab sheikhs, left Busreh at midnight on January 13 and arrived at Baghdad South Station on the afternoon of January 15, where Lady MacMunn, in the presence of a large gathering, fixed the last fishplate and declared the line open. The train then proceeded to Baghdad West Station. General Sir G. F. MacMunn, in the course of a speech, declared that there were now 945 miles of railway in Mesopotamia.

TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

The Editor will be glad to consider photographs of Near Eastern scenery, types, places of interest, etc., etc., suitable for reproduction in THE NEAR EAST. *When desired, payment will be made for the right of producing such photographs. Readers should state, when forwarding pictures, whether payment is desired or not.*

Photographs should be sent either packed between stout cards or rolled in a cardboard tube, and should on no account be folded. Titles and notes should be attached to each photo, and should be very clearly written.

MUSICAL NOTES.

Of all forms of chamber music, probably the string quartet is the most popular, and the piano with the 'cello the least. In any case, there is no doubt that the piano and the 'cello have to be exceptionally well played to prevent their combination being dull. Much of the music, in fact, that has been written for these two instruments rightly belongs to what Mr. Ernest Newman has frankly called "lethal-chamber music." However, that these facts are considered by some to be merely opinions is proved by the almost daily recital of this kind of music. Among the better of these could be placed the sonata recital which Miss Ethel Hobday and Mr. Cedric Sharpe gave at the Wigmore Hall on January 21. Both these performers can play excellently, but they both had bad lapses at this concert. A phrase here and there was beautifully turned, a balance was sometimes struck, but before one's enthusiasm could be worked up something would go wrong. The sonatas played were Bach's in G minor, a new work (Op. 69) by Mr. J. D. Davis, and Rachmaninoff's in G minor, but not one of them was satisfactory. The *Adagio* of Bach was well enough, but why so unselfish an artist as Miss Hobday should have sustained so loud a tone in the *Vivace* one could not understand. The new work by Mr. Davis serves rather a utilitarian than an æsthetic purpose—'cello sonatas are not numerous—for it did not appear that he had very much to say. The first movement of the Rachmaninoff was the thing best played: it alone had been adequately rehearsed and it was extremely well delivered. Finally, it may be said that previous knowledge of the abilities of Miss Hobday and Mr. Sharpe makes a condemnation of this particular recital unnecessary: but it were well for them and for the public if they barred its repetition.

At Queen's Hall on January 22, Miss Jessie Snow (violinist), with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Mr. W. H. Reed, gave an orchestral concert. Apart from Miss Snow's appearance, the chief interest lay in the performance of the new Rhapsody in E minor by Mr. Reed. Miss Snow is a fairly accomplished artist, though her technique lacks precision and finish, and she gave a plucky display. She is still some way from maturity, and her faults will probably disappear as her individuality develops. Her chief defect is a lack of breadth in interpretation—she observes the letter far too closely. In the Wienawski Concerto in D minor she did not convince—her technique was not adequate to its demands; but in Mr. Reed's Rhapsody she gave a very good performance. The Rhapsody is not a profound work, but it is quite pleasing, and will without difficulty find its way into the small group of pieces composed for violin and orchestra. Miss Snow also played with orchestral accompaniment Bach's Aria for G string and Novacek's "Perpetuum Mobile," the first without distinction and without accuracy, the second with an enthusiasm that only narrowly missed being brilliant. As a conductor, Mr. Reed is not yet individual enough; he keeps too close an eye upon the score. In the programme, however, there was nothing to try him severely, for the pieces were nearly all of a minor character. The London Symphony Orchestra is the best English orchestra, but, if allowed, can lose interest in what it plays. For instance, in Delibes' suite, "Le Roi S'amuse," it obviously enjoyed itself, and communicated its enjoyment; but in Elgar's "Two Dream Children" I found no charm, and this was through no fault of the music itself.

At the Æolian Hall on January 24, Miss Calista Rogers, whom I had not previously heard, gave a song recital. She commenced with three exceptionally beautiful old Italian airs, one "Cangia, cangia tue voglie," by Fasolo, being very charming indeed. These airs well suited Miss Rogers' light and thin voice, and their technical difficulties did not unduly tax her resources. Later, however, in songs by Mr Roger Quilter and Mr. Delius, the thinness of her voice was a serious deficiency. Her high notes were hard (without being shrill), and she displayed a monotonous inability to get a high note without climbing to it. She sang three songs from Sir Rabindranath Tagore's "Gitanjoli," set to music by Mr. J. A. Carpenter—nebulous things which appear to have attained an unwholesome popularity: these, again, were within her limits, and she made the most of their little worth. To conclude her programme she sang some very pleasing songs by Emmanuel Chabrier, Debussy, and Fourdrain. In these charming trifles she was at her best; they are excellent examples of the French genius for the artful assumption of childishness; and Miss Rogers, assisted by a very good accompanist (Mr. Anthony Bernard), caught their innocent rhythm and imparted their sense of joy. In minor matters Miss Rogers should do well enough.

ANDANTE.

The Allies, Reuter's Agency is informed, have decided to recognise *de facto* the independence of the Armenian Republic with its capital at Erivan. The question of boundaries has still to be settled, and the decision just arrived at will not prejudice any decisions to be reached later in regard to Turkish Armenia.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"OUT OF BONDAGE." By Schmarya Levin. London: Henderson's. 2s. 6d.

II.—"MORE LITERARY RECREATIONS." By Sir Edward Cook (London, Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"ECHOES FROM THE GREEK ANTHOLOGY." By J. G. Legge (London: Constable and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

I.— THE STATE OF THE JEWS.

It is quite possible that of all events in the European War, the declaration made by the British Government in favour of the emancipation of the Hebrew nation will be considered by future historians as the most important. Many men, indeed, hope that the eternal problem of the Jew has to a large extent been solved. The realisation of the Zionist ideal is certainly a momentous affair, the effects of which cannot yet be calculated. This small book is an attempt to explain that ideal, and as such should be useful to the "kindly-disposed stranger," the Englishman to whom it is addressed.

But it may be said at once that the twenty-three chapters of which the book consists are very unequal in importance. As an enthusiastic Zionist, the author finds it difficult to tolerate Jews who think differently from him, and this is unfortunate because, being impatient of opposition from his own race, he rather tends to minimise the importance of that opposition. As a matter of fact, we for the most part are in sympathy with Dr. Levin—his high idealism none but a materialist could resist—and to hear him railing, however eloquently, at his Jewish opponents is for us superfluous. Unfortunately, many pages are taken up in these domestic (so to speak) arguments.

The book begins with an eloquent chapter called "Light from the East," in which it is maintained that the western Jew's notion of freedom was wrong, for he thought only of *civil* emancipation, whereas what really mattered was *national* emancipation. The western Jews went off the right track: "the individual Jew was emancipated at the expense of the Jewish people. The loss of the people was the gain of the individual." This thesis is sustained throughout the book and some of the most convincing chapters are devoted to exposing the folly of the theory of "Assimilationism." The rejection of the assimilationist theory is valuable, and, although the author treats it here merely as a danger to the Jewish cause, he is on common ground with the "kindly-disposed stranger," who knows that the danger from the Jews comes from those who pretend not to be themselves. Of these people the author says:—

They fear that the revival of the Jewish people as an independent people, with cultural institutions of its own, would reflect upon their position as citizens in other countries. In truth, however, they are not so much afraid of the social or political consequences as of the moral consequences. They hate Semitism; they hate the East; they prefer to live in a borrowed West rather than in their own East. In the Jewish rebuilding of the Orient they see their own world in ruins, and they strain every nerve to shield their world, to save it from utter destruction.

Of this party Dr. Levin is without hope, as, indeed, every-one else is.

Among these pages are several interesting and disputable generalisations, which, of course, are inevitable in a book explaining an ideal. For instance, in one chapter, these two things occur:—"There can be no doubt that the worst freedom is better than the best submission," and "If we consider even the smaller national groups, the exotic nationalities, of whom the world has never taken any notice, such as the Albanians, we find that the attitude of progressive society towards their rehabilitation is very sympathetic. Nobody begrudges them an independent existence." Such sentences as these are wide but scarcely deep. Perhaps, however, it is not fair to pick holes in a book which deals only, as the introduction by Dr. Leon Simon tells us, "with the ideal and psychological forces that underlie the effort of the Jewish people to regain its birthright." But we should have liked to know how Dr. Levin proposes to conduct matters when his ideals clash with realities, as they certainly will do in Palestine. The "kindly-disposed stranger" belongs to a practical race, one really more interested in the questions of expediency than in those of abstract justice: and if the author of "Out of Bondage" should write a book on these matters half as eloquent as the one under review we should be delighted and certainly benefited.

II.—THE GREEK ANTHOLOGY.

The Greek Anthology is a thing which you must either wholly accept or wholly refuse; you must either love it, and love it more and more each day, or you must put it with the many things in literature that are accounted not to matter, and leave it there. In the two books under review are revealed two very enthusiastic lovers of the Anthology—the one, the late Sir Edward Cook, writing about it; the other, Mr. J. G. Legge, rewriting it, *i.e.*, translating it. Of the merits of the Anthology, both permanent and deep, neither author has any doubt. Sir Edward Cook says:—

The pieces in the Greek Anthology are, it is true, only minor poetry. The poets whose work is collected in it cover a period of more than a thousand years. . . . But the difference of time at which the several pieces were written is often not felt. The poets deal with the commonplaces of human life and with the elemental feelings of human nature, which are the same to-day as yesterday, and will be the same to-morrow. There is pathos in the Anthology, but Tragedy does not sweep by in sceptred pall. The cothurn is discarded, and we are placed on familiar terms with the everyday life of quiet folk. As in workmanship, so also in theme, the Anthology bears the same relation to the greater works of Greek literature that the engraved gems or Tanagra figurines bear to the marbles or bronzes of the great masters.

That is the whole secret of the charm of the Anthology. Its distinguished lack of greatness and the perfect form in which its matter is expressed at once make certain its appeal to the cultured, as opposed to the creative, mind. Its thoughts are close and human, and intellectually it is a constant delight. Mr. Legge loves it because it shows him "the courage, the dignity, the noble thought, the passion, the beauty, the gaiety, and gloom that marked the spirit of ancient Greece." And he loves it so much that his translations were most of them made "at the top of a municipal tram, or in railway carriages on tedious war-time journeys."

In Sir Edward Cook's volume of essays, of which that on the Greek Anthology is the only one which is strictly within the limits of The Near East's subject-matter, there is nothing original nor weighty said. It is, however, a delightful book to read. The little things of this world that do not matter are discussed in a charming way—the correct use of words, the use in daily life of classical quotations, and so on, are written of in a way that makes all scholars remember that they have forgotten some of their learning. The author brings to the surface from a mine gems which, though not found deep down, are very rich and sparkling: and the pleasure gained from reading his book is wide and recurrent.

Mr. Legge's translations are excellently done. His little work consists of fifty-seven pages, and of about as many authors. He has closely followed Mr. Mackail's standard arrangement (as which sensible translator has not?), but his versions are original, and in some cases as good as have been made. We give as an example Simonides' Epitaph on the Spartan Dead at Platæa: it has but one blemish, that of the use of the un-English word, "fadeless":—

To their dear land a fadeless wreath they gave,
These men now wrapped in death by cloudy night;
Who, being dead, yet live, since from the grave
Valour divine doth lead them to the light.

Mr. Legge's "Echoes" will certainly help to popularise the Anthology.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"Russia in Rule and Misrule." By Brig.-General C. R. Ballard, C.B., C.M.G. With a Foreword by General Sir William Robertson, Bt., G.C.B., K.C.V.O., D.S.O. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

"Morning Knowledge." By Alastair Shannon. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 14s. net.)

"Some Sources of Human History." By W. M. Flinders Petrie. (Illustrated.) (London: S.P.C.K. 5s. net.)

"Kossovo: Heroic Songs of the Serbs." Translated by Helen Rootham. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell, 4s. 6d. net.)

"The London Venture." By Michael Arlen. (London: Heinemann. 4s. net.)

"The Question of Thrace." By J. Saxon Mills and Matthew G. Chrussachi, B.A. (London: Edward Stanford, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Land of Goshen and the Exodus." By Sir Hanbury Brown, K.C.M.G. 3rd Edition. With 2 Maps. (London: Edward Stanford, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTE.

Mr. Charles M. Doughty, whose book on Arabia is probably the finest travel-book written by a living author, has published, through Messrs. Selwyn and Blount, a long poem called "Mansoul." Readers of his "Dawn in Britain" know how well he handles a large theme; in "Mansoul" they will find the same evidence of his grand conceptions.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. January.	1920. January.		1338. Jomada I.	5680. Shebat.
29	16	Thursday	8	9
30	17	Friday	9	10
31	18	Saturday.....	10	11
February 1	19	Sunday	11	12
2	20	Monday	12	13
3	21	Tuesday	13	14
4	22	Wednesday	14	15

Lord Allenby visited Omdurman on January 16.

The Hon. Mrs. Herbrand Alexander has left England for India.

Lord and Lady Sinha and Mr. Basu have arrived at Bombay.

Mr. Hilaire Belloc is expected to pay a visit to Egypt this winter.

Contrary to expectations, the Prince of Wales will not visit India this year.

Princess Roxane Mavrocordato left London on January 19 on her return to Bucharest.

Lord Barrymore continues to make satisfactory progress after his recent operation.

Madame Antonesco, the wife of the Roumanian Minister in Paris, has arrived in London.

Captain Raja Sir Hari Singh of Kashmir was received by his Majesty on January 22.

The Roumanian Prime Minister, who is at present in Paris, will visit London next week.

Princess Marie and Prince Nicholas of Roumania have arrived in London from the Continent.

M. George Cretziano, Roumanian Minister to Spain, left London on January 19 on his way to Madrid.

M. Popovitch, Secretary to the Legation of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London on January 19 for Belgrade.

The King of the Hejaz has conferred the Order of El Nahda (Second Class) upon Cmdr. D. G. Hogarth, C.M.G., R.N.V.R.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen and Lady Edward Gleichen have left for Morocco. They will be away till the end of March.

General Sir Ian Standish Hamilton, who commanded the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in the Dardanelles, has retired from the Army.

Messrs. J. E. Munro and E. Mackay have sailed for Constantinople to take up appointments on the staff of the Boys' High School there.

The *Sudan Times* states that Major-General G. F. Gorringe, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., contemplates visiting the Sudan at an early date.

Sir John Stavridi, the Greek Consul-General, returned to London on January 21 from Paris, where he had been on a visit to the Greek Premier.

M. Gregoire Michaesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on January 19 from Washington, where he has been on a special mission.

The Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Michel B. Boeresco, has been given the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary. He will continue to act as Chargé d'Affaires.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Permanent Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, on January 20 received M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, with whom he had a long conference.

Under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society, Professor J. L. Myres will lecture at the Æolian Hall on March 15. His subject will be "The Dodecanese."

A lecture was delivered on January 23 in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, by Professor T. E. Peet, of the Egypt Exploration Society, on the subject of "El Amarna, the City of Egypt's Heretic King."

The marriage of Mr. Eugen Millington-Drake with the Hon. Effie Mackay took place on January 20 at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, the ceremony being conducted by the Bishop of Grantham, assisted by the Rev. H. Dransfield.

Prince Nicholas and Princess Marie of Roumania, with Colone Arion in attendance, arrived in London on January 22 from the Continent. The Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Boeresco, and the personnel of the Legation were at the station to meet them.

The Rev. Nikolai Velimirovitch, Bishop of Zica, has left London for Belgrade. Among those present at the station to see him off were the Rev. G. K. Bell, representing the Archbishop of Canterbury, and M. Miyatovitch, formerly Serbian Minister.

The marriage of Major E. G. S. Waley, O.B.E., second son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Waley, of Alderhurst, Englefield Green, and Miss Aida Ades, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nessim Ades, of Kasr-el-Doubara, Cairo, took place in Cairo on January 25.

The Prince Regent of Serbia has conferred the Cross of Commander of the Order of Saint Sava on the members of the committee of the Society to Save Serbian Children. Among the recipients are the Duchess of Marlborough, Lady Grove, and Mrs. Asquith.

Colonel F. M. Bailey, of the Indian Political Service, says Reuter's Delhi correspondent, who was sent on a mission to Turkestan eighteen months ago and was detained by the Bolshevists last autumn, succeeded in reaching Meshhed safely on January 14.

Mr. N. M. Samarth, President of the Western and Eastern Lecture Society, and secretary of the Moderate Party of Politicians from India, will sail for India this week. Meetings of the Lecture Society are held at 2, Scarsdale Studios, Kensington, on Fridays, at 5 p.m.

The King of the Hellenes has conferred the Order of the Redeemer upon the following:—Grand Commander: Admiral Sir C. Dundas of Dundas, K.C.M.G. Officer: Capt. the Hon. W. S. Leveson-Gower, D.S.O., R.N.; and the Order of George I. (Officer) upon Lieut.-Cmdr. C. L. Kerr D.S.O., R.N.

A marriage has been arranged between Mr. E. W. E. Holderness, only son of Sir Thomas Holderness, Bart., G.C.B., K.C.S.I., and Lady Holderness, of Flagcourt, Tadworth, Surrey, and Bessie, second daughter of the late John Stephen Sampson, J.P., and Mrs. Sampson, of Tibshelf, Derbyshire.

For services rendered at Aden in connection with the war, Lieut.-Col. Thomas Howard Foulkes, Indian Medical Service, and Major Harold Berridge, 45th Aden Rifles, Indian Defence Force, attached Military Works Services, Aden, have been made additional Companions of the Order of the Indian Empire.

At a dinner in honour of Lord Sinha states Reuter's Bombay correspondent, Mr. S. R Bomanji proposed the erection of a statue to Mr. E. S. Montagu, Secretary for India, at the "Gateway to India," in commemoration of his services to India. A total of 50,000 rupees was subscribed at the gathering.

Mr. Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, has now entered on a short course of medical treatment, which he was advised to take in December but was obliged to postpone owing to his visit to Paris. Mr. Fisher, the President of the Board of Education, will undertake Ministerial supervision of the work of the India Office on Mr. Montagu's behalf.

An important lecture was given under the auspices of the Central Asian Society on January 21, when Mr. Roland Michell read a paper on "Cyprus." The Rt. Hon. Lord Carnock, P.C., G.C.B., was in the chair. We had hoped to give extracts from the paper in to-day's issue, but owing to the exceptional pressure on our space we are obliged to withhold these until a future date.

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Our Malta Correspondent writes (January 13):—
The Order of the Membership of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire has been conferred on Major W. Savona, LL.D., R.M.A., and on Capt. Raynaud, R.M.A.
Chevalier Off. Riccardo Monzani, the new Consul-General for Italy, arrived here to-day, and has assumed the management and control of the General Consulate.

Mr. Eric Rice gave a pianoforte recital on January 27, at the Æolian Hall, the entire profits from which were devoted to the scheme for building a children's hospital city in the country. Mr. Rice was assisted by Miss Janet Dunlop Smith, daughter of Sir James Dunlop Smith, Political A.D.C. to the Secretary for India, who sang, among others, two songs by Sir George Henschel, accompanied by the composer.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Nostas Ilitch has been appointed First Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Captain Yovan Yovanovitch, Assistant Military Attaché to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has returned to London from Paris.

The King has been pleased to appoint the Honourable William Augustus Forbes Erskine, M.V.O., H.M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cuba, to be also H.M. Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Hayti and the Dominican Republic. Among the diplomatic posts of the Hon. W. A. F. Erskine are included Teheran, Athens, and Rome.

The King has been graciously pleased to grant permission to Sir Davison Dalziel, Bart., M.P., to accept and wear the high distinction of the Cross of the Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy, conferred on him by the King of Italy for services rendered during the war.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred of Lord Plunket on January 24. His diplomatic appointments included Rome and Constantinople. He was a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Lieutenant-Colonel Algernon Hastings Campbell Neale, who died on January 7 at Relizane, Algiers, was the youngest son of the late W. B. B. Neale, his Britannic Majesty's Consul at Athens and for the continent of Greece.

The death took place on January 18, at Street Farm House, Bramley, Hants, of Vice-Admiral Noel S. F. Digby, who served in the Black Sea during the war with Russia in 1854-5, and was also a commander in the Ashantee War.

The death of Sir Michael Nethersole, formerly Inspector-General of Irrigation in India, is announced from Bombay. Sir Michael was born in 1859, and entered the Indian Civil Service in 1880. He was for thirteen years Irrigation Officer of the United Provinces, subsequently becoming Executive Engineer at Kashmir and Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces, while in 1912 he was appointed Inspector-General of Irrigation. He was made C.S.I. in 1914, and was knighted shortly after his retirement in 1917.

The death occurred on January 14, at the British General Hospital, Aden, of Captain George Parker Bevan, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.M., Royal Navy, Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, H.M.S. Triad. Captain Bevan was a commander at the outbreak of war. In March, 1915, he was selected to command a flotilla of some fifty trawlers and drifters fitting out for the Dardanelles, and he remained in the Eastern Mediterranean until the evacuation of Gallipoli, when he was awarded the D.S.O., and promoted to captain in June, 1916.

Sir Robert Follett Synge, K.C.M.G., H.M. Deputy-Marshal of the Ceremonies, Foreign Office, died on January 22 at his residence, 7, Chester Square, S.W., following an accident. Sir Robert Synge acted as secretary to Lord Wolseley's Special Mission to the Courts at Vienna, Bucharest, Belgrade, Constantinople, and Athens, to announce the accession of King Edward, and was in attendance on the Special Ambassador from the Sultan of Morocco in 1901. He was secretary to Lord Roberts's Special Mission to the Courts of St. Petersburg, Bucharest, Belgrade, Berlin, and Dresden, to announce the accession of the King.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Cairo Intermediate School of Commerce has been closed owing to refractoriness of the students.

It is understood that a scheme is on foot for the complete reorganisation of the Malta Militia Regiment.

Turkish and Bulgarian invalid prisoners of war and seriously wounded men in France will be repatriated shortly.

In addition to her present Legations, Switzerland proposes to appoint Ministers to Prague, Belgrade, Athens, and Warsaw.

Owing to shortage of housing accommodation, the Bombay Government has provided temporary camping sites on Cumballa Hill.

Cardinal Dubois, Archbishop of Rouen, who is travelling on a special mission to South-Eastern Europe and the Levant, has been welcomed in Cairo.

A Women's Local Committee of the Egyptian Delegation has been formed to work for the independence of Egypt and the emancipation of Egyptian women.

There was an unprecedented incident at the Azhar Mosque, in Cairo, on January 19, when an American lady gave a two-hour political address to a great gathering.

Yugoslav police at Belgrade have discovered the organization of a secret Magyar "white guard" formed by Magyar notables of Petau, and have arrested a number of persons.

Censorship of the Press and martial law have been abolished for the old kingdom of Roumania, with the exception of the Dobruja, but will continue in force in the new territories.

A note signed by the heads of the Free Armenian Communities of Orthodox Catholics and Protestants has been presented to the Allied High Commissioners at Constantinople with a view to obtaining an advance of £2,000,000 on the sums the Turkish Government owes to Armenia.

In consequence of charges of religious persecution in Transylvania brought against the Roumanian Government, that Government is inviting representatives of British Churches to come to Transylvania to investigate the matter for themselves, when every facility will be afforded them.

At a meeting of the Manchester Council of Christian Congregations, the Bishop of Manchester presiding, a resolution was passed assuring the Government of its hearty support of the proposals to separate the temporal and spiritual powers of the Sultan and to complete the emancipation of the Christian races in the Turkish Empire.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS VAN MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL
(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.
American Bar and Restaurant,
Billiards, and Lift.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,
GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.
This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Every Modern Comfort. American Bar, Restaurant,
Bathing Cabins on the Beach. Billiards.
Daily Concerts on the Verandah.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.
OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—
NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.
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ARMENIA AND THE TURKISH SETTLEMENT.

In the protracted negotiations over the settlement of the Near and Middle East the Allies, it is to be feared, are in danger of wandering a long way from the principles that they nailed to their mast in the struggle against Teuton materialism. If the world is to be exactly as it was before the war, and if it is to be to nobody's interest to have it better, then let the Paris Conference dismiss from its mind all considerations of justice or fair play, and merely parcel out the territory under dispute in whatever manner happens to be convenient. On the other hand, if there is a genuine desire to avoid as far as possible the recurrence of wars and to lay the foundations of a better world, every settlement must conform to recognised standards of right, with reasonable latitude allowed in exceptional cases for inevitable compromises. But it is a mere contradiction in terms to talk of a better world if the people in it are to show no improvement; consequently, the Allies, unless they are to be convicted of gross insincerity, must hold out the prospect of such improvement in connection with any attempt at a peace settlement. In other words, they cannot condemn any race or people as beyond salvation on its previous record, but must offer to all such practical means as the situation allows of making good. This policy is not likely to commend itself to the peoples who have hailed the Allied victory as their supreme opportunity for settling old scores with their traditional enemies. But clearly, if they are permitted to dictate the terms of peace, there can be little chance of the five-years' world-struggle and the settlement following it being more effective in ending war than any that have preceded it. The Great Powers in alliance should not require the mechanism of the League of Nations to enable them to impose a settlement which could at least be defended with conviction, and showed some confidence in the principles to which they had so emphatically subscribed. They required only to propound their solution of the different questions and to maintain their unanimity in order to disarm all criticism and secure acquiescence on the part of the nations concerned. Unfortunately, the failure of France and the United States to see eye to eye on a number of points started an almost interminable series of excessive demands, against which the Great Powers were unable to take a firm stand on moral grounds.

There may yet be time to get back to first principles, and the strongest incentive to this end is to be found in the hopelessness of the endeavour to solve the questions in dispute by any other means. The Turkish settlement, it is generally understood, is still in the melting-pot. The problem of the future of Constantinople is complicated by the opposition of Indian Moslems to interference with the temporal power of the Khalif. In Asia Minor the delimitation of the Armenian Republic finds Armenian and French aspirations wholly irreconcilable, while to the South practically a state of war exists between France and the Arabs. A similar indeterminate situation exists in regard to the Adriatic littoral, to Thrace, and to the Ægean coastline of Asia Minor. The Allies, having cut themselves adrift from sound and recognised principles, are floundering in a morass of shifting and shifty compromises. When they proclaimed their belief in the illumination of the dark spots of the political world it must have been their intention to assist in the process; in fact, themselves to let in the light which previously had been shut out. Nowhere is this light needed more than throughout the territories that formed the Ottoman Empire, and it would be mere affectation to pretend, where the whole falls so far short of the best European standard, that any one part more than another can afford to dispense with assistance in its endeavour to reach that standard. If, therefore, we start with the premise that Turks, Armenians, Arabs, and others will all have to be helped in their political development with the single-minded purpose of raising them to a satisfactory stage of self-government, the precise boundary lines of the new States become a less important consideration, and certainly do not justify any long delay in the general terms of settlement. The chief desideratum is that Allied influence should afford an adequate guarantee against any of the practices that have been the bane of these territories in the past. Where the ultimate destiny of any country is in dispute there could be no better method of settling the question than by preparing the ground for the exercise of self-determination after a period during which the national sense of the population has had time to develop under a regime of strict impartiality.

Given the degree of common honesty which the world is entitled to expect from the Allied Great Powers, it will be seen that the Turkish settlement can be robbed of much of its difficulty. If better things are hoped for in the future from the Armenians, they must be hoped for also from the Turks and from the Arabs. There is much to be said for the contention that the root of the antagonism between Turks and Armenians was not so much religion as difference in stages of development and incompatibility of temperament. To urge this is not to palliate the crimes of the Turks, in the perpetration of which religious fanaticism was invoked; but it may serve as a warning against transferring the opportunity that the Turk or Kurd had under the jurisdiction of Constantinople into the hands of the Armenians, justly incensed by the terrible ordeal to which they have so recently been subjected. That way the peace of Asia Minor does not lie. The Allies may have had no ground for withholding their recognition from the Armenian republic of Trans-Caucasia, but in the interest of the future development of Turkish Armenia they ought not to take any step that leaves the Kurds at the mercy of the Armenians while the passions of both are at fever heat. Cilicia will be less of a bone of contention if it is realised that its fate is in suspense until it is seen whether the Armenians develop the necessary capacity for administering it and the inclination to re-settle in it. If the nation has been wiped out to the extent that is claimed—as seems only too likely to be true—the Armenians will do well to limit their responsibilities rather than run the risk of incurring the charge of incompetence through taking over at the outset more than their numbers can absorb. The Turks, again, now that any solution of the Constantinople question is merely a choice of evils, can have their administrative capacity more accurately gauged under the eye of a Power interested in their political education than by the record of the regime of an Abdul Hamid or a German-bought Committee of Union and Progress. The only preliminary called for is that the Great Powers should be able to satisfy one another of the honesty of their intentions. If the United States persist in their refusal to take their part in the regeneration of the East, it is for Great Britain and France to take up the burden. A small Power might conceivably be given the Armenian mandate; but failing that, the best solution would be for Great Britain to assume the mandate for Turkey, and France the mandate for Armenia.

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THROUGH PERSIA IN WAR TIME—II.

By Ernest Betts.

Our convoy left Ruz at 8.30 a.m., and although it was by then quite hot, a pleasant north-westerly breeze was blowing. We had made up our minds that it was no mere sight-seeing jaunt that was engaging us, but an entirely new expedition. Reports from the front gave us a clear idea of the increasingly calamitous drift of events up in the Baku area. The fighting had been severe, and our losses heavy, and the optimism which had begun the venture was being followed by anxiety and depression.

However, we had at least fourteen days' grace before we need actually look to our ammunition. In this period we calculated to cover the odd 570 miles to Enzeli, on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. It seemed possible we might be made use of at Hamadan, the half-way house, or as a garrison to Resht—a point of tactical importance some 270 miles further north. It was now obvious that the mysterious naval ammunition we had seen in the lorries at Ruz was for use with our fleet on the Caspian, which was actively engaged in opposition to the Bolsheviks.

Always in Mesopotamia it had been the custom to issue a periodical intelligence summary, setting forth our own operations in brief outline, and giving any news brought in by spies or deserters as to Turkish plans. This was now impossible. We had to gather what we could from signal stations and persons coming down with dispatches or in ambulance convoys. And this was the tale they brought: Our occupation of Baku in August (1918) had at first been successful. It was being supported by the irregular Armenians trained in Dunster Force. These men had proved untrustworthy, and were causing trouble. Moreover, the enemy's numbers had been miscalculated. (If they had not been miscalculated only an act of madness could have despatched so small a force to attack them.) Our inconsiderable army of about 2,000 was opposed by some 14,000 Turkish regulars, and Turkish regulars, I have reason to know, are splendid fighters. In addition to this, the Turks were being assisted by the Germans, who were now at Tabriz, about 200 miles south-west of Baku, where they had a brigade of their own troops.

This was the happy little story we repeated to ourselves as we started off. For myself, I set down fifty per cent. as fact and fifty per cent. as fiction—and opened another tin of Garibaldi biscuits. I also did my utmost to get on good terms with the lorry driver, whose family history was very shortly an open book to me. It was through his agency that I obtained details of the road route, and as they are of some interest as foreshadowing the kind of country we were to pass through, I append a list of the main towns along the road, with the mileage they involved:—

Town.	Distance in Miles.	Town.	Distance in Miles.
Ruz	—	Mah-i-Dasht	12
Khanikin	16	Kermanshah	18
Kasr-i-Shirin	39	Kangavar	71
Ser-i-Pul	19	Hamadan	44
Pai Tak Pass	9	Kazvin	152
Taq-i-Girrah	3	Resht	120
Kerind	16	Enzeli	22
Chasma-Safed	6		
Harunabad	16	Total miles	579
Hasnabad	16		

Reference to the map shows what a severe test this route affords for the most powerful of cars. For a five-ton lorry it presented a stupendous task. The two stiffest ascents were up the Pai Tak Pass, on the approach to Kerind, and the far worse climb up the Asadabad Pass to the summit of the Alvand Mountains south of Hamadan.

The journey of fifty-five miles from Ruz to Kasr-i-Shirin was exceedingly interesting. The difference in topographical outline between Jezireh, or Northern Mesopotamia and the foothills of Persia, could scarcely have been more marked. The road passed first of all by tortuous windings through the Jebel Hamrin Hills, a series of long, razor-backed, slate-coloured ridges, running in a straight line to a point further north than Mosul. Gradually we became hemmed in by higher ranges, and the air perceptibly turned cooler. Presently we went over a fine steel-built bridge, spanning a deep ravine, and immediately after we got on to one of the most wonderful roads I have ever seen. It was perfectly straight and of immense length, stretching till the eye could not follow it. Only one side of this highway—the right—showed any signs of cultivation, and its extent was inconsiderable. I thought of the vastness and tragic barrenness of these plains, and in imagination I built a city there, and saw it flourishing. Unfortunately, had my town materialised, all the inhabitants would have died for want of water.

As we approached Kizil Robat the scenery grew richer, greener and more beautiful. You could see the cold, splendid peaks of the Zagros Range rising high and afar to the north-east; and closer to view—a long low cliff of dusky red, very beautiful when the evening sun threw out its colour—the second ridge of the Jebel Hamrin. After a time the dust became choking. Its effect was to dissipate the notion we had gained a day or so ago that motoring in Persia was an exhilarating pastime. It was by no means exhilarating, and it had a horrible resemblance to work; it was a dry, exhausting, unappetising business without any of the attractions usually associated with the open road. We were, therefore, much relieved at the spectacle of a Kurdish Labour Corps whom we espied laying the dust by means of ancient watering-cans (formerly kerosine tins) which they were filling from a neighbouring stream.

I must say something about the Kurds, though it is not strictly in my province to do so. But they are certainly the most picturesque figures between Burmah and the Black Sea—not even excepting the knightly Georgian, with his beautiful waist and the row of imitation cartridges across his chest. Perhaps, too, the Kurds are not entirely irrelevant to my subject, since it was from them, if from anybody, that we should have expected attack.

The predatory instinct in the Kurd is highly developed, and in Persia and his native Kurdistan, traditional. Always he is to be distinguished by the tall felt hat, shaped like an elongated horseshoe, which gives him the appearance of having emerged from some fairy tale. He wears a long coat of sheepskin or black cloth, reaching to his knees, and if of the latter material, cut away in a deep triangle at the neck. Beneath it he favours a white or coloured shirt, and narrow, absurd-looking trousers, generally of blue. But his crowning glory is his fine black hair, which peeps out in stiff curls from beneath his hat and adorns his ear in attractive clusters. In feature he is decidedly handsome. His face is stamped with the ruggedness and strength of the country, and is deeply tanned from exposure. His eyes in particular are strong and striking, the nose prominent, and the figure as a whole lank and nimble. These were the men we found so useful as road-menders.

So far we had seen nothing to suggest that war had ever affected the country's inhabitants. But the effect that it had had on an adjacent country—that of Armenia—was soon brought home to us. For down the stony, far-stretching road came a procession of outcast Armenian pilgrims, whom the Turks had flung from their native villages near Lake Urmia and Lower Kurdistan. They were making for Baghdad, at which place they had been told to expect food and a roof. The British had promised to bring down and feed some fifty thousand of these refugees, and many passed us by in Ford vans. Sooner than wait their turn in anxiety and insecurity, however, some thousands of men, women, and children had tramped down by themselves. They were a pitiful sight, and their fate a shocking one, unmitigated in its humiliation and dreadfulness. Most of them walked barefoot, but some of the children and the old men and women rode on the backs of donkeys or bullocks, jogging along hour upon hour, day after day, through a country that was foreign to them. The pedestrians limped along with infinite labour and difficulty, pots and pans in their hands, and ragged miscellaneous bundles on their backs. Family groups kept together, but their condition individually was too precarious and enfeebled for any one of them to render much assistance to the other.

At Khanikin little children, half starved, crawled about the wheels of the convoy picking up the filthy scraps of food that had fallen there. One of the drivers—evidently of the baser breed—noticing a little boy begging for food, told him, in his own words, to "'op it." The child disobeying, the driver flung a piece of watermelon at him, which struck him on the head. The boy said nothing, but he picked up the dust-covered piece of melon and ate it.

Many who were trying to make their way through Persia without assistance perished of illness or starvation on the way. I recall the sight of a dead man lying face downwards by the roadside as we passed the "great mountain of black rocks" east of Kermanshah. He had starved to death, and his body was frightfully emaciated. There was something in the dead figure of this man at the foot of the mountain that seemed to typify the attitude of wild nature to mankind. Said the Mountain to Man: "If you think I care a Bulgarian farthing for you, you're mistaken. I don't. A fall of one of my little boulders would

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crush you to nothing. You perish with hourly frequency; I stand for ever. The most trivial accident destroys you; earthquakes cannot destroy me."

Farther on still, at Tak-i-Bustan, where those marvellous sculptures of Darius receiving the tributary kings still stand untarnished, a man sat in the middle of the road weeping bitterly. To one side of him lay his dead father, his hair and beard already grown to extraordinary length; to the other his dying wife, crumpled up and past healing from sickness. The man's anguish was unspeakable. Constantly he rocked backward and forward in loud outbursts of grief, neither seeing nor caring for aught else round him. You pictured this man burying his dead on the following day, and then in utter distraction dragging himself along the road till chance or starvation should end him.

How many of these refugees reached their destination I do not know, but from the Persians themselves they got little sympathy and no help. Where British assistance was not forthcoming many of them simply died uncared for on the road. If we achieved little else in Persia, the food and shelter we gave these Armenians must have saved the lives of thousands who would otherwise have perished.

Half a day's run from Khanikin brought us to the highlands of Persia. Khanikin, the last of the Mesopotamian towns as you travel north, lies on an effluent of the Diala, and with its fine stone bridge, prosperous bazaar, and cool views of tree and stream presented something entirely new to us in the general aspect of towns. Despite the ascent we had been making, it was still terribly hot, and we rejoiced at the prospect of climbing still higher.

Some fourteen miles farther on we passed the frontier Post, which marks the old Turco-Persian border—a square tower on a lonely height that would have made an admirable place of exile for the Kaiser.

I must pass over much of the coloured grandeur that we encountered on our way to Hamadan; though I do so with regret, for my memories of Iran are steeped in a positive sea of colour-effects such as I could scarcely have imagined possible but in the imagination of some fantastic artist. On our way we passed stupendous mountain ridges that fell sheer to earth in innumerable folds of dull gold and velvety brown, and in the evening the air seemed filled with a luminous mist of royal purple that was enchanting in its beauty.

At Chasma Safed, which we immediately re-christened Chase-me-Sophy, and which is reached by a descent 6,000 feet over the Pai Tak Pass, more news of an alarming nature came to us—this time by wireless. We eagerly discussed the new situation, for it was by now obvious that our destination could be no other than Baku. (So we prophesied, but as a matter of fact events postponed this visit to a more peaceful era.)

The wireless message announced that we had "withdrawn to our second line of defences," whatever that phrase might imply. It might mean a temporary reverse, or it might mean a disaster. Fifty per cent. of our men, it was added, had become casualties. Whereat we ceased to admire the scenery, and endeavoured to acquire the oriental stupour of fatalism. What was, was, said we, and what must be, must be! In any case it would be pleasant to die in a cool climate.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Dismemberment of Turkey.

The *Nation* of January 17, in discussing "The Coming of Peace," takes up a rather pessimistic attitude. For the immediate present, it says, the situation is almost hopeless, but it looks to the future for better things.

The consequences of this Peace will work themselves out by the laws of moral causation; it is too late for protest and too early for revision. Meanwhile the Supreme Four are completing their work by the dismemberment of Turkey. It will be their masterpiece of Imperialism, and one hardly knows whether to pity more the populations who lose all hope of self-government, or the soldiers, mostly conscripts, who for decades to come will have to hold them down. Whatever the details may be, the effect on the Mohammedan world will be deep and lasting, and if we wished to prepare it for Bolshevik propaganda we could hardly have gone more skilfully to work. For our part we certainly should have wished to see far-reaching measures to end Turkish misrule. The imposition of a reform scheme under the control of the League of Nations should have been the first step. The natural line of reform for mixed Oriental communities is not, however, partition or even territorial Home Rule, but rather the extension and development of cultural autonomy for each racial and religious unit. Instead of this we are to have a purely Imperialist partition. Had Turkey survived without the loss of the immense territories which the Allies are dividing among themselves, we should have urged nothing against the expulsion of the Turkish Government from Europe. Constantinople, of all cities the most cosmopolitan, with its fabulously beautiful site, its Imperial tradition, and its strategical centrality, was destined by nature and history to be the capital of a world-federation. . . . The religious question is embarrassing. Though Constantinople is not a Moslem holy city, it did give prestige to the Ottoman Caliphate. That in any case is gone, since an "independent" Arab king holds the sacred cities of Arabia and guards the pilgrimage. Whatever happens, the shock to Moslem sentiment remains, for the last Islamic Empire is gone. A shadowy survival under Allied guardianship will not do much to placate Moslem feeling. Indeed, when the French argue that at Constantinople the Turks can be more easily controlled than at Broussa or Konia, we ask ourselves if their policy of retaining the Turks in Stamboul is really more merciful than the British policy of evicting them? The argument that a Turkish Army is needed to balance the ascendancy of the British Navy in the Straits is not calculated to reassure us. France, if the *Temps* voices her policy, seems indeed to aim at inheriting German influence in Turkey, and at adding one more satellite army to her European military system. Neither solution in these conditions promises a tranquil East. A jungle of wrongs and resentments stretches from Rhine to Ganges. The first step to clearing it will be to emerge from the politics of the Alliance into the politics of the League, and Labour alone is capable of leading the way.

The Ottoman Turk.

The *New Statesman* of January 17 publishes from a correspondent a statement concerning the character of the Turk. Its main thesis is that inability to maintain a decent attitude towards the Turk means the impossibility of preserving a judgment on him. It says:—

From the beginning of the last century a mass of incredibly ignorant and prejudiced literaure has been produced by Christian writers on the subject of the Ottoman. Political impulses led to a more impartial examination of the Turk during the first Victorian decades, but this fortuitous fairness gave way to the old view which, in its turn, dissolved in an element of indifference. From this indifference opinion has now leapt to a sudden and silly anger. The Press—inspired by that ancient father of lies, foreign policy—does what may be done to keep alive this anger; and so the taxpayer loses his money, the soldier his honour, and the nation its security. This is not an exaggeration, because so much more is concerned here than the Turk himself. I have no wish to make a suggestion in politics, but I do suggest a fairer view of the Turk, in the interests of common-sense and truth. Those of us who have lived in the Orient know well that the qualities of the Turk are characteristic rather of the Western races than of the Balkan, Levantine, or Armenoid breeds. He knows this himself, and in non-political social relations has lived on terms of friendship and understanding with the West European for the last century. In considering his dealings with the Balkan races, with the mixed peoples of the Anatolian littoral and the districts south of Caucasia, we must lay stress on the existence of a mutually intense hatred between himself and these peoples—all of whom equal or surpass him in an executive ferocity typical of the darkest ages or of the most savage tribes. In those wild areas, small, fierce races intermarry and slay, confuse themselves in a welter of stormy feuds, scatter, give battle, reunite. In Constantinople men jostle each other in the streets, in the tramcars and ferry-boats, with apparent impassivity; each knowing that the other would spend a delightful half-hour in torturing him to death or in forcing him to witness the violation of his wife. Religion has not pre-

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served the racial integrity of the Turk. He has been brayed in the mortar with the rest, and though not mixing easily has become patched and dappled by contact with the infidel. One cannot draw a series of conclusive facts from the brawl and bloodshed of the Near East. The Turk is only one factor in this confusion of races and purposes, but politically he is the most important. The Ottoman, in the hour of his decline, has preserved the attributes of a proud and dominant people. This is remarkable, in view of what has happened since the Armistice. The tragedy of Smyrna is not known in England. Incidents of the occupation (or seizure) of Anatolia are not known in England. These matters may not be divulged at the present time, I suppose; but it is worth noting that deliberate humiliation and affront have never brought the Turk to the posture of a suppliant or caused him to act otherwise than with dignity. In common with dominant peoples (especially invaders) he is prepared to behave with severity towards those who were once his tributaries or subjects. His severity takes revolting forms; but remember that his Christian neighbours from the Adriatic to the Caspian behave in the same manner. The Armenian question is so oddly presented to English readers that I might wish to exhibit certain aspects of the case, were it not that such exhibition would be too digressive. Fairness compels the admission that the Turk does gain fortuitously in moral stature by comparison with his neighbours.

The correspondent concludes his letter thus:—

What is the weakness of the Turk and the cause of his failure? Has the common fate of invaders pursued him, or is there some deadly fault in his race? It is easy to say that the modern Turk has failed because Europe has wished him to be a failure; that is partly true, but not the whole truth. Turkey's main cause of failure is due to her religious isolation, and the fine refusal of compromise which is typical of Mohammedans. The causes of her immediate downfall are (1) the failure of the Young Turk Party to secure adequate help and sympathy from the Powers; (2) the exhaustion following a series of fateful wars and intrigues; and (3) an unfortunate military alliance. Delay in coming to terms with Turkey has led to vexation and bitterness, not only in the jarring Babel of the Middle East, but in vaster, more distant fields, and threatens to bring about between Christian and Mohammedan a state of enmity without parallel in history with regard to its scope and the enormous number of peoples involved.

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The Preservation of Turkey.

The *New Europe* of January 22, in a forceful article entitled "The Kaleidoscope," reviews the attitude of the Paris Conference towards Russia and Turkey. It states that international finance is dictating our Russian policy, and it continues:—

The same sinister background of financial interest and intrigue underlies the conflict now being waged in Paris over the Turkish heritage. If Turkish rule is left in Europe this will be the work of the bondholder and the financial wire-puller. Turkish dominion was founded and maintained by the sword, and by the sword it has been overthrown. To-day it should be unthinkable that when it has reached its ignominious end an attempt should be made to bolster it up once more by artificial devices. It is only fair to say that even the advocates of the Turk no longer attempt to argue the case in his favour. His history has been a long chain of bloodshed, corruption, and misrule, and there are no extenuating circumstances. Hence the appeal is compounded of cupidity, sentiment, and fear. Cupidity, for there are many who look for higher profits and less effective control under the effete rule of the Sultan than in the brisker atmosphere of the international *régime*. Sentiment, for there are many who are overawed by the spiritual prerogatives of a dynasty before whose records the Borgias must be dismissed as mere dabblers in crime. Fear, for there are many who are not ashamed to urge that we should overlook the delinquencies of the Turks lest we should arouse trouble for ourselves among the eighty million Moslems of India.

Articles to Note.

"The Armenians: Their Past and Future," by W. E. D. Allen, in the *Quarterly Review* (January).

"My Two Years' Captivity Among the Turks," by Captain T. W. White, D.F.C., in the *Wide World Magazine* (January).

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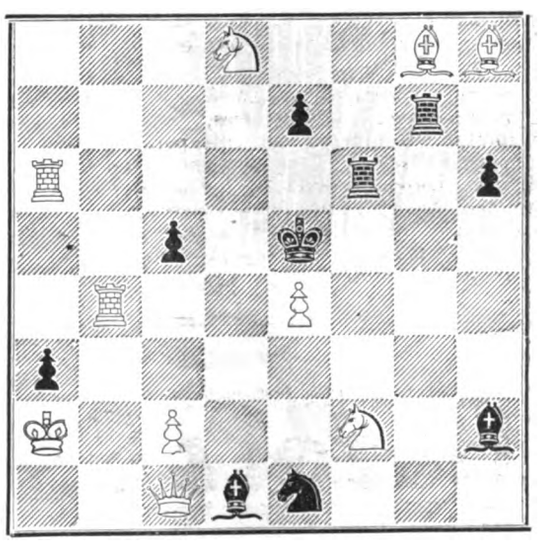

White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem by G. Guidelli took the first prize in a competition in *L'Italia Scacchistica*.

A match is to be played at Amsterdam this spring between M. Marchand and Mr. W. Winter.

Last week's problem, No. 11, was an end game, the result of which I left my readers to unravel. I have no space to give the full analysis, but one variation runs:—R—B2, Kt—Q6; K—K7, K—K4; K—Q7, Kt—Kt 6; R—Q2, K—K5, and the rook must eventually take the pawn, and Black's King and knight are able to stop a pawn from queening.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that Custom Houses have been opened at Sibiu (Hermannstadt) and Brasov (Kronstadt), both in Transylvania, for the purpose of facilitating imports direct to these two cities from foreign countries.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Elsewhere will be found a summary of the report made to the Board of Trade by the Empire Cotton Growing Committee. It is eminently satisfactory to note that the committee is confident that the British Empire can grow a large proportion of the cotton it requires, and that it is convinced that the crop will bring great prosperity to the places suited for it. But while the committee are optimistic on these points, stress is laid on the gravity of the present position. "There is evidence," it is stated, "of a world shortage of cotton goods, and there is no prospect whatever of there being a full supply of cotton for some years to come." The crux of the problem, as I pointed out last week, is the United States cotton crop, on which the Lancashire cotton industry is so largely dependent. For some years this crop has been a decreasing quantity, while the proportion of it taken by United States spinners has been continually on the increase. Obviously, in default of remedial measures, the time cannot be far distant when Lancashire may be actually short of cotton.

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The committee, in their recommendations for the adequate development of the Empire's resources, lay stress on the need for research in regard to cotton cultivation, and the importance of the provision of an adequate supply of trained men. They point out that more professorships are needed at the universities, together with facilities for post-graduate work. The importance of the control by the Governments of all cotton-growing areas in the Empire of all essential matters connected with cotton growing is emphasised, and it is urged that special arrangements should be made in the interests of the grower to secure good marketing.

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Finally, there is the question of the provision of the necessary funds to meet what, the committee point out, will involve a considerable outlay. In the first place, it is suggested that a grant should be made by the British Treasury to the British Empire Cotton Growing Committee for its establishment expenses and for any initiatory work in other directions. It is further suggested that the British Treasury should contribute to the carrying out of schemes approved by the committee, and should assist the Governments of Colonies and Protectorates in the construction of public works necessary for the development of their resources. Where developments of this character are calculated to affect favourably the general prosperity of the Colony or Protectorate, it is maintained that they should be financed locally, but where cotton growing is promoted in preference to other profitable crops for the benefit of the cotton industry the committee is of the opinion that the expenditure should be met by the industry. To meet this, the committee suggest the creation of a fund on the basis of a contribution or levy from the industry.

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It is a long time since manufacturers' agents in general have displayed any overwhelming anxiety to obtain orders, for the simple reason that the great majority of firms have for some time been in the position of having orders in hand for a few months ahead. I notice with special interest, therefore, that manufacturers' agents representing Birmingham jewellery firms are now actively engaged in soliciting business. Of course, it was to be expected that what are known as the luxury trades would be the first to experience the old competition; but it is none the less a sign of the times, and I am certain that, despite the oft-repeated statements that manufacturers have all the business they can do with, it will not be long before trades which manufacture necessities will be in the same position. Many firms who at the moment are enjoying a transient prosperity are neglecting to cultivate markets which in pre-war days they were only too glad to have at their disposal. Needless to say, it is a short-sighted—I might with truth say a fatal—policy.

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The activities of the manufacturers' agents for jewellery firms, to which I have referred, appear to have been mainly confined to London. May I suggest that they should turn their attention to the Near East, where they will find a remarkably extensive market for this class of goods. The Balkan countries and Egypt present specially promising fields, but farther off, in Persia and Mesopotamia, there is an almost unlimited trade to be obtained almost for the asking. Of course, the preliminary work required is not so easy as in the case of London, but I have sufficient confidence in the British trader to believe more than that consideration will be required to deprive him of his traditional enterprise.

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In view of the short period of the British Trade Corporation's existence, the report now published can only be regarded as exceedingly satisfactory. During 1919 the corporation's activities were steadily extended, and branches were opened at Batoum, Belgrade, and Dantzig, while the National Bank of Turkey opened a branch at Smyrna. In addition, the corporation, with other banks, has formed the South Russia Banking Agency, Ltd., of the capital of which concern it holds £10,000. The profit is only slightly larger than the previous year at £88,340, as against £71,600, but the accounts for 1919 do not include any profits in respect of recently-opened branches, of the corporation's investments in subsidiary companies and in the National Bank of Turkey, which, when ascertained, will be included in the accounts of the current year. The dividend is 4, as against 2½ per cent., and the carry forward is £22,600, as against £14,300.

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As in the case of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, both the East Indian and the Rohilkund and Kumaon lines report a considerable increase in expenditure during the past half-year. As regards the East Indian Railway, there was a decrease in both gross and net earnings. The gross receipts declined from Rs.7,00,06,800 to Rs 6,75,86,700, owing to less traffic in certain staples, while the net earnings amounted to Rs.3,86,47,100, as against Rs.4,69,88,200, this considerable decrease being due to the larger working costs, the ratio of expenditure rising from 32.88 to 42.82 per cent. There was a further advance in coaching business, the receipts from which amounted to Rs.2,33,83,700, as against Rs.2,14,59,100. The company's share in the divisible surplus amounted to Rs.13,91,200, a decrease of Rs.5,68,600 on the figures for the corresponding period, but owing to the favourable rate of exchange this surplus at £155,800 showed an increase of £8,800, which, with the amount brought in, makes the available balance £29,200 higher at £209,000. It is proposed to raise the dividend on the deferred annuity capital from 1½ to 2½ per cent., making the rate 4½ per cent.

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The report of the Rohilkund and Kumaon line also shows a decline in both gross and net earnings. The gross receipts amounted to Rs.55,02,900, as against Rs.56,71,900, the decline being due to poor crops and restricted exports; while, on the other hand, the operating expenses amounted to Rs.31,94,500, as against Rs.26,13,000, the ratio of expenditure increasing from 46.06 to 58.05 per cent., and the net revenue fell from Rs.30,58,900 to Rs.23,08,400. The company's share amounted to Rs.10,11,300, as against Rs.13,65,700, which, converted into sterling, amounts to £84,900, as against £99,800. The disposable surplus after providing for debenture and preference interest and making other adjustments, is £69,900, as against £64,200, and out of this it is proposed to maintain the ordinary dividend at 10 per cent., and to carry forward £39,400, as against £32,900.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 12.

A New Cotton Tax.

On Saturday last the Council of Ministers decided on the imposition of a tax on ginned cotton amounting to PT35 per kantar. This is in order to provide funds to enable the Government to deal satisfactorily with the foodstuff situation. As has been pointed out on more than one occasion in these letters, Egypt does not normally grow sufficient cereals for her own requirements, and in pre-war years she had to import from abroad approximately 200.000 tons per annum. Although to-day there is a wheat shortage in the world and shipping is difficult to obtain, the question of supplies could be fairly easily dealt with through the intervention of the Egyptian Government. Unfortunately, side by side with the question of supplies is the very important one of price. It is a fact that imported wheat or flour delivered in Egypt could only be sold by the importers at very high prices which would be beyond the means of the urban population, who constitute about 16 per cent. of the total population, and who have had little or no share in the phenomenal prosperity which has fallen to the rural element. It is, indeed, the affluent condition of the latter which has in great measure conduced to the forcing up of the cost of living against the urban community, and the Government has very wisely decided that whilst in the matter of foodstuffs the rural population is well able to protect itself, its duty is to take measures to assist the urban community, especially the poorer elements thereof. It therefore proposes to import flour and wheat, and to sell it to the urban consumers at prices below cost price, and therefore within their reach, and the loss in connection with which will be recouped out of the new tax.

A solution might possibly have been found in a limitation of the area to be devoted to cotton, as was done in the early days of the war, with the object of extending the area available for cereal cultivation and, by increasing local supplies, reduce the cost of cereals. But it has been decided that for many reasons it is inadvisable to resort to this at the present moment. Moreover, considering that the agricultural community, which under existing conditions enjoys to the full the benefit of the actual high cotton prices, is in a sufficiently prosperous condition to be made to contribute something towards assisting the poorer urban element, especially as the latter is directly suffering from the more prosperous condition of its rural fellows, the Government has hit on the device of imposing a tax on every kantar of ginned cotton, and. as this tax is to be levied at the ginneries, there is every prospect that the incidence will fall on the producer, as it is intended it should. At the rate of PT35 per kantar and taking a conservative estimate of the crop at 6.000.000 kantars, this tax will return approximately £E2.000,000 in the year. For obvious reasons it will not be applied to the crop now in course of ginning, and the collection will only start on December 1, when the 1920 crop which is about to be sown will begin to enter the ginneries.

In connection with the question of food supply it may be mentioned that the Government, through the Supplies Control Board, has for some time been exercising control over the distribution of wheat and maize, and has already imported large quantities of the former, which it has been selling to millers and bakers on condition that they retail flour and bread at certain fixed prices. Latterly, flour stores have been opened in the more important cities, and in Cairo alone there are at present seven of these stores in operation. This organisation has materially relieved the situation, and will prove of great value to the Government in the further measures it has in view, and will enable it to obtain complete control over the cereal distribution in the country.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 10.

Trade with South Russia.

On December 9 there was an important meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. T. Waugh, in connection with the expected arrival of the new British High Commissioner to South Russia.

A most important statement was made by Mr. Hohler, the British Political Representative in Constantinople, who informed the meeting that the Government of General Denikin had decided to establish free trade and to permit the export of goods from South Russia for the purpose of creating sterling credits.

Mr. Bilinsky, of the National Bank of Turkey, stated that with regard to exports from South Russia if well-known banks could arrange to give credit against documents concerning such exports, it would greatly facilitate business. These banks would guarantee that such credits would only be utilised for the purpose of the exchange of goods with Russia, and a sterling fund could thus be created.

Members present were requested to communicate their suggestions, which would be embodied in a memorandum, to be presented to the High Commissioner to South Russia, explaining the directions in which they would like his assistance in removing the difficulties of commerce with South Russia. In this connection it is acknowledged that the greatest obstacle to business is the delay and difficulty in obtaining permits to export goods, for which one sometimes has to wait months. It was agreed that the High Commissioner's special attention should be drawn to this difficulty. A sub-committee was formed, consisting of Mr. Sellar, Mr. Edsberg, and Mr. Bilinsky, for the purpose of collecting further information for the above-mentioned memorandum.

All British merchants interested in trade with South Russia are strongly urged to report the difficulties they are experiencing, and at the same time to make suggestions for improving matters. Such information, the result of practical experience, would be of the greatest value to the High Commissioner, and, by giving him a clearer view of the situation, would assist him materially in removing difficulties. It is hoped that all who are interested in South Russian business will not fail to respond to this appeal, which really amounts to an exceptional opportunity to bring about an improvement in existing conditions.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the South Russian Section of the British Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Harold Gibson, c/o Mr. Smith Lyte, British Consulate-General, Galata, Constantinople.

The Economic Crisis.

Reshad Bey, the Turkish Government Director of Commerce, has made a long statement concerning the conclusions of the Commission which has been inquiring into the causes of the extraordinary inflation of prices in Constantinople. According to this report, the prevailing dearness is not due to profiteering, but to the following causes:—(1) The depreciation of Turkish paper money as compared with the fiduciary issues of producing countries; (2) excessive marine insurance premiums; (3) the scarcity of tonnage from which the whole world is suffering, but more especially the Eastern Mediterranean; (4) the excessive delays in the Customs. Business men whose goods remain indefinitely in the cargo steamers or in the lighters employed for discharging goods, seek to compensate themselves under this head by increasing their selling prices.

Of all these various inconveniences, stated Reshad Bey, the only one that we ourselves are in a position to remedy is that which arises from the Customs delays, to which end the number of depots and the personnel of the Customs should be immediately increased. A further measure that would alleviate the difficulties in the Customs and the process of conveying goods from the steamers to the warehouses would be the fixing of a definite tariff, to put an end to the extortions of porters, carters, lightermen, etc.

With regard to the above statements, my attention was drawn the other day to a case of goods remaining in a

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lighter for seventy-two days before they could be discharged. There is no doubt that the amount of quay space occupied by the Allied naval and military authorities aggravates the evil, and there are also complaints of a dog-in-the-manger spirit on their part with regard to allowing certain facilities upon exceptional occasions in regard to the space at their disposal.

The British Industries Fair.

It is to be hoped that the Near East will not be neglected with regard to inducements to patronise this exhibition. The Press information on the subject states that literature is being printed in various languages, but the only one that would be of any use here among those mentioned is French. Why not Greek and Turkish? It is absurd to take the view that because the Turks fought against us in the Great War, therefore all the Greeks, Armenians, and Jews in the Ottoman Empire must be excluded from our markets. It would be absurd in any case, but in view of the fact that the bulk of Turkish commerce is in the hands of Christians, and that the bulk of the Christians have never been other than the sincere friends and admirers of Great Britain, it would be all the more absurd.

If facilities were accorded to merchants to visit London the result would undoubtedly be of very great benefit to our trade in the Near East—unless we have so much business that we do not care if someone else gets the market. In that case we shall care later on—when Germany gets going.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 29.

South Russia.

Bolshevik successes against the volunteer army have had an adverse influence upon business in Constantinople. Large quantities of goods have had to be warehoused, and the rouble has slumped heavily. Consequently, so far as manufactured goods are concerned, the Constantinople market is at present within sight of being overstocked.

Customs Congestion.

There is little, if any, improvement in the situation described in my letters of some months ago. It is well known that even before the war, when there was not nearly so much business as there is at present, owing to the fact that Constantinople has become the general clearing-house for South Russia, there was considerable congestion in the Customs. Now, with ten times the amount of pre-war business, there is only half the amount of quay and warehouse space. Is it surprising that people have to wait weeks and even months before they can get their goods? To add insult to injury, merchants are obliged to pay for the warehousing of their goods in the interval, and the authorities are actually contemplating increasing the warehousing charges tenfold! Meanwhile, valuable space is occupied by the British authorities for provision depots, and the French take up more valuable space with a large garage. At the moment of writing it is announced that the Galata Customs are to be released on January 1. This is an excellent start, at all events.

Lighterage and Porterage.

Not only are freights much higher than before the war and steamer services very irregular, but the charges for discharging goods and conveying them to the warehouse are simply outrageous, amounting in some cases to far more than the amount paid for bringing the goods all the way from Europe. A lighter costs £T10 a day, and sundry charges for surveillance £T5 a night. When goods have to remain for weeks in a lighter, it can be imagined that there is a heavy bill to pay. Furthermore, the porters are no longer satisfied with anything like reasonable rates of pay, and by the time the goods are warehoused, what with lighterage and porterage, the original invoiced cost has been considerably augmented.

Rents.

Even then the tale is not finished, for rents for warehouses and shops, to say nothing of private houses, are simply fantastic, amounting to anything from thirty to fifty times pre-war charges. Extortionate rental is one of the principal reasons for the dearness of living in this part of the world, and also accounts to a very great extent for the general demand for higher wages. All things being considered, other things are not abnormally dear in proportion to the rate of exchange and the prices prevailing in other countries, but rents are absurdly high.

The above are the principal items in the list of hindrances to our capturing the ground lost by the Germans, and unless something is speedily done to remedy these and other matters we shall not reap the full fruits of our victory.

Turkish War Companies.

Under the impulsion of the Unionist Government, which, as is well known, was largely under Jewish and German influence, a considerable number of Turkish companies were floated during the war. So long as they were in the enjoyment of exceptional advantages, owing to their being carefully nursed by the Government and the Committee of Union and Progress, most of these enterprises made enormous profits, although in many cases their paid-up capital was only a fraction of their authorised capital—usually about one-tenth. The majority of them were frankly profiteering societies established with the approbation of the Government, and often with the active assistance of one or more influential members of the Government, who would assist the company in question not only in such details as railway transit, but also to crush all competition, especially Christian competition, and thus obtain for the enterprise what amounted to an actual monopoly. After the Armistice, when these associations had to stand on their own feet, many of them were very soon in difficulties, and then the interesting fact transpired that the funds of the Evkaf, or Pious Foundations, had been largely invested in profiteering enterprises. There followed law suits, and the Ministry of Pious Foundations obtained the authorisation of the courts to take a hand in the administration of the companies concerned.

The Market.

Generally speaking, business continues to be rather quiet, partly owing to the fact that the South Russian situation has necessitated holding up and warehousing goods that have been ordered and have arrived from abroad for the South Russian market, and partly on account of the dislocation of transport in Anatolia, which has prevented the arrival in Constantinople of large quantities of cereals.

The month has been remarkable for the sudden and considerable rise in the price of gold, which jumped from 390 to 500, and even to 530, piastres for a short time. This was doubtless due to a certain extent to speculation, but although there has been a reaction the price is still well over 400 piastres. The pound sterling followed suit by rising from 360 to 384 piastres, and other foreign moneys also moved upward, while there is also a general tendency in the same direction with all sound securities on the market.

The main reason for this state of affairs is doubtless the piling up of credits abroad to pay for imports, and the high rates will probably be maintained until after the winter, when Anatolia should have a certain amount of material ready for export—always provided that Mustafa Kemal and Co. do not turn Anatolia into a bear garden. In spite of her heavy burdens, Turkey has plenty of potential wealth with which to pay her debts and provide for a prosperous future, but peace and order must first be established and just government guaranteed. The Allies have the chance now of opening up to world industry an almost virgin field of enterprise, and it is devoutly to be hoped that intrigues prompted by selfish individual interests will not stand in the way of ensuring for the unhappy population of the country, Christian and Moslem alike, the chance of "cultivating their gardens" in peace—a blessing they have never experienced in the whole history of this part of the world.

BULGARIA

SOFIA, December 31.

Import Duties.

The import duties, municipal and other taxes, which are collected at the Customs in gold, will from January 1 be paid at the exchange of 600 frs. instead of 500 for 100 frs. gold. With a view to greater stability in commerce, the Ministry of Finance announces that this represents the maximum rate of exchange which will be in force during the first half of 1920, and that it will probably be decreased when the Government Consortium commences the export of Bulgarian cereals.

CYPRUS.

January 3.

Bread Shortage.

The scarcity of wheat and flour is now keenly felt throughout the island, and reports of distress come from various quarters. The District Commissioners have received numerous appeals from villagers. The prices of other foods, such as rice, which are looked for as substitutes, are for many prohibitive. The Government is taking measures for relief where needed. At Nicosia, from January 1, the Government is distributing bread by means of ration cards, not only to the poor, but also to officials. Issues are made at the bakeries, which are allowed to draw wheat from the Government tithe grain stores. The allowance to the poor is one-third of an oke (a little under 1 lb.) to those over ten years, and half that quantity to those under that age. The well-to-do can obtain white bread, made mostly of Australian flour, with a proportion of barley or potato flour. This is now sold at 8 piastres the oke (rather less than 4d. the lb.), which is a very high rate for Cyprus. Similar relief is being given in other districts, by the issue of grain from Government stores.

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The last few years have afforded very convincing proof, if such were needed, of the wisdom with which the Government acted in deciding some years ago to take tithe in kind instead of in money.

With regard to seed corn, there seems no doubt that loans are still needed in some districts. Two or three weeks only remain for sowing, and it would be a pity if any *bonâ-fide* needs were left unsatisfied, and a full harvest thereby endangered. The fear is that the corn will not be used for the purpose for which it was issued; but, on the other hand, some risk must be taken and the benefit of the doubt be given to the farmer. The local papers blame the Government both in the matter of seed corn and the bread famine.

MALTA.

MALTA, January 13.

Local anxiety in regard to the shortage of flour is relieved by the knowledge that 10,000 tons of wheat are expected shortly from the Argentine. The most notable of recent imports have been carobs and seeds.

THE SUPPLY OF COTTON.

Committee of Inquiry's Report.

The report to the Board of Trade of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee, of which Sir Henry Birchenough is chairman, was issued last week in the form of a White Paper. In the memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister in July, 1917, calling attention to the serious position as regards the supply of cotton, and to the necessity for the rapid development of cotton-growing in all suitable parts of the Empire, it was pointed out, *inter alia*, that the British industry drew four-fifths of its supplies of cotton from the United States, that it was dangerous to be so largely dependent on the climatic vagaries of one portion of the world, that the United States were year by year requiring for their own consumption an increasing proportion of their own crop, that experience showed that in many parts of the Empire the growing of cotton was or could be made exceedingly profitable to the country growing it, and that it was believed to be possible to grow within the Empire the quantities and qualities of cotton that it required.

The committee state that all the investigations made tend to confirm the statements made in the memorandum. As regards the shortage of cotton, it is pointed out that the position has become decidedly worse since July, 1917. Owing, in part, to the necessity for growing more foodstuffs to meet the needs of the war, the cotton crops in the United States, in Egypt, and in India have been curtailed. Moreover, the seasons have been unfavourable, and the present season is giving rise to fears that the crop both in the United States and in Egypt will again be deficient. There is evidence of a world shortage of cotton goods, and there is no prospect whatever of there being a full supply of cotton for some years to come. Prices of cotton are already at levels far in excess of anything recorded since the cotton famine in the 'sixties. The committee are confident that if proper measures are taken it should be possible to grow, within the Empire at any rate a very large proportion of the cotton it requires, and they are convinced that in many parts of the Empire cotton-growing will greatly increase the prosperity of the colonies which grow it.

The solution of the problem of the adequate development of the Empire's resources appears to depend, it is stated, on the proper handling of three main questions: (1) The acquisition of necessary knowledge, and the supply of men to apply that knowledge; (2) the establishment of efficient arrangements for (a) controlling the growing of cotton crops, and (b) marketing the crops, when grown, so as to secure to best possible results for the growers; and (3) the provision of the necessary funds.

It is considered advisable that a Central Research Institute should be established as early as possible, and the committee are of the general impression that Egypt would be the best place for it. Agricultural Departments, it is emphasised, need strengthening. With regard to the provision of scientific men professorships should be provided by British universities in plant physiology, plant genetics, mycology, and entomology. Provision should be made for a number of post-graduate studentships attached to these chairs. A Central Bureau of Information is considered advisable to collect and disseminate the knowledge of all matters of interest to cotton growers.

The distribution of seed for sowing should be under strict Government control. There must also be compulsory measures against cotton pests. Good marketing is a necessary condition of successful cotton growing, and it is a matter of great importance where cotton growing is in an undeveloped state that there should be disinterested help in marketing.

The promotion of cotton growing will involve a large capital expenditure. The committee is of the opinion that expenditure on general development of this character should be primarily the business of the local government with or without the assistance of the Imperial Government, but they feel also that there will be no difficulty in presenting a strong case for Treasury support.

The committee explain that it is their present object to distinguish between the responsibilities for expenditure on the part of the cotton-growing colonies and the cotton-using industries, and to establish the principle that while expenditure which directly benefits the general interests of a colony should be borne by the colony itself the cost of promoting the cultivation of cotton in preference to other crops should be recognised as a charge on the cotton industry. The hope is expressed that this broad principle may find general acceptance in Lancashire and other cotton-growing districts.

As regards the raising of funds from the industry the committee are of the opinion that it is impossible to raise it by appealing for gifts and voluntary subscriptions, and that it is also equally impossible to raise money for the purpose named with the promise or expectation of ultimate profits. Profits will accrue to the cotton-growing and cotton-producing communities and not to individuals. The committee suggest the creation of a fund to be raised upon the basis of some kind of levy from the cotton industry. The levy of so small a sum as 6d. per bale of 500 lb. upon raw cotton imported into the United Kingdom would raise annually £100,000. The committee, without at this stage recommending this particular method, point out that it presents certain advantages, such as simplicity, ease of collection and difficulty of evasion, and is not in practice likely to be noticed as a burden upon the industry.

General Recommendations.

The committee's general recommendations are as follow:—

(1) That the Empire Cotton-Growing Committee be authorised to continue its work on the general lines of the present report, and that a grant be made to it by the Treasury of not less than £10,000 per annum for five years to pay for its secretarial and other current expenses and for any outlay that proves to be necessary for initiatory work in directions connected with the objects of the committee.

(2) That the immediate importance of greatly enlarging and strengthening the agricultural departments of British Colonies and Protectorates be recognised as a preliminary step essential to any rapid progress, and that the Colonial Office be respectfully recommended to appoint a committee on the scale of numbers, salaries and general expenditure which should be aimed at for adoption as and where circumstances permit.

(3) That in order to supplement the present knowledge of scientific principles underlying cotton growing, a central research institute be established for their investigation.

(4) That in order to increase the supply and improve the training of scientific men financial provision be made for at least four readerships at British universities in plant physiology, plant genetics, mycology and entomology; that funds be provided for research studentships to be held for one or two years by graduates selected for training in methods of research in these and other sciences concerned with the study of the living plant, the number to be five to begin with, but to be considerably increased before long.

(5) That we should establish a bureau for the interchange of knowledge of cotton growing, and should arrange for the publication of a quarterly review devoted to this subject.

(6) That the Governments of all cotton-growing areas in the Empire be advised to take full powers for exercising strict control over all essential matters connected with cotton growing.

(7) That where it is possible and seems desirable such Governments be recommended to establish local associations of cotton-growers to advise their Government upon matters of general interest to the industry.

(8) That an agreement be negotiated with the British Cotton-Growing Association, in accordance with which that body will act as agent for the Empire Cotton-Growing Committee for marketing crops, where this is desired by the local government, a condition being that the Cotton-Growing Association shall forego any profits in the business carried on under the agreement, but shall be guaranteed against permanent loss arising therefrom.

(9) That funds for the promotion of cotton-growing in the Empire should be provided from the following sources: (a) The British Treasury; (b) the local revenues of cotton-growing areas; and (c) the cotton industry.

As regards (a) it is suggested that the British Treasury may be fairly looked to (1) to provide for the secretarial and establishment charges of the Empire Cotton-Growing Committee and for outlay for initiatory work; (2) to contribute—in some proportion to be agreed—towards expenditure approved by the committee; and (3) to assist the Governments of Colonies and Protectorates either by grants or more probably by guarantees to provide funds for public works, such as railways, waterways, irrigation and harbour works, necessary for the development of their resources.

With regard to (b) it is suggested that where developments are calculated to extend the general prosperity of a colony or protectorate they should, as a rule, be financed by the Colonial or Protectorate Government, and with regard to (c) that where the growing of cotton is promoted in preference to other profitable crops, and where pioneer work is undertaken in order to ascertain whether cotton can be grown profitably, the consequential expenditure should be at the charge of the cotton industry.

(10) That the committee be authorised to ascertain the opinion of the cotton trade of this country in regard to these recommendations, and in particular upon what lines effective co-operation in raising the necessary money may be expected from the organisations in which the trade is grouped.

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The Egyptian Cotton Crop.

By John A. Todd.

II.—THE IMMEDIATE PROSPECT.

Since the first of these articles was written the position has become even more acute as regards the price of Egyptian cotton. After a slight relapse, F.G.F. Sakel has risen again to 68d. per lb., while fully middling American, after being up to 31.23d., also relapsed, and is now only 28.91d. That makes the Egyptian premium 135 per cent., which is a new record, the highest previously known to the writer being 110 per cent. in April, 1917.

The question of the permanence of such a premium depends, as always, on the prospects of supply and demand. Of the first it is particularly difficult to judge this year, owing to the disturbed state of the country. In normal years it would be fairly safe by this time to estimate the probable amount of the crop by a comparison of the arrivals at Alexandria to date with those of previous years. If that standard were applied just now on a basis sufficiently long to carry back into pre-war years, it would make a very poor showing for the present crop. The following table gives the figures back to 1912-13, from the Bulletins of the Alexandria General Produce Association :—

Season.	Arrivals to December 26.	% of Total.	Total Arrivals.	Adjusted Total Crop.
		In thousands of Kantars		
1912-13	5,673	76	7,482	7,533
1913-14	5,497	72	7,612	7,684
1914-15	2,795	44	6,373	6,490
1915-16	3,179	68	4,640	4,806
1916-17	3,759	74	5,063	5,111
1917-18	3,583	53	6,157	6,308
1918-19	2,992	62	4,825	4,821
1919-20	3,810	64†	*5,950**	*6,000**

† 7 years average. * Estimates.

It is obvious, however, from these figures that the conditions during the war have been abnormal, and the difficulty is to decide how to compare the present year with its predecessors. Is it fair, for example, to compare the arrivals this season with those of normal pre-war years, when there was no such disturbance in political affairs, and especially when transport facilities had not been impaired as they probably still are to-day, owing to the damage done to the railways last spring. On the other hand, it must be remembered that up till 1918 the transport facilities available for cotton were seriously reduced owing to the demands of military transport. Again, it is well known that the movement of the crop is always influenced very largely by the prices during the early months of the winter. In 1914, 1917, and 1918 prices were falling. To-day they are higher than they have ever been.

Putting all these pros and cons together, it is very difficult to draw any conclusion from the statistics, but it is safe to say that they do not justify any very optimistic views as to the out-turn of the present crop. The Alexandria General Produce Association's estimate of 6,000,000 kantars is likely to be very near the mark. Such a figure cannot be regarded as satisfactory from any point of view. It is 20 per cent. less than the pre-war figures, and even then the world was crying out for more Egyptian cotton. It is true that the present consuming capacity of the mills is greatly limited—e.g., by the restriction of the hours of labour, and by the damage done to the cotton mills in the devastated regions of Northern France. It is very probable that the great majority of the Lancashire mills which use Egyptian are now well stocked or covered by purchases ahead for a large part of this season's consumption, so that there may be no immediate danger of shortage of actual cotton. But it is not satisfactory to know that the year's crop is hardly more than sufficient to meet the present restricted consumption, and that even a return to pre-war rates of consumption would find us seriously short of the raw material. For the fact is that we are already faced with a very serious addition to the pre-war needs, in the form of a substantial demand for a purpose which before the war did not take up a material proportion of the crop—namely, motor-car tyres. It is now well known that this is the main cause of the great increase in the American demand for Egyptian cotton, and that this new demand is not only likely to run the present supplies very close indeed, but is likely to increase at least as fast as the possible increase of the crop in the immediate future.

The position may be summarised as follows. The American tyre industry is increasing just as fast as it is possible to turn out the cars and the tyres. The output of tyres is at present limited by the amount of tyre fabric available, and that, again, is probably limited by the capacity of the mills to produce the yarns required, which are of very low count but very high quality. There is a good deal of evidence to the effect that the tyre makers are placing their demands for quality in the raw material rather higher than is strictly necessary. They began by using Sea Island cotton, then Egyptian, and now they are using staple American cottons, and any other variety, such as Peruvian, which has any pretence to staple. Incidentally, one reason of the present rush on Egyptian is the fact that in 1918 the premium obtainable for staple cotton in America was so low that most of the growers dropped it in 1919, and the crop was very short. That should be remedied in the coming season.

But to the tyre maker the price of his cotton does not matter much, especially as the very low price of rubber is compensating the rise of cotton. What he wants is mileage, and he is convinced that that depends on long staple, and as long as he can get long staple he does not care much what he pays for it. There is, of course, a limit to the price, but it is very difficult to say whether that limit has been reached yet. Only one thing is certain: that the price he will be willing to pay will be a great deal higher than Lancashire has been in the habit of paying for similar cotton for quite other uses.

It is very probable, therefore, that the special market for Egyptian cotton which placed the Egyptian producer in so favourable a position is likely to be accentuated in the immediate future. We are in for probably a long period of very high premiums for Egyptian cotton. The next point for consideration is the prospect of the general cotton supply, upon which the basis price of cotton depends, and that will carry us in the next article into a consideration of the present position and prospects of the American crop.

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ENGINEERING.

Cold and Concrete.

Now that such extensive use is likely to be made of reinforced concrete in construction work it is essential that not only should every aspect of the subject be closely studied, but that all engaged in concrete construction, whether practical, experimental, or in the nature of research, should make known to others the difficulties they encounter and the best ways of surmounting them that have come to their notice.

A very great deal of work has been done by the Concrete Institute, but much more remains to be determined, and amongst other questions worthy of special consideration is that of the effect of cold ranging from just above a freezing temperature to well below zero on concrete construction. Just now, delay in construction, once commenced, cannot be tolerated, and yet it appears that such delays will have to be encountered in steel and concrete construction work should operations be commenced during the early part of the winter months. So far it is the general impression that concrete will not harden properly at a temperature near to the freezing point.

It would seem, however, that provided proper precautions are taken, concrete construction work can be continued even under severe climatic conditions. Tarpaulins can be used to ward off cold, freezing winds, and coke or other heating fires can be placed in such positions as to mitigate largely the effect of severe frost, provided care is taken to place them to windward of the work. By means of a few old gas and steam pipes screwed together, with sufficient double bends or elbows, a coil can be constructed which can be buried in the piles of sand, gravel, or broken stone, and through which steam can be passed at about atmospheric pressure from a small boiler. The sacks of cement can be kept warmed to proper temperature in the same way, and the mixture can be worked with warm water instead of cold. Where fear is expressed lest the steel reinforcing shall have too severe a coiling effect on the wet concrete, the steelwork can be heated by means of a steam jet, after the type of those used in steam brush work. Where materials are stored in bins, these can be heated by steam piping, or if there is installed in the vicinity a plant with ample supplies of warmed condensing water, this can be fed by piping through the material stores. The forms, as the wooden moulds into which the concrete is poured are called, can be kept heated by coke fires or steam until the concrete has set; and many other expedients will suggest themselves to every engineer. It may be pointed out that with this kind of work a better class of labour than ordinarily employed is required, otherwise carelessness may cause a good deal of damage.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

"Defective" Concrete.

The use of concrete for building purposes, apart from its very extensive use in public works, has recently been increasing throughout the Near East, the few earthquakes last year having probably given a new impetus to concrete building. There is, however, also a certain amount of hesitation owing to defects which are often noticeable in such constructions, and which are attributed to reasons more or less baseless. The most probable reason, however, in such cases is the bad handling of the concrete through inadequate supervision over inefficient men who are entrusted with the mixing. It is admitted that the mixing of concrete is one of those things which can be done very easily indeed, but requires a very great deal of care if it is to be done really well. Men who handle concrete habitually are aware of the importance of grading aggregate, sand and cement in such proportions as to give as solid a concrete as possible; and of mixing the components together thoroughly. Professor Abrams, of the Lewis Institute, drew attention to a point which perhaps has not received due consideration, and that is the importance of using the minimum amount of water sufficient to produce a plastic or workable concrete. In fact, he considers that the water proportion has more effect on the nature of the resulting concrete than the proportioning of the other ingredients. His conclusions are based upon some 50,000 tests, and therefore deserve the most serious consideration. Two of them are that the use of a pint more water than is necessary in a one-bag batch reduces the strength as much as would the omission of 2 lb. to 3 lb. of cement; and that the mere use of richer mixtures, while encouraging a feeling of greater security, in many cases causes nothing more than waste of cement because the water is in excess.

Electricity in Farming.

The use of electricity for assisting and improving the growth of plants has passed the experimental stage, and in many large farms, and even in small holdings, it is now employed with complete success. It has been proved that the action of an electric current passing through the soil is very stimulating. The method usually adopted is a network of galvanised iron wires stretched over the field to be treated, and suspended 15 to 18 ft. from the ground from insulators attached to wooden posts placed about sixty yards apart. These posts are in parallel rows, about 100 yards apart. The electrification of the network is accomplished by the use of a very little current at an extremely high voltage. The network is charged positively. The power which is required per acre is quite small. It is calculated that for an expenditure of twenty units per annum per acre the electrical discharge may take place for eight or ten hours a day; and if the cost per unit is no more than 3d. the price per acre amounts to about 5s. per annum. By this electrical treatment the yield per acre is increased 30 per cent., and even more under certain conditions. The beneficial effect of electricity on plants is not a new discovery, for it was noticed some years ago that the growth of plants was assisted by the electrification of the atmosphere. In the South of Italy the above described method, with slight modifications, has recently been adopted to assist the growth of Macedonian (Yenitze) tobacco.

CHROME ORE DEPOSITS IN ASIA MINOR.

It has been said that Asia Minor is very rich in poor mines, says the American Consul-General at Constantinople, Mr. G. Bie Ravndal, in a recent report. The country is indeed rich in the number of its mineral deposits; but it must be remembered that the field has never been thoroughly and scientifically surveyed so as to justify a verdict in regard to whether these deposits are rich or poor. Chrome ore deposits are to be found in Asia Minor among the eruptive rocks of serpentine formation. The four most important districts where chrome mining has been more or less developed are the provinces of Smyrna, Brussa, Adana, and Konia. Among the forty chrome mines for which firmans (concessions) have been granted only eighteen have been worked. Twenty other research permits have been issued. Most of these mines are worked in a primitive way, and, modern methods not having been introduced, it would be difficult to ascertain the real chrome resources of the country. Specimens of chrome ore taken from deposits in the different districts of Asia Minor proved to be rich in chromic oxide (Cr_2O_3), the percentage varying between 40 and 55. The maximum annual production of chrome mines in Turkey amounted to 30,000 tons before the war.

Besides the lack of modern mining processes, the very inferior state of roads and communications has been another drawback to the progress of these enterprises. There are a great many mines which have not been worked on account of their being distant from a seaport or a railway line, and about which we consequently do not possess any information. According to an Italian mining engineer of thirty years' experience in Turkey, the geological structure of the Erzerum and Erzindjan regions being partly of serpentine formation, chrome mines might well be discovered in these provinces; investigations have not been made so far because of the comparative inaccessibility of these regions from seaports or railroad lines. The insecurity of the interior and the reluctance of mine owners to invest money have constituted additional impediments to the progress of mining enterprises. Moreover, the laws of the country concerning mines do not promise proper advantages nor security to holders of concessions. Consequently, foreign capital has not been forthcoming.

Chrome-Producing Districts.

The chrome-producing districts of Turkish Asia Minor may be classed in four zones, according to location, as follows:—

Brussa Zone.—Chrome ore is found in this zone in the Sanjak of Kutakia, near Tavshanli, mining district of "Dagh-Arde"; in the Sanjak of Brussa, near Harmandjik, at 31 miles from Adranos, and also at 15.5 miles from Adranos; and in the Angora Province, near Mihalidj, 3 miles from the Eski-Chehir-Angora railroad.

Smyrna Zone.—There are chrome ore deposits in the Sanjak of Menteche, at a distance of 6.25 miles from Makri; also in localities situated 23 miles south-east of Moughla, and 16 miles from the Aidini-Dinar railroad, near Denizli, respectively.

Adana Zone.—Ore is found in the Sanjak of Adana at a distance of 23 miles from the town of Adana; in the Sanjak of Mersina, near Elvanli; and in the Sanjak of Djebel-Bereket, Kaza of Yarpouz, at a distance of 16 miles north-east and 9 miles south-east of Yarpouz, near the Baghdad Railway.

Konia Zone.—There are two mines in the Sanjak of Teke, Adalia, one at a distance of 6 miles and another at a distance of 25 miles from the sea. The Sanjak of Konia has one mine;

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and ore is found also in the Sanjak of Hamidabad, at a distance of 16 miles north of Sparta, and on a highway leading to Dinar, which is a terminal station of the Aidini-Dinar Railroad.

The physical character of Brussa Province, its climate, the structure of the rock, its water supplies and forests, are favourable for mining operations, or, at least, present no special difficulties. The annual output of the mines varies from 10,000 to 15,000 tons, and the ore is of a high grade. Research work in this province has shown that there are more than 200,000 tons of ore available.

Mine of Dagh-Ardi.—This mine is situated in the district of Simay, near the village of Dagh-Ardi, at a distance of 37 miles from the Kutahia railroad station, and 56 miles from Guemleik (near Ismid Harbour). It consists of two chrome ore deposits parallel to each other and inclined to the horizontal at an angle of 20 deg. They are of mass formation, of a thickness of 33 to 50 feet, and of a grade varying between 44 and 52 per cent. After the process of reducing the serpentine to the maximum allowable percentage of 3 per cent. the grade of the ore could reach 55 per cent.; a mechanical treatment of the ore would raise its grade to 58 per cent. The extraction of chrome ore from the mine is attended with some difficulties; deep inclined and vertical shafts must be used in order to attack the mass of rock at low strata. Besides the two deposits mentioned, there is a third one called Kervan. The grade of this ore is 33 per cent. It can be used after a thorough and proportional mixing with high-grade ores and a mechanical treatment in the washing plant.

Mine of Dombay Olduyi-Deressi.—This mine is at a distance of 2½ miles from the Dagh-Ardi mine. It is of mass formation, its grade being from 45 to 48 per cent. Transport of the ore is facilitated by the aerial railway which crosses this mine. These deposits have not been yet worked, only research work having been carried out.

Terzi-Pounar Mine.—Situated at a distance of 6 miles from the Dagh-Ardi, and located on a wagon road. Its grade is from 50 to 52 per cent. Prospecting has been undertaken, but no real work has been inaugurated.

Assarlik Mine.—Situated at a distance of 4 miles from the Dagh-Ardi, and quite near the wagon road. Its grade is 48 per cent. Only prospecting has been done so far.

Karadja-Keuy Mine.—Situated near Karadja-keuy, at a distance of 22 miles from Kutahia; it is of vein formation and perpendicular bearing. The grade of the ore is 48 to 50 per cent. The mine has not been seriously worked. It belongs to Turks. The ore is transported to Kutahia.

Karli-Yer Mine.—This mine is situated at a distance of 59 miles from the Kutahia station. The chaussée road extends from this station to Tavshanli, which is 19 miles distant from the mine. The grade of the output has always been on an average of 55 per cent. The total production for approximately thirty years has been 130,000 tons. The output has been shipped to Glasgow and sometimes to Baltimore and Philadelphia. This mine can produce 4,000 to 5,000 tons of 55 per cent. graded chrome annually. Its approximate future production is estimated at 100,000 tons. There are forests and water supplies in the neighbourhood of this mine, and the climate is healthful. The mine belongs now to Krupp; 6,000 tons of chrome have been exported to Germany and Austria.

THE CONSTANTZA PIPE LINE.

According to the *Moniteur du Petrole Roumania* the pipe line to Constantza, which has been repaired over the Danube by a 5 in. pipe fixed on a floating bridge, has occasioned some difficulty in working, as, up to that point the pipe is 10 in. The management have now commenced to change this arrangement by placing a 6 in. pipe under the surface of the Danube, and it is expected that this change will greatly facilitate the pumping of petroleum towards Constantza. The 5 in. pipe running through Cernavode to Constantza will be replaced by a 10 in. pipe for a distance of 13 km., and the present 5 in. line for this part of the distance will be used exclusively for the transfer of the production of the Colombia refinery.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.—There is little to add to the remarks made last week. Good quality currants are unquestionably in ever-increasing demand. Sultanas are also in steady request.

Coffee.—A quiet and steady tendency has been in evidence in this market. Among the latest transactions Costa Rica, various qualities, has been done at prices ranging 158s. to 168s., while Indian has come to business between 140s. and 158s.

Sugar.—The demand for the raw commodity shows some sign of decreasing. On the other hand, the refined is in strong request at the controlled rates. The latest reports with regard to cane crops are satisfactory. During 1919 4,068,000 tons of sugar were consumed in the United States as against 3,496,000 tons during the previous twelve months.

Oil Seeds.—The market is very steady. Linseed is a specially firm spot. La Plata, January-February, has been done at 42s. 5d., February-March at 41s., and March-April at 40s. 6d. Cotton seed is steady. Rape seed has been firm, Toria being 49s.

Oil Cakes, etc.—There is little to report in regard to oil cakes. Where there are alterations it is in the direction of a lower tendency. Soya bean cake is 24s. 9d. Coconut cake is quoted at 20s. Rapeseed cake is fairly firm at 18s.

Oils in general are firm. Linseed is a strong spot at 108s., and the same February-April. Rape oil is steady, deodorised being 130s., and crude 15s. cheaper. Cotton oil remains about the same, deodorised being 135s. and crude 118s. Turpentine is 185s. spot, and also February-April.

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Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard s.s. Sydney Reid, for Piræus, Constantinople, Galatz, and Batoum will close for cargo at Swansea on January 31.

The Johnston Line s.s. Alpine Grange, for Piræus, Volo, Salonica, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 3 (unless previously full).

The Papayanni Line s.s. Worsley Hall for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 14.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Beyrout direct, will leave Liverpool on February 15.

The Anchor Line s.s. Scindia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 5.

The R.M.S.P. Co.'s s.s. Sunland, for Gibraltar and Morocco, will leave London on February 5.

Shipping at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, January 5.

The latest arrivals include the s.s. Bavarian from Liverpool, s.s. Thurso from Newcastle and London, s.s. Hunnie from Alexandria, and H.M.S. Hibiscus and Iron Duke from Constantinople.

The s.s. Euphrates has left for Marseilles, the Falernian for Constantinople, and the Flaxton for Port Said.

Malta, January 13.

There has been a lull during the last few days. Amongst the arrivals the most important have been the British s.s. Will Hemsoth from Constantinople, the Danish s.s. Rota from Helsingfors and Gibraltar, and the Italian s.s. Tebe from Sengasi. The Centurion from Gibraltar and Devonport, and the Sirdar from Palma, Algiers, Gibraltar, and the United Kingdom have just entered port. The drifter Young Sid has left for home.

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COMPANY MEETING.

G.I.P. Railway.

The one hundred and fortieth half-yearly general meeting of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was held on January 23 at the company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, Mr. J. E. Dallas, managing director, presiding.

The secretary, Mr. R. H. Walpole, read the notice convening the meeting.

Mr. Dallas, who stated that in the absence of Sir Charles Armstrong who had gone to India on a tour of inspection it devolved on him to take the chair on this occasion, said that it would be seen from the report that the gross receipts amounted to 6½ crores of rupees; this constituted a further record, the increase over the former half-year amounting to 17 lakhs of rupees. Unfortunately expenditure increased by 80½ lakhs of rupees, resulting in net revenue being decreased by 63½ lakhs of rupees. Excluding State lines, and deducting interest charges, the net revenue showed a decrease of 62½ lakhs of rupees. They would notice that the traffic of the line continued to increase in a satisfactory manner. They budgeted for 12.80 crores for the present financial year 1919-1920, but that estimate had already had to be revised, and they now expected to overtop 13 crores; in the next report they might possibly talk about still larger figures. They had to bear in mind, however, that there was leeway to be made up in the maintenance of the line, due to the necessity of curtailing expenditure during the war.

If they examined the details of the receipts they found that they carried 3,288,000 more ordinary passengers than in the corresponding half-year of 1918-1919 and earned Rs. 33 lakhs more on this service. There was a slight decrease in the earnings of troop traffic, but this was still an important feature in their coaching receipts, as they carried 629,000 troops and received Rs. 40 lakhs on this account. The total increase in coaching receipts was Rs. 36½ lakhs, equivalent to an increase of 16.23 per cent. The chief feature in goods traffic was the falling off of Rs. 28½ lakhs in general merchandise and military stores.

In the unsettled state of trade it was permissible to regard as satisfactory the above-mentioned increase in earnings. It was, however, disappointing to find that it was accompanied by an increase in working expenses of 23 per cent. on the corresponding period of last year, of which 20.39 per cent. would be unaccounted for by greater traffic handled. One of the first comments he had to make on this high figure was that in the corresponding period of 1918-1919 the ratio of working expenditure to gross earnings, viz., 55.08 per cent., was, owing to the difficulty in carrying out all the maintenance works that were required, more favourable than would have been the case if each half-year had borne its fair share of expenditure. On the other hand, the corresponding ratio in the half-year under review, viz., 66.01, was higher than their pre-war average of 58. The increase in salaries of staff and wages of workmen has necessarily followed the rise in the cost of living. He should not omit to mention an accidental cause of high expenditure which prejudiced the accounts of the period under review. In August the East Indian Railway was breached in several places between Allahabad and Katni, and for a period of three weeks traffic which would have traversed their Bombay-Jubbulpur main line had to be diverted to the north and sent via Cawnpore, and was thereby considerably restricted in volume. The issues of fuel and stores which had been made to meet the heavier traffic would therefore bear more heavily on the traffic which was actually carried.

In connection with schemes which required the expenditure of capital money, he might inform them that the investigations which this company had made on the question of electrifying certain portions of the line had now been completed. Messrs. Merz and McLellan, of Victoria Street, who carried out the necessary surveys, had been appointed consulting engineers to the G.I.P. Railway Company for electric traction. The reports and estimates covered the suburban sections from Bombay to Kalyan, and the main line to Bhusaval on the north-east and Poona on the south-east. A proposal to electrify, as a first instalment, the section from Bombay to Kurla, including the Harbour Branch, was now being made to the Government of India, and as it was understood that Government was anxious to encourage the electrification scheme, at any rate so far as the suburban sections were concerned, it was possible that this scheme might be inaugurated as soon as funds could be made available.

As regards the future, the prospects were in many respects favourable. There had been an excellent monsoon, and the rain had been well distributed, resulting in good kharif crops, and there was every prospect of good rabi crops, which would shortly be reaped. The cotton crop was reported to be well up to the average of the best years. The traffic reports for the current half-year showed satisfactory increases.

He then moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, which was seconded by Mr. J. F. Finlay, C.S.I., and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved a vote of thanks to Sir Lawless Hepper, the Agent in India, the heads of the departments, and the staff in India and at home, which was unanimously agreed to, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and the directors terminated the proceedings.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended January 3 amounted to £20,551.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* states that under the direction of the Roumanian National Bank all the large banks in Roumania have formed a trust with a view to joint action in all goods exchange negotiations between Roumania and the Central European States, especially Austria, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, and Germany.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The conditions prevailing in the market have not shown any distinct change during the week. During the last day or two, however, there have been indications of rather more demand in some sections. The slacker state of affairs which has been experienced since the beginning of the year has had practically no effect upon prices, and buyers who have held aloof in the hope of getting in at lower figures are disappointed. Spinners and manufacturers have plenty of work to go on with, and there is of course no running after fresh orders. A further advance has occurred in Egyptian cotton prices. Substantial buying has taken place for tyre cloth manufacturing concerns. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton have been put up in quotation, but users seem to be afraid of purchasing freely at the abnormal prices which now rule. Engagements of spinners seem to be getting rather more irregular. Fluctuations have occurred in American cotton, but bullish sentiment is not so pronounced as a week ago. In cloth for Egypt, the general inquiry keeps up well. Some fair lines have been put through in sized materials, and steady buying has taken place in finishing goods. Some advices from the Levant have not been altogether encouraging. Fancies have been in healthy demand for several European countries. India has not been generally active, but some useful lines have been secured in bleaching and printing descriptions for Bombay and Madras. A feature of interest has been the revival of demand for China, and more sales have been arranged than since the beginning of the year. Manufacturers remain very difficult to deal with, and order lists are of such a character that sellers can afford to be independent. American yarns for home consumption have not moved off freely, but late rates are well held. A persistent demand has been met with in bundle yarns for India. Delivery difficulties have checked operations for the Near East.

NEW COMPANIES.

Scottish Mesopotamia Corporation.

The Scottish Mesopotamia Corporation, Ltd., was registered in Edinburgh as a private company on January 13 with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on commercial, industrial and financial relations between Mesopotamia, Persia, Asia Minor, Armenia, Palestine, Syria, Arabia, India, Ceylon, Russia and any other country or countries on the one hand and Great Britain, the British Dominions, Colonies, and Dependencies, the United States of America and any other countries on the other.

The subscribers (each with one share) are:—J. A. Hunter, Inchmartine, Inchture, N.B., retired planter; T. W. Tod, Clerwood, Corstorphine, Midlothian, merchant; W. Greenhill, 31, George Street, Edinburgh, chartered accountant.

The first directors are:—J. A. Hunter, T. W. Tod, Sir James W. Thomson, 28, Bernard Street, Leith; F. F. Mackay, 4, Randolph Place, Edinburgh; and G. H. Davey, 5, Fenchurch Street, E.C. Qualification: £500. Registered office: 4, Randolph Place, Edinburgh.

Borhat Tea.

The Borhat Tea Company, Ltd., was registered on January 10 with a capital of £180,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To take over certain estates in the district of Sibsagar, Assam, and any other lands or tea estates in British India or elsewhere, and to enter into an agreement with a company of a similar title, incorporated in 1903, and the liquidator. Subscribers (one share each): H. S. Cholmeley, Rodwell, Calne, Wilts, farmer; A. G. Adams, "Sunnymead," Aldeburgh, Suffolk, retired tea planter; A. Bryans, 45, Leadenhall Street, E.C., East India merchant; W. F. C. Nelson, 45, Leadenhall Street, E.C., clerk; G. P. Vasey, 45, Leadenhall Street, E.C., clerk; C. G. Ballingall, 45, Leadenhall Street, E.C., East India merchant; Capt. R. Shields, R.E. (T), "The Cottage," Epping. Registered office: 45, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

ROUMANIAN COMPANY FOR FINANCING TRADE.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that an important financial organisation has been formed at Bucharest to finance imports and exports. It is understood that a considerable part of the new company's activities will be the forming of agencies for British and French firms. Each branch of the import business will be managed by a technical expert. At the present moment the organisation of the company is not complete, but it is expected to be ready for operations in a short time. Among the first board of directors are M. Stefanescu, a director of the Banca Romaneasa; M. Osiceanu, director of the Petroleum Company (Steaua); General Iliescu, at one time chief of the Roumanian Army; and other prominent men. The registered capital is 60,000,000 lei, divided into 120,000 shares of 500 lei each. Operations will commence on a subscribed capital of 20,000,000 lei.

The Banca Commerciale Italiana e Bulgara was opened recently in Sofia as a limited liability company with a capital of 12,000,000 liras.

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SPONGE GATHERING IN TUNISIAN WATERS.

Although the Greek divers have abandoned the sponge fisheries of the Tunisian coast for those of Tripolitan waters, unexploited since the Turco-Italian war, where, it is reported, unexcelled sponges have recently been taken, the sponge beds along the Regency's coast are bringing no small profit to the Sicilian dragnets and harpoonists now plying in the Gulf of Gabes and around the Kerkenna Islands, says a recent American Consular report. Sfax, the chief port of Southern Tunisia, is naturally the trade centre of the industry, the sponge market of Tunisia, whence domestic and export prices are regulated. It is interesting to note that for the fine sponges which the Kerkenna fishers obtain the Sfax prices are from 32 francs per kilo (2.2 lb.); sponges form the Gulf of Gabes, of ordinary quality, bring 27 francs a kilo (formerly from 12 to 14 francs). The harpoonists are bringing in good sponges, poorly dried and cleaned, which are sold at 32 francs a kilo in Sfax. There the extremely fine Kerkenna sponges are expected within a fortnight, for sale, it is already announced, at about 50 francs a kilo; these are sold without any preparation whatever to buyers, who themselves clean the delicate tissues.

CONVENTION BETWEEN ARMENIA AND GEORGIA.

The Chief British Commissioner in Transcaucasia, reports that the Convention, signed at Tiflis on November 3, between Armenia and Georgia, freeing transit trade from all Customs duties, has now been ratified. The Board of Trade have received from the Foreign Office the following translation of the Convention:—1. For goods proceeding by the Armenian railways from beyond the bounds of Armenia into Georgia, or from Georgia beyond the bounds of Armenia, and also for goods proceeding by the Georgian railways from beyond the bounds of Georgia into Armenia, or from Armenia beyond the bounds of Georgia, there is established free transit, i.e., transit without payment of Customs duties. 2. This Convention is established for the period of three years, but on the expiry of one year from the date of the ratification there is granted to each of the contracting parties the right to declare for a revision of the Convention, and in that case the Convention remains in force during six months from the date of the Declaration. If during that period the parties do not arrive at an agreement concerning the revision, then the Convention terminates.

BAGHDAD RAILWAY OPENED.

Reuter's Busreh correspondent, in a message dated January 17, states:—The first through train from Busreh to Baghdad, containing British military and civil officers and Arab sheikhs, left Busreh at midnight on January 13 and arrived at Baghdad South Station on the afternoon of January 15, where Lady Macmunn, in the presence of a large gathering, fixed the last fishbolt and declared the line open. The train then proceeded to Baghdad West Station. General Sir G. F. Macmunn made a speech, in which he said that there were now 945 miles of railway in Mesopotamia, as compared with 1,113 miles during the war. This fact, he said, was due to the pulling up of unimportant lines.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* states that it is proposed to extend the railway from Suakin to Tokai, thus tapping an important cotton-growing district.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

East Indian Railway.

The report of the East Indian Railway Company for the half-year ended September 30 states that the capital expenditure was Rs.17,73,099. The gross receipts of the entire system were Rs.6,75,86,660, working expenses Rs.2,89,39,555, and net earnings Rs.3,86,47,105. The gross receipts were Rs.24,20,110 less than those of corresponding period of 1918. The working expenses were, however, Rs.59,21,016 more, the result being a decrease in net earnings of Rs.83,41,126. The net earnings, including the South Behar Railway, together with the sum received for working the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway, amount to Rs.3,72,42,555. From this has to be deducted Rs.1,95,15,079 in respect of various charges, leaving a divisible surplus of Rs.1,77,27,476, the company's share of which, after deducting Indian income-tax, is Rs.13,91,208. This amount has produced £155,786, which, added to balance on surplus profits account, after payment of the dividend in July last and all excess profits tax to September 30, 1918, and after providing for such duty as may be payable in respect of the two half-years to September 30, enables the board to recommend a dividend, subject to English income-tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, of £2 10s. per cent. on the Deferred Annuity capital and the Deferred Annuity capital Class "D." in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. for the half-year. The arrangements for the management and working of the undertaking by the agency of the company after December 31 having been accepted by the Deferred Annuitants, the contract for giving effect thereto between the Secretary of State for India in Council and the company has been concluded. It now remains for the directors to take the necessary proceedings for establishing the rights of the Deferred Annuitants to the same abatement of income-tax during the currency of the contract as is received by the Ordinary Annuitants. The computations of the accountants, regarding the assessment of the company's share of the surplus profits of the railway for the further period to March 31 to excess profits duty, have recently been agreed to by the surveyor of taxes, and £29,589 has been paid in respect thereof. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., January 28, 12.30 p.m.

British Trade Corporation.

The report of the British Trade Corporation for the year ended December 31 states that during the past year the export trade of the country has revived, and the corporation has rendered substantial assistance in the finance thereof. Branches have been opened at Batoum, Belgrade and Danzig, and the National Bank of Turkey has opened a branch at Smyrna. During the war the corporation, in conjunction with other banks, has formed the South Russia Banking Agency, Ltd., and has acquired £10,000 of the capital thereof. With the view of closing the accounts at or about the usual date only ledger balances of branches (which have only been recently opened) are incorporated in the accounts now submitted, and no profits in respect of such branches and of the corporation's considerable investments in subsidiary companies and in the National Bank of Turkey are included therein. These, when ascertained, will appear in the accounts for 1920. The net profit for the year, after payment of all expenses and making provision for depreciation of investments and contingencies, amounts to £88,340, which, with £14,252 brought forward from December 31, 1918, makes a total of £102,592. The directors recommend a dividend of 8s. per share (subject to income tax), leaving £22,592 to be carried forward. The board has appointed Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I., as an additional director and deputy-governor of the corporation as from January 1, 1920. Meeting, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C., February 11, 3 p.m.

Deltota (Ceylon).

The report of the Deltota (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Plantations for the year ended June 30 shows a loss of £499, which, added to £1,145 brought forward, makes a total debit balance of £1,644 to be carried forward. Since the date of closing the accounts £25,000 eight per cent. convertible debenture stock has been created and issued, and the outstanding mortgages and loans redeemed. The quantity of tea made from estate and bought leaf during the year totalled 375,840 lb., against estimate of 386,000 lb., the average net price realised being 9.24d. per lb. The estimates for the current year are: Estate leaf 276,000 lb.; bought leaf, 120,000 lb.; total, 396,000 lb.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

During the past week our market for Egyptian securities has remained active, and there has been a fairly large business doing. In Government stocks City of Alexandria Bonds have risen a point to 69, Egyptian Unifieds are three points higher at 83, and the 3½ per cent. Pref. have advanced 1½ points to 67½. Turkish 1891 have improved 2½ to 69, and the 3½ per cent. 1894 are 1½ points up at 60½.

In Bank shares Nationals after temporarily easing close a firm spot and unchanged, while Agriculturals have risen ⅛ to 5 15-16, and the Pref. shares have improved to 6 11-16.

In Railways Delta Lights are ⅛ up at 6⅝.

Amongst Land shares, where a very large business has been transacted, Aboukirs have been in persistent demand, and, after at one time receding to 40s. sellers, finish 3s. 9d. higher at 46s. 6d.; whilst the debentures have advanced three points to 140. Béhéras after dropping to 25 finish unchanged at 26½. Building Lands have jumped 4s. to 32s. Delta Lands at one time fell to 20s. sellers and close 1s. 3d. lower at 21s. 9d. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have risen a further 1s. to 18s. Gharbieh Lands have been in strong demand and close ⅛ up at 4⅛, but business has been restricted owing to scarcity of sellers. New Egyptians, after dropping to 37s., finish unchanged at 39s. 9d. Sidi Salems have been exceptionally dull, closing 3-16 lower at 3⅜; Sudan Plantations have put on a like fraction at 8¾. Union Foncières dipped at one time to 5¾, and finish ¼ down at 6.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions Salts and Sodas are closing 1s. 3d. higher at 55, and Morum's have advanced 3s. to 18s.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B have been a dull feature, and close 5-16 down at 4 11-16; Roumanians have dropped 6d. to 23s. 6d.

In Greek securities the 1881, 1884, 1890, Fundings and 1902 Loans have remained firm. Monopolies are one point lower at 48½, and Rentes have also dropped one point to 44. The 1910 Loan has again been weak on Continental attempts to sell, and finishes one point down at 46.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 7:—Nearly general rain in central and extreme south of India and local in the north-west. Recent unusual rains in Madras, generally beneficial, though damage caused in places to ripe crops. During the week ending January 3 sowing spring crops continued in north-western India. Harvesting autumn crops continued Bombay and north-western India, neared completion central India. Harvesting paddy progressed north-eastern and southern India, neared completion Bengal. Sowing progressed Madras. Cotton picking continued, except in Burma. General crop conditions good, but rain required Punjab. Alipur Duars Kumargram railway survey, 26 miles by Eastern Bengal State Railway sanctioned in lieu of Goalkunge Kumargram Alipur Duars Railway reconnaissance survey previously sanctioned. Construction Larkhana Dodapur section of Larkhana Jacobabad project fifty-four miles, and Kasta Coalfields Railway seventeen miles, by East Indian Railway sanctioned. Bombay cotton market steady despite mill strikes. Fully good Broach Rs. 558 8 annas. Piece-goods market firm. Calcutta jute market quiet but firm. Heavy goods quite firm with fair general demand. Hessians very firm. Mill strikes affecting both near and forward positions. No change in bank rate.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN MOROCCO.

Authority to draw on the reserve funds of the Protectorate has, it is stated, been granted by the French Government for the amount necessary for the preliminary work of laying out, levelling, and preparing the line of the Petit-Jean-Kenistra broad-gauge railway for ballasting. The French attribute great importance to this line, as it will connect Casablanca with the Tangier-Fez line, and thus enable that port to compete successfully with Tangier for the Fez trade when the Tangier-Fez line is completed.

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The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Jan.19	Price Jan.26
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28½	28½
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	68	69
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	80	83
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	66	67½
Greek 5%, 1881	52	52
Do. 5%, 1884	52	52
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49½xd	48½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	44
Do. 5% 1890	51½	51½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	51½	51½
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	58	58
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	47	46
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	65	65
Do. 5% Currant	93	93
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	82	83
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	66½	69
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	59	60½
Do. 4% Unified	39	39
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5½	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68½	68½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70½	70½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17½	17½
Bank of Abyssinia	36/3	36/3
Bank of Athens	70/-	70/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	5½	5½
British Trade Corporation	10	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅜	9⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅛	9⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	6⅛
London County and Westminster	153xd	154x
National Bank of Egypt	24	24
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	78⅛	78⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	11½	11
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	57½	57½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	49	49
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	65	65
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	42/9	46/6
Do. 6% Debs	137	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	20/-	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	26½	26½
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	28/-	32/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	3/3	3/3
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	23/-	21/9
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	17/-	18/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	4	4⅛
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	36/3	36/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	39/9	39/9
Sidi Salem Co.	3⅛	3⅜
Sudan Plantations	8⅝	8⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	6½	6
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	11/3	11/3
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅛
Associated Cotton Ginners	22/6	22/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/9	23/9
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	53 9	55/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	99⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/3	18/9
Morum's Oriental Stores. Partptg. Pref.	17/9	17/9
Suez Canal	178	178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	100	101
Chinese 4½% 1898	67⅛	67⅛
Do. 5% 1896	84	85
Argentine 5% 1890	80	78½
Do. 5% 1907	83	83½
OIL.		
Algerian	5/10½	5/7½
Anglo-Bulgarian	10/-	9/6
Anglo-Egyptian B	5	4½
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/9	24/9
Do. 5% Debs.	82	82½
Anglo-Roumanian	9/9	9/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/3	5/-
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	8/6	8/6
Roumanian	24/-	23/6
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	8/10½	8/3
Trajan (Roumanian)	9/-	10/-

A Reuter message from Cairo states that the land taxes have been raised in various mudirias, the increases ranging from 2 to 10 per cent.

The Indian Government has prohibited the export of rouble notes to all places, except in cases where the notes are deposited in Government Treasuries.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Dec. 12. Rs.	Dec. 18. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	62½	63
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	2250	2200
Bank of Bombay	2700	2700
Bank of Madras	1800	18 0
Bank of India	150	150
Tata Industrial Bank	56½	58½
COAL.		
Baraboni	18	18
Bengal	860x	860x
Burrakur	48	49⅜
East Indian	42⅜	43¼
Equitable	46¼	46½
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	65	64½
Standard	69½	69¼
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	365	350
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2409	2400
Bowreah	730	730
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	820	820
Central India	3050	3050
	1525	1525
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	1800	1800
Khatau Makanji	5600	5600
Muir	120	120
New Ring	540	540
Phœnix	850	850
Svadeshi	3100	3100
JUTE.		
Alliance	762	740
Barnagore	200	200
Budge Budge	600	603
Clive	295	295
Dalhousie	505	505
Delta	635	603
Fort Gloster	1002x	1002x
Gourepore	1125x	1125x
Howrah	44¼	43
Kamarhatty	986	923
Kanknarrah	775	765
Khardah	520	520
Kinnison	1005	1005
National	440	440
Standard	655	655
Union	890	890
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	652x	652x
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	245	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	210	210
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General Steam	155x	155x
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
	90	88½
Marshall Sons and Co.	152	152
Titaghur Paper	375	375

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JANUARY 10.

Supplied by G. L. Morters, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	23⅝
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	83½
" " Div.	Frs.	120
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	23½
" priv.	£	4⅞
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	106
Comptoir Fin. et Com d. Egypte	£	1¼
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5⅜
Société des Immeubles	£	8½
Bonded Stores	£	16⅝
Unifiée	£	75⅛
Privilégiée		62½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6½
Nungovich Hotels	£	11⅞
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
" Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅜
" Ord		104/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	23½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	149
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		38/3
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	470
" Div.	Frs.	420
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	320
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	9½
Egyptian Salt and Soda		51/9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	712
" Fondateur	Frs.	950
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	449
" 1903 "	Frs.	309
" 1911 "	Frs.	289
Consolidated Land	P.T.	9½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	4⅞
Mensaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	390
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2⅛
Urbaines & Rurales		4⅛
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅞
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1⅛

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Jan 19	Jan. 26
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	60⅜	60
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	66½	67
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		82	82
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		72½	71
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		73½	73½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		84	84
Eastern		7¼	7¼
Mercantile of India A		40⅜	41½
National of India		57	58
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		9/-	9/-
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/9	13/9
Burma Corp.		13⅜	13⅜
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		13/6	13/6
Champion Reef Gold		3/-	4/-
Mysore Gold Mining		⅜	1⅛
Nundydroog		15/6	15/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		17/-	⅜
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		22/3	20/9
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2⅜	2⅜
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		39/4½	42/-
Brit. Burmah		3x	3⅛
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		21	20⅜
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10	10
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		53	52½
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		140½	141
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		54½	54½
Bengal-Nagpur		120	119
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		105⅝	105⅞
Burma Railways		111½	113
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13½	13½
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13⅜	13⅜
Gt. Indian Pen Ann. "A," 1948		13⅛	12⅝
Madras and S. Mahratta		111½	111½
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		134½	134½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		84½	82
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		38/6	38/6
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		84	85
Do. Deferred		650	660
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		67½x	67x
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16⅜	16⅜
British Indian Tea Ord.		8½	8½
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		16½	16⅜
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		13/-	13/-
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		3⅜xb	3⅜xb
Consolidated Estates		8	8
Darjeeling Co.		27/-	26/-
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		3¼	3⅜
Dooars Tea Ord.		3x	3⅜
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		19/4½	18/9
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		£8/9	68/1
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		35/6	36/3
Hewagam Rubber Co.		22/10½	25/-
Jhansie Tea Association		11½	11
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		23½x	22⅝x
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		20/-	19/9
Lanka Plantations Ord.		30/-	30/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		58/6	55/-
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		47/6	47/6
Nuwara Ellya Tea Estates Ord.		14½	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		32/3	32/6

It has been decided to found a British Chamber of Commerce in Bucharest which will have as its immediate objects to obtain an improvement in transport and shipping facilities, and to build port extensions.

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ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

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with which are incorporated
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THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,
AND
THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Head Office - SIMLA.

Authorised Capital	-	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital	- - -	,, 86,82,400/-
Reserve Fund	- - -	,, 37,00,000/-
Reserve for Depreciation of Government Paper		,, 13,00,000/-

BRANCHES.

Abbottabad, Agra, Ajmere, Allahabad, Ambala, Amritsar, Bareilly, Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Dalhousie, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi City, Delhi Civil Lines, Ferozepore, Gwalior, Jullundur, Karachi, Kasauli, Lahore, Lahore Cantts, Lucknow, Meerut, Multan, Murree, Mussoorie, Naini Tal, Newshera, Peshawar Cantts, Peshawar City, Quetta, Rangoon, Rawalpindi, Sialkote, Simla (Town Office), Srinagar (Kashmir), Ujjain (Gwalior State).

SUB OFFICES: Barnagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Morana (Gwalior), Naukhi (Quetta), Shajalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior), Sadar Bazar (Delhi).

LONDON BANKERS: Messrs. BOULTON BROS. & CO., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C.
LONDON PROVINCIAL AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, Ltd., 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, Ltd., Bartholomew Lane, E.C.

Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.
Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other branch.
Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected. Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.
Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.
The Bank undertakes Banking Business of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.
Rules of Business and any further information can be obtained on application to Head Office or any of the Branches.

HEAD OFFICE, *Simla.* G. W. BLACK, *Manager.*

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £2,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £2,900,000.

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BANGKOK	HANKOW	MADRAS	SERENBAN
BATAVIA	HONGKONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BOMBAY	ILOILO	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
CALCUTTA	IPOH	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
CANTON	KARACHI	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S
CEBU	KLANG	PENANG	TAVOY
COLOMBO	KOBE	PUKET	TIENTSIN
DELHI		RANGOON	YOKOHAMA

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY and MIDLAND BANK, Limited.
THE LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER and PARR'S BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general banking business connected with the East.

DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.3.

Authorised Capital, £2,000,000. Called up, £800,000. Reserve Fund, £110,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £1,200,000

Branches:

AMARA. BAGDAD. BASRA. BASRA CITY. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA. HILLAH. MOSUL.

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1, 2 or 3 years at five per cent. per annum and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at two per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

(Sgd.) **F. H. SUTTON,** *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM, PORT SAID, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, TANTAH, MANSURA, HAIFA, JAFFA, JERUSALEM, MALTA, and GIBRALTAR.

Subscribed Capital £1,600,000 | Paid-up Capital - £600,000
Reserve - - - £710,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - £3,000,000 | **RESERVE FUND - £2,000,000**
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

Governor: SIR FREDERICK T. ROWLATT, K.B.E.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., — SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, — COL. THE HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O., M.P.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim, and Wad Medani.

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Oriental African Line.—Carrying passengers and cargo from Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore to Mauritius, Delagoa B y, Durban. East London, Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay and Cape Town and *vice versa*. Taking cargo on thro' Bill of Lading from Japan and China.

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Calcutta to River Plate Ports.—Calcutta to Monte Video Buenos Aires, Rosario and Bahia Blanca.

India & Chilian Line.—Calcutta, Rangoon and Singapore to West Coast of South American Ports.

American and Indian Line.—Calcutta, Chittagong, Rangoon and Colombo to Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

American and Indian Branch Service.—Rangoon, Chittagong, Madras, Madras Coast, Colombo and Malabar Coast (filling up if necessary at Aden and Port Sudan) to Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

Bombay American Line.—Bombay to New York and Philadelphia.

American and Rio Plata Line.—New York to Monte Video, Buenos Aires, Rosario and Bahia Blanca.

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MAIL AND PASSENGER SERVICES.

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PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government.)

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	Mars'illes	Destination.
KHIVA	9,000	—	Jan. 31	Straits, China, Jap'n
*PESHAWUR	8,000	Jan. 28	Feb. 7	Calcutta via B'mbay
DEVANHA.....	8,000	Feb. 6	Feb. 14	Bombay & Karachi
NORE	7,000	Feb. 13	Feb. 21	Straits, China, Jap'n
*PALERMO	9,000	Feb. 14	—	Australia

*Cargo.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

AUSTRALIA	7,526	Jan. 29	—	Bombay & Karachi
CHANDA.....	6,169	Jan. 30	—	Madras & Calcutta
GOLCONDA	5,316	erly Feb.	—	Pt. Sudan & E. Africa
*CULNA	6,152	erly Feb.	—	Madras & Calcutta
COLABA	6,019	Feb. 6	—	Bombay & Karachi
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MAR 1920

THE NEAR EAST

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE INDIAMAN"

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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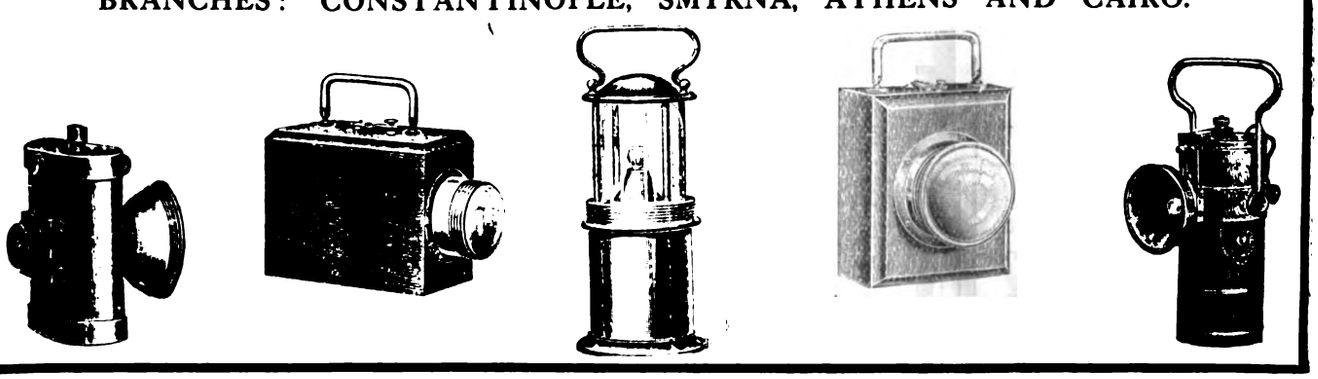

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 457.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The announcement from Simla that "the Viceroy has issued a public and emphatic denial of the rumours to the effect that His Majesty's Government is pressing at Paris for the expulsion of the Turks from Europe" testifies to the embarrassment that has been caused to the Government of India by the long delay in settling the Peace Terms for Turkey. It was inevitable that various rumours should gain currency, and political agitators in India would see to it that the worst complexion should be put upon the uncertainty that has seized the Allies regarding the future of Constantinople. The suggestion that the Turks should be expelled, bag and baggage, from Europe belongs to the picturesque language of the platform, and is out of date even as that. On the other hand it has been proposed that Turkish jurisdiction over Constantinople should be terminated, and that the Ottoman seat of Government should be transferred to Asia Minor If the end of the war had found the Allied ranks intact it is probable that the Sultan and his advisers would already have taken this step of their own volition, and Russia would have occupied Constantinople without comment from India or elsewhere. But Russia's defection left the Allies without a definite policy of their own regarding any Near Eastern question, and the differences of opinion that were allowed to protract unchecked the deliberations of the Paris Conference effectually side-tracked the Turkish settlement for a year.

The immediate result of this delay was that the Turkish Government recovered its self-assurance, Mustapha Kemal strengthened its hands by independent action in Anatolia, and an outcry was raised in India against interference—which had never been contemplated—with the Khalifate. It has become necessary, therefore, for the Allies to reconsider their intentions in regard to Constantinople. The factors in the situation are that, with Russia no longer *compos mentis*, there is no obvious or even satisfactory alternative to Turkish jurisdiction; and that there is the certainty to-day that the forcible transfer of the Porte to Asia Minor would be followed by some form of armed revolt among Moslems. To those who believe that trouble with the latter is in any case brewing, it has been a strong point that there should be a good rallying cry, and they profess to have found it in the removal of the Turks out of Constantinople. For this reason they would go through with the original policy and face the consequences. Their case would be stronger if they had any adequate substitute for Turkish jurisdiction. Strong as one's faith in the League of Nations may be, it is clearly not yet a "going concern," and, if it were, it would be subjecting it to the severest of all tests in its infancy to saddle it with the government of Constantinople. But the Turkish settlement now ought not to be delayed many days, at least not many weeks, and if the verdict were for the removal of the Porte the Allies must have a working organisation ready to take its place. The experience of Paris suggests that with an international régime in Constantinople the opportunities for intrigue would be just as favourable as under the Turks.

There remains the alternative of leaving the Turkish Government in Constantinople, and then by improving it and eliminating the temptation for intrigue—which, after all, originated with the Great Powers themselves—ensuring a decent administration for the city. If Great Britain, France, and the United States could come to an agreement on this one point, international difficulties in the Near East would begin to melt away. But so long as their mental horizon in regard to this problem is bounded by votes, francs, and dollars respectively, they may be certain that they will encounter the maximum of trouble, whatever solution they adopt. In other words, the three Powers themselves will have to go through exactly the same process of regeneration to make the international government of Constantinople a success as to achieve the requisite improvement of the Turkish administration. Failure on their part to get rid of the old Adam in themselves will lead to practically the same result as far as Constantinople is concerned, whether the Porte is removed or not; but if it should be removed, they will have in addition to face the certainty of serious unrest over a large part of Asia. Incidentally, it may prove easier to purge Turkey of its evil geniuses, if the Sultan remains in Europe, than if the whole Ottoman Administration were relegated to the less accessible Asia Minor.

Another attempt at the assassination of a Minister has to be added to the record which Egypt's "Nationalists" are apparently bent on piling up. As Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha was motoring in Cairo a few days ago—on January 28, to be exact—a youth threw a bomb at him. Fortunately the Minister was not hurt, though the car in which he was riding was damaged. But unfortunately the person who threw the bomb escaped, and though the Government at once offered a reward of £E500 for his arrest, or for information leading to his arrest, he still remains at large at the time of writing. What object the perpetrators of these outrages hope to achieve

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by these bomb-throwing tactics it is not quite easy to see. Granting for one moment that they might produce a species of reign of terror which would make it difficult to form a Ministry, would they be any nearer getting power into their own hands? If they think so, they are indeed wildly mistaken. It is difficult to imagine that even folk so lacking in judgment as they have so far shown themselves to be could fall into such gross error, and it looks as if these cowardly attempts must be set down to the ebullition in spite pure and simple. In this case it is possible to regard them as hopeful symptoms.

The Milner Mission, meanwhile, continues to work, not unsuccessfully, along its own lines. Some of its members have been visiting centres in Upper Egypt, others in Lower Egypt; and though their visit to Luxor coincided with a demonstration which had been organised on the instigation of a Zaghlulist agent, the members of the Mission were not subjected to any inconvenience. As far as it goes, this is encouraging, but unfortunately the Mission is encountering a good deal of passive resistance. At Assiut, for example, as *The Times* correspondent reports, Mr. C. J. B. Hurst, the legal member of the Mission, wished to attend the sittings of the native Court. The local Bar, however, learning of his intention, requested the President of the Court to dissuade him from his purpose. The reason given for the objection was rather quaint: Mr. Hurst's presence, said the objectors, would excite the lawyers and prevent them doing their duty to their clients. In the circumstances, Mr. Hurst decided to spare the feelings of the shy legal lights. The outside world will form its own conclusions on the merits of the case, and will be unlikely to think highly of the mental balance of the objectors.

The agent sent to Zaghlul Pasha by his friends in Egypt delivered last week the letters of which he was the bearer, and, doubtless as a direct result, Zaghlul made a statement of some interest on the situation and on his own attitude. The Egyptian Delegation, he declared, was prepared to negotiate with the Milner Commission, if only the Commission "is able to declare that it has been authoritatively asked by the British Government to negotiate with the Egyptian Delegation as the representative body of the nation." The object of the negotiations, he added, would be to arrive at an agreement which would give Egypt "complete independence," while at the same time safeguarding British interests in that country. It almost looks as if the first step towards an understanding would be to get a clear definition of the "complete independence" that Zaghlul Pasha has in mind. It is with real pleasure that we note his declaration that the Egyptians, once granted their independence, would wish more than ever to remain faithful friends of Britain. Left to themselves, the bulk of the Egyptian people would almost certainly feel nothing but friendship towards Britain, to whom—as they recognise when they pause to think—they owe their real freedom and prosperity. The present irritation and restlessness are but a passing phase. Reconciliation, however, will not be helped on by Zaghlul's attitude to the ex-Minister's representations regarding the Milner Commission. In this reply he urges Egyptians to stand firm, as, in his opinion, it can only be a matter of time till a British Labour Ministry will grant all their demands.

The Turkish Cabinet is still in difficulties, but—at the time of writing—it is still in being; and possibly the latter fact is more remarkable than the former. In view of its unenviable position between the Allied High Commissioners on the one hand and Mustapha Kemal and his troops upon the other, the Cabinet is surely entitled to congratulate itself upon its powers as an equilibrist, which seem to be second only to those of the late Abdul Hamid. Its latest trouble has been due to a dispute with the Nationalist leaders over a scheme of financial reform prepared for submission to the representatives of the Entente. The Mustapha Kemalites insisted that this scheme ought to be submitted to them before it is placed before the High Commissioners, while the Cabinet took up the attitude that, the Chamber of Deputies having been convoked, it was no longer bound by the bargain which it entered into with the Nationalists last autumn. The split appears to be a serious one, and as one result a new group of Deputies has been formed, styling itself the *Ahd* (Covenant), and bent upon bringing about the downfall of the Cabinet. It is possible that the Cabinet itself would regret that event as little as any body in Turkey.

According to a Dutch newspaper, the mandate for Armenia will be offered to Holland, if the United States refuse to accept it. What Holland would have to say on the point remains, of course, to be seen; but it is clear that whatever country accepts the responsibility is likely to find its hands full. Quite apart from the Bolshevist menace, which in the case of Armenia is not by any means a negligible one, there is every prospect that the Turkish "Nationalist Army" will make trouble as soon as the decisions of the Peace Conference regarding Armenia are made known. As the war showed, the Armenians are brave fighters; and they have provided several military leaders of distinction. But to put them in a position to defend themselves effectively, they will require instructors and munitions of war from the West; and in other directions they will need advisers. It is to be noted that a telegram from a British source at Baku reports that on January 24 a force of Armenians, with artillery, crossed the frontier of the Azerbaijan Republic, destroyed twenty-four villages, and killed many of the inhabitants. The British representative, the message added, was doing his best to bring about peace. Raids of this kind will not make any Power anxious to accept responsibility for Armenia.

It is announced that the evacuation of Beyrout by British troops was complete on January 19 at noon, and that the whole of the area of French occupation is now clear of our troops. Other news from that region is, it is to be supposed, less satisfactory for the French. All available troops from the Lebanon and Beyrout have been dispatched against what are described as the revolutionaries in the Merj Ayun district, and it looks as if further reinforcements will be required ere long. Moreover, it is reported that differences have arisen between the French and the Lebanon authorities, who resent what they regard as excessive interference in matters of local government. It is significant that the clergy are reported to have ranged themselves against the French in this matter. If this be the attitude of the inhabitants of the one part of Syria which was formerly strongly Francophil, the outlook, for the French mandate—or occupation, as it is now called—cannot be regarded as very hopeful.

One of the disadvantages of the present news service from India is that the cables, when taken alone, tend to give an altogether distorted view of the progress of affairs in what was formerly termed the Dependency, but is now aspiring to the more honourable title of Dominion. Looking back over the past few months, one finds that the information supplied to the public in this country has related almost entirely to frontier troubles, political manœuvres, strikes, and financial "booms," but the real India pays little attention to such matters; the frontier is a long way off, industrial and financial affairs concern directly only a few cities, and while interest in politics is spreading rapidly, the subject is not yet a staple of conversation in the villages. At the moment politicians appear to be busy in organising, rather than demonstrating, and the occasion afforded by the lull may be employed in glancing at a few topics of real importance to India itself, and consequently to all parts of the world with which India maintains relations.

Stern necessity compels India to think of the weather before anything else, and all the available information on this point is satisfactory, indicating that the year ending in June will be marked by large and profitable agricultural production. The mines are busy, and also the looms, except where the hands have struck, and it may fairly be claimed that India at least is play-

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ing her part in helping to feed and clothe a hungry and a naked world. The loss to production resulting from the recent strikes is in itself deplorable, but we fear that it was inevitable in the circumstances, and the events of the past month go far to confirm the view previously urged in these columns, that the organisation of Indian factory labour must be taken in hand without delay. The world has not learned how to do without strikes, and India must expect to have her share; but it will be a definite forward step when the workers are able to put forward intelligible demands, and when the public can form a definite opinion on the questions at issue between men and masters.

The importance of this matter is bound to increase with the progress of industrial development, which is now practically assured. So much has been said of late regarding the evils of the "boom" in company promotion that it is well to insist upon the other side; if some recent flotations have been sheer gambles, the last few months have seen the inception of a substantial number of thoroughly sound concerns, and, what is even more significant, a definite broadening of the basis of industrial enterprise. The old gibe that while Bombay is a Parsee city, Calcutta is Scottish, will soon be obsolete; in both those cities, and in several others, the mercantile classes are beginning to interest themselves in making as well as selling, and their numbers and collective resources are so great that when once they get fairly started, the results will quickly put existing achievements in the shade. Unfortunately, these classes have as yet but little knowledge of the way to manage workmen, and their appearance as employers makes it all the more necessary that the whole problem of labour should be tackled in earnest.

If we ask whether due preparations are being made to cope with the increased production which may now be confidently anticipated, we are met by the fact that owing to the war the railways have fallen below the standard required to handle even the existing traffic, so that the work of the moment is to complete the equipment of open lines, rather than devise extensions which would result only in an increase of congestion. The extensions will come in due time, but the authorities are undoubtedly right in concentrating their immediate resources on operations which make little show and arouse no enthusiasm among the general public. Of greater interest is the movement towards increasing the number of modern seaports, a matter in which India has undoubtedly fallen behind. We have the great peninsula flanked by Karachi and Chittagong, between which there are only three important harbours, or, say, one to about a thousand miles, and while everyone is proud of the harbours which exist, no one who has studied the question will deny that they require to be supplemented in the interests of the country as a whole. A few facts may be brought together to show that this question is at last receiving the attention which it claims.

On the East Coast we have the Bengal-Nagpur Railway pressing for two outlets between Calcutta and Madras, one at Vizagapatam to serve the eastern side of the Central Provinces, the other somewhere on the coast of Orissa. Further south, Tuticorin has aspirations as well as possibilities, while, on the West Coast, Cochin is preparing to go ahead, the Mysore State is apparently in earnest over the project for restoring the forgotten glories of Bhatkal, and Bhatkal's historic rival, Goa, is also said to be aroused from her long repose. Nobody expects that any of these places will rival Calcutta or Bombay, but all the same there is room for them, and perhaps for more; under the new conditions almost every part of India will have something to sell, and local patriotism is for once in accord with sound economic principle in insisting that produce shall find a direct route to the seaboard. Such are the tendencies at work beneath the froth resulting from the political ferment—increased production, a broadening of the basis of industry, and better facilities for transport, the things which India needs most if she is to prosper as a modern State.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Royal Tours.

The Prince of Wales leaves for Australia and New Zealand in March, and his programme is already so full that it is anticipated he will not be back in England again until October. It is suggested in some quarters that he may visit India towards the end of next year, or early in 1922.

Princess Mary is also to make a trip abroad—in her case of a more restricted nature. She is to visit the Northern capitals of Europe—Christiania, Stockholm, and Copenhagen. In each case, she will find relatives to welcome her.

The Exchanges and Finance.

The collapse of the foreign exchanges has been the main topic of the City during an eventful week. Many have made money out of it, but this type of speculator is not very useful to the country. The problem is quite beyond the bankers or the ordinary operations of trade, which indeed it paralyses; and the Treasury have taken the right step in promising to look into the whole international position. The move, indeed, might profitably have been made before, but there may have been an impression in official, as there certainly was in unofficial, quarters that something would be done in America. It has now been made quite clear, however, that no action will be taken by the United States, where the trend of public opinion seems entirely averse from mixing in European affairs at all—an unfortunate reaction from the war.

At the bankers' meetings this week, different causes have been assigned for the present troubles, but all are agreed that the remedy is to work more and spend less. As a matter of fact, England is working well, as the steady monthly rise of exports proves; but we are certainly spending too much, the Government as well as the people. There is, of course, a great deal of excuse for both—the former having reduced war expenditure, are faced with housing and education and other problems which swell their peace expenditure; while the public, compelled to buy at high prices, is equally driven to make good the wear and tear of war.

The American suggestion for stabilising the New York exchange—that we should export gold, a course that was adopted in war-time—is not likely to be adopted; and since for a variety of reasons we cannot greatly increase our exports to the United States, there is an idea current that it would be good policy to restrict imports from America to absolute necessities—a course which would speedily improve, if not right the exchange. Recently, for example, we have imported a great deal of very bad American whisky as well as more wholesome food. The food we cannot well do without, but the whisky and a good many other things are no great gain to this country. It is, of course, clear that the more food we grow at home and the more goods we manufacture at home the stronger is our position both economically and politically.

At the moment America is trying to gain the financial leadership of the world, as a result of the enormous wealth gained by her long period of neutrality during the war, but it is not generally believed that she will be able to retain it. One condition, however, of the restoration to London of its financial supremacy is the stabilisation of the European exchanges, and here the problem is both difficult and complicated, but not beyond remedy.

For the time being, of course, Russia must be left out, as we do not know her attitude towards her debt. At the other end of Europe the Spanish exchange is against us, because they are selling sovereigns to make good losses on German marks; the Dutch exchange is slightly against us; the French and Italian exchanges so heavily in our favour that they handicap our trade by making it more profitable for both countries to trade with Germany. The central problem, therefore, is the restoration of the German exchange, which can only be done by providing Germany with raw material with which she can employ her population and export and buy manufactured goods. The idea of cutting Germany

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off from the world's markets has, of course, gone by the board, but there will probably have to be some system of industrial control. It has been suggested that an English banker, manufacturer, and distributor should proceed to Germany to study the proper method on the spot.

The case of Austria is, of course, more serious but less important than that of Germany. Austria in these days means Vienna, and Vienna is starving. But in this instance charity is needed, more than any other form of assistance. At least Britain is doing what she can to feed her late enemy.

Swallowing a Camel.

The idea which seems current in America that England is bankrupt should receive a rude shock from Lord Leverhulme's meteoric purchases. Hardly a week elapses but what he buys some great enterprise, and adds it to the original Sunlight Soap Company; sometimes it is another soap, sometimes a chemical or margarine factory, or a household requisite like Sanitas. Recently it was the Hebrides, but the latest purchase has beaten everything—it is nothing less than the Royal Niger Company, a very considerable organisation indeed. The purchase is obviously designed to facilitate the obtaining of the tropical produce required by Lord Leverhulme's many factories; but if we had been told he had bought the London County Council one could hardly have been more surprised. The Leverhulme interests are now unquestionably the largest of their kind under a single head in the world.

Politics and Paisley.

Party politics have been not so much dull as dead this week, except at Paisley, which is, after all, a good way away from London. There Mr. Asquith is said to be making headway, but the Independent Liberals confess themselves a little nervous whether the Labour man may not after all have the best of it. The other two by-elections that are proceeding at the moment are hardly given half a dozen lines in the newspapers—a sufficient index of their importance in the eyes of the public. Next week, when Parliament meets again, interest will revive, but it will take some time for things to get into their stride. The rumours of an early general election and a speedy collapse of the Coalition have died of inanition. The Government feel fairly secure, Labour is not ready for power even if the country is ready for Labour, and the Independent Liberals faint at the very mention of the word election.

Mr. Barnes Resigns.

The resignation of Mr. Barnes is a distinct loss to the Government. He seldom spoke, and nobody could call him eloquent, but he carried weight, and his serious manner always added to the impression created by the matter of his speech. He reminded one, physically as well as mentally, of the ideal full back at football—he seldom had an opportunity for display, and never sought it, but those who came up against him were usually conscious of a few sore places afterwards.

Labour is gradually withdrawing from the Government—only Mr. Roberts and Mr. Parker are now left—and this may be taken as a sign of preparing for office, whenever it comes. Mr. Barnes is certain of a high place in a Labour Cabinet, and he would probably do well as a Home Secretary—a post in which it is necessary to have a man who cannot be stampeded by some sudden agitation or caprice of public opinion. One might as well try to remove a block of granite by sneezing at it as stampede the solid Mr. Barnes—and he will be a sore trial to the Extremists in his own party on that account, for he is essentially a Moderate.

The Referendum?

Some interest has been excited by the rumour that the Government are considering the taking of a referendum on the subject of nationalisation. The referendum is an innovation in this country, but Mr. Lloyd George is not the man to boggle over precedent unduly, and it would at least clear the ground for the discussion upon which Labour insists. That there would be a majority against nationalisation is practically certain, and for that reason Labour may object in advance. But it is always a confession of weakness to object to a referendum—it is sure to be branded by the other side as undemocratic, the one mortal sin in politics.

The Wave of Crime.

There has been a great deal of discussion recently as to the cause of a sudden outbreak of crime and outrage all over the country. Many banks and post offices have been robbed, several gruesome murders have been perpetrated, and shooting affrays and forcible seductions seem to fill a large space in the newspapers. Leading articles and special articles have attributed this wave of crime to the aftermath of war, the decay of Churchgoing, the existence of unemployment and Labour unrest, or whatever particular bee the writer happened to have in his bonnet at the moment. Unfortunately for these theories Scotland Yard, which knows almost as much about crime as journalists do, has issued an assurance that there is rather less crime in the country than after the Napoleonic wars, and that the actual amount is much the same as immediately before the present war. It only happens to be more spectacular.

A Message from Mars.

No week is complete nowadays without its Press stunt, usually in the evening or Sunday papers. This week we have had two. A clergyman has produced his revelation of the next world—by means of automatic writing—for the curiosity and, let us hope, the edification of Sunday readers; from a hasty glance over the first instalment it does not seem to differ appreciably from the average spiritualist document.

More excitement was caused by the rumour that a real message from Mars had at last been received by wireless. It is true that Signor Marconi derided the idea, and the learned laughed, while the vulgar gaped; but the day was dull, news was slack, the papers had plenty of room to spare, and the great advantage of multiplying Universities is that there are always plenty of professors willing to talk pseudo-science to the reporters. By the side of this, the threatened influenza epidemic fell flat, but after twenty-four hours the thing collapsed. The Martians, like the sea-serpent, always time their visits for the Parliamentary recess.

The Week's Books.

The most interesting book of the week has been "Science and Life," by Mr. Frederick Soddy, who is Professor of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry at Oxford. Mr. Soddy sees in the discovery of radio-activity the hope of the world, and the bulk of his work deals with its effect on the future of our civilisation. He also discusses some questions of theology and metaphysics with a more open mind than one generally finds in those who have served a long apprenticeship to the exact sciences.

Those with a taste for historical biography will enjoy the "Life of Henry Fox," first Lord Holland, in two volumes, by Lord Ilchester. There is a thumb-nail sketch of this first Fox—who was not a very reputable person, even for an eighteenth century politician—by Macaulay, but a full-length account of the founder of a remarkable family will find many readers. This book, like that of Mr. Soddy, is published by John Murray.

Those who are tickled by outspoken diatribes against prominent men of the day will thoroughly enjoy the latest volume of Mr. Wilfred Scawen Blunt's "Diaries." Mr. Wilfrid is a Sussex squire, and, as everyone knows, his political creed is a simple one—that every Egyptian nationalist and Indian agitator is a heaven-sent patriot, and every English administrator and statesman a diabolical tyrant or fool. The more prominent the Englishman, the worse his character. In the present book Lord Kitchener is described as a "lap-dog"—surely the last epithet one would have expected. Roosevelt appears *tout court* as "that swine," but these are the milder words in Mr. Blunt's vocabulary. The real villains of the piece are Lords Cromer, Grey of Falloden, and Morley. But Mr. Blunt's comments on these gentlemen are too disgraceful to be given wider currency. There should be limits even to the bad temper of a disappointed man.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 20.

The Milner Mission.

The Milner Mission returned from Alexandria on Friday last after having spent five days in that city. During the whole of the time they were in close contact with the European communities. This was indeed the main object of their visit. Part of the Mission were the guests of Mr. Harry Barker, the Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce, and the remainder were accommodated by Mr. Abdy. During their stay in Alexandria Lord Milner and his colleagues received deputations from the British, French, Greek, and Italian communities. A free exchange of views took place in each case, and the present situation was fully discussed. The Mission gave two banquets at the Savoy Palace Hotel, to which the leading members of the foreign communities were invited; while Mr. C. J. B. Hurst, the legal member of the Mission, paid a long visit to the Mixed Courts and met the judges of the Mixed Court of Appeal and the members of the Mixed Bar, with whom he fully discussed the question of judicial organisation. (It is noteworthy that while none of the Egyptian members of the Mixed Bar attended, practically all the Egyptian judges were present.) In addition, Lord Milner and his colleagues found time to visit the Municipal Museum and to take tea with the Municipal Councillors, and Lord Milner also drove out to Victoria College and distributed certificates and prizes to the boys, to whom he delivered an admirable address on citizenship.

These five days proved a very strenuous time, but by all accounts the Mission did very good work, and completely reassured the European communities, and especially the legal element, who one and all—and perhaps not unnaturally so—have been somewhat anxious as to the manner in which the contemplated constitutional and other reforms might affect their interests. I gather that the irritation and soreness, which as a result of the events of the past two years had been created amongst these elements of the local population, which are so intimately concerned with any change, administrative or otherwise, that may be made, have been to a very great extent allayed, and that a spirit of goodwill and a desire to co-operate with those who are endeavouring to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the present complicated state of affairs have been brought into being as a result of the Mission's visit.

Some of the members are visiting the provinces in order to obtain an insight into the working of the administration in the districts, and in the hope of getting more closely into touch with the *fellah* masses. A determined effort is being made by the Extremists to prevent any contact with the provincial officials and population, just as they have done in Cairo and during the visit of the Mission to Alexandria. But notwithstanding the activities of the students, who, as usual, are acting as willing agents, and are using methods of intimidation for all they are worth, the Mission is getting all the information it requires. Meanwhile, except for the continuation of political discussions in the local press, there is a lull in the political situation, and every one is awaiting news from France, where Aly Bey Maher, the member of the Cairo Committee who bears letters to Zaghlul from the latter, and from the ex-Ministers who have been discussing informally with the Mission, is just about due to arrive.

The Attempt on the Prime Minister.

The trial of Erian Youssef, the Copt who tried to assassinate the Prime Minister, his Excellency Sir Youssef Wahba Pasha, by throwing a bomb at his car, took place on Friday, the 16th—it was postponed from the previous day—before a Military Court sitting at the Ministry of Justice. Mr. Maxwell prosecuted, and the counsel for the defence were Mr. Reginald Silley and Maïtres Wahib Doss and Halim Effendi. Judge Thorp acted as Judge-Advocate General. There were very few Europeans present, but, as might be expected, the well of the court was filled with Egyptians, many of them of the student class. The accused, who was certainly less jaunty than at the time of his arrest, appeared very self-composed, and repeatedly saluted and smiled at friends whom he recognised amongst the audience. Counsel for the defence raised an objection to the jurisdiction of the Court on the plea that this was a criminal act committed by one Egyptian subject on another; that although the latter held an official position, the attempt on his life could not be considered as prejudicial to military interests; and that as the Prime Minister last summer had issued a notice to the effect that the Military Courts then existing had been done away with, the accused in this case should be tried by an Egyptian Criminal Court, just as is being done in the case of the man who attempted the life of the late Prime Minister, Sir Mohammed Said Pasha. The Court considered the objection, but over-ruled it, and the trial proceeded. Numerous witnesses were called for the prosecution and the defence, amongst them Wahba Pasha himself, but the proceedings did not last longer than a day, and the Court, after calling for evidence as to the character of the accused, announced that its verdict would be made public after it had been approved by the Commander-in-Chief.

The Cotton-Tax.

The imposition of the cotton tax has given rise to a certain amount of adverse comment, mostly, and perhaps not unnaturally, from the Egyptian side. The urban population has not bothered much about it, nor have the agricultural elements; and the main comments have come from the Extremist Press, who are trying to make political capital out of it. One of their main objections is that the commercial community, which has accumulated such vast profits during the war, has been left untouched, and that as the agricultural classes contribute to the administration of the country in the form of land-tax, the opportunity should have been taken to bring the commercial community into line, and, by imposing a traders' or income-tax, make them bear their share of the burden which is now imposed on the agricultural community. That is very well, and no one more than the financial authorities would welcome the chance, not only of exacting some contribution from the prosperous commercial element, but also of more evenly distributing the burden of taxation. Indeed, in the more recent reports of the Financial Adviser, the desirability of such a course has been frequently animadverted upon. What the critics of the new impost overlook, however, is the fact that the Egyptian Government cannot impose taxes on the foreign communities without the consent of the fifteen Powers enjoying treaty rights with Egypt, and that, if a traders' or income-tax were imposed at the present

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moment, it would only be recoverable from Egyptians and local subjects, who by no means constitute the whole of the commercial community—unless it were imposed under martial law, a procedure which would surely not be to the taste of the Extremists, since the abolition of the military regime is pressed for by them. So long as the Capitulations exist, so long will foreigners escape local taxation in Egypt, and, if the Extremists wish to bring the foreigners into line with the Egyptian community, they have it in their own hands to do so, for the sooner they adopt an attitude which will conduce to a removal of the present impasse, the sooner will a settlement of the political affairs of Egypt be arrived at and consequently will it be possible to remove the Capitulations.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 16.

Exit Dora.

At a Cabinet meeting, held just before the departure of the Prime Minister for Paris, a decree-law was drawn up suspending martial law and the "preventive" censorship in the area comprised within the former frontiers of the kingdom with the exception of the Dobruja. On Tuesday the King appended his signature to the document dispensing with the services of the Roumanian "Dora," who yielded nothing in unpopularity to her English sister. It was generally understood that Dr. Lupu, before he accepted the office of Minister of the Interior, insisted upon a definite promise that civil authority should again be given control of the administration of the country. The reasons for continuing military control in the Dobruja are probably connected with fears of Bulgarian intrigues and the decision to confine refugees from Southern Russia to the district of Tulcea, although no restrictions will be placed upon any refugees who may wish to leave Roumania for a foreign destination. Alarming reports reach us daily of the ravages made in the Ukraine by the pneumonic plague, and the sanitary authorities here have insisted upon a strict quarantine of all travellers from South Russia, who are only allowed to enter the country at certain points.

BUCHAREST, January 22.

Bye-Elections.

Candidates are coming forward for the Senatorial bye-elections, and in spite of rumours to the contrary, M. Take Jonescu is still firmly advising his party to await the next general election before entering the arena. On the other hand, the Liga Poporului are preparing to fight these bye-elections, and General Averescu has announced his intention of standing for the district of Rimnic-Sarat. The elections will be watched carefully, as they will afford a more severe test of the strength of the Peasants' Party than the November elections did; although the limited franchise under which senators are elected does not give the peasant equal opportunities to register his opinion, the political manœuvering demands a better organisation, and there is less chance for a dark horse to win. At the last general election the Peasants' Party candidates used the same colours as the Liga Poporului (Averescu's Party), and it has since been claimed that many peasants voted for the candidates of the former party, not realising that the Averescans had refused to stand. The General is a most popular figure among the peasants.

The Peasants' Party of the Ardeal recently held a meeting at Sibiu, which was attended by over three hundred delegates, and arrangements were made to oppose the Nationalists at the next elections. In the Old Kingdom many of the Peasant Party deputies have been working hard during the holidays, holding meetings in their constituencies to explain the policy of the Government and to point how the peasant can co-operate, and, indeed, must do so, if the new measures are to be successful.

Russia.

With thousands of refugees from Southern Russia clamouring for admission into Roumania, it is natural that the new attitude of the Allies towards Russia should cause surprise and a certain confusion. Unanimity of opinion prevails as to the British origin of the policy, and it is generally conceded that the step from commercial to diplomatic relations will inevitably be taken before long. Too much of the Russian Revolution took place on Roumanian soil for any illusions to remain here as to the nature of the Soviet Government, but there is no secret as to the present whereabouts of the Roumanian gold reserve. So if the first shipment from Moscow includes 493 million lei in gold for the Banca Nationala, not to mention the stocks, bonds, pearl-necklaces, and other valuables confided by their owners to the official safety deposit vaults in Bucharest, and subsequently sent to Moscow for safe keeping at the time of the German invasion, Mr. O'Grady may anticipate a warm welcome should he ever pass this way.

One of the causes of the tremendous rise in value of certain securities last summer is stated to have been the scarcity of stock on the market. There is some delay in obtaining duplicate certificates for those sent into Russia, and Stock Exchange speculators were able to manipulate the market by dealing in really insignificant blocks.

Rural Police.

New laws altering the character and status of the Gendarmerie Rurale are being prepared by the Ministry of the Interior. It is announced that the numbers of these police will be decreased, and that the body is to be put under the control of the civil authorities. The Gendarmerie Rurale is at present a semi-military organisation, whose abuses of power and petty tyrannies the peasant has resented for many years, without possessing a convenient means of redress. The policy of decentralisation which is now being pursued in planning reforms of the civil administration of the country naturally involves a change in the status of the gendarmerie, if anomalies are to be avoided.

Borcea Bridge.

Erroneous reports have apparently been circulated recently to the effect that the bridge of boats at Borcea, which carries the railway line from Bucharest to Constantza across an arm of the Danube, has been removed and the line interrupted. This is not the case, and trains are running daily. There is no question of removing the bridge unless the Danube freezes. There is no prospect of the river freezing for some weeks, as the weather has been mild and spring-like up to the present. To-day, however, there is a heavy fall of snow, although the temperature is still mild and there is no severe frost.

The Cluj University.

Great celebrations are being organised to solemnise the inauguration of the University and National Theatre of Cluj (Kolosvar), in Transylvania, which will take place on January 31 and February 1 respectively. The King and Queen and Royal Family will take part in the ceremonies, and the Parliament will have a holiday for two days to enable the deputies and senators also to be present. There will be a gala performance at the National Theatre, at which the King and Queen will be present, on the evening of

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January 31. On the following day, at 11 a.m., the inauguration of the University will take place, and the professors will be sworn in. At one o'clock the University will give a banquet in the salons of the Prefecture, and at five in the afternoon there will be a reception at the National Theatre. For the evening the students are arranging a fête in honour of the Royal Family. All Cluj is busy with preparations, which will be on a large scale. The new University is a great source of pride to the Roumanians, who intend to make it an important scholastic centre.

Celebration of the Union of the Principalities.

This celebration will be extended this year so as to commemorate the union of all the provinces constituting Greater Roumania. The League for the Union of all Roumania is making special preparations for fêtes in all the villages, and at Bucharest there will be a huge popular manifestation.

Women's Vote.

A Commission appointed to inquire into electoral and administrative reforms has almost finished its report. The Commission has pronounced itself in favour of giving women the right to vote in the municipal elections. It is thought that the majority would also be in favour of women voting at the legislative elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

Epiphany Ceremony.

The annual ceremony of the Blessing of the Waters took place last Monday (January 6, O.S.). The King, attended by a large suite, was present, and after the immersion of the Cross, he held a military review. Several of the Foreign Military Attachés were also present at the ceremony. The weather was extremely fine, and the great crowds assembled on the quays gave the King and the troops an enthusiastic welcome.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 5.
(Delayed.)

Christmas and the New Year.

Christmas and the New Year have been celebrated very quietly, and the exceptionally mild weather made it hard for many to realise that the "festive season" had arrived. The non-Turkish Press, as may be expected, came out with articles hailing the New Year as one of final deliverance, and it is significant that most of them expressed the liveliest satisfaction at recent proofs of the solidity of the Anglo-French Entente which, they realise, is the only guarantee to-day of peace and liberty in Europe.

Apropos of the New Year, one of the Turkish journals made an unfortunate *gaffe*, which was amusing, in a way, but which was also a painful reminder that the Young Turk mentality of to-day is very different from that of the Young Turk exiles in Paris some twenty years ago. Commenting upon the law promulgated by the Unionist Government during the war, the *Tasfiri Efkiar*, a Unionist organ, which finds it advisable at present to adopt an anti-Unionist tone, remarked: "This date which has for the Christians a religious significance (!) for us is of neither religious nor historical significance. . . . Let us hope that as soon as peace is established . . . we shall put an end to this anomaly, and adopt as the commencement of the year a date in conformity with our religion and our history."

Had some wretched little provincial paper published the above, it would have been merely a joke, but when the *Tasfiri Efkiar*, one of the oldest Turkish journals, and one which has a really brilliant record, adopts such a tone, one realises into what unworthy hands has fallen the heritage of Shinassi, Ebbuzzia Tewfik, Zia Pasha, and others, who were the real pioneers of that awakening of the Turkish intellect which has so grievously failed to fulfil its early promise.

The Chamber.

Last week, in reply to a delegation of newly-elected deputies, the Grand Vizier stated that the convocation of the Chamber would have to be temporarily adjourned in order to permit the elaboration of certain laws which were being considered. In any case, it is difficult to see what possible difference the convocation of Parliament can make; for even Turkish opinion, to a very great extent, realises that the elections have been farcical where they have not been accompanied by tragedies and that the new Parliament will be unworthy of either respect or confidence. There is ample evidence that in Anatolia bayonets and corruption were the principal items in the election campaign.

The Peace Terms.

A sensation has been caused by the publication of the statements to the effect that while Constantinople will remain the religious capital of Islam, the seat of Turkish Government will be removed to Anatolia, and that the Straits will be internationalised, with Anglo-French control preponderating. It is generally felt here that the question of Constantinople is really bound up with the question of establishing an effective control over the Turkish Government, and for that reason it would be better that Constantinople should remain the seat of Turkish Government. Provided there is to be a really strong control, neither Americans nor Greeks would mind if the Turks were allowed to keep their capital. The real questions which are of vital interest to everyone are the Allied decisions concerning Smyrna and Armenia. It is taken for granted that in one way or another Turkey will be made safe for Christian life and property, and the main interest in the settlement concerns the extent to which national aspirations will be satisfied—or dissatisfied.

Futility.

Ahmed Riza Bey, in Paris, and Ghalib Kemali Bey, in Rome, have been making all sorts of attempts to create a current more favourable to Turkey. There are only faint indications of the line adopted by Ahmed Riza Bey, but the *Giornale d'Italia* has lately published some interesting declarations of Ghalib Kemali Bey, who expresses the deepest sympathy of the Turkish nation for the unfortunate Armenians, who, he says, were the victims of Russian machinations. The former member of the Armistice Commission then mentions Sultan Abdul Hamid's "liberality" towards the Armenians, and describes the massacres as a "just but bloody repression" of a revolt instigated by Russia, while he considered the slaughter of Armenians during the war was counterbalanced by the massacre of 135,000 (sic) Moslems by Armenians, and 300,000 (sic) by the Russians.

The Nationalists.

The gradual advance of the French in Anatolia seems to have upset the Nationalist Committee, and its headquarters have been removed to Eski Shehir. There is reason to believe that a considerable section of the Nationalists would rather see the Parliament held in that city than in the capital.

Sheikh Ibrahim, who revolted against the Nationalists in the Sivas province, has just published an interesting document upon the Nationist movement. After stating that the population was induced to adhere to the movement by false information to the effect that the Armenians intended to occupy the country, the Sheikh continues: "There is no connection between the National Organisation and the people; for the masses, impoverished and dispirited, take no interest in such questions; the middle and intellectual classes can understand nothing, for the Central Committee keeps all its decisions strictly secret. . . . The partisans of the Congress (Nationalist) are all former leaders and satellites of the Union and Progress."

While it is the "middle and intellectual classes" who are really responsible for the Nationalist Movement, it is none the less true that the masses are heartily sick of everything, and want nothing but peace. Now that the moment has come for the peace terms to be made known, it will be interesting to see how far Mustafa Kemal Pasha will be able to put his schemes

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into practice. He may be able to raise 50,000 men, and a considerable section of the regular Army is almost sure to join him, making, say, another 40,000 or so. But how are they going to be maintained?

Efforts are also being made to arouse the religious sentiments of the Anatolian Moslems, and to obtain the active support of Islam in general. Under the auspices of the Sheikh-ul-Islam, the Islamic Development Association, or *Téali Islam Jemieti*, has been formed, and although very little reference is made to it in the Stamboul Press, provincial journals are far more communicative. It appears that there are branches of the association throughout the provinces, where the matter has been taken up, if the provincial Press is to be believed, with the greatest enthusiasm. How far the Islamic world will lend its active support to the Turks remains to be seen; but the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire may easily provide an excuse in certain quarters for making trouble.

It must be admitted that there are some disquieting signs. It is not difficult to see that the Nationalists are relying to a very great extent upon being able to profit from disturbances in the Islamic world. The Anatolian papers, which are all under the control of the Nationalists, give exaggerated reports of every occurrence that may be contrued as a sign of support from the rest of Islam. For instance, a paper published at Balikeser in the Smyrna province, entitled "To Smyrna," declared that an Afghan Army had taken Krasnovodsk, that there had been a great pan-Islamic congress at Tashkend, and that Egypt had risen against the British. In reading these provincial papers, one might easily imagine that the war was still continuing. There are official *communiqués* from the "fronts," and announcements of police regulations concerning the registration of travellers, together with regular reports of the general situation.

Such is the general tension that it is to be hoped that the Allies, now that they have decided to manage without America, will get the job over quickly.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, January 9.

Ratification of the Peace Treaty.

On the 5th inst. the debate upon the ratification of the Peace Treaty began in the Chamber. The document had been duly translated into the Bulgarian language, and a printed copy was handed to each Deputy. The debate was opened by M. Sobiroff, Moderate Socialist, who declared that the group to which he belongs would not vote for the ratification of the Treaty. M. Dimitroff, Communist, stated that, in spite of their direct participation in the peace negotiations his group had decided to abstain from voting for the ratification. M. Vasilieff, a lawyer, representing the Democratic group, said it was a duty to express the sincere thanks of Bulgaria to those few who in Paris had the courage to denounce the Peace as a monstrous one. This was greeted by prolonged cheers from all the Chamber. The speaker then read a resolution of protest from the national deputies from parts of the country taken away from Bulgaria. M. Alexander Radoloff, Agrarian, begged the Chamber to vote the Treaty, and proposed the Order of the Day on the question of ratification; which was adopted. M. Theodor Theodoroff, leader of the National Party, then delivered a very eloquent speech. "The Treaty," he said, "hems us in and suffocates us. I consider this is not the time to ask who brought the country to such a pass, who is responsible for the nation's degradation and disappointment. Why does Paris give us this monstrous peace? Because we were there regarded and treated as monsters; for our opponents had already succeeded in depicting us as a robber and disturbing element in the Balkans. The accusations made against us were, indeed, frightful. But I do not wish to dwell upon the moral standing of our accusers, who so flagrantly violated the noble engagements into which they had solemnly entered for the good of mankind. They will have to answer for their conduct in History! . . . I protest, as you do, but I wish at the same time to remind you of my optimism. I beg you to keep your belief in the lucky star of our race. We can, and we must, prove to those who have forced on us this fearful Peace that we deserve a better fate. But we must exercise tact, tranquillity, self-control. I hope that in a short time we shall attain success through this course. Let us by our prudent internal policy make our judges feel that they have punished us with extreme severity. Let us appeal to their conscience, and make them feel sorry for the unjust treatment of our nation and revise their sentence on us."

M. Theodoroff went on to say: "I can tell you that the signs of the Bulgarian sky clearing are already visible. Regarding our outlet to the Ægean Sea, two great Powers are already engaged to secure it for us. They, however, wish us to give them proof that we are an element of order, culture, and civilization. In this lies our bond for the future. If we continue to follow a policy of reconciliation, of good neighbourly relations, and of loyalty, Bulgaria will soon, without recourse to arms, attain the rectification of her frontiers. We have before us the League of Nations, which will be the saviour of the conquered and the unjustly treated. Let us have confidence in it. Annihilated, crushed, and plunged in deep sorrow by this peace, as I feel, yet let me conclude by saying that, following along the path of order, calm cultural and economic activity, bloodstained and maimed Bulgaria will patiently bear her misfortunes in order that she may witness a return to happier days."

After this the ratification of the Peace Treaty was voted by all the groups with the exception of the two Socialist parties; so that the ratification was carried by a strong majority. The Chamber then adjourned for the Christmas vacation till the 28th inst.

Resumption of Relations with Great Britain.

Last Wednesday the new British High Commissioner, Sir Herbert Dering, arrived here by special train from Rustchuk. He will, after the completion of the peace formalities, be accredited as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Bulgarian Court. He has already had several interviews with the Prime Minister, M. Stamboulisky, and also with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Madjaroff.

Last Thursday evening Brigadier General A. W. F. Baird, C.M.G., D.S.O., who has been British military representative in Bulgaria, was received by King Boris in farewell audience, and, together with the officers of the British Military Mission, had the honour of dining with his Majesty. Yesterday the General left by special train by way of Belgrade for England. At the railway station he was seen off by Colonel Kourtouklieff, representing King Boris, the Chief of the General Staff, General Nerezoff, the diplomatic and military representatives of the Powers, and numerous friends. By his tact, his straightforward and fair attitude, the General during his stay here had won the regard of Bulgarians and the gratitude of the Government.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, January 13.

Motors and Accidents.

The arrival of large quantities of motor cars in Smyrna is emphasising the utter absence of good roads in and around the city. Moreover, street accidents are daily increasing in number, especially those caused by the large motor lorries that dash recklessly to and fro on the Quay—the chief promenade in Smyrna. A young lady, a member of the Whittall family, has just been killed outright by a motor-car, in which she was riding from Magnesia to Bournabat, having been overturned through the carelessness of the chauffeur. The accident was rendered more painful by the fact that the chauffeur promptly disappeared and apparently made no attempt to withdraw the girl from underneath the car. The other occupant of the car, another young lady, after recovering consciousness, had to run several miles to Bournabat to get assistance, which arrived too late.

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MOROCCO.

TANGIER, January 12.

Raisuli Rumours.

As compared with a few months ago the absence of Raisuli as a subject of conversation and of speculation is striking. I heard a statement made that Raisuli had been not beaten, but bribed to efface himself! This is certainly not the general opinion here, and can only be held, if it is really held, by very few. The Spanish zone is very quiet at present, work on the roads is being pushed actively forward, and it is hoped that 1920 will see some substantial progress.

The British Colony.

The first post-war summer has seen considerable movement among members of the British colony in Morocco, especially in Tangiers; very many of them having taken the first opportunity of going home that they had had for several years. It was exceedingly difficult to find room by steamer. Some people waited their chance at Gibraltar, which often meant a considerable stay there, or, in several cases, eventually travelling by cargo boat, or, if one became very impatient, facing the inconvenience and expense of going overland and the trouble and discomfort of the Channel crossing. Several Tangiers residents joined a homeward-bound steamer which was first going to Casablanca and other ports, and had to spend nearly three weeks on board her before the direct voyage to England commenced.

To secure berths to return was still more difficult, and, at times, seemed almost hopeless. But at last all our residents are home, and the stories of their difficulties in finding holiday accommodation and their despair of ever getting away from England before winter—of which we are all shy—are by now ancient history.

Traffic Regulations.

Some time ago I reported the application in Tangiers of the regulations for street traffic, which had taken the Diplomatic Corps nearly two years to draw up. The only practical result appears to be the payment by motor cars, and, after some time, by cabs, of high fees for licences. Parts of the proceeds were supposed to help to provide salaries for inspectors, who, however, were practically invisible. There was some improvement at first in the traffic in the main street, which is exceedingly narrow, with about two feet of side walk, as one of the regulations prohibited vehicles travelling both ways. One or two people high in authority ignored the regulation from the first, and now the street is worse than ever; cabs and cars have greatly increased in numbers and travel both ways, blocking the street and endangering foot passengers, who are very much more numerous than twelve months ago.

What can be thought of public officials appointed or approved by some ten highly paid diplomatic representatives of the most important nations in the world when a young donkey can be left dying in one of the principal and busiest thoroughfares, and taking two days to do it in, poor thing? Yet this happened, or is happening, for when I passed there to-day it was, for the third day, still there.

In his speech after his return from France General Lyautey, Resident General, made some interesting remarks to his colonists in reference to their engaging in political agitations in Morocco. He reminded them that neither the Protectorate Government nor France had an entirely free hand in this country. Behind France there are treaties in which other countries are interested, and he advised his hearers to occupy themselves with their work and push on the development of the country—wise words which should be well laid to heart.

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CYPRUS.

January 17.

Greek Press on the Past Year.

The work of the Deputation in London occupies a foremost place. The island administration has been to a great extend paralysed owing to insufficient staffs of officials in various departments, and of judges in the Law Courts. Vacancies in the ranks of higher officials have not been filled, and work has consequently suffered. The Government is blamed for failure to cope effectively with a serious outbreak of small-pox, and for want of proper foresight in providing against a formidable bread and corn famine. Business has suffered from the delay in settling Eastern questions; and protracted restrictions have harassed certain industries.

The "Cyprus Question."

The "Cyprus question" continues to occupy considerable space in the Greek papers. A letter from M. Theodótou (the member of the deputation who remains in London), addressed to the people of Cyprus, urges that the delegates should return. Meanwhile, he keeps a watchful eye on the course of events in England. Supporters in Cyprus must persevere, and be prepared for any sacrifices. He seems, however, to think it quite possible that the question of "union with Greece" will be subordinated to wider Greek interests. In the island various meetings have been held which show that opinions are much divided in respect of the deputation. One party, strong at the capital, Nicosia, consider that several at least of the members should return to London as soon as possible. It is better, they say, that representatives should be in Paris, or London, in case their presence might be of advantage, rather than there be any risk of something occurring to call for their presence, and find none of them there. "We," says a leading organ of opinion, "through our representatives, must be ready, with our lamps trimmed and our vessels full of oil, and not emulate the foolish virgins." The opposing party consider that there is no such need, but that it is better to follow the counsel of the Greek Premier, who advised that no good purpose could any longer be served by a deputation, since the matter would be the subject of negotiations between the British and Greek Governments. Moreover, a conviction no doubt prevails with many, though it may not be proclaimed from the housetops, that quite enough money (some say £9,000) has already been spent on the mission. That body exhausted every possible argument. Any further representations can be quite as effectively conveyed through the usual channel as by other means. A meeting is to be held in the Archbishop's palace on January 24, with a view to a final decision on the question.

The Bread Famine.

The Government is taking wise measures for the relief of those in need. In some districts the Commissioners have directed Mukhtars to submit lists of distressed families and individuals, to whom barley flour is being issued at 5 piastres (about 6½d.), and Australian wheaten flour at 12 piastres (1s. 4d.) the oke. The Archbishop, in an encyclical letter, prays that collections should be made by Greeks in all churches, at New Year services, towards the fund for the relief of the food famine which threatens so many of their compatriots in Asia Minor and other scattered settlements. Cyprus, he urges, should not fall behind in this work of charity.

The Archbishop.

The present Archbishop, Kyrillos, is a man of learning and of deep piety, and an eloquent preacher. He is devoted to the work of the Church and ecclesiastical progress in the island, and is not, like his namesake and predecessor, a fighting politician. The late Archbishop distinguished himself more in the political arena than in any other direction, and was an ardent champion of "union." The present Archbishop is very anxious to raise the standard of the rural clergy, a very illiterate class, and is endeavouring to enlist recruits from the more educated class who qualify as school teachers. The task, however, is a difficult one, as youths

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who obtain a good education seek more lucrative employment than can be found at present in the ranks of the clergy.

A Suggestion.

The *Voice of Cyprus* quotes from an English review an opinion of Sir Aston Webb that the seat of the League of Nations should be a place which possesses a fine climate and surroundings, and a suitable geographical position, and that such a spot could be found at Malta, Crete, or Cyprus.

MALTA.

VALETTA, January 19.

Suggested Schemes.

Little countries, like little dogs, are most addicted to snarls, and Malta is no exception to this rule. The least trivialities are discussed with the gravest of concern, and mere suggestions assume the nature of wild-cat schemes. With the coffers of the local exchequer empty, all kinds of schemes are being evolved, the solution of all only being possible by further expense. The latest is the suggestion of the passing of an electoral law with another election. One reason for this suggestion, according to a leading article in the local Press, is to make the general public familiar with the electoral machinery which is to come in the future; it is like the story of the man who pawned his watch and spent the money in order to see what it felt like to pawn. The more intelligent part of the public advise ... *lente* policy, particularly as up to the present time the details of the promised form of self-government are embryonic only.

A Labour Party.

The Labour Party—quite new for the island—are clamouring for a leader, and desire an ecclesiastical pronouncement on the matter. As far as can be gauged, the qualifications demanded are "a Catholic, not only in principle but practice, a Catholic who is a scholar and a gentleman proud of belonging to the British Commonwealth, etc." Competitors are not yet forthcoming.

Food Control Board.

It is becoming the general rule of things in the island for the Food Control Board to answer criticisms levelled against them by letters signed by a *nom de plume* through the Press. This is considered by the majority to be an undignified method of procedure. Legitimate complainers have a more open and honest way of remedying grievances by direct dealings with the Control Board, so why do their work under the cloak of semi-anonymity?

Prices and Profits.

Lord Plumer gave an explicit statement at the last sitting of the Government as to the causes of the increase in the price of bread, and he described the situation as being very serious.

The price of gas is still high, but the local government have instructed their auditor to examine the books of the company at an early date to see whether the high rate charged is justified.

The Act dealing with excess profits is creating much wordy warfare, and though too late in the day, there is much being said about the annoyance and expense the Bill will bring in its train. But the traders of the island show little unity, and the piper will have to be paid. There are bound to be some instances of humorous friction and evasion in the near future.

Personal.

Social events are very conspicuous just now, and private and public dances are carried on until the small hours of the morning; but there is a general complaint as to the lack of sufficient and suitable hotel accommodation.

Canon Camilleri has resigned his office at the Collegiate and Parochial Church of St. Paul's on account of advanced age.

The many friends of Chev J. Depeilon have been gratified to learn that he has been appointed Consul-General to France in Rome.

Father A. Leaza, S.J., Father Rector of the College of St. Louis, has arrived from Italy.

A marriage has been arranged between the Most Noble Mallia Tabone and Miss Inez, daughter of Dr. Luigi Camilleri, one of his Majesty's Judges to the Island of Malta.

The news of the death of Mr. L. V. Paris, of Port Said, has been received with great regret by his many Maltese friends.

A marriage has taken place between V. R. Carnara, Esq., and Miss Mary Nuereb, sister of L. M .Nuereb, Esq., managing director of Samuel Greet and Co.

An expression of thanks from H.R.H. Princess Patricia of Connaught for the wedding present she received from the ladies of Malta has just been made public

CORRESPONDENCE.

EPIRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We read a letter in your issue of January 2 from an Albanian gentleman in the United States. We cannot help feeling sympathetic to the legitimate aspirations of Albanian patriots for a free and independent Albania. But that measure with which they ask the world to gauge their rights they deny to us, the Northern Epirotes. It is not true that "Greece lays claim to an Albanian province." It is no secret that the Peace Conference offered the mandatory over Albania to Greece, but M. Venizelos declined the offer. It is not Greece that claims Northern Epirus. It is the large majority of us Epirotes of the North who refuse to enter the family of Albania. People may call us Albanians; our language may be Albanian, and so on. But we love Greece, and prefer to live under Greek rule, in the same way that the French Swiss prefer to live under Swiss rule rather than under French, or the German Swiss under Swiss rather than under German rule.

We do not begrudge our Albanophile compatriots of Northern Epirus the longing for Albania. We insist, however, that they respect the wish of the majority which wants union with Greece.—I am, etc.,

GREGORY PETROU,
President, Epirotic Society, Boston, Mass.

January 19, 1920.

MUSTAPHA KEMAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—In your last issue your Constantinople correspondent suggests that Mustapha Kemal Pasha served during the war only at Gallipoli and in the Caucasus, and so did not realise the severity of the Turkish defeats in Palestine and Mesopotamia.

In this your correspondent is in error, as from March, 1918, to the Armistice, Mustapha Kemal was in Palestine in command of the Seventh Turkish Army, and latterly, during Lord Allenby's great advance, he commanded the Turkish rearguards.—I am, etc.,

Y. M. R. STUDHOLME.

101, Cowley Road, Oxford, January 30, 1920.

EDUCATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Major H. E. Bowman, C.B.E., has recently left England to resume his duties as Director of Education in Mesopotamia. Major Bowman, who was sent to England in the autumn of 1919 by the Civil Commissioner in order to accompany the Arab Missions from Nejd and Koweit, has been engaged for over two months in recruiting British personnel for the Judicial and Educational Staffs in Mesopotamia, and in ordering books and school material for use in that country. A bookshop under Government auspices is being opened in Baghdad in connection with the Education Department, and a large consignment of books in English, French and Arabic, mainly of general interest, but including some more especially connected with the history and archæology of the Near East, has been despatched. In the entire absence in Mesopotamia of bookshops worthy of the name, we regard this venture as one deserving of all support, and we hope that it will fill a longfelt want not only among the members of the British forces, but also among the educated classes of the native population.

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VISIT OF THE ROUMANIAN PRIME MINISTER.

Dr. Alexander Vaida-Voevod, Prime Minister of Roumania, accompanied by M. Brediceano, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, arrived in London on January 28, and stayed at the Carlton Hotel as the guest of the British Government. During his visit of less than a week he can have had few leisure moments, for his programme seemed to account for every hour of a long working day. But Dr. Vaida-Voevod is typical of the driving force that has been so long lost to Roumania in her unredeemed provinces, and it is significant that she should have availed herself so early in the history of Greater Roumania of the services of this new blood for the highest political post in the kingdom.

On the morning after his arrival Dr. Vaida-Voevod called upon Mr. Lloyd George at Downing Street, and had a short conference with him. At a luncheon given the same day in his honour by Commander William Cozens-Hardy, M.P., Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Walter Long, and other members of the Government were present. In proposing the health of the Roumanian Prime Minister Mr. Lloyd George said:—"I am glad to salute, in the name of the British Government and in my own, the first Premier of reconstituted Roumania. Roumania has been a friend to us in the past, and should in future also be an effective help. I am glad, therefore, to be able to welcome in Dr. Vaida-Voevod the representative of the men who stood by us. I know that he was one of the Transylvanian chiefs. I know that he carried through the Hungarian Parliament a splendid fight for his own people. I know that he managed to maintain their spirit, their striving for liberation, in Transylvania itself. I am glad to have the advantage of knowing him personally, which is a very different thing from meeting him in the course of negotiation at the Peace Conference. I have always been anxious to establish close relations between us and Roumania, and I hope we can count upon Roumania in future also for aid in the tasks that lie before us. Dr. Vaida-Voevod can help us greatly, and I am sure he will help us in connection with the questions of Hungary and of Russia."

In reply, Dr. Vaida-Voevod said that he was deeply grateful for the splendid reception of the British Government and people. He knew that the honour was not offered to him personally, but to the Roumanian people, who had always been with the Allies. The part that Roumania could play in the future could be very important for the civilisation of the world. Roumania could play that part all the more easily if she would have in the future the friendship and the help of the Allies, and especially of Great Britain. He asked the British people to support the Roumanian nation also in the future, and he could assure them that the Roumanians would be worthy of that help.

On the morning of January 30 Dr. Vaida-Voevod made a tour of the City, visiting the Baltic Exchange, the Royal Exchange, and the Stock Exchange. He lunched with the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House. Among the guests on this occasion were Lord Haig, Lord Denbigh, Lord Burnham, Lord Methuen, Lord Faringdon, Lord Rawlinson, M. Boerescu (Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires), Lord Cheylesmore, M. Brediceano (Roumanian Foreign Office), Admiral Sir Cecil Burney, Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee, Sir Charles Wakefield, Sir Arthur Lawley, Sir Herbert Creedy Colonel Boraston, M.P., Sir Vincent Caillard, Sir Hugh Trenchard, Sir Henry Mackinnon, Admiral Sir Edward Inglefield, and the Sheriffs.

In the afternoon a further conference took place with Mr. Lloyd George, to be interrupted for little more than an hour while Dr. Vaida-Voevod went to the Roumanian Legation to meet representatives of the Press who had accepted the invitation to tea of M. Boerescu, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires. The conference with the British Prime Minister was renewed at six o'clock, and subsequently a dinner was again given in Dr. Vaida-Voevod's honour at the Carlton Hotel.

In the evening Dr. Vaida-Voevod was the guest of the British Government at a dinner given at the Carlton Hotel. Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office, presided, and among those present were M. Boerescu (Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires), Admiral Sir Edmond Slade, Major-General Sir F. H. Sykes, Sir A. K. Rollit, Consul-General of Roumania, General R. de Candolle, Commander the Hon. W. Cozens-Hardy, M.P., Prince Antoine Bibesco, Monsieur Trifu, Lieut.-Colonel N. Arion (Equerry to Prince Nicholas of Bavaria), Mr. N. Gologan (Roumanian Vice-Consul), Mr. H. Wickham Steed, Mr. M. Beya, Mr. A. Bowring, Mr. H. T. Montague Bell, and Mr. Conway Davies.

In proposing the health of Dr. Vaida-Voevod, Lord Hardinge referred to the striking circumstance that the first Prime Minister of Greater Roumania should have belonged not to the old Kingdom, but to one of the new territories now incorporated in it.

Replying to the toast, Dr. Vaida-Voevod thanked the company for the honour that they had done him, and more particularly for the sympathy which Great Britain had shown to the Roumanian people. "For a young nation like ours," he continued, "every mark of sympathy on the part of the Great Powers who direct the destinies of the world is the best encouragement to work, the best incentive to progress. Divided until now into five sections, the Roumanians, united at last for ever, recognise that their sacrifices and their tenacity in the struggle would have been in vain without the powerful support—material as well as moral—of their great Allies. Public opinion in the three great nations of the Entente and America has rallied unanimously to the call of their statesmen in the defence of small oppressed nations. These statesmen by their eloquent words, by their energetic action, symbolised in the eyes of the Roumanians, striving towards their national unity, the spirit of liberty and the generosity of their great countries.

"The names of your British statesmen had for us the virtue of justifying in our hearts the hope and the conviction that, in spite of the immense sufferings which it had caused, the war could only end in victory. From the moment when Great Britain had decided to enter into the struggle we had the certainty that there would triumph at one and the same time the military genius and the generous ideas for which so many young men have fallen on the field of battle, for which the happiness of so many families has been shattered and so much ruin has been accumulated.

"To-day peace has been concluded. Our national unity has been realised. Full of confidence, we turn towards our great Allies with the certainty that they will aid us in the work of spiritual *rapprochement*. When two men do not speak the same language, it is difficult to create between them the sympathy which springs from confidence in the exchange of sentiments and ideas. If it is difficult to establish lasting relations by the agency of an interpreter between two individuals, it is still more difficult to do this between two peoples. It is the word alone that puts minds and hearts in communication. We are firmly resolved to send to the countries of the West a large number of young men in order that our future generations of politicians, savants, merchants, manufacturers, and workmen may bring back to Roumania a part of the manners, the culture and the mentality of these great nations. Great Britain, the classic home of political and religious liberty, we have the firm hope, will aid us by her benevolent counsels and by her complete understanding of the end that we have in view—to allow the young Roumanians to profit by the happy results of a superior education on this soil of English democratic traditions, exempt from all narrow prejudice. After the military help and the material assistance that you have given us, I ask you, gentlemen, in the name of Roumania, to give our nation the help, the sympathy, and the moral assistance of the English people. In the full expansion of its youth, this people, eager to progress, intends to consolidate its national liberty by assuring most complete liberty to all national and religious minorities. Modern Roumania is resolved to lay the foundations of its future conditions of democratic liberty on the basis of steady economic progress and financial consolidation. Like you, we are fully aware that outside these principles there can be nothing lasting. Your history gives us magnificent examples in this path of progress and fruitful work on economic ground. It is for that reason that I ask for your moral co-operation in order that we may realise our ideal of progress. It is for that reason that I ask for your collaboration and the help of your experience for our economic reconstruction.

"Our dear Queen is a child of Great Britain. Her Anglo-Saxon virtue of heroic tenacity, indefatigable devotion, and of steadfast faith in the most difficult circumstances, have formed a harmonious complement to the wisdom and self-denial of his Majesty the King of Roumania and our valiant army's spirit of sacrifice for the sacred cause of liberty. A part of the veneration and affection which every Roumanian feels towards her Majesty the Queen is reflected upon the English people, upon the splendid dynasty which presides over the destinies of Great Britain, and upon the illustrious person of your noble King."

Dr. Vaida-Voevod was to leave London for the Continent on February 3.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

New India and New Turkey.

In the *New Witness* of January 22 Mr. P. L. Weston Edwards writes on "New India, New Turkey, and the New World." His opinions are very definite, and he commences thus:—

New India—the India assured of partial self-government brought into existence by the Reform Act—is making a bad start. It is disappointing when you have taken pains to place a community on the path that leads to nationhood, to find even a section of it obstinately facing the wrong way, and whatever may be said for the Turcophilism of Indian Moslems it unquestionably leads right away from that sense of the unity of India which reform was to stimulate, and which was to carry on reform.

He then illustrates the case for Indian self-government:—

An old Indian story attributes to a ruling chief the statement that if the British were to withdraw from the country and leave Indians to their own devices, when they had got as far as Aden they would there find a cable imploring them to return. According to another, probably of later date, an Indian extremist once sought the support of an influential fellow-countryman for an anti-British scheme which he described in great detail. The intended convert listened patiently without interrupting, but at the point where the last Briton had been driven into the sea he put the question "—and then?" The scheme had not been worked out beyond that point, and the convert was not made. Moreover, the question remains unanswered. The idea of Indian self-government as a British aim does not, as many persons seem to imagine, date from August 20, 1917. The accepted phrase, a generation ago, was "We are in India to teach Indians to govern themselves." If progress has been so slow as to lead our critics to regard this aim as purely theoretical—as a thing conceived only to be deferred—it is largely through the lack of any answer to that "—and then?"

He then endeavours to show the unreasonableness of the Indian Moslems' opposition to the proposed dismemberment of the Turkish Empire. He says:—

The Allies, however, are not merely seeking to exact the price of defeat. We have accepted the principle that the new political boundaries must be so drawn that the world shall be free from the more obvious seeds of future wars. This involves making them accord with racial distribution, and that task in itself is sufficiently difficult. It is complicated by regard for national tradition, since the ancient boundaries of, for instance, Poland and Serbia, do not coincide with those that might be drawn to-day on ethnographic lines. Exactly what principle of religious unity should be introduced as a further complication the Turcophils do not make clear. Some of them are content to warn us to avoid risk of trouble without laying down any rule at all. Others seem to hold that, because there are so many million Moslems in the British Empire, it is our duty to guard the political boundaries of a Moslem State. Since Great Britain is herself a Christian State, she should, by parity of reasoning, have preserved the boundaries of Austria. More narrowly, since we have in Great Britain and the Dominions a percentage of Catholics—equal, perhaps, to the percentage of Moslems in India—many of whom fought bravely against Austria, they might have claimed that that Catholic State should be treated at the Peace Conference as a body of their co-religionists which could not be touched without offence to their susceptibilities. Our Catholics, however, are more modern than our Mahommedans in their view of national as against religious unity, and fighting against Austria involved no greater strain on their loyalty than opposing Protestant Germany. They put in no plea for the Empire that claimed to exercise a veto upon the choice of a Pope, and the Peace Conference did not concern itself with that veto any more than it is likely to do with the purely Moslem question of the Khalifate. Austria's political boundaries were fixed according to her political record. There was no difficulty in reconciling that method with the ethnographical one, because, as a ruler of alien races, the Austrian had been no more successful than the Ottoman. The advocate of different treatment for Turkey must have difficulty in avoiding the charge of claiming a preference for the Moslem over the Christian. This article is not written in a spirit of hostility towards any Turkish claim whatever, but merely in protest against the basing of claims on grounds that would carry us back to the atmosphere of Crusades and *jehads* at the very moment we are supposed to be bringing India forward to the substitution of fatherland for faith as a ground of unity. If there is any spot in Europe—a part of Thrace or Constantinople itself—whose justly-established inhabitants desire to be subjects of the Sultan, a claim based on that fact will need no support from appeals to fears of Moslem unrest. Such support can be needed only by a claim that the governance of people in one continent shall be placed in certain hands to please residents in another continent. If Moslems can claim from the Peace Conference treatment so different from that accorded to Christians, what might they not claim, as against Hindus, from a native government of India?

The Guilt of Turkey.

The *Spectator* of January 17, in an article upon "The Future of Constantinople," believes strongly in the need of applying principle to the Turkish problem. Fears about unrest in the Moslem world must be faced, it says, but it has its own ideas about the strength of those fears.

Our own opinion of the right manner in which to treat the Ottoman Turks may be expressed in a sentence. We believe that we ought to do exactly what we think is right on the merits of the case, without being deflected one inch by timid fears as to what might be the results of an uprising of Moslem sentiment. This policy has always been ours in the past, and it has always served us well and safely. The result of it has been that, though the Turk has intrigued incessantly against us, and has struggled violently in the grasp of his fate, saying reproachful and bitter things, he has always in his moments of greatest need turned to Great Britain as the Power on whose justice and impartiality he could rely. If we had allowed ourselves to be intimidated by prophecies of the break-up of the British Empire through Mohammedan disaffection, we should have done nothing to free the many small races which groaned under Turkish rule. We would ask our readers when they are being besieged by arguments in favour of the Turk to remember a few simple but important facts. There was no need for Turkey to join Germany in the Great War. She did it coolly and deliberately. There was no question of a Holy War. She did not fight for religious reasons. Turkey joined herself with Lutheran Germany, with Roman Catholic Austria, and with Orthodox Bulgaria, in order to attack Great Britain, Russia, and France. We cannot forget the terrible cruelties which the Turks have practised against all subject to them. They have massacred Armenians, Greeks, and Syrians. British soldiers, and also our own Indian soldiers, who are now supposed to be seething with discontent at the idea that Turkey should be deprived of Constantinople, had more than a taste of Turkish cruelty when they were taken prisoners by the Turks after the surrender of Kut. Why should it be assumed that Islam throughout the British Empire will turn against us when the perfectly natural and foreseen results of our winning the Great War are visited upon the Turks? The fact that Mohammedans all over the British Empire gladly fought on our side in the Great War would seem to indicate the exact contrary. Moreover, the Mohammedan troops of Great Britain and the Arabs of the Hedjaz were not alone in fighting against the Sultan. Mohammedan soldiers of France and Russia did the same thing. If the argument that we must now hold our hand for fear of what may happen if we deal justly with the Turk were sound, we ought not to have ventured to fire a single bullet or a single shell at the holy persons of the Sultan's troops.

The Balkans.

Mr. J. D. Bourchier, in an article in the *Contemporary Review* (January), called "Væ Victis," maintains as his thesis that "the Balkan settlement is based on the principle *væ victis*." Among his remarks occurs the following passage:—

On the European mainland we have seen the revival of oppressed nationalities, and the bestowal, in many instances, of the right of self-determination. In the Balkans we have witnessed the development of a very different programme. An entirely new rearrangement of boundaries has been sanctioned, but in no instance has the right of self-determination been accorded to the populations affected. How have the three smaller nations of the Balkans been treated? Bulgaria has been crushed and mutilated, and her patrimony in Macedonia and elsewhere has been divided among her enemies; the fate of Albania has not yet been pronounced, but there is only too much reason to believe that the signatories of the deplorable pact of London have not abandoned their designs on her independence and integrity; Montenegro, our ally, has been denied her unquestionable right to take part in the Conference, and the Western Powers have winked at the deposition of her ancient dynasty by a bogus Parliament and the forcible annexation of her territory. Everywhere in the Balkans we witness the triumph of the *jus fortioris*, of lawless rapacity and greed.

Yugoslavia and Italy.

The *Morning Post* of January 27 deals with the Fiume settlement. It recognises that the proposals are not ideal, but pleads very strongly for a compromise. It concludes:—

Further, we would add that British public opinion—and it may possibly carry some weight on both shores of the Adriatic—is becoming tired of the extreme attitude which now seems to find favour in Central Europe. . . . But Serbia is now the centre of a new State, and its bitterest enemy has been crushed and broken up. Roumania, too, has been exacting, but Roumania had once to bow before the Treaty of Bucharest. The Jugo Slavs may rage over "rocks in the Adriatic," they may pant over "stones and Slavs," but they have gained much, and by being moderate they may win even more—the goodwill and sympathy of the British people.

Articles to Note.

"Across Unknown Arabia in Disguise.—I.," by H. St. J. B. Philby, C.I.E., I.C.S.; and "My Two Years' Captivity Among the Turks.—III.," by Capt. T. W. White, D.F.C., in the *Wide World Magazine* (February).

"Why Have India?" by Sir J. D. Rees, Bart., K.C.I.E., C.V.O., M.P.; "Indian Music," by Stanley Rice; "Lord Milner and His Mission," by Major Lindsay Bashford; and "The Burden of Syria," by D. G. Hogarth, in the *Nineteenth Century* (February).

Problems of the Middle East": The Arab Question, by Robert Mackray, in the *Fortnightly Review* (February).

"Ur of the Chaldees," by Major-General Sir George MacMunn K.C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., in the *Cornhill* (February).

"For the Georgian Republic," by H. W. Nevinson; and "The Question of the Caliphate," by Professor Arnold J. Toynbee, in the *Contemporary Review* (February).

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MUSICAL NOTES.

At least half-a-dozen string quartets have been heard in London recently, and the number of trios being formed is increasing. The popularity of chamber music is for a time fixed. Indeed, when we hear the better quartets—such as the London String Quartet or the Philharmonic String Quartet—we wonder how it is that chamber music has not always been popular. But it appears that in music, just as in other less important things, fashion is a hard and whimsical mistress. It is extremely doubtful whether the public, semi-cultured as it often is, really knows what it wants, and the market of musical works and their presentations is by no means a stable one. At the present moment, however, there is a tremendous and vital boom in chamber music. Probably the average concert-goer would now choose as the most pleasant evenings he had spent those in which he listened to a good string quartet. Such an evening he certainly had on January 26, when the Spencer Dyke String Quartet gave a performance at the Wigmore Hall. The beauty and efficiency of their playing were a surprise to me. The works they presented were all except one by English composers—Elgar, Eugène Goosens, E. Tomlinson, and Bridge. The exception was Haydn (who, I believe, is now being claimed as a Yugoslav. I will leave readers of this journal to find out the actual facts about his birth). The quartets in E minor (Op. 83) and in B flat (Op. 64) by Elgar and Haydn respectively are beautiful pieces of music—they are equally classics for all time—and they were given adequately, if not perfectly. No delicate effects were lacking, but the players did not realise and come upon the central ideas simultaneously. It seemed that the first violin (Mr. Spencer Dyke) and the viola (Mr. E. Tomlinson) had personalities that demanded methods which the quieter minds of the second violin and of the 'cello could not sustain. For instance, in the first movement of the Haydn (*Vivace Assai*), the spirit was everywhere present, but not equally at the same time. In the other works I could see no fault in the Quartet, and their playing was absolutely delightful. They achieved a rare and very fine success in the first piece of Goosens—"By the Tarn." It is a work which through its misty and coloured vapours says something very definite, and it was played with refined and most exquisite *chiaroscuro*. Goosens' second piece, "Jack o' Lantern," seemed to derive too obviously from Stravinsky to be of much importance, but it was made by broad mastery to appear a quite harmless, and even enjoyable, pleasantry. If this Quartet were to seize the achitectural ideas of the classical pieces they play (for in minor works they cannot be surpassed), they would fall little short of perfection. Whether they can do this, I think, is doubtful; but if they succeed, an unlimited future is before them. In any case they are already far too important to be overlooked.

The vogue which the music of Scriabin is now having is at once the delight and the perplexity of many people. For in him some see the direct descendant of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, and Brahms; and to others his pieces are the abnormal ravings of a semi-demented Slav in whom barbaric anti-intellectualism has reached the fondest depths of insanity. As yet he is incompletely understood, though this fact does not deter many people from passing a final judgment on him. He may or may not be fortunate in achieving fame so soon after his death, and I cannot say how long his present popularity (an exaggerated word) will endure. Like nearly all great men, he was reviled when he was alive, and is admired now that he is dead. Myself, I think that when the complexities of his music are made simple to us, when the new musical sense which the demands of modern composers have created is grafted on to and made one with the old sense of "classical" music. Scriabin will be regarded as the greatest Russian composer, and will for piano and orchestral writing take his place with Beethoven. However, that is a mere opinion, and I am well aware of its possible unsoundness. One thing is certain anyway: that people are trying with pleasure and without affectation to understand him: his present followers are not like those, say, of Stravinsky or Malipiero, the worship of whom may be called, perhaps unprofitably, a cult.

Two recitals of Scriabin were given last week, the first by Miss Lilias Mackinnon at the Wigmore Hall on January 26, and the second by Mme. Eurydice Draconi at the same place on the following day. Both these performers showed themselves as very fine artists, and their technique was superb. Scriabin, probably more than any other composer, places on the pianist most severe demands—not merely in the use of the fingers, but especially in the use of the pedal has he enlarged upon the past. It is something merely to play Scriabin, but these two artists had in addition an exceptional faculty of interpretation. Miss Mackinnon plays with great authority, restrained confidence, and clarity; with masterly vigour, moreover, and masculine delicacy. Although she could not prove that Scriabin's earlier preludes might not have been written without much difficulty by Chopin, she certainly established that something tremendously vital was being said in, for instance, the Fantasie (Op. 28), the 9th Sonata (Op. 68), and in the Poem (Op. 69). Everyone who can (unless he be, like Scriabin, a Theosophist) will put a different interpretation upon the later works of Scriabin; but it is not easy to conceive of a clearer and more determined expression of their meaning than that which Miss Mackinnon gave. Although first in the Scriabin field, Miss Mackinnon will surely find plenty of competitors, but I do not think she will soon be beaten. You feel that her consummate artistry, which comes from the careful ordering of beautiful difficulties, is an indefinite and unsurpassable thing. In this generation, at any rate, Scriabin will hardly be played better than she plays him.

Mme. Eurydice Draconi, who was introduced as "the new Greek pianist," is a most accomplished musician. Her avenue of approach to Scriabin is peculiar to her—it is neither effeminate nor severely masculine, but consists of a mixture of extraordinary warmth and of almost unnecessary coldness. When Scriabin is like no one else (as in all his later works) she views him very closely; when he resembles someone (generally Chopin) she regards him distantly, and permits none of the ordinary emotions in her playing. In the Preludes she was extremely good; but for a lack of singing tone in the melodic outline, she brought out every beauty in them. But her playing of the fourth Sonata excelled even that of the Preludes. This sonata is commonly supposed to represent the striving of the soul to creative power and the languor consequent upon achievement. Whether this be so or not (and personally I do not think any of Scriabin, whose music seems to me to be absolute, helpfully bears any such explanation), the temperament of Mme. Draconi was in complete accord with the music. The fifth Sonata, which Mme. Draconi played next, is one of the greatest sonatas ever written; one which some day may rank with the "Appassionata." From the pianist it exacts every kind of test—technical, mental, intellectual, and emotional—but Mme. Draconi broke down under none of them. She also played the difficult "Vers la Flamme," and the striking "Poème Satanique," in the latter of which is a remarkable forecast of the future use of satire in music, a use in which on a minor scale (as it seems to me) such composers as Stravinsky and Lord Berners have already indulged. It goes without saying that Mme. Draconi has unusual qualities of memory and endurance, and it is certain that she is an uncommonly fine pianist, whose absorption in and expression of the modern idiom are full. She has a tendency—happily not yet become a characteristic—to allow warmth to degenerate into uncontrollable fervour; but even without the eradication of this tendency she will go very far indeed. She is a great credit to her country, and is an artist of whom any Near Eastern people would, if they could, be proud. Her career will be regarded with profound and richly deserved interest.

The Sonata Recital, which Mr. Albert Sammons (violin) and Mr. William Murdoch (piano) gave at the Wigmore Hall on January 31, was a thing not to be forgotten. It is rarely that two such supreme artists are in such perfect accord, but both intellectually and emotionally they were as one. It was not that they each sank his excellent individualism; rather they merged them so that the collective result was greater, not less, than the sum of the two individualities. The Sonata in E major, Op. 21, by Dohnanyí, with which they commenced, is in one movement, and it is a very sound piece of work. This Hungarian composer is not always inspired, but he is never dull; and in the *Allegro ma non tenerezza* he reached a lofty height. The two performers gave a very intelligible and intellectual reading of him. In things as far apart as Beethoven's Sonata in G major (The Great Sonata) and Debussy's Sonata in G major, they showed equal mastery and charm; the rendering of Debussy in particular was both great and perfect. They concluded with Mr. John Ireland's Sonata in A minor, which is now becoming as well known as it deserves to be. It is a very fine work indeed—probably the best thing this composer has done; and its ruggedness, its slow sonority, and its dancing rhythms were equally fully explored by Mr. Sammons and Mr. Murdoch. It was a magnificent performance, a fact for which the public (for whom, curiously enough, this sonata has an immediate appeal) gave due thanks to the composer and to the performers. Mr. Ireland in his saner moods is one of England's few hopes: and Mr. Sammons and Mr. Murdoch would take al eading place in any country.

ANDANTE.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"VÆ VICTIS." By Edward J. Thompson, M.C. (London: The Epworth Press. 1s. net.)
II.—"THE LONDON VENTURE." By Michael Arlen. (London: Heinemann. 4s. net.)
III.—"FETTERS." By C. S. Goldingham (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 7s. net.)

I.—A VOICE FROM SYRIA.

The title of this small volume of verse and the fact that it pleads poetically for the sake of the native Syrian might make some at once dismiss it. But we have here an instance of the tremendous folly of judging by external appearance. For the prose introduction itself shows the author to be a man of distinction; and the slim body of the book shows him to be a real poet as well. It is our misfortune not to have read any other works of Mr. Thompson; it will, however, be a pleasant task to watch his certain progress to fame.

He writes of Syria and of Lebanon in a way that no one but Flecker has surpassed. His pictures are those of war or of war's effects, and they are at once more vivid and dignified than those of many of our younger poets—Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves, for example. He tells of death, of famine, of filth, of misery, and of the rest of the things of war; but his purpose is not so much to arouse disgust as to evoke sympathy and understanding. Especially he wants sympathy for the women and children, for he has seen them living like animals and dying in the streets of Syria. And at the men who caused this misery his indignation boils over. Listen to this of the children of Beyrout:—

> All this was in Beirut.
> God knows that in Beirut
> There are a score of men that we should shoot,
> Another score that should be hanged, were we
> As just as we would have it understood,
> And I could name you three
> For whom a death by fire would be too good.

At times Mr. Thompson's verse rings with saddened bitterness, for very little seems to have escaped his vision, and in what he saw the bad greatly outbalanced the good. We have no space to give his philosophy, or to describe his love of nature, of animals, and, above all, of humanity. For the same reason we cannot speak of his technical and artistic achievements. Suffice it to say that the book has an importance out of all proportion to its size, and reveals a poet who will go very far. Its subject-matter limits the author, and causes him to write lines that are nothing more than vigorous verse; but when he writes of general rather than particular matters, the result will certainly be high poetry.

II.—THE SPRINGTIME OF LIFE.

Here is a series of papers, more or less connected, which deal with impressions gained from the people, the thoughts, the actions, and in general the things of London; they are written by an Armenian, Dikran Kouyoumdjian. The author has adopted the name of Arlen because he wittily fears that in the difficulty of pronouncing his natal name may be found a possible reason for obscurity. However, after trying seven times, we have really pronounced it correctly; and we like it rather more than his assumed name, which might mean anything, and is in any case out of keeping with the light seriousness of the book.

Some of these papers we seem to have read before in the *New Age*; they are, therefore, troublesomely clever and inevitably readable. The author writes from youth, to youth, and for youth, and we do not imagine that anyone who has reached a safe age in life (unless it be the Mr. George Moores or those who still can read more than three pages of the Yellow Book at a time) will be intrigued by the author's writings. But there may be some to whom it is not forbidden to remember breakfasts on whisky and apples, lunches on liqueurs and grapes, and dinners with fickle females and tremendous thoughts; and to these we commend with wise confidence this book. It is an intellectual's book, written for intellectuals (whom incidentally and, of course, the author despises); it tells of a lonely Armenian's life in London, of a time when it seemed to Mr. Arlen "much better to be a murdered prince in Hayastan than a living vagabond in London," of the people whom he then meets and who thought that "Armenians were funny little old men with long hooked noses and greasy black hair, who hawked carpets about on their backs, and invariably cheated people, even Jews and Greeks . . . ," and of girls to whom you give at once your cigarettes and your bored attention.. In short, it is a rambling summary, in which the gaps are not too few, of the life of the modern young man and woman. It is, moreover, a proof of artists' thoughts being on the same plane; for is there not (or was there not) a popular song by a very perfect artist, called "I can't forget the days when I was young"? As we have said, this book, which has the rare merit of not being a page too long, is expectedly clever; and with a little more luck the sentences in which it abounds might have been epigrams. But we are afraid that most of them have been said at least as far back as Mr. G. K. Chesterton. For instance, "Ah, this wise old East of mine! so old and so wise, my dear, that it knows for certain that nothing is worth doing."

To us the author appears wholly to have absorbed the modern atmosphere, and but for feigned longings and helpful contrasts we see little trace of the East in his work. But this fact does not make the book any less enjoyable. There are, however, three things against which we would protest; the abundant use of Mr. H. G. Wells' dots, which we hoped the *New Age* had killed when some time ago it finally called them "unspeakable"; the really very wrong opinion which Mr. Arlen holds of the work of Mr. D. H. Lawrence; and the space which Shelmerdene (a girl) gets in the book, and the assumption that the readers are in the least interested in her fate. Otherwise, of all the books that do not matter, this is one of the most excellent.

III.—THE BONDS OF YOUTH.

We are introduced to Dick Chamier as an unwanted small boy being kept severely in order by an unsympathetic aunt—and we leave him having at last, after great tribulation, broken the fetters of over-sensitiveness and selfish pride which had bound themselves round him during his lonely, unloved childhood.

The author shows us Dick's development in quick flashes—impressionist sketches. We have glimpses of episodes here and there which form some crisis in his life or serve to show the bent of his mind. This method is successful up to a point—during Dick's unhappy schooldays, his reluctant abandonment of the idea of an artist's career, his first years in the army, his courtship of his godmother's daughter, Beatrice, and his marriage with her.

Mr. Goldingham has a gift for painting in the impression of a moment. He catches the almost indescribable wretchedness which youth can experience over little things when it feels itself conspicuous and laughed at—as when he describes the agonies suffered by Dick on his first visit to his godmother's country house, Saltram, as each evening he dons the suit of evening clothes which have been discarded by a friend of his aunt's, and so obviously altered to fit him, when all the other boys of the party wear dinner jackets. And he can also suggest fleeting moments of ecstasy—Dick starting out with his sketching paraphernalia on a "gloriously, magnificently hot" summer day—coming out of his first Sunday concert at the Queen's Hall: "The short winter afternoon had closed in by the time the concert was ended, and he went out into the cold freshness of the streets and the romance of the lamplight, past hurrying crowds who were no more to him—less, in fact—than the fanlight above an Adam doorway or the magic of chimney-pots against a primrose sky"—or buying for Beatrice, with reckless extravagance, the antique ivory statuette she had coveted in the little shop in Rome. But as the plot becomes more dramatic and we come to the climax, when Dick, after three years of hardship and torment as a prisoner in the desert, returns to Beatrice, who believed him to have been killed, the author does not seem so sure in his touch, and the interest rather flags. Possibly this is because Dick, in spite of the skill with which some aspects of his character are revealed, never quite becomes material, and his brother-in-law, who plays the villain and conceals the fact that Chamier may be alive in order that his own son may inherit the estate of Saltram, does not seem altogether real. Beatrice, great-hearted and generous minded, is much more convincing, and a very attractive figure. The chief charm of the book lies in its sympathetic representation of some of the feelings of youth, at once so poignant and so quickly gone.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"The Story of the Fifth Australian Division," by Captain A. D. Ellis, M.C. With a Foreword by Marshal Foch. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd. 15s. net.)

"Cairo: A Novel," by Percy White (London: Constable and Co. 2s. net.)

"Gippo," or "The Jester in Egypt." By C. E. Newham (Cambridge: W. P. Spalding, 3s. net).

"The New World." February, 1920. (London: Cross-Atlantic Newspaper Service, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. February.	1920. January.		1338. Jomada I.	5680. Shebat.
5	23	Thursday	15	16
6	24	Friday	16	17
7	25	Saturday.....	17	18
8	26	Sunday	18	19
9	27	Monday	19	20
10	28	Tuesday	20	21
11	20	Wednesday	21	22

Sir George Clerk, British Minister to Czecho-Slovakia, has arrived in Prague.

M. Venizelos has left Paris for Athens, but will return to discuss the Turkish question.

General MacMunn left Busreh on January 24 for India to take up his new duties as Quartermaster-General.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Equerry to Prince Nicolas of Roumania, has moved to 3a, Burlington Gardens.

DR. ALEXANDER VAIDA-VOEVOD.
Prime Minister of Roumania.

It is announced that M. Clemenceau left France on February 3 for Egypt. He will remain in Egypt probably for two months.

Lord and Lady Inchcape left by the P. and O. express on January 30 for Marseilles to join the mail steamer Khiva for Bombay.

Mgr. Severius Borsom, the Syrian Orthodox Archbishop of Syria, and the delegate of the Patriarch of Antioch, has arrived in London on a diplomatic mission.

Mrs. Carey Evans, the Prime Minister's daughter, who is going out to India to join her husband, will leave Liverpool on February 7 by the Ellerman liner Patrician.

Mr. Arthur Nias, who resigned his post of director-general of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Constantinople, at the end of last year, has now returned to London.

The wedding of Prince Christopher of Greece, youngest brother of ex-King Constantine, with Mrs. William B. Leeds, widow of an American millionaire, took place on February 1 at the Russian Church at Vevey, Switzerland.

The engagement is announced between John Henry Lyall, Captain I.A.R.O. and Deputy Conservator of Forests, younger son of Sir Charles and Lady Lyall, of 82, Cornwall Gardens, S.W., and Eugènie Barbara Logan Kemp, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Kemp, of 71a, Warwick Road, S.W.

M. Michailo Gavrilovitch, whom the Government of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has appointed as its Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, has been elected President of the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain in succession to M. Yovan Yovanovitch, who has returned to Serbia.

Christmas Day (N.S.) was celebrated at the Refugee Camp, Baquba (Mesopotamia) by the assembling together at dinner of the various Assyrian and Armenian notabilities in company with the British administrative staff. Among those invited by the Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel F. Cunliffe-Owen, Mrs. Cunliffe Owen, and the officers at Headquarters, were Mar Yosep Khnanishu, Nestorian Metropolitan; Vahran Vartabed, Gregorian Archdeacon; Agha Zeita, brother of the Assyrian Patriarch; Malik Ismael, Assyrian Tribal Chieftain; and Baron Levon, a representative of the Armenian Committee.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., is proceeding to South Africa to represent the Government of India on the Commission appointed to inquire into the Indian problem in the Union, and his successor in the Chief Commissionership of the Central Provinces, which he has held uninterruptedly since April, 1914, is Sir Frank Sly, K.C.S.I.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Hugh Fraser, late of the Indian Civil Service, has died at South Kensington. Joining the Indian Civil Service in 1874, he served in the North-West Provinces and Oudh, and retired in 1899.

A report received at Busreh by air from Aleppo states, says Reuter's Busreh correspondent, that Mr. Alexander Fleming, a civil engineer, was killed recently by Arabs near Deirez-Zor, while he was motoring from Aleppo to Baghdad.

Mr. James Monro, C.B., Bengal Civil Service (retired), died on January 21. In 1857 he entered the Bengal Civil Service. In Bengal he held the appointments of Magistrate, Director of Sessions Judge, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Commissioner of the Presidency Division, and Inspector-General of Police. He retired from the Civil Service in 1884. He afterwards returned to Bengal and founded the Ranaghat Medical Mission.

We record with great regret the death of Mr. Joseph Offord, of 94, Gloucester Road, Kensington, after a long and painful illness. Of a most kindly disposition and with a deep interest in men and things which his scholarly attainments and extensive reading brought him, Mr. Offord enjoyed great popularity among a wide circle of friends, and he will be greatly missed. He had made archæology, and particularly Egyptian archæology, the study of his leisure moments for a long period, and his notes on this subject have been familiar to readers of THE NEAR EAST. Other publications to which he was also in the habit of contributing will be losers by his death.

Captain the Hon. Wilfred Gilbert Thesiger, third son of the late General Lord Chelmsford and the Dowager Lady Chelmsford, and brother of the Viceroy of India, died suddenly on January 31 at Brighton from heart failure. After leaving South Africa—in which he served with the Imperial Yeomanry—he was appointed Vice-Consul at Belgrade, and was given the local rank of Second Secretary in the Diplomatic Service while holding that appointment. During his stay in Belgrade he was for three years in charge of the Legation. Afterwards he was appointed to the position of Consul-General at Adis Ababa, Abyssinia, with the local rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary while so employed.

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THE SEASON IN MOROCCO.

Our Tangier Correspondent writes (January 12) :—

We are having quite a pre-war number of British visitors. Sir John and Lady Lavery and Miss Lavery are here for the first time since the outbreak of war, also Dr. Verdon, who has been doing war work at Norwich, and Mrs. Verdon. The Misses Ritchie and Mrs. and Miss Taylor are back after a long absence; so are Major and Mrs. Hay Brook. Miss Hay Drummond Hay has returned after a visit of several months in Europe. Sir Basil and Lady Scott and family are at Miss Kirby-Green's. Miss H. Wilson is back, and has her sister, Mrs. Benthall, and Miss Sparkes staying with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Weir Brown have bought a house near the Marshan where they intend passing the winter. Mr. G. F. Moore, President of the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco, returned with his family in October.

Among the visitors at the different hotels are the Earl and Countess of Pembroke, Sir Eric and Lady Swayne, Mr. and Mrs. Cumberland Weir, Dr. and Mrs. Jaques, etc. Dr. Jaques, who served with the forces in Mesopotamia, has commenced practising here.

Mr. Clark Kerr, the new first Secretary, took up his duties at the British Agency in November.

Finally, ex-Sultan Moulay Abdul-Aziz has returned, and is in his palace on the mountain.

The Rev. Waldo Burnett has undertaken for the third season the duties of chaplain.

Mr. and Mrs. Knott-Hill, having sold their house on the mountain, are not here this winter, and the colony has lost two well-known members since I last wrote you. Dr. Gabrielle Breeze, who was one of the first women to qualify, died on November 28. She was attached to the North African Mission, was a very capable surgeon, and was held in high repute. She had done a great deal of good work among the Moorish women.

One of the oldest members of the colony, Mr. Edward Taylor, who was for very many years a churchwarden, died in July. Mr. Taylor was one of the original members of the Commission d'Hygiene.

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY.

A lecture was delivered on behalf of the above Society by Professor T. E. Peet in the rooms of the Royal Society on January 23. The subject was "El Amarna, the City of Egypt's Heretic King." The lecturer said that in 1375 B.C., when King Amenophis III. died, his son and heir appears, from the evidence of the mummy generally supposed to be his, to have been little more than a boy. Despite this he seems not later than in his fourth year as king to have created a revolution in the State religion, and to have moved his capital from Thebes to El Amarna, a site 300 miles further down the Nile. There he founded a city called Akhetaton, where he settled down with his court to the enjoyment and practice of the new religion. This took the form of a pure monotheism, the old Egyptian pantheon being consigned to oblivion in favour of the new god, the Aton or Disk of the Sun. Some description was then given of the remains of the city of Akhetaton as excavated in recent years. The site had been marked out at the outset by fourteen immense boundary stones covered with inscriptions relating the circumstances of its foundation. The temple of the Aton had been discovered, and the king's palace, with its painted floor, and numbers of private houses had been excavated. The inevitable end of Akhetaton's complete neglect of home and foreign affairs was finally described. During his short reign of about seventeen years the great Egyptian Empire in Syria fell completely to pieces. He was succeeded by a son-in-law, Sakere, who, after a brief reign, gave place to a second son-in-law, Tutankhaton. Tutankhaton moved the capital back to Thebes and re-established the old religion. So perished the sole attempt ever made in Egypt to establish monotheism.

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

F. W. T. ATTREE, COLONEL (late R.E.), Secretary.
Office: Panton House, 25, Haymarket, S.W.1.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Land taxes have been raised in various Egyptian mudirias from 2 to 10 per cent.

The last batch of British soldiers has left India for demobilisation, which has now practically been concluded.

The first Karachi-Bombay aerial mail started on January 24. The 600 miles were covered in 6½ hours flying time.

Many persons sentenced in connection with the disturbances at Gujerat are to be released, and some sentences reduced.

Switzerland proposes to quarantine all travellers from Turkey, Greece, and Russia except persons who are merely passing through Switzerland.

The Indian Government has issued a notification that former enemy aliens will be prevented from entering India until five years after the conclusion of peace.

It is reported at Athens that thousands of Russian refugees have asked the permission of the Greek Government to pass through Salonika on their way to Serbia.

A representative of the British Indians in the Transvaal is on his way to England for the purpose of submitting to Mr. Montagu a statement of the grievances of Indians in South Africa.

The Azerbaijan and Georgian Governments have addressed very cordial telegrams of thanks to the Supreme Council in return for their *de facto* recognition by the Entente Powers.

A message to the *Pioneer* from Baghdad reports, states Reuter's Bombay correspondent, that Captain Matthews, flying a Sopwith "Wallaby" machine, reached Baghdad on January 21.

A despatch from the French Moroccan headquarters reports that a squadron of aeroplanes bombed some encampments of the Tadla tribe, dispersing many insurgents, who left twenty dead.

A Bombay telegram says that during a triumphal procession held in honour of released political prisoners a Moslem youth was killed by a restive horse. The festivities were abandoned.

Lord Allenby has issued a proclamation ordering that nobody over sixteen years of age shall, after February 1, 1920, enter Egypt except with a passport complying with certain specified conditions.

Over £20,000 has been collected throughout Ontario for Armenian sufferers, and most of it has already been telegraphed to the Canadian missionaries in Constantinople as agents of the Near East Relief Association.

Lord Curzon has informed the Committee of the Church of England Peace League that the question of the early repatriation of prisoners in Siberia and Turkestan (many of whom have been there for years) and the immediate provision of the necessaries of life for them has been brought to the attention of the Supreme Council in Paris.

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ROUMANIA AND GREAT BRITAIN

The brief visit to England of the Roumanian Prime Minister will be found ultimately, we believe, to signalise something more than the desire on the part of the Roumanian Government to plead its cause before the Entente Powers. A curious situation confronted Dr. Vaida-Voevod when he assumed office. Roumania was in the bad graces of the Paris Conference, but realised that she could count on a strong measure of sympathy from most of the Allied Powers individually. In these circumstances the Prime Minister rightly decided that a personal exchange of views with the Supreme Council or Ambassadors' Conference was more likely to bring about a satisfactory understanding than months of correspondence. Officially Roumania has fallen into line with the Allies' wishes; the Treaty with Hungary has been signed, and the distasteful Minorities clause has been accepted, but the Roumanians feel that their point of view is far from being properly appreciated among the Allies. On his political record, and as a Transylvanian, Dr. Vaida-Voevod would have a strong claim upon the sympathetic attention of those who have been inclined to accuse Roumania of intransigeance. But his personality, combined with the obvious sincerity and the moderation with which he has urged the Roumanian case, has clinched the success of his mission. The happy inspiration which brought him to London is symptomatic of the recognition by Roumanians of the fact that a variety of circumstances is making for closer relations between Great Britain and Roumania. A little less than a year ago Queen Marie of Roumania reminded the British public of the personal link which she herself had created between the two peoples, and undoubtedly her visit helped to no small extent to make this country somewhat sceptical of the justice of the Paris view of Roumania's attitude towards the Allies and her action in regard to Hungary. Dr. Vaida-Voevod is now concerned to show that in addition to sentimental considerations there are practical reasons why Roumania should be encouraged to keep in close touch with Great Britain, and at the same time he is anxious to throw light on the various matters in connection with which the Roumanians consider that they have been misrepresented. He could probably point to the printed word in confirmation of all that he has to say; but he is shrewd enough to know that there is a limit to the knowledge of foreign affairs that a Government anxious about its own position at home is able to absorb by reading, and he has wisely preferred to cover the ground in personal conversation.

While economic matters must of necessity be uppermost in the Roumanian mind at the present moment, there are several political questions to which Dr. Vaida-Voevod will have been anxious to refer during his conversations with the British Prime Minister. On the subject of the rights of minorities we are confident that the Roumanian statesman will have been able in comparatively few words to dispose of any misgivings that the British Government may have entertained as a result of *ex parte* statements. Roumania as a modern State has had only a brief existence of less than sixty years, and throughout that period the stern necessity of self-preservation has dictated much of her policy. The sudden influx of a needy and impoverished population escaping from Russian persecution confronted her with a Jewish problem entirely different from the experience of any other State. She dealt with it according to her lights at that period, and it was inevitable that foreign opinion on the subject should soon show itself in advance of the Roumanian attitude. The war has opened the eyes of Roumania as well as those of other countries; the Jews, whose disabilities were more grievous in principle than in their actual bearing on the individual, have received the full rights of citizenship, a policy of land expropriation under safeguards in the interests of the peasants and of production, that may well serve as a precedent for other countries, has been introduced. The mistake made by the Paris Conference was to regard the countries of South-Eastern Europe as on the same level of political development as the Entente Powers, and to ignore the extent to which intrigue, malice, and uncharitableness, within and without, hampered their growth. The Conference was prolific in counsels of perfection, but did not stop to think that these could not be attained, and still less did it lend a helping hand or point the way to their attainment. Dr. Vaida-Voevod, we are confident, will have proved, if he has been given the opportunity, an able exponent of Roumanian reasonableness in the light of her war experience. The Allies have evidently hesitated to commit themselves on the subject of Bessarabia. They will have accepted the preponderance of the Roumanian population, but have failed to understand the various movements that have tried to hinder the complete absorption of the province in Roumania. Only first hand knowledge of the position—the history of Bessarabia, the status of the Roumanian element, the sharp distinction in cultural development between the town-dwellers and the country-folk, the ramifications of German intrigue and Ukrainian aspirations—will enable the Allies to do the right thing and obviate future trouble by supporting Roumania's right to the province. On the other hand, the Roumanian Government, it is to be hoped, will realise that no good will come of any attempt to counter one injustice by another. It has been disappointed—bitterly disappointed—over the division of the Banat, and it is tempted to seek compensation by holding on to the "Quadrilateral," the strip of Dobrujan territory taken from Bulgaria by the Treaty of Bucharest (1913). As in all Balkan controversies a formidable array of argument can be marshalled on each side. The fact remains that the land in question was seized seven years ago as the price of victory in a war that did not arise from any quarrel between Roumania and Bulgaria, and it is significant that to-day, when martial law has been withdrawn from the whole of Roumania, it has been considered necessary to retain it in the Dobruja. The matter, we believe, is one that will be adjusted satisfactorily sooner or later, and the statesmanship shown by Dr. Vaida-Voevod justifies the hope that he will recognise the advantage of removing as far as possible, and as quickly as possible, everything that tends to perpetuate an "Alsace-Lorraine" or 'the spirit of "revanche" in the Balkan Peninsula.

The overwhelming necessity for coping with the economic situation ought to prove an effective stimulus for the settlement of all outstanding political questions. A serious handicap is imposed on Anglo-Roumanian trade relations by the depreciation of the *leu*, and economic conditions in a country as rich in natural resources as Roumania could hardly be worse. By common consent there is but one remedy—production, more production, and still more production. Every soldier who is kept under the colours is depriving the country of his services to this all-important end. If the retention of the "Quadrilateral" entails an additional number of troops mobilised for all time, the question should be faced whether Roumania has more to gain by holding this strip of territory at the sword's point, or by liberating for productive work the soldiers and officials that its occupation necessitates. By common consent the question is one for Roumania herself to settle; but if any advice on the subject has reached Dr. Vaida-Voevod in England, he will know how to take it in the spirit in which it has been offered. Neither the British Government nor the British people are concerned over the occupation by any particular race of this or that piece of land in the Balkans; but they are deeply interested in the lasting peace of the Near East, and they believe that it will prove to all the countries immediately concerned far more advantageous than the retention of any territory at the expense of a neighbour's hostility.

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CAUCASIA.

I.

The problem of how to deal with Caucasia has been left amongst the last of those which the Peace Congress has attempted to settle. It is a difficult problem, requiring practical and far-seeing statesmanship, to overcome the political, geographical, economic and military difficulties with which it bristles.

Caucasia has an area of nearly 200,000 square miles, and a population of nearly ten millions. It is one of the main connecting links between Europe and Asia, and both its position between the Black Sea and the Caspian and the vast chain of mountains by which it is intersected for some 900 miles make this territory one of great strategic and political importance. Besides a soil in many places of great natural fertility, Caucasia contains some of the richest oilfields in the world, not to mention its other less developed resources in the way of manganese copper and other metals, and timber. Batum, Poti, and Novorossisk on the Black Sea, Baku and Petrovsk on the Caspian furnish Caucasia with tolerably good ports, and Caucasia may fairly be looked on as a natural highway from Western to Eastern Asia.

Amongst German statesmen there has been no lack of vision in regard to the supreme importance of this favoured land. As soon as the collapse of Russia's military and naval power set in, Germany sent out General von Kress to Tiflis to exercise political and military control. Turkish troops were sent across the Caucasus to raise in revolt the Mohammedans of Daghestan, and to seize the oilfields of Baku and the Apsheron Peninsula. Three States were created at once, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and an Armenian Republic. Further developments north of the Caucasus were to follow. The downfall of Roumania and the state of the Russian navy allowed Germany to treat the Black Sea almost as a German lake. Manganese was shipped to Germany from Batum and Poti. Oil from the Baku and other oilfields was also obtainable. Georgians were brought to Berlin, in order that arrangements might be considered without loss of time for the commercial and industrial development of Caucasia by Germany. The Germans, at any rate, showed no reluctance to undertake control and responsibility. Ostensibly, no doubt, the three new Republics which Germany had set up were to be masters of southern and eastern Caucasia. But Turkey was led to believe that the Republic of Azerbaijan, with a population largely consisting of Mohammedans, either Tartars or Iranians, would join in some future Pan-Islamic federated State, with Turkey at its head. Events proved that Turkey had become too exhausted to carry out even the first steps towards the realisation of these plans, and though some Turkish forces crossed the Caucasus, they could not hold Baku and the oilfields. With the defeat of Germany and her allies, the Germano-Turkish plans came to an end for the moment, leaving Caucasia north of the mountain range in the hands of General Denikin and his volunteer army in the plains, while the various hill tribes held the higher mountain districts and Daghestan; south of the Caucasus range the newly-created Georgian Republic with difficulty asserted some show of authority in the district round the City of Tiflis and towards the Black Sea—but found itself at once involved in a struggle with the Armenian Republic, and in difficulties with the Tartar populations living in Southern and Eastern Trans-Caucasia and in the new Republic of Azerbaijan. In almost all districts south of the Caucasus a food shortage of an acute kind had prevailed during the latter part of the war, while in the territories claimed by the Armenian Republic an appalling state of famine existed. Tartars, Georgians, Russians, and Armenians, who form the bulk of the population, were antagonistic, often openly hostile to each other. In these circumstances some steps were imperatively necessary to keep open the railways and communications as the best means of mitigating the famine, and in order that open war between the various races might be prevented, till some arrangements had been come to as to the future.

An American Commission was to report, and meanwhile some small British forces were drafted into the country to keep order and help fight the famine. Batum was occupied by the British from the Black Sea without opposition. Baku was seized by British troops coming from the direction of the Caspian, but had to be evacuated under pressure, largely because of the attitude taken up by the local Armenians, who form a considerable element of the Baku population. These Armenians not only failed to help adequately in the defence of the city, but actually intrigued with the besiegers to hand it over. Ultimately the city of Baku was re-occupied by the British troops, and the British Navy, with probably the most ramshackle fleet it has ever fought with, obtained complete mastery of the Caspian.

The above brief sketch will recall to the reader the events in Caucasia which led up to the situation with which the Allies had to deal from Versailles. The occupation of Batum and Baku, the two sea terminals of the Trans-Caucasia railway, and the presence of scattered bodies of troops, however small, in these parts of Georgia and Azerbaijan, together with the efforts of political officers and missions, sufficed for the moment to keep a comparative state of peace, and to prevent the total breakdown of communications south of the Caucasus, while General Denikin's army with difficulty maintained a hold on the northern side of that range, from his real base in the Kuban Cossack territories. These expedients sufficed for a time, but the rapid march of events made it imperative that a definite policy for the future should be decided on. The Georgians were chafing at the continued state of indecision, and at the continued absence of recognition by the Allies. This was a state of things which encouraged intrigue among all the nationalities and tribes. Still, the decision was not an easy matter.

The Allied Powers were in a position of some embarrassment in deciding upon a policy which affected integral portions of Russia, a state with which they were or had been in alliance. The Allies naturally, as long as there seemed a chance of that Russia which had been their ally again reconstituting itself, hesitated before they recognised as independent some of its richest territories. Poland and Finland had, it is true, already been recognised, but Poland had a well-known history as an independent State and Finland had also definite historical claims, at any rate, to autonomy. Northern and Southern Caucasia were comparatively unknown, and their claims to recognition seemed less strong. It would be difficult, with decency, for the Allies themselves to annex, or even permanently to occupy, these rich territories of their late ally.

The United States of America, as an associated Power, might indeed with propriety have accepted a mandate to administer at any rate those parts of Caucasia which are not inhabited mainly by Russians, but the United States has refused all mandates. Italy, too, might have been entrusted with a mandate—but Italian statesmen might well feel that if Italy were to accept the task she would be undertaking a task beyond her powers, for the foreign administrators of Caucasia run the risk of attack from Bolshevist Russia (which is strongly imperialistic in that it insists on the integrity of the old Russian boundaries before the war, besides desiring the economic advantages of the oilfields), as well as the risk, amounting almost to a cer-

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tainty, that many of the mountaineers would resist a new foreign administration, just as the Circassians and the Lesghians of Daghestan had resisted that of Russia. Italy, as the heiress of the Republic of Genoa, might have wished to revive the glorious tradition of that republic and her trade with the Black Sea in general, and Georgia in particular. But Italy has not taken a mandate. France, too, has her hands fairly full in Syria with the Arab problem—and in her case, as in that of any Power which could only reach Caucasia by way of the Dardanelles, the difficulties in the event of hostilities would have been very serious. The British Empire is in a more advantageous position owing to the relations existing between it and Persia, for troops might well be sent to the Caucasus through that country in the event of the Dardanelles being closed to military forces. The British Empire, however, seems also to be unwilling to occupy or annex any part of Caucasia.

In these circumstances the obvious course seemed to be the recognition at least of the *de facto* Government of the three republics of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, which the Germans and Turks had invented, and this recognition of the Governments, while carefully refusing to recognise any frontiers, was granted towards the end of January of this year. This recognition may strengthen these new States in their struggle for existence. It may make it easier for the Allies, or the League of Nations, to intervene if their existence is threatened by the Bolshevists; and if the Republics of Georgia and Azerbaijan can maintain themselves they will serve as buffer States, protecting Persia and Mesopotamia from invasion by land.

Neither the North Caucasian Republic nor any Government or tribe has so far been recognised by the Allies as independent. There are some difficulties about the recognition of Governments so amorphous and liquid as those in question; but a little kindly encouragement might well cause crystallisation to take place quickly. The need of some prompt action is imperative if the non-Russian inhabitants of the Northern Caucasus are to resist the Bolshevists on the one hand; or in the Mohammedan districts the work of pan-Islamic intrigues begun by the Germans and carried on by the Turks.

(To be continued.)

CYPRUS.

Below we give extracts from the lecture which Mr. Roland Michell gave before the Central Asian Society on January 21. He discussed the past, the present, and the future of Cyprus. After sketching the history of the island, he said:—

We may regard British rule from two points of view: (1) What has Britain done for Cyprus? and (2) What has it failed to do? As regards (1), those who desire to examine this record of progress will find volumes of information in Blue Books and the annual reports of forty years. No reform gave greater satisfaction in Cyprus than that of the Law Courts, carried out in 1883 under the late Sir Robert Biddulph, who so ably governed Cyprus for seven years from 1879. The highest praise is given by all classes to the judicial department with the Supreme Court at Nikosia, and a British Resident in six District Courts. Reforms were similarly carried out in all branches of the administration. The financial department was reorganised. That of the Public Works constructed roads, bridges, and public buildings. A light railway now connects Famagusta with Nikosia and the Central Plain. Education has made considerable advance. The medical department shows a good record as regards public health, sanitation, and hospitals. Lepers and lunatics are properly cared for. Forests are preserved and nursery gardens have been established. An experimental farm has done some good work. The breeds of horses, donkeys, and cattle are being improved. The campaign against locusts is maintained. The post and telegraph services are efficiently managed. A small harbour has been constructed at Famagusta. Municipalities have been given wider powers. The standard of comfort has been greatly raised in both towns and villages. Details would occupy far too much time. Only those who knew Cyprus as pioneers in the early years (or old residents) can appreciate the complete transformation that has been effected. In the second place, however, it must be candidly admitted that much has been left undone during our trusteeship.

The lecturer then dealt with the charge of British incapacity to govern Cyprus, which was to be a model to Asia Minor. He said: The truth is that it never had a chance of becoming so, mainly for the following reasons:—(1) The condemnation of the occupation by a powerful party in England; (2) it was condemned and written down as a pestilential and feverish spot, whereas by 1881 Sir Robert Biddulph was able to say that it was, for our troops, the healthiest place in the British Empire; (3) the burden of the "tribute"; (4) the occupation of Egypt in 1882, which caused further disregard; (5) the anomaly of our tenure, which prevented the investment of capital. Attempts to develop the island were stifled by the Home Treasury.

In a description of the people of Cyprus, he said: The people of Cyprus are keen-witted and in a high degree intelligent. The villagers are strong, hardy, and frugal, law-abiding, and remarkably courteous and hospitable. The population is now about 290,000, including 230,000 Greeks and 60,000 Turks. In speaking of Greeks, I should observe that they are not Hellenic subjects; up to 1914 they were Ottoman subjects (*rayahs*), when they became British subjects. It is very difficult for an Ottoman subject to become a Greek, because an Ottoman subject must not only invest himself with Greek nationality (which is easy), but he must also divest himself of Ottoman nationality by permission of his Sultan, which is far from easy.

Turning to the future of the island, he said: The situation, as far as it is known, is this. A definite promise has been given in Parliament that the question will not be decided before it has been referred to the House of Commons. The British Government is, of course, quite independent of the Paris Conference in this matter. The claim does not emanate from Greece, and was not included in "the full and complete statement of the Greek Case" (the Dodecanese area does not even include Rhodes, far less Cyprus). It is presented by a section of the Cypriot people. It is very doubtful whether it would be for the interests of Greece to take over this responsibility. It is reasonable to assume (as a late writer has done) that our Government does not desire to add to Greece's difficulties by giving her more territory than she can at present administer. This is not the moment to act on grounds of sentiment. Greece has enough to do at present to set her own house in order. She is acquiring sufficient new territory, and can afford to wait. The questions are, what is best for Cyprus, and what do British interests demand? Taking the first question—as regards the material interests of the island—it can hardly be to its advantage that is should pass from the hands of a powerful and wealthy Power to those of a nation still weak and poor. It stands to reason that its development (which, now that it is a British possession, should certainly proceed) will be better promoted by Britain than by Greece. But the dominating question is, what line does British policy dictate? I would say that not only the argument for detention holds the field, but that it is stronger than it ever was before.

Then followed a discussion by some eminent personalities. Sir William Haynes Smith said that countries now seething in discontent and war would never be settled unless Lord Beaconsfield's far-seeing views were carried out. A railway should connect Alexandretta and Trebizond, and tap the grain-producing regions of South Russia, as well as countries near the Caspian, without meddling with Turkey.

Gladstonian Governments were opposed to the scheme, and Lord Salisbury subsequently said that there we had backed the wrong horse. With all deference to that statesman, he held that we had backed the right horse, but put it under the wrong jockey. Turkey, under German influence, planned the Baghdad railway to counteract British naval power. The right policy was to view matters from the geographical standpoint. We should regard Cyprus as the key to the situation, and resist to the utmost the idea of ceding the island to Greece.

Sir Charles King-Harman said: Regarding the question from a material point of view, it was not to be expected that the island, if ceded to Greece, would prosper any more than the unfortunate Ionian Islands had done. If a free and genuine expression of opinion on the part of the people could be obtained he was perfectly convinced that such determination (to use the current phrase) would be overwhelmingly in favour of the island remaining a part of the British Empire.

Sir William Ramsay said it had been his life study to consider the relation between Europe and Asia. As a student of history he had come to the conclusion that the British Empire, in spite of many mistakes—indeed, crimes—and in spite of ignorance and narrow views on the part of Governments whose horizon was limited by considerations relating to general elections—in spite of all these defects, the British Empire had moved nearer to a line of progress than any other Power. If we retired from Cyprus we should be retiring from the line of progress, and turn our back on our own history. Such abandonment would imply a disbelief in the country's mission and our national character. This was the time of railway development in Asia Minor. He advocated the policy of letting the Germans make the Baghdad Railway, which, he predicted, would in fifty years be in British hands. Colonel C. E. Yate also spoke. Sir Thos. Holdich in the chair (in the unavoidable absence of Lord Carnock). There were present also: Sir Francis Younghusband, Sir Charles Tyser (late Chief Justice, Cyprus), Archdeacon and Mrs. Beresford Potter, Lieut.-Colonel Hope Biddulph, Colonel A. C. Yate, and many others interested in the East. It was clear that there was a strong feeling against the idea of our ceding Cyprus to Greece.

TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

The Editor will be glad to consider photographs of Near Eastern scenery, types, places of interest, etc., etc., suitable for reproduction in THE NEAR EAST. *When desired, payment will be made for the right of producing such photographs. Readers should state, when forwarding pictures, whether payment is desired or not.*

Photographs should be sent either packed between stout cards or rolled in a cardboard tube, and should on no account be folded. Titles and notes should be attached to each photo, and should be very clearly written.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

The story told recently by THE NEAR EAST's Belgrade Correspondent of the capture of the 297-lb. fish—a *som*, or Silurus, he called it—set me looking up data about the finny giants of the Euphrates and the Tigris. I think I wrote of them some time ago, but my memory is such a poor thing that I cannot be sure; and at the moment I cannot put my hand on my own notes. However, I see by an old number of the *Field* that in September, 1918, Lieut.-Colonel Ewart, fishing at Ramabi (Query: Ramadieh) landed a Euphrates salmon weighing 130 lb. Of course, that is a minnow by comparison with the Belgrade butcher's catch; but then they speared or clubbed the poor *som* to death, while Colonel Ewart landed his beauty with a split-cane rod and quite light tackle, after a twenty-three minutes' tussle. Personally, I would much rather have to my credit the 130-lb. "Euphrates salmon," which is a game and graceful fish, than the larger *som*, which appears to have been a finny Caliban—though not a very ferocious one, poor brute!

***

Colonel Ewart, by the way, is of opinion that the "Euphrates salmon," which is the Arab *bez*, belong to the family of carp or barbel, as they all have four barbules, or beards, and are bottom feeders. He mentions that a casualty clearing station held the record for the biggest *bez* taken out of the Euphrates. It weighed 244 lb., was 7 ft. long, and 49 ins. in girth. Another item of interest in the Colonel's notes was that these big fish—or some others—eat birds that fall into the river. An officer who was shooting sand-grouse lost four birds in this way in one day. No wonder that he announced his intention to use grouse or sparrows as bait when next he went fishing!

***

The Bermondsey Borough Council, having presumably done all that it possibly can do for the happy borough whose interests it watches over, lately ventured into the field of politics. Without waiting for the official reports, it passed a resolution recording its "deep sense of horror and humiliation at the news of the brutal massacre at Amritsar" and then, filled with a sense of its own virtue, no doubt, it proceeded to send copies of this Pecksniffian effort to other councils, with an invitation to them to back its opinions by doing likewise. Happily, other councils did not exactly tumble over one another in their haste to imitate Bermondsey in its example of bad taste and lack of fair-play. On the contrary, Westminster officially expressed its regret that such a resolution should have been passed at a time when the matter was still under investigation; and said a good many hard, but true, things about the Bolshevistic tendencies observable in some directions in this country. Anything more improper and more utterly un-British than Bermondsey's action I cannot imagine. It is not the sort of thing that one would expect even from that malodorous and unattractive neighbourhood.

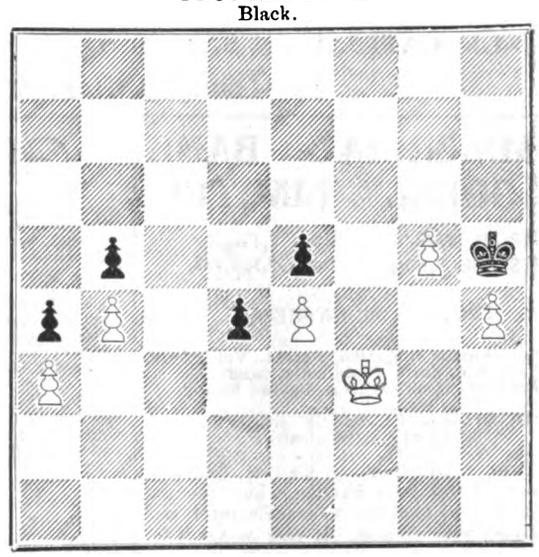
***

Sir Rider Haggard has been complaining about the difficulty—or, rather, the impossibility—of studying the Egyptian antiquities in the British Museum, owing to the galleries being still monopolised by some Government Department or other. I, for one, share his indignation. It is absolutely disgraceful that the B.M. should still be given over to Government flappers so long after the end of the war. Most of us are heartily sick of the said flappers, and anxious to see the last of them; and quite a lot of us want to visit our old friends the mummies again. But my chief interest in regard to Sir Rider's complaint is to know whether he is contemplating another "Cleopatra-y" book. I have always had a liking for "Cleopatra." In fact, I think it was that book which in my young and impressionable days turned my thoughts to Egypt and the East, and thus set me in the way to become a real lover of the Orient in time. I remember that I had a soft place in my heart for Charmion! So, if Sir Rider Haggard is going to give us another Harmactus, he may reckon on one interested reader already.

CORSAIR.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 12.
Black.



White.
White to play. What result?

It is reported that as the result of the meeting of Señor Capablanca and Dr. Lasker in Holland a match for the championship of the world has been agreed upon, to take place in Holland next year.

The London tournaments are now entering their most interesting stage. Sir G. A. Thomas looks like repeating his previous victories in the City Championship, while the leader in the Metropolitan Championship at present is Mr. E. E. Colman.

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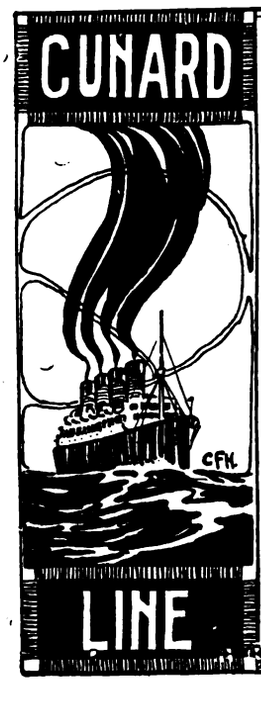

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Every description of Banking business transacted.

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The Bank conducts every kind of Banking, Commercial and Stock Exchange business and extends special facilities to traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts.

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The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,743,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 26·89 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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The Bank's connections throughout Greece enable it to offer foreign clients special facilities for the collection of Bills, etc.
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Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

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The Bank has been established for the encouragement and development of Industry and Commerce, and undertakes every description of banking business.

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Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The movements of the exchanges have almost monopolised the attention of the business community this week. It is now realised on all sides that every effort will have to be made by the countries concerned to remedy this aftermath of the war if trade is to resume its accustomed course. Each country has the solution in its own keeping in the rapid development of reconstruction and in the establishment of strict economy in expenditure. Before these notes appear a conference will have taken place between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the bankers on the economic position of Europe, and it is assumed that the result of the meeting will be that an International Conference will be arranged at which the whole position will be discussed. Elsewhere in these columns will be found two articles on the exchanges—one on the outlook in Near Eastern countries, in which it is pointed out that the internal position of the countries in question is on the whole very sound, and that their resources are ample for the establishment of adequate foreign credits, provided hard work is the order of the day; the other on the Indian Currency report, which has just been issued, and has been followed by the placing of the rupee on a gold basis, the result of which has been that the exchange is now in the neighbourhood of 2s. 9d.

***

The announcement that a P. and O. Banking Corporation is being formed with strong banking support is bound to be of the greatest interest to the business community. The many recent acquisitions by the P. and O. have given it a unique position on the trade routes between the United Kingdom and the Far East, and as banking and shipping are in many ways so closely correlated, it follows that the new development is bound to be of the greatest importance in the furtherance of British commerce in the Near and Far East. Before the war there was only too much justification for the complaint that British traders met with far too little support from the banks, particularly in regard to trade with the Near East. The last few years have seen a marked improvement in this respect, and now we have the present formation, which, like some immediate predecessors, aims directly at the development of foreign trade. When the activities of both these great institutions are fully developed, I do not think the British trader will have much ground left for complaints regarding the lack of banking facilities.

***

The prospectus of the P. and O. Banking Corporation is to appear in April. It would have been out last week but for the request of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that new issues should be held over until the Government bonds are out of the way. The capital of the new corporation will be £5,000,000, of which £2,000,000 will be paid up. Lord Inchcape will be the chairman. Arrangements have been made for the participation by the P. and O. Company and by Lloyds, the London County, Westminster and Parrs and the National Provincial and Union Banks, the most enterprising of the great joint-stock institutions, and in the allotment of shares preference will be given as far as may be desirable to applications from the P. and O. stockholders. The bank will have its head office in London, and it is intended gradually to open business at the ports where the P. and O. Company and its allies operate, in the East, Australia, and elsewhere.

***

Lancashire has warmly welcomed the proposals of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee. The gravity of the position with regard to the supply of the raw material is now fully recognised in the cotton centre, and the desire is to do everything possible to further the growing of cotton within the Empire. At the meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce last week a resolution was carried urging the Government to give effect without delay to the recommendations of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee, while another was passed requesting the President of the Chamber to call a meeting of delegates representative of the cotton trade with a view to the raising by levy of a fund for the development of cotton growing.

***

One of the chief handicaps to the extension of cotton growing is the fact that other crops are sometimes more profitable and, therefore, are preferred by the cultivators. It goes without saying that the development of Empire cotton growing must depend ultimately on the profitable character of the crop and its products, and special interest, therefore, attaches to the question of the utilisation of cotton seed, which is the subject of an illuminating article in *The Times Trade Supplement* this week by Mr. E. C. de Segundo, in the course of which he points out that the established facts indisputably show that the cultivation of cotton and the proper disposal of the cotton-seed should be treated as interdependent propositions, and that cotton-seed is potentially a very important factor in the economies of cotton cultivation. Professor Todd, speaking at the Royal Society of Arts a year ago, said that the utilisation of the short residual fibres "might just turn the scale in many cases in favour of cotton, and that the importance of these by-products could hardly be exaggerated."

***

Reports continue to come to hand of German activities in fields where the Teuton was specially prominent before the war. Evidently the war has in no way impaired their commercial aggressiveness, and there is every indication that at a time when, owing to the low exchange value of the mark, they stand to gain little immediate profit, they are sparing no effort to regain their foothold with a view to penetration "in the old way" as soon as the occasion is propitious. But, forewarned is forearmed, and as no one now has anything to learn about German methods it is not surprising that the pushful Teuton should suffer not a few rebuffs in his arduous task. Still, there is always the certainty of a new generation, and perhaps Germany is pinning its faith on that factor.

***

France has not been slow in realising the value of the aeroplane as a connecting link with her colonies, and for some time now there has been a fortnightly aerial service between France and Morocco. The service, which is between Toulouse and Rabat, with stopping places at Barcelona, Alicante and Malaga, has so far been carried on without an accident, a fact which emphasises very forcibly the progress that has been made in flight in the last few years.

***

Favourable news is forthcoming of the progress of Morums Oriental Stores. Despite the unsettled conditions in Egypt, it is announced that there has been a satisfactory increase in the company's business compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, and it has been decided to pay an interim dividend of 3½ per cent. on the preference shares.

COMMENTATOR.

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E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
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P. NAVILLE, Esq.

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A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 16.

British Chamber of Commerce.

H.M. Commercial Secretary in Bucharest has given another proof of his energy and practical helpfulness by taking the initiative in the foundation of a British Chamber of Commerce in Bucharest. A preliminary meeting was called on January 12, and there was a large attendance of representatives of British firms either established in Roumania or doing business here. Telegrams of regret at their inability to be present were received from half-a-dozen representatives of firms established in the provinces. Upon the proposal of Mr. Louis Johnston (public accountant), seconded by Mr. Humphries (of the Bank of Roumania), Mr. Adams was unanimously elected to the chair.

Mr. Adams addressed the meeting, giving a brief summary of the proposed activities of the Chamber. He stated that one of its tasks would be the elaboration of a scheme for the settlement of trade and commercial disputes between British and Roumanian houses. He hoped that before very long contracts for the sale of merchandise between the two countries would contain a clause by which disputes would be submitted to the arbitration of the British Chamber in Roumania. It was obvious that the arbitration awards of the Chamber would be of great value. He also thought that the Chamber should include in its scope a consideration of the difficult question of transport facilities in Roumania. He thought that the representations of a Chamber standing forth as the official organ of British-Roumanian trade (which reached many millions sterling per annum) would have great weight both with the Roumanian authorities and also with the British Government.

Mr. Adams also considered that the Chamber might well consider questions constantly arising out of the discharging of steamers in the various ports, together with the provision of proper machinery for unloading, etc., and the allied questions of port extensions and alterations. Another activity of the Chamber should include the provision of an information office for the purpose of giving not only commercial but also credit information. This office was not intended to supersede the banks or inquiry agents in the giving of credit information, but should prove a very valuable supplement to their work. A few of the minor activities could be the installation of an employment bureau for the placing of young Englishmen in offices and warehouses in Roumania, and for the provision of correspondents able to read and speak the English language. In addition, the Chamber could possibly take an interest in the extension of the English language in commercial schools in this country, and in any case should prove an important factor in spreading a wider knowledge of British business methods, British standards, and British culture in Roumania, as well as providing a firm pillar of support for that intangible thing—British prestige. He called upon the oldest British resident in Roumania, Mr. Monckton, to move the formal resolution.

Mr. Monckton (Monckton and Co.) then proposed that a British Chamber of Commerce in Roumania should be instituted. Mr. Nadejde (Associated British Manufacturers (Near East), Limited) seconded this proposal. It was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. The general sense of the meeting was in favour of the Chamber being formed on the same general lines as other British Chambers of Commerce abroad.

It was proposed by Capt. J. Pitts, and seconded by Capt. E. G. Boxshall, that a Drafting and Organising Committee of five (in addition to Mr. Adams) be elected for the purpose of drafting the memorandum and articles of association of the Chamber, and proceeding to incorporation of the Chamber in the usual manner. This was carried unanimously.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Committee in addition to Mr. Adams:—Mr. Louis Johnston, public accountant; Mr. E. E. Humphries, Bank of Roumania; Mr. J. H. McGaffin, New Levant Co.; Mr. Aschkenasy, Fratii Aschkenasy; Capt. T. Masterson, D.S.O., Rownson, Drew, and Clydesdale. It was decided that the annual subscription to the Chamber should be £5, and the life subscription £50. Mr. Aschkenasy stated that he and his brother would both become life members, and annual subscriptions were collected at the meeting from five other members.

Redemption of Kronen and Roubles.

Among the financial problems demanding solution none is more urgent than the question of the redemption of the crowns and roubles current in Transylvania, the Bukovina and Bessarabia. A supply of notes was ordered some months ago in America, and it is expected that these will shortly arrive. Almost every day the authorities and frontier guards discover large sums of Austrian and Hungarian crowns and Kerensky roubles which unscrupulous individuals are trying to smuggle into Roumania, where, by imitating the Roumanian Government stamp, it is possible to put these well-nigh worthless notes into circulation. A few weeks ago the Customs officials at Galatz opened a parcel addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Bucharest and discovered the contents to be a million Kerensky roubles, which they promptly confiscated pending an inquiry. The incident is by no means an isolated one, nor does the sum constitute a record.

A year ago it was estimated that 1,000 million lei would suffice to replace the crowns then in circulation; but to-day, we are warned, double that quantity will be required. Presumably the Commissions instituted by the Government kept records of the series and numbers of the notes stamped by them, or marked them with some secret sign, otherwise the Government will be faced with the expense of redeeming currency estimated at the present moment to be 7,000 millions of crowns for Transylvania and the Bukovina alone, and it is no secret that the total is increasing daily. An exchange basis of 1 leu to 2 crowns was fixed a year ago, and there will certainly be considerable irritation when the exchange takes place and the innocent holders of contraband notes, falsely stamped, are forced to suffer heavy losses. In addition to the crowns and roubles of the new territories, there are over 2,000 millions of Banca Generala notes issued by the Germans during the occupation; fortunately, this paper is of such poor quality that some of it has been worn out, but how much will not be known with any degree of accuracy until the exchange into Banca Nationala notes is completed.

BUCHAREST, January 22.

Compensation for War Damages.

Twenty million lei are to be allocated to the industrialists who suffered from the hands of the enemy. Until some settlement is arranged by the petroleum mission now working at the compilation of the necessary statistics, the oil companies will not be included in the distribution of compensation, and it is doubtful whether the Roumanian Government will make haste to recognise the oil companies' claims to compensation from the Government coffers.

Under the existing restrictions there is little incentive to produce oil, as the maximum prices fixed do not cover the cost of production. These restrictions will undoubtedly be altered before long, as it is only by the export of her petroleum products that the country can improve the value of the lei.

There should be a surplus of maize for export, but transport conditions preclude counting upon it.

Inter-Allied Railway Conference at Vienna.

The directors of the Roumanian State Railways have delegated MM. Ioanid and Neagou to represent them at the above conference, which will take place on January 31, for the settlement of the question of traffic circulation in Central Europe.

Timber Production.

According to statistics recently published, the new kingdom of Roumania possesses forests which cover an extent of 7 million hectares. The areas covered by forests in the annexed provinces respectively are as follows:—Transylvania and the Banat, 4,200,000 hectares; Bukovina, 470,000 hectares; Bessarabia, 200,000 hectares; and in the old kingdom, 2,100,000 hectares. It has been estimated that after satisfying all the wants of the country, Roumania could profitably export annually four million cubic metres of timber, which would represent a very considerable sum.

A new company has recently been formed called the Société Industrielle Forestière, with a capital of ten million lei, for the purpose of exploiting forests, and once the transport difficulty has been got over, the export of timber and petrol alone should go a long way towards re-establishing the financial position of the country.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 5.

Concessions.

In spite of the uncertainty of the future, the good old game of concession-hunting which has always been so

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popular in Turkey, is being actively continued. The method of granting concessions has always been one of the greatest obstacles to the proper development of the natural wealth of the country. Concessions are granted to people who cannot command the capital to develop the mine, or even to carry out the elementary work necessary for its eventual development. Most of these people know very little about mines and mining, and look upon their concession as a source of immense wealth, with the result that their conditions are such that no capitalist can be found to take the matter up.

Difficulties of Exploitation.

There is no doubt whatever that Asia Minor is immensely rich in mineral wealth, but its development is attended with sometimes insuperable difficulties. Coal, chrome iron, emery, and boracite are already satisfactorily exploited, but there are also important deposits of copper, iron, lead, tin, etc.

One of the principal obstacles is encountered at the very outset, for Turkish laws are framed to prevent mining property from falling into the hands of foreigners. To overcome this difficulty, a dummy Turkish proprietor is often put forward, but such a proceeding entails considerable risk.

Apart from legal obstacles, however, there are three main hindrances to the successful exploitation of mining property in Turkey. First comes the want of good roads and railways. Throughout Anatolia the roads consist of mere tracks across open country, and are absolutely impassable in winter. The railways are altogether insufficient, and in certain provinces do not exist. The important town of Kaisarieh, for instance, is a hundred miles from the nearest railway station. Everything has to be transported by camels or bullock-carts, and the expense would prevent even a rich mine from being a practical proposition at present.

The next obstacle is the want of raw material, such as timber. At a no very distant period Anatolia was one of the richest countries in Asia so far as timber is concerned, but to-day that wealth is practically exhausted. Not only have vast forests been cut down for fuel, without the slightest attempt at reafforestation, but enormous damage has been done by fires, often wilfully started by vagabond charcoal burners. It is said that twenty years ago wood could be obtained within eight miles of the Arghana copper mine, near Diarbekir, but to-day there is none within a radius of over twenty miles.

Finally, there is the eternal labour question. Not only is the Ottoman workman slow and incapable of prolonged spells of work, but he compares unfavourably in intelligence with the European, and is practically devoid of both elementary and technical education. Furthermore, it is impossible to find workmen in sufficient numbers. Recently, indeed, a number of Chinese labourers have arrived here to work in the Zungulduk coal mines, upon which Constantinople now has to rely for coal. These mines are not only capable of providing the capital with all the coal needed, but could produce much more. Such is the shortage of labour, however, that there has not been enough produced for Constantinople alone.

Hence it is not surprising that those mines that are exploited, are worked, for the most part, in the most primitive manner. Only one or two employ steam or electricity or modern devices, and the rest are dug into anyhow by people who have neither capital, technical knowledge, technical skill, nor any considered plan whatever.

If ever there were a country that cried for capital and technical skill, and offered great prizes for exploitation, it is Asia Minor.

MOROCCO.

TANGIER, January 12.

The increased value of Hassani currency is still a very serious matter, though the agitation which took place in September and October, and was still active in the French zone in December, has apparently quietened down. One can quite understand the natives feeling bitter about the matter; after Hassani had been forcibly placed on a par with French money, to find that the latter (paper) had lost 30 to 50 per cent. of its value was enough to excite anyone. The peseta is still worth 50 per cent. more than the franc, and everything in still in an unsettled state—the Commission sent from Paris has apparently not finished its studies.

There had been ample evidence that Hassani money was becoming scarce—indeed, the Banque d'Etat drew the attention of the Protectorate to the very serious position that might and eventually did arise, but no action was taken to meet the difficulty, though several ill-advised attempts were made to minimise it once it arose. One of these was the extraordinary step of prohibiting the transfer of Hassani from the French to the other zones—that is to say that certain parts of Morocco were deprived of the native currency of the country; much as if people in England were not allowed to take or send gold, silver, or notes into Scotland, Wales, or Ireland. This action made things very much more difficult in Tangier than in the French zone. One of the reasons given was that silver coin was exported from the Spanish and international zones to Europe. This, of course, was stoutly denied, and there does not seem any probability that it was carried out to any large extent.

Green Teas.

The Food Department of the Intendance of the French Protectorate has announced that the French Government have 73,000 chests of green teas, of which the prices are given, for sale at Marseilles. There does not seem much doubt that these are the teas purchased by the French Government for the Moroccan market early this year, and about which, if I am not mistaken, questions were asked in the House of Commons. Anyhow, great indignation is felt that the French Government should have taken any action which is bound to interfere with the legitimate trade of the tea importers.

England has been for long by far the most important supplier of green teas to Morocco, and it is felt that the British Government can hardly look very favourably on a transaction which will dislocate such an important branch of British trade here for the whole of the season—73,000 cases representing 80 per cent. of the total annual imports to Morocco. I have not yet heard of any actual transactions on these teas; it may be that the qualities are not suitable for native consumption, but I believe Moroccan merchants went to Marseilles with a view of buying.

Importers' Difficulties.

I have previously mentioned the dissatisfaction with the want of system by the Customs authorities in estimating the value of imports for duty. According to the Act of Algeciras, *ad valorem* means the wholesale value of goods entered at the Custom House, plus cost of unloading. According to the Customs authorities, this means *local* wholesale value. This often changes, and is sometimes lower than at the place of origin. On the other hand, local wholesale prices may be higher than cost price, but whichever happens the Customs people demand duty on the higher value.

The state of the different exchanges is another weapon which the Customs people wield with dexterity, always

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against the unfortunate importer. Duty is payable in Hassani currency, of which, since its increase in value the Banque d'Etat fixes a rate of exchange every day, and the rate is posted up at the Customs; but it has happened very many times that importers, on applying for Hassani money at the Banque d'Etat have been charged a higher rate than that announced. I believe there has been an improvement in this matter lately, but I mention it to show the unnecessary difficulties importers meet with.

It can be readily understood that there is great discontent with the authorities, and it is felt that the whole matter needs examining and a proper system instituted, or if no change can be made, that a definite ruling regarding the meaning of the Act of Algeciras should be agreed upon and systematically applied.

Shortage of Supplies.

From the way things have been going on lately one might almost think that there had been a general agreement to strengthen the hands of the opponents of a real international regime for Tangier. For some time there has been a great shortage of bread in Tangier, and eventually a very imposing native demonstration waited on the different diplomatic agents. At one or two of the agencies the demonstrators who were quite orderly were quietly received, but it would appear that one Agency had an acute attack of nerves, and there are very curious rumours of the reception of the demonstrators, who were throughout quite quiet and respectful.

Wheat and barley have been supplied from the French zone, but for some inexplicable reason the grain supplies had not equalled the requirements. Some try to attribute this to the fact that up to some time ago recognised grain merchants in Tangier received licences from the local Controller of produce imported from the French zone, and could buy, if not quite from whom they chose in that zone, at least from licensed exporters there who were fairly numerous, but a change was made, and the entire export of grain from the French zone was put into the hands of one firm, which sold it to the licensees here.

The delegation referred to obtained satisfaction, apparently chiefly through the good offices of the British Diplomatic Agent.

Cattle also have been short and meat at fearful prices. Cattle are imported from the French zone on licence, being bought in the open village cattle markets; but can only be sold here to one firm appointed by the French Controller, who fixes the prices, wholesale and retail. These, especially the former, have been so inadequate that several importers suspended operations, and the retailers practically broke away from the official tariff and charged what they liked, until at last the tariff excluded all good "cuts" from the list of prices and classified them as "hors taxe"—in fact, the taxed "cuts" might almost as well appear in the same class for all the notice many butchers take of the official prices. There have also been complaints of shortage of cattle in certain towns in the French zone.

Of course, various political reasons have been put forward officially and otherwise, to explain the short supplies abovementioned. It was stated that large quantities of bread were smuggled out of Tangier for Spanish troops over the frontier, but Spain sends in flour for these troops and also a certain quantity for the town supply, which is only fair, as there are so many Spaniards here.

An attempt to explain away the shortage of cattle was made by a statement that they were smuggled from the French zone into the Spanish to Alcazar, and by the fact that cattle were exported abroad—*i.e.*, Gibraltar. The former may have been done to some small extent, though the frontier is very well guarded, but if it were carried on to such an extent as to reduce seriously the quantities available in the French zone, it is curious that 20,000 head allotted for export last summer do not appear to have left the country, as the permission to export them has been renewed time after time, which evidently would not have been done if the authorities feared a shortage for home consumption.

The Resident-General of the Spanish zone has quite recently authorised the export from that zone into Tangier of 100 head of cattle, 300 rams, and 100 pigs per month. These are subject to no control.

Bourse de Commerce at Casablanca.

A notice has appeared in the *Bulletin Officiel* announcing the lines upon which these are to be instituted, and these should be most carefully examined by the British authorities, because if the proposals are carried out British subjects in Morocco may find it practically impossible to carry out some branches of business in which they specialise.

A group of traders at Casablanca, who are already exploiting two important flour mills at that place, have just decided, according to a French contemporary, on the establishment of a large modern mill, with a production of 1,000 quintals per day. This factory—by far the most important in Northern Africa—is expected to be in working before the end of this year.

"GERMANY AND THE UKRAINE."

We have received the following letter in regard to an article on "Germany and the Near East," which was published in the first issue of our Greek Subsidiary, "Βιομηχανία καὶ Εμπόριον" and previously appeared in THE NEAR EAST of July 4:—

Sir,—In the first issue of your esteemed journal for the month of October an article was published, entitled "Germany and the Ukraine," where it is a question of my country only, it is true, as an eventual market for the commercial products and machinery of the Germans. As the conclusions relating thereto are deduced from the political situation of my country, and as it seems to me that the political facts which are relative to it do not correspond precisely to reality, I feel that I ought to draw your attention to three factors of which mention is made.

(*a*) You ascribe to the indisputable success of Germany the rising of the Ukraine.

The limited and very precious space in your paper compels me to restrict my reply to this imputation, repeated many times unjustly and persistently by opponents of the existence of the Ukraine as a State. In this connection I should like to draw your attention to the following facts:—The Ukrainians who served in the Russian Army never made any sign of revolt during the whole Russian war, and that despite the 400.000 victims that the Ukraine offered on the altar of Mars during that war, which ought to bring it its independence. The Ukrainians were the only troops who continued to defend the front, despite the *débâcle* of the Russian Army. If it was the Germans who raised the Ukraine against Russia they would not have had need to place at the head of the Ukraine, free until then, the hetman General Skoropadsky, and to drive from the administration of the country all the Ukrainian elements, to install Russians, Poles, or Germans, supporters of the defunct Russian Empire. But did the German State exist when the Ukraine was constituted an independent State, and was it the independent German State (still non-existing) which urged the Ukrainians to formulate their demand to reconstitute itself as a State independent and separated from Russia as well as from Poland, after the subjugation of the Ukraine by these two countries?

(*b*) You describe the Ukrainians as the enemies of the Poles.

Really, I have no reasons for contradicting this. But the causes of this regrettable fact are wrongly described in the article referred to. It is not because the Ukrainian Army was defeated (that it has never been); it was only made to retire before the Polish forces which had been armed by certain Entente Powers for a very different purpose. The reason of it is that the Poles utilised their numerical superiority to snatch from the Ukraine, bleeding from the struggle against the Russian Bolshevists, Eastern Galicia, where there is only a small Polish minority, and where the Ukraine element is represented by 95—97 per cent. of the total population of that province.

(*c*) The Ukraine, it is stated in the article in question, is ready to enter into commercial relations with Germany. I ought to confess that I am astonished that you can divine the intentions of the Government of my country. I should like to emphasise the fact that the Ukraine, which gained its independence thanks to the unsurpassed heroism of its sons, has proclaimed the principle of free commerce with all countries, and, in consequence, is willing to enter into commercial relations with Great Britain, America, France, Germany—it does not matter what country—even with Poland, if only that last country, taking into account its real interests, will abandon its imperialistic tendencies, which have, unhappily, been in evidence up to the present time, and will enter upon a path of collaboration and good comradeship with its neighbours of the South-East in the common interest.—I am, etc.,

M. LEVITZKY,
Secretary to the Ukraine Diplomatic Mission in Greece.

December 16.

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The Egyptian Cotton Crop.

By John A. Todd.

III.—THE PROSPECTS IN AMERICA.

There is, of course, no question that, in spite of occasions such as the present, when Egyptian seems to go off entirely on a course of its own, the price of Egyptian cotton is, as a rule, governed largely by that of American. It is therefore impossible to discuss the probable future of Egyptian prices without considering the main factors likely to affect the price of the American staple, which still supplies nearly two-thirds of the world's total crops. The recent movement of American prices has itself been sufficiently dramatic to attract attention, if it had not been overshadowed by the still more exciting course of the Egyptian market. In February, 1919, September futures touched 11.55d., and we count that a low price in these days! In January, 1920, American spot prices touched 31.23d. per lb.

The causes of this extreme movement are nothing new. Even before the war we had learned to recognise that there was a method in the madness of the fluctuations in the price of American cotton. A fairly regular sequence of big and small crops, with low and high prices, was not entirely fortuitous, but had become something in the nature of an economic vicious circle. A large proportion of the growers were working too near the margin of profit, and when a big crop caused a fall in price, they went off cotton next year, with the result that a smaller acreage produced a smaller crop and a rise in prices, to be followed by the reversal of the swing in the following year. This tendency was intensified by war conditions. The slump of 1914 was reproduced in the autumn of 1918 after the armistice, with the result that the acreage was again substantially reduced, and as the crop once more had bad weather the result was most disappointing, and high prices followed as a matter of course.

If present prices are maintained for the next few months there is almost certain to be a considerably increased area under cotton this year, and with any ordinary luck in the weather we ought at last to get a good crop; but it must be remembered that that has been our hope every year since 1915, and it has always been disappointed. But the important question is not merely what is going to happen in the immediate future, but, rather, what are the general conditions affecting the future development of the world's principal supply. For many years before the war, practically ever since the American Civil War, the acreage in America had been increasing steadily, on the whole. Is that likely to become true again in the future?

It is becoming more and more clear that the answer to that question will be in the negative, or at least that the only condition which may secure the continuance of a satisfactory acreage in America is the maintenance of a level of prices which a few years ago would have been looked upon as fatal. We have long been hearing reports that the cost of production of cotton in America was rising; but these were to a large extent discredited in this country. The World's Cotton Conference at New Orleans in October last served at least one good purpose by giving an opportunity for the planters to state their case in the presence of the spinners, and for the spinners to see for themselves something at least, and to hear a great deal more, of the state of affairs in the South.

Those who saw most were probably the nearest to being convinced that the conditions in the Cotton Belt were not altogether satisfactory, and certainly far from being so rosy as most of us in this country had thought they must be, judging by the high level of prices in recent years. For this there seem to be two main reasons. The first is that while the better-class planters are quite able now to look after themselves, and have probably done very well indeed these last two years, there are still a great many small men in the industry who, partly through their own fault and partly for reasons beyond their control, do not always make a decent living out of cotton even now. The second is that, owing to defects in the marketing system, many of the growers do not receive the high price which the spinner is paying for the cotton. This leakage, again, is due to two causes. In the first place the price of cotton fluctuates so much that it is very difficult for the grower to make sure that he gets the best market. If he is dependent on some merchant or storekeeper for his season's supplies, he is very much in the hands of his creditor as to when he must sell, and, judging from what one hears, there are evidently still some people in the Belt who are not above taking advantage of his necessities in that direction.

The second cause of leakage is that the small planter is often ill-informed as to the real value of his cotton, partly because he is no judge of staple, and partly because he is not in touch with those special sections of the market which deal with anything above the ordinary run of cotton. The value of cotton depends on many things, particularly its condition and its staple. But the ordinary market quotation takes no account of staple, and throughout most of the Belt the local price is fixed by the buyers according to some unknown standard of what the cotton of that district as a whole is usually worth, modifications of this village standard price being only made according to the condition of the particular bale offered.

But the over-riding cause of the dissatisfaction among the planters is the fact, which is undeniable, though its degree is difficult to estimate, that the cost of production has risen alarmingly in recent years. This is due to many causes—the reduction of yield owing to boll weevil, the high labour cost of cultivation and picking, and the high prices of everything the planter has to buy, from seed and fertilisers to implements, stock and feed. The last-mentioned may be taken as typical. Before the war the farmer grew almost nothing but cotton, and bought all his supplies, including food for himself and his stock. But now everything is going up in price, from wheat, meat, and corn down to watermelons, and the result is that even with the high price of cotton he is not much better off than he used to be. The fact is that the standard of living in many parts of the South is too low, and the risks of the trade are too great for the small planter. In certain parts of the Belt the climate is so unreliable that the crop may be ruined year after year. In one part of Northern Texas, for example, this year, owing to the abnormal rainfall (which followed four years of extreme drought), the crop would not pay the cost of cultivation alone.

It is almost hopeless to try to place any figure upon the probable cost of production, so as to arrive at a price which would adequately remunerate the farmer. There are so many varying conditions in different parts of the Belt, so many disputed questions as to the basis of the calculation—*e.g.*, as to the yield per acre upon which the calculation should be framed, and so on. The only thing one can say with any approach to certainty is that the cost of production has nearly doubled during the war, and that now the lowest price that will produce a satisfactory acreage in those parts of the Belt where the cost is highest is somewhere about 25 or even 30 cents per lb. That is lower than the lowest figures that were submitted to the Conference by those who spoke for the planters, even in the most favoured districts, such as North Carolina, where labour is cheapest and there is no boll weevil yet.

This, of course, is a very serious business for the cotton-using areas of the world, but it can hardly fail to reassure any who may be afraid that the high prices of Egyptian are only a flash in the pan. It is as sure as anything can be that we are in for a considerable period of high prices for cotton of all kinds, subject, of course, to any great upheaval which would bring down the general level of prices as a whole. The world's supply of cotton, while probably adequate to the restricted consumption of to-day, leaves no margin for an early return to anything like pre-war conditions of consumption, let alone for any resumption of the pre-war rate of increase of consumption.

But while the Egyptian grower may rest assured that the price of his crop is not likely to be brought down by any superabundance of American cotton, there is one factor in the American situation which ought to make the Egyptian grower think seriously. This is the development in the Western States of new cotton-growing areas, under irrigation conditions very similar to those of Egypt, which are now producing cotton probably quite as good as anything that Egypt can grow, and in increasing quantities. A visit to the Salt River Valley in Arizona is a very healthy corrective to the idea which used to prevail in certain quarters that only Egypt could grow Egyptian cotton. There, under the direction of a small but highly organised community of very live Westerners, with unlimited capital behind them, and the scientific assistance of the Federal Department of Agriculture, a most promising industry has been built up, which is already going some way to meet the American demand for Egyptian cotton. The crop this year is estimated at figures varying from 45,000 to 60,000 bales, and it is certain that the coming season will see a largely increased acreage. It is very difficult to indicate the probable limits of expansion, though probably the wildest optimist would not look for a total anything like so large

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as that of the Egyptian crop. Perhaps 250,000 bales would be the outside as far as can be seen at present. But even that is a considerable quantity, and it ought to be enough to warn the Egyptian growers that their monopoly of the fine cotton supply, reinforced now by the failure of the Sea Island crop in America, is too valuable to be left without at least serious attempts at competition. So far, Arizona has hardly been able to keep pace with the rapid diminution of the Florida and Georgia Sea Island crops; but the latter will probably reach its limit in a year or two, while the former will go on increasing for some time to come.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

The Present Position.

The violent fluctuations of the foreign exchanges during the past week have brought to the fore a problem which, it is no exaggeration to say, is causing the gravest anxiety to the business community. During the war the exchanges were artificially supported, but since the Armistice the economic effects of the war have been seen in the constant decline in the exchanges of the Continental belligerent countries, while the pound sterling has steadily depreciated compared with the dollar. The result of the process has been to impose a serious barrier in the way of the resumption of the normal course of world commerce. Trade with a country where exchange has not only greatly depreciated but is also subject to rapid variations can only be carried on in circumstances of extreme difficulty, and yet it is a vital matter that commerce should be re-established at the earliest possible moment. Therein lies the crux of the problem, for only by that means can Europe regain settled conditions.

Outside Central Europe and Russia the difficulty of the foreign exchanges is most acute in regard to the Near Eastern countries with the exception of Greece, whose participation in the war left her almost unscathed, and whose sterling exchange remains, in consequence, in the neighbourhood of par; at one period, indeed, it was slightly above it. But, apart from Greece, a heavy depreciation in exchange handicaps British trade throughout the Near East and the Levant. The Yugoslav exchange is 90 dinars to the pound sterling, as against 25; the Bulgarian leva stands at 150; the Roumanian leu has reached 205; while the Turkish exchange has been as high as 400 piastres. Hitherto the position has been met by the establishment of credits at banks in the importing countries, and that would have proved a successful solution if, as was not unnaturally expected, an improvement had taken place in the exchanges. As we have only too good reason to know, the converse has been the case, and the currency of Roumania and Turkey has continued to depreciate.

The cause of this depreciation is to be found simply in the fact that the countries concerned are still far from the resumption of their pre-war activities. Credits abroad can only be created by exports, and during the past year for one reason or another only too little progress was made in this direction by some of the Near Eastern countries. The delay in regard to the various Peace treaties has been one of the most important factors. But there have been other causes besides, with which externals have nothing to do. In some Near Eastern countries there has been far too much of what may be called a *laissez faire* attitude on the part of the population, and the tendency has been to depend on help from the Powers, whereas economic salvation is only to be attained from within.

While the improvement in sterling can be effected only by increased exports of manufactured goods, coupled by the drastic curtailment of imports of luxuries, the solution as regards the Near East is to be found in the development of production. Without exception the countries are agricultural communities--using the term in a broad sense—deriving their wealth from the land in the form of crops or minerals, and in this they stand at a marked advantage over countries which are mainly industrial, for their production consists largely of necessities for which at all times it is the easiest possible thing to find a market, and which, now that demand has far outstripped supply, are in the greatest request. Once the internal reorganisation is completed and production is again normal the battle of the exchanges will have been won. But—and too great insistence cannot be placed upon this point—there is no other remedy but hard work.

Beyond emphasising the paramount need for rapid progress in reconstruction, the exchanges of Roumania, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria have little real significance, for the basis of the position of these three countries is emphatically very sound. Roumania is particularly well situated. Except for the expenditure incurred during the war, Roumania has no national debt, as its pre-war debt was owed to Germany, and in its crops and its oil—especially the latter, of course—it has ample resources for the creation of foreign credits. All that is required is that the policy of the country should be framed on sound economic lines, and that this will be the case will be evident from the admirable programme of reform outlined by the Prime Minister, M. Vaida-Voevod. Given this, there is no reason why Roumania should not become one of the most prosperous of the minor Powers. Yugoslavia and Bulgaria lack the vast oil resources of Roumania, while Bulgaria's national debt is of no inconsiderable amount, but both countries have in normal times ample produce for export, particularly Bulgaria with her production of tobacco, hides and skins, and attar of roses. That the exchanges of these countries stand relatively better than Roumania's is due to the fact that in their cases circumstances have been more favourable. From the potential aspect the Roumanian exchange ought to be much nearer the normal than either.

INDIAN CURRENCY.

By "Gold Mohur."

The secrecy with which the report of the Currency Commission has been maintained was broken during the week-end by the publication of the report, along with certain decisions taken by the Secretary of State with regard to the measures recommended. Although numerous attempts have been made during the past month to extract information about the views advocated by the Committee, it is well known that the secret has been so carefully kept that the Press announcement which appeared on Monday morning took everybody by surprise. One banker's opinion was that it would make the twopenny rises look foolish, and this has been borne out. A nervous jutewallah evidently assumed that the two shilling rate was coming into force at once, and rushed to the City early on Monday with the object of trying to seize the 2s. 4d. exchange before the slump. He found his banker quite willing to oblige him, and no doubt had leisure to repent his hasty action later in the day when he learned that exchange was round about 2s. 8¼d. On Monday the Exchange Banks were bombarded by inquiries in person and by telephone, and we understand that business is practically at a standstill pending advices from India.

The chief features in the report are as follows:—Measures will be taken to stabilise the rupee at two shillings, and it is proposed to place it upon a gold basis, but the restrictions on the imports of gold into India are to remain in force for the present. Under Government control, the acquisition rate for gold will be 1 rupee for 11.30016 grains of fine gold and 10 rupees for a sovereign. The Committee advocates the removal as soon as convenient of the prohibition on imports of silver, and the repeal of the duty. It is evident that efforts will be made to maintain gold as the recognised legal tender in India.

The first effects of the report produced a temporary paralysis in the rupee market. Having elected to discard the former ratio of 15 rupees to the sovereign and link up the rupee with gold, it follows that the current price of gold is now the principal factor which determines the value of the rupee. As the price of the precious metal is influenced by the fluctuations in the New York Exchange, another disturbing element is introduced. Looking ahead to the time when the premium on gold may disappear and the two shilling rupee become effective, there can be no doubt that the advantages of a fixed exchange are indisputable. But the progress towards that desirable end must be surrounded with anxiety. India is absorbing an enormous amount of gold at present, and it is unlikely that her wants will be satisfied for a long time.

The parity at present gold prices is in the neighbourhood of 2s. 9¼d., and the question which will come uppermost in the minds of merchants is, why the Government should not have taken steps to prevent such a jump, which only dislocates the exchanges and benefits no one, except the Indian importer. The rupee has been so long controlled that it would have been advisable to peg it at 2s. 4d. for a time until the sales of gold had caused the premium to diminish. Exports from India will naturally be held up, and great dissatisfaction will be caused amongst those engaged in the exports of Indian produce. When the currency report was completed, the danger from an inflated gold premium was not so apparent; otherwise, it can hardly be imagined that the Committee would not have recommended measures to check such a sensational advance as has now taken place.

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STABILISATION OF INDIAN EXCHANGE.

The publication of the Indian Currency Commission's Report on January 31 was followed by the issue of a memorandum by the India Office, which states:—

The Secretary of State in Council has considered, in consultation with the Government of India, the Majority and Minority Reports received from the Committee appointed by him, under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Babington Smith, to advise on the subject of Indian Exchange and Currency. The Majority Report, which is signed by the chairman and all the members of the Committee except Mr. D. M. Dalal, states as its objects the restoration of a stable and automatic system and the maintenance of the convertibility of the note issue. The fundamental recommendations of the report are as follows:—(*a*) That the present rupee unchanged in weight and fineness should remain unlimited legal tender; (*b*) that the rupee should have a fixed exchange value, and that this exchange value should be expressed in terms of gold at the rate of one rupee for 11.30016 grains of fine gold, that is, one-tenth of the gold content of the sovereign; (*c*) that the sovereign, which is now rated by law at Rs. 15, should be made a legal tender in India at the revised ratio of Rs.10 to one sovereign; (*d*) that the import and export of gold to and from India should be free from Government control, as soon as the change in the statutory ratio has been effected, and that the gold mint at Bombay should be open for the coinage into sovereigns of gold tendered by the public; (*e*) that the notification of the Government undertaking to give rupees for sovereigns should be withdrawn; (*f*) that the prohibition on the private import and export of silver should be removed in due course, and that the import duty on silver should be repealed unless the fiscal position demands its retention.

These recommendations develop, with the necessary modifications required by altered circumstances, the principles on which the Indian currency system was established before the war, and are accepted by the Secretary of State in Council as expressing the goal towards which Indian currency policy should now be directed. Under the conditions existing prior to the war sterling and gold were identical standards. The existing disparity has made a choice between these standards necessary, and the committee's recommendation is in favour of placing the rupee on a gold basis. In recommending a rate—namely, that above mentioned—for the exchange value of the rupee, the chairman and majority have taken account of the high range of silver prices, and of the importance of safeguarding the convertibility of the Indian note issue by providing so far as possible that the token character of the rupee shall be restored and maintained—*i.e.*, that the Indian Government may be in a position to buy silver for coinage into rupees without loss. They were also impressed by the serious economic and political risks attendant on a further expansion of Indian prices such as must be anticipated from the adoption of a low rate. The arguments advanced in favour of a gold basis and a high rate of exchange appear to the Secretary of State in Council to be conclusive, and he has decided to take the necessary steps to give immediate effect to the recommendations on these points. Accordingly the Government of India have to-day announced that the rate which they will pay for gold tendered to them under the Gold Import Act by private importers will henceforth be fixed at one rupee for 11.30016 grains of fine gold, that is, 10 rupees for the gold content of the sovereign. The consequential changes in the regulations relating to the sale of Council Drafts by the Secretary of State in Council and Reverse Councils by the Government of India will be notified separately.

The question of the internal ratio presents special difficulties. The committee recommend the maintenance of gold on a legal tender footing, especially in view of possible difficulties in obtaining adequate supplies of silver. A fixed ratio must therefore be established between the rupee and gold as used in the internal circulation, either one sovereign for Rs.15, as at present, or one sovereign for Rs.10, in correspondence with the new exchange ratio. The former alternative would give the sovereign the status of an overvalued token coin, necessitate permanent control over the import of sovereigns, and make an open gold mint impossible. The Secretary of State in Council agrees with the committee that such conditions ought not to be contemplated as a permanent arrangement. On the other hand, the lower ratio cannot be effectively introduced while a great disparity continues to exist between the commercial price of gold in India and the intended Indian Mint par of one sovereign for Rs.10. Present conditions are the product of the war, and in some sense artificial. They cannot be immediately remedied without the risk of shock to the economic and monetary system in India and of reactions elsewhere to which India cannot in her own interests be indifferent: a gradual process of rectification and adjustment to new conditions is required. For some time past action has been taken in India to reduce the premium on gold by regular Government sales of bullion to the public, and this measure will be further developed. It may be expected that in this way a natural adjustment may be effected and the path to legislation cleared. The Secretary of State has decided therefore: (1) That the import of gold shall continue, for the present, to be controlled by licence under the Gold Import Act with a fixed acquisition rate as mentioned above; (2) that meanwhile periodical sales of gold bullion to the public shall continue; and (3) that as a provisional measure during the transitional period the sovereign shall remain a legal tender at the present ratio of Rs.15.

In arriving at these decisions the Secretary of State in Council has not failed to give careful consideration to the Minority Report signed by Mr. D. M. Dalal. Mr. Dalal's main object is the effective restoration and maintenance of the ratio of Rs.15 to one sovereign as a measure both of the exchange and the circulating value of the rupee. In order to secure this he relies upon freedom for the melting and export of rupees and corresponding freedom for the import of gold. To meet the possible resulting shortage of silver coin he recommends that as long as the New York price of silver remains above 92 cents, Government should coin 2-rupee silver coins of reduced fineness, the coinage of rupees of present weight and fineness being meanwhile suspended and only resumed when the price of silver falls to the figure named. He also recommends that sterling drafts on the Secretary of State should be sold only at 1s. 3 29-32d. The Secretary of State in Council is satisfied that this programme could not be adopted without untoward consequences.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

TURKISH FRUIT CROP.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date January 1:—Our previous report of November 1 last clearly exposed the statistical position of sultanas, figs, and red raisins and the export movement up to that date. The British Food Ministry ceased purchases of sultanas in the course of November, but placed some large orders for natural figs which absorbed all stocks available of such grade. A fair quantity of sultanas was shipped during November to Continental ports and more recently, both sultanas and figs have been exported to Constantinople, both for local consumption and for transhipment to Black Sea ports. Demand is now developing from the United States, Canada and the Continent.

Sultanas.

The following figures, which we have obtained from the tithe office, shipping agencies, and from reliable correspondents in the country, summarise the trade movement to the end of 1919: Total shipments from Smyrna and Vourla about 410,000 Turkish kintals, or 22,500 tons. Visible stocks Smyrna and Vourla, 35,000 Turkish kintals; interior, 50,000 Turkish kintals—85,000 Turkish kintals, or 4,500 tons; total crop estimate about 27,000 tons.

Of the shipments effected to date the distribution is approximately as follows: To the United Kingdom, 14,500 tons; to the Continent and elsewhere, 8,000 tons. Market is steady, and prices in local currency stand at practically the highest level recorded during the season, but this appreciation is offset to some extent by the more favourable rates of exchange prevailing.

Stocks remaining available for shipment are exceedingly small and entirely inadequate for even a moderate spring demand. Some orders have recently been received from New York, about 400 tons being in course of shipment for the United States and Canada. Very few supplies are reaching market from the country, and it will require very little buying to cause a further advance in values. Prospects generally for next summer, whether gauged atmospherically or politically, do not in any way inspire hopes of a marked increase in production.

Figs.

Total arrivals during the season have amounted to 50,000 loads, or 11,000 tons. This quantity has been distributed as follows—To the United States, Canada, etc., about 6,000 tons; to the United Kingdom, about 3,000 tons; to the Continent, etc., about 2,000 tons—11,000 tons. Shipments to the United States have been mainly in layer packing and fine grade naturals. The United Kingdom has limited its purchases to good average naturals, shipped in bags.

Qualities, on the whole, in the present season, have been very inferior, and in view of the abnormal conditions under which the fruit was collected this is little surprising. In our August report, in exposing the conditions prevailing in the Meander Valley, we expressed the fear that "the quality, condition, and grading will certainly not be up to the mark." It is all the more gratifying to us, in spite of the difficulties of the season, our shipments, especially of layers, have everywhere afforded the fullest satisfaction. Our New York agents recently report as follows: "Buyers now have examined all your layer shipments, and are well pleased with quality. But we hear everywhere that your quality is first-rate and giving general satisfaction." Although the largest exporters of figs this season, we have not received a single complaint about any of our shipments, and buyers, in many instances, have written to us direct to express their satisfaction with our deliveries.

The Outlook.

Stocks of sultana raisins are small, and figs are nearly exhausted. Of the latter fruit some few hundred tons, mainly fine grades, are stored in the districts beyond the Greek line of occupation, but unless railway communications are resumed there is not much chance of these figs reaching our market. So long as the British Food Ministry maintains its control over dried fruits no shipments are likely to be made to the United Kingdom except against fresh purchases for Government account. Meanwhile there is some demand, both from the States and Northern Europe, and stocks are likely to be further reduced during the next month or two. Under the circumstances, it can be safely reckoned that all stocks abroad of our fruits will run into consumption before next season.

The situation meanwhile on this side is very clear. Stocks of sultanas and figs are reduced to a very small compass, and with the increasing demand from free and uncontrolled markets very little fruit will be available before long. It may consequently be expected that prices will advance in proportion to the reduction of stocks. We also would call attention to the fact that stocks now remaining on the market and in the interior of the country consist for the most part of fruit of inferior quality. Choice descriptions have entirely run out. Medium grades, in good sound condition, are in limited supply and command a premium on the ordinary run of similar grades, which have commenced to show signs of deterioration. In our previous report we had estimated the yield of sultanas at about 28,000 tons. As a certain quantity of inferior and damaged fruit has been utilised for distillery purposes, without figuring in the daily market sales, allowance must be made for this source of consumption. The yield for this season may therefore be estimated at between 28/29,000 tons.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The amount of business passing in the market during the past week has shown some improvement, but the tone in some sections has been rather uncertain. Matters relating to currency and international exchange are causing a good deal of confusion, and merchants scarcely know how they stand from one day to another. Another upward bound has occurred in the price of Egyptian cotton, fresh high records being established. There is still an extraordinary demand for the article, especially from tyre cloth-producing firms. Speculation, however, is rampant, and many leading operators are beginning to fear disaster in the near future if the present gambling goes on. No news of any importance has come through relating to the crop. Trade in Egyptian yarns has been in a state of chaos. Spinners, unless they have cotton bought, are refusing to quote. Users are afraid of buying anything at all at the moment. This section of the market is thoroughly out of gear. In cloth for Egypt there has been a steady demand, and some fair weights have been sold in sized materials and miscellaneous fabrics. Useful support has also been given by the outlets of the Levant. Clearances in the Near East generally are said to be encouraging. An increased inquiry has been met with in piece goods for India. Without many big lines being negotiated the turnover has been rather larger, especially in bleaching and printing styles. Madras and Bombay have done better than Calcutta. More activity has been about for China in grey and white shirtings, sheetings, jeans and Mexicans. Printed and dyed goods have been in steady request for South America. American yarns for home use have not been active, and most of the buying has been in small lots to meet urgent wants. Export bundles remain in healthy request for India, and demand continues to be met with in coarse counts for the Levant.

REQUISITION OF GRAIN IN ROUMANIA

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that a decision has been made by the Council of Ministers which prevents the free movement in this country of grain of all kinds, and it holds all stocks, wherever situated, at the disposal of the Ministries of Agriculture and Domains, and Commerce and Industry. An explanatory note states that the autumn sowings only amount to about 25 per cent. of the area sown in normal times. The Ministers therefore demand the requisition of all stocks in order to meet the needs of the country for food, and to ensure a supply of seed corn sufficient to sow, not only the normal spring wheat area, but also the areas left unsown this autumn. It will be noticed that this decision does not refer to maize. It is generally believed that the maize harvests have more than fulfilled expectations and that there should be a good surplus available for export at the present moment. The text of the decision is:—Art. 1.: Each and every quantity of wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas, and millet, together with all their derivatives, now warehoused in private warehouses, railway stations, ports, docks, or any other kind of warehouse, and belonging to grain merchants, duly registered or not, is declared to be requisitioned and held at the disposal of the Ministries of Agriculture and Domains and Industry and Commerce in order to be used only as seed corn and for food. Art. 2: MM. the Ministers, Secretaries of State for the Departments of Agriculture and Domains and Industry and Commerce are entrusted with the carrying out of this present decision, and are authorised to take all measures which they may consider necessary for its execution.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report for the week ended January 3:—Our market was quiet this week, with sales amounting to only four cases best quality Carahissar at 18s. per lb. c.i.f., and two rich soft of high render at 21s. The exchange for cheque on London advanced to 378 piastres per pound sterling, and 1.01 dols. for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,300 cases, against 110 at same date last year.

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ENGINEERING.

Low Grade Fuel.

Colliery refuse, shale, and other low-grade fuels are now being used at a number of industrial plants, and in Germany and on the Continent generally an increasing use is being made of peat either by itself or ground to dust and mixed with coal slack. These fuels are being dealt with in the same way as coal or ground to an almost impalpable dust and blown into the furnace by an air or steam blast. In a large number of plants these low-grade fuels are used in the form of briquettes, and at practically every German colliery the refuse from the coal-washing plants is being used for steam raising.

A method of dealing with this refuse was devised in this country some years ago, and it is this which is now being followed, with few or no improvements, by German firms. Instead of being fired into internal furnaces, this material is burned in large external furnaces similar in design and construction to refuse destructors. It is thus possible to provide for a Lancashire boiler 8 ft. in diameter, which would in the ordinary way have an internal grate of about 38 sq. ft. in area, an external grate with a surface of as much as 50 sq. ft., or more if considered necessary. Further, the fuel can be burned under very much better conditions, as the dust, slack, and crushed shale is thrown in small quantities at a time into a firebrick chamber, which is filled with incandescent gases, and the walls of which are at a white heat. This large area of firebrick, as compared with the cool surface of a Lancashire boiler, has a good deal of effect where low-grade fuels are being used. This, with the large grate area and the fact that cold air cannot possibly come into contact with the boiler, accounts for the high efficiency obtained and also for the facility with which such fuels as mentioned can be used.

Profit Sharing.

An important profit-sharing scheme has been introduced by a leading firm of machine tool builders, which represents several features of interest. The whole of the employees, to the number of 1,000, benefit by its terms, and are to all intents and purposes made co-partners in the enterprise. The scheme, after making provision out of the profits for a deduction of 7½ per cent. on the present-day valuation of the business, allocates the profits on the year between the shareholders and the workpeople, and it is anticipated that the scheme will actually increase the earnings of the latter by at least 50 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Italy and the Near East.

Italian manufacturers evidently mean to secure business in the Near East. Their efforts disclose a very well-organised and efficient plan, which their competitors, unless they act promptly and adequately, will find only too successful, for, as was pointed out previously in these columns, Italy's geographical position, her language, which, whether in the Balkan Peninsula or in the Levant, is spoken by the peoples in those regions, either pure or mixed with their own, especially on matters concerning industry, commerce, and domestic life, and the great number of flourishing Italian business communities throughout the Near East, afford exceptional advantages to Italian manufacturers in those markets. Their latest financial arrangement is very significant. According to the *Agenzia Economicæ*, the companies "Bredæ," "Terni," "Officine Meccaniche Gia' Mianie Silvestri," "Meccanica Lombarda," and "Moto-Aratruce" have come to an agreement, under the auspices of the Credito Italiano, to form the "Societa Italo-Orientale," which has for its object the concentration into a single channel of the exporting activities of the above industries in the Balkans and the Near East. The new company is beginning with a capital of 2,500,000 francs, and has its head offices in Milan. In order to put into practice a plan for the co-operation of the countries with which the new company intends to trade, financial groups in these countries will be asked to contribute to the capital of the new company, places being reserved for their representatives on the board of directors.

American Trade Commissioner in India.

According to official statements, there are rumours of the probable early appointment of a permanent Trade Commissioner in India by the United States Government, although so far the American Consulate in Calcutta is without definite news on the subject. In this connection, however, it is of interest to observe that Mr. W. H. Rastall is now visiting India as a Special Trade Commissioner of the United States to investigate the prospects for the extension of the sale of American machinery. Mr. Rastall is a mechanical engineer who during the war was in charge, in Washington, of the aircraft productions of two of the American States, and he was despatched on this special mission to the East just before the Armistice was signed. He went to India viâ Java and the Straits Settlements, and proposes to stay there four months, then proceeding to the Far East. Up to the present, with the exception of the American Consular officers in Calcutta and Bombay, virtually no commercial work has been conducted on behalf of the United States Government in India, but this mission and the probability of the appointment of a permanent Trade Commissioner would seem to indicate a determination to foster trade officially, and to forecast still keener American competition in the Indian market; whilst the appointment of a mechanical engineer as Special Trade Commissioner indicates the most likely direction of the attack.

THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN TRANSYLVANIA.

Reference to the forests in Greater Roumania is made by our Bucharest correspondent this week.

Reducing Coal Consumption.

The shortage and consequent high price of coal compelled some of the largest gasworks in the Continent to use water-gas as a means to reduce the consumption of coal. The fuel burned in the manufacture of water-gas is coke, the solid residue of lighting-gas manufacture; and it is found that 30 per cent. of water-gas mixed with the ordinary lighting-gas conduce to a considerable reduction in the consumption of coal. This mixture gives a lower quality of gas both for lighting and heating purposes, but it is stated that the difference in quality is hardly noticeable in lighting and heating effects in ordinary practice. Water-gas consists of hydrogen and oxide of carbon, with small quantities of dioxide of carbon and nitrogen. The process of manufacture is to pass steam through glowing coke.

Handy Cargo Winch.

In view of the scarcity of labour in most of the principal ports of Eastern Mediterranean in which the loading and unloading of a ship takes many days, if not weeks to be completed, an oil motor cargo-winch, which has recently been exhibited at a show, would be of much interest to barge and warehouse owners and stevedores in those ports. The engine is a single-cylinder

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Ferro-Molybdenum.

Molybdenum is supposed to exist in many parts of the Near East, especially in Asia Minor and some parts of the Ægean Islands. Outcrops of the metal have recently been found in the island of Thasos and the opposite Macedonian coast, but evidently little is known of the present value of the metal and the part it plays in modern engineering, since prospectors and others in those regions do not seem to pay much attention to it. Molybdenum for use in steel manufacture on a large scale may be said to be a product of war conditions. Its action is in the main similar to that of tungsten, which makes steel self-hardening. Its ores are widely distributed, but are not very plentiful. The scarcity of tungsten, particularly in Europe, and urgent war demands, have led to the manufacture of ferro-molybdenum on a relatively large scale. Its use is so recent that very little has been made known concerning it. It is said that the large German guns which bombarded Liège were lined with molybdenum-steel to increase their resistance of erosion. Parts of guns, gun-carriages, motors and automobiles are also being made of molybdenum-steel of excellent quality. Canada has been especially active in the manufacture of ferro-molybdenum-steel, most of which is exported to Europe. Germany drew considerable supplies of molybdenite from Norway to compensate the shortage of tungsten for high-speed tool steel. Many new companies have been founded to work any known molybdenum deposits, and prospectors in the Near East should not lose the opportunity.

COMPANY MEETING.

Land Bank of Egypt.

The report of the directors for the year ended September 30, read at the general meeting held in Alexandria on December 9, 1919, states:—

The year 1918-19, of which we have the honour to present to you the results, saw the termination of the greatest war of which humanity has had to bear the ravages in the complete and final triumph of the Allies in the defence of Right and Liberty. We are sure that we represent your wishes in recording our remembrance of, as well as our sentiments of profound gratitude to all those who have fallen gloriously, and to those who have returned to us crowned with victory. The belligerent countries have suffered from the great upheaval caused by the war, and the barbarous methods of fighting introduced by the enemy; they will still have to struggle before civilisation has recovered by continuous work, and has made good the losses sustained in human life and in goods during more than four years of destructive strife. The position of Egypt is, from that point of view, fortunate; an agricultural country above all, the consecutive industrial crises of world-wide effect have affected it less than others; the products of its soil have realised unexpected prices which will remain high without doubt for a very long period. A large part of personal debt has been repaid, and considerable disposable sums have been left in the hands of the cultivators, enabling them to make new purchases; the expenditure on the improvement of lands hitherto unproductive, through the programme of extensive works undertaken or projected by the Government, will further favour the development of the economic life of the country. The Land Bank of Egypt, to which its normal clientèle of small proprietors continue to remain faithful, has followed closely the general trend of affairs; the receipts have been high in number as in the previous year, and a real return of activity in regard to mortgages was shown during the closing months of the year. We have concluded 146 new loans for a sum of £E397,718.839; 61 sales for £E82,087.933, £E479,796.772, or 12,438,023.90 francs, as new transactions, which, added to old loans or sales, bring the total of our business guaranteed on mortgage or privilege of the vendor to £E3,521,368.368, as against £E3,455,675.353 last year. The total of annuities in arrears, markedly decreased, has fallen from £E261,184.958 to £E179,103.168, of which £E62,459.178 is placed against the previous year's accounts, and £E116,644.010 to various maturities of the year. The movement of the resale of our land has continued regularly; despite new acquisitions for £E34,166.878, our account has been reduced to £E127,868.950, against £E143,100.024 last year, after fourteen complete sales of land and twenty-four partial for a total of £E51,017. The proceeds of the year—interest on mortgage loans, advances on short term, various interests, compensation for repayments, etc.—rose to £E342,871.756, against £E326,997.576 in 1917-18. The expenses are, it is true, increased, especially owing to the fact that the board considered it its duty, in the difficult living conditions, to improve notably the position of its faithful and devoted staff, to which it addresses its thanks. The various reserves have been endowed, following the usual prudent methods, with a sum of £E22,656.835, to which there has to be added a special reserve, to which reference will be made later, and which is raised to £E19,500. These reserves are composed as follows: (1) Provision for amortisation of debentures, premiums and charges, £E14,048.971; (2) amortisation of real property, movables, and brokerage on mortgage loans, £E4.607.864; (3) provision for risks on loans and the sales of lands, £E4,000, or a total of £E22,656.835. The net profits, after the deduction of the various provisions and amortisations deemed necessary, among which is included a sum of £E4,870.317 for depreciation of the shares of the statutory reserve, valued on September 30, 1919, amount to £E140,174.081; they will be utilised for distribution increased by the carry-forward of the previous year. We propose to give 9s. per share and £3 8s. per founder's share. The temporary character of some of our profits, such as those resulting from exchange on the sales of lands, a possible slackening in the activity in mortgages, and increases in expenses has decided your board to strengthen the position in the future by the creation of a special reserve for the equalisation of dividends. That reserve, standing at £E19,500, in Government securities, would be, like the profits on revenues, definitely allocated to the shares or founders' shares in the proportions prescribed by the Articles of Association. That utilisation for distribution would take place in future years so as to maintain regularity in the dividends if circumstances demanded it. In assuring in the future, as far as possible, a stable remuneration on the capital of the company, after having constituted the destined provisions to guard against the various risks of our mortgage operations, we do not doubt that your board will obtain your complete approbation, knowing that it has done its best for the legitimate interests of the Land Bank of Egypt.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Expenses.

	£E.	£E.
General expenses	19,711.720	
Directors' fees	833.625	
Stamps on shares and debentures and sundry expenses	17,814.505	
Interest on debentures	136,810.673	
		175,170.523
Liabilities.		
Provision for debentures, amortisation, premiums, and charges	14,048.971	
Provision for risk on loans, etc.	4,000	
Amortisation of brokerages on mortgage loans	2.392.243	
Provision for loss on furniture	215.621	
Provision for construction	2.000	
Provision for loss on valuation of shares of the statutory reserve	4.870.317	
Balance	141,567.770	169,094.922
		344,265.445

Receipts.

	£E.
Interest on mortgages advanced at short terms, sundry interests, and repayments, etc.	308,778.364
Sundries	34,093.392
Balance from year 1917-18	1,393.689
	344,265.445

The general meeting (1) Approved the accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended September 30, 1918, and gave the directors their discharge for their administration. (2) Approved the division of profits proposed by the directors, and fixed the dividends as follows: 9s. on the ordinary shares, £3 8s. on founders' shares. An interim dividend of 3s. for the shares having been paid on June 16, 1919, it will remain to pay as a final settlement for the year 1918-19 6s. per share. (3) Decided to carry forward £E1,396.827 or 36,210.473 fr. for the shares, £E11.127 or 288.45 fr. founders' shares. (4) Re-elected MM. M. Salvago, R. J. Labruyère, A. Ismalun, the retiring directors. (5) Nominated as auditors, MM. Franz Sofio, H. Pougin, and A. Ferren at the same remuneration as last year. (6) Fixed the directors' fees at £5 per meeting.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended January 10 amounted to £7,469.

A Reuter message from Cairo, dated January 24, states:—Lord Allenby and his party, accompanied by the Governor-General of the Sudan, proceeded south from Khartoum on January 17 for the purpose of visiting the cotton farms, experimental stations, and irrigation works. A large gathering of Arabs of the Western Sudan tribes, mounted on camels and horses, enthusiastically welcomed Lord Allenby at El-Obeid, where he conversed with a number of the sheikhs. He left Korti on January 21 for a week's trip on the Nile as far as Lake No.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.—Ex-Captain, recently demobilised from the E.E.F., returning to Near East, desires to arrange with firms wishing to develop Near East trade. First-hand knowledge of Near Eastern markets. Connections amongst leading business men in Cairo, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Haifa, Beirut, etc. Over 20 years' business experience. First-class credentials.—Box 149, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

BUSINESS MAN desires appointment in the Levant, Constantinople, or Asia Minor preferred. Considerable experience in general trading at home and abroad. Any suitable post considered. Address in first place, Box. 148, "THE NEAR EAST," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

STAMBOUL, January 10.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Manufactures.

The high level continues at Manchester as well for raw cotton as for textiles. Being given the deviations of price between our market and the countries of production, merchants find it convenient to realise here goods intended to be loaded for Constantinople, because they foresee from that end a certain weakness is to be looked for on important arrivals. On the one side, on account of the high level in Europe and the movement of the exchange, prices of manufactured goods here are firmer, despite the lack of demand which continues for Russia. It is for this that merchants do everything possible to keep their stocks and seek to obtain funds to meet regularly the documents appertaining to new arrivals of merchandise. On the other side, the Constantinople market is, in fact, dead as regards what interests buyers for Anatolia, and holders foresee a serious fall in the price of manufactured articles in the approaching spring.

Produce.

Sugar.—The persistent demand of Smyrna and Greece caused the price to rise to £102 per ton at the commencement of the week. But later offerings from America led to a setback of £3 to £4 the ton. Sugar in Customs sells here at £T48 100 kilos. The stock is decreasing despite arrivals. It is estimated at about 500 wagons.

Coffee.—The market is strong because of the firmness of the price abroad and the lack of arrivals.

Rice.—Market particularly quiet.

Oils.—Prices are firm; the case of two bidons sells at Ps.570-575.

The market in produce continues to be very active. For the most part merchants find themselves in possession of goods bought earlier at advantageous prices, and to-day are realising good profits.

Exports.

The demand remains always active in regard to all the produce of Anatolia. Prices increase markedly, the height of the exchanges contributing a good part of this addition.

Opium.—The sales of the week amount to 100 cases, of which 80 Druggist Karahissar at Ps.900-920 the oke, and 20 soft (fine quality) at Ps.1,000 to Ps.1,050 the oke. The market is firm, with a rising tendency.

Mohair.—Arrivals of the week, 500 bales. Sales, 800 at Ps. 105-110 Extra, Ps. 100-105 No. 1, and Ps.90-95 No. 2.

Wool.—Arrivals, 360 bales. Sales, 160 bales at Ps.52 the oke.

Silk.—The recovery of the market has continued up to £T 22 the kilo. There have been only two bales of Brussa sold at that price, the merchandise being rare. On the other hand, 15 bales Syrian (which hitherto were ignored) have been sold between £T14½ and £T15 the kilo.

Cereals.—Regular traffic having been re-established on the Anatolian railway, the arrivals of the week have been 150 wagons of wheat, 20 of barley, and 25 of flour. Despite the resumption of traffic on the line, prices remain high because of the shortage of wagons, the high cost of transport, and the reserve placed by holders in Anatolia, who hope to find later a better market.

ALEXANDRETTA, January 6.

Products exported in December.—Wool from Aleppo and pistachios from Aintab in small quantities.

Sowings have been carried out in favourable conditions.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.
MARSEILLES: 41-45, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout.
Alexandretta. Damascus.
Caiffa.
Hamah.
Homs.
Saida.
Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Papayanni Line s.s. Worsley Hall, for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 14.

The Moss Line s.s. Armana, for Gibraltar, Algiers, and Malta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 7.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Douro, for Patras, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 20.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Bosnian, for Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus), will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 7.

The Bibby Line s.s. Warwickshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on February 25.

The Johnston s.s. Rapidan, the first steamer of the season for the Danube, will close for cargo at Swansea on February 11 and Liverpool on February 14.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Syria, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Beyrout direct, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 15.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Bengal and North-Western Railway.

The report of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company for the year ended September 30, 1919, states that the net earnings of the joint undertaking amount to Rs.1,50,75,439, against Rs.1,40,94,089 for 1918. The company's share is Rs.88,77,350, against Rs.80,44,215. The actual rate of exchange during the period to which the accounts relate was, however, much higher than 1s. 4d., the book rate, and adding the actual gain in remittance the net earnings for the year are £708,729, against £585,235 in 1918. An ad interim dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1919, of 3 per cent., plus a bonus of 1 per cent., has been paid on the ordinary stock. After bringing forward the balance from last year of £100,431, providing for interest on debenture and preference stocks, interim dividend and bonus, contribution to provident fund, £35,000 for the sinking fund for redemption of capital in 1982, transferring £80,000—part of the gain by exchange—to reserve, and making other adjustments, the amount to be dealt with is £251,879. The directors recommend a final dividend of £4 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent., on the ordinary stock, subject to tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, and that the balance of £91,754 be carried forward. The figures given are net after deducting income-tax, and the dividend with bonus recommended for the year is at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum. Meeting, 237, Gresham House, E.C., February 10, noon.

London County Westminster and Parr's.

The report of the directors of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank states that after paying interest to customers and all charges, making provision for bad debts and contingencies, allowing £300,347 for rebate on bills not due, the net profit amounts to £2,455,007, which, with £377,560 brought forward, leaves available £2,832,567 (against £2,390,800, including £184,599 brought forward, for the previous year). The directors report with regret the deaths of their esteemed and valued colleagues, Mr. W. G. Rathbone and Mr. A. Hill. Sir William Norton Hicking and Lord Faber have been appointed directors. The amalgamation of the business of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank with this bank has been successfully carried out. The bank has taken up 1,000 shares of £10 each, fully paid, of the South Russia Banking Agency, Ltd.

Eastern Telegraph.

The directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company have decided to pay in May next a final dividend for 1919 of 5½ per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, free of tax, paying no bonus. They have also decided to issue £1,000,000 ordinary stock to meet expenditure which is being incurred to add to and improve the cable services. The stock will be offered at par to holders of the ordinary stock. After the necessary powers have been obtained from the stockholders to increase the capital the prospectus will be issued.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday

There has been rather less doing this week, and on a cessation of Egyptian buying prices have weakened. At the close of the week, however, there has again been a hardening tendency. Egypt is again in the market as a buyer in certain directions, and there is a distinctly firm tone ruling to-night.

In Government stocks, Unifieds have dropped 4½ points to 78½, and the 3½ per Cent. Pref. have come down 2 points to 65½. On the other hand, City of Alexandria Bonds are a firm spot and half a point higher at 69½, and Turkish 3½ per Cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds are also a similar fraction higher at 61. Turkish Unifieds have fallen back 1½ points to 37½.

In Bank shares, Nationals, after dropping to 23½, finish only ¼ down at 23¾. Agriculturals have lost 3-16ths at 5¾, and the Pref. shares are ⅛ down at 6 9-16. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have been exceptionally firm, and close ¼ up at 17¾, and Bank of Abyssinias have to-day jumped 3s. 9d. to 40s. Land Banks have shared in the general reaction, and close 3-16ths down at 6¼.

In Land shares, Aboukirs are 1s. lower at 45s. 6d., and Béhéras have dropped £1 to 25½. Building Lands, on the other hand, have advanced a further 3s. to 35s., and Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have remained a firm spot at 18s. Consolidated Lands, after being down to 2s. 10½d., finish only 1½d. lower at 3s. 1½d. Delta Lands, which at one time dropped to 20s., are closing a very firm spot to-night at 21s. 6d. on a renewal of demand for Egypt. Gharbiehs, after falling nominally to 3¾, finish only ⅛ lower at 4. New Egyptians went back at the worst to 38s. and close at 38s. 6d., a drop of 1s. 3d. Sidi Salems close ⅛ down at 3¼, but, on the other hand, Sudan Plantations have gained a like fraction at 8⅞. Union Foncières, after receding to 5⅝, finish only ⅛ down at 5⅞.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions, Alexandria Waters and Ginners have both been firm spots, and Salts and Sodas have been quite a feature, jumping up at one time on large orders to 71s. 3d., and finishing 10s. higher at 65s. For Khedivial Mails there has been a renewal of interest on this side, and a very fair number of transactions have taken place round 5½. Another interesting development has been a large demand for Morum's Oriental Stores 7 per Cent. Participating Pref., which, on the declaration of an interim dividend of 3½ per cent. and a good progress report, have jumped up 2s. 6d. to 20s. 3d.

In Oil shares, the feature has been the renewal of demand for Anglo-Egyptian B, which, on various unconfirmed favourable rumours regarding new concessions, have advanced 10s. to 5 3-16. Roumanian Oils are about 1s. down at 22s. 6d.

In Greek securities there has been a rather persistent demand for the 1881 and 1884 Loans, with the result that the price closes to-night about two points up at 54. Greek Monopolies, on the other hand, have been a dull spot, and are ½ down at 48. In Rentes, most of the floating supply has been absorbed, and the price closes about one point up at 45. Both the 1890 and 1893 Loans are in demand, but no stock is offering. The former loan is nominally two points up at 53½ and the latter half a point up at 52. The 1910 Loan has been dealt in as low as 44, and subsequently at 45, showing a drop of one point since last week, but sellers at the reduced level are scarce. "Currant" bonds have changed hands to some extent round 93, and are closing to-night about 91 xd. Bank of Athens shares were done round 65s., a drop of ½.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 21:—Rain nearly general in Berar and in the north of Hyderabad. Local Bombay Deccan, dry elsewhere. General crop conditions good. All India final sesamum forecast: 4,212,000 acres, 409,000 tons (corresponding forecast last year, 3,251,000 acres, 188,000 tons). Malbari-Tangla railway reconnaissance survey by Eastern Bengal State Railway, 50 miles sanctioned. Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good broach, April-May, Rs.567. Piecegoods market steady, with demand slackening. Calcutta jute market firm but quiet. Hessians quiet. Heavy goods steady but quiet. Bank rate is: Bengal and Madras, 6 per cent.; Bombay, 5 per cent. Bombay mill hands' strike continues.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Jan. 26	Price Feb. 2
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28½	28½
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	69	69½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	83	78½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	67½	65½
Greek 5%, 1881	52	54
Do. 5%, 1884	52	54
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	48½	48
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	44	45
Do. 5% 1890	51½	53½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	51½	52
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	58	58
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	46	45
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	65	65
Do. 5% Currant	93	91xd
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	83	83
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69	69
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	60½	61
Do. 4% Unified	39	37½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5 15/16	5⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6 1/16	6 1/16
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68½	68½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70½	70½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17⅞	17⅞
Bank of Abyssinia	36/3	40/-
Bank of Athens	70/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	5½	5½
British Trade Corporation	10	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅜	9⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6 1/16x	6⅛
London County and Westminster	15⅝x	15⅝
National Bank of Egypt	24	23¾
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	78 1/16	78 1/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	11	11
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	57½	52
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	49	49
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅝	55⅝
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	46/6	45/6
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	20/-	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	25½	25½
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	32/-	35/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	3/3	3/1½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	21/9	21/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	18/-	18/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	4½	4
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	36/3	36/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅝	6⅝
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	39/9	38/6
Sidi Salem Co.	3⅜	3½
Sudan Plantations	8½	8¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	6	5⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	11/3	12/-
Alexandria Water Co.	10½	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	22/6	22/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/9	23/9
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	55/-	65/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	99⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5½	5½
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅝	3⅝
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/9	18/9
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	17/9	20/3
Suez Canal	178	178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	101	102
Chinese 4½% 1898	67½	67
Do. 5% 1896	85	84
Argentine 5% 1890	78½	79
Do. 5% 1907	83½	85½

At a meeting of 20,000 Bombay mill operatives it was decided that there should be no return to work, notwithstanding the advice of the Labour Settlement Committee.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Week ended January 25:—Gemsah—1920, nil (previous week nil). Hurghada—1920, 2,467 tons (previous week 2,097 tons).

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,

WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD; 4, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Dec. 12. Rs.	Dec. 18. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	62½	63
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	2250	2200
Bank of Bombay	2700	2700
Bank of Madras	1800	1800
Bank of India	150	150
Tata Industrial Bank	56½	58½
COAL.		
Baraboni	18	18
Bengal	860x	860x
Burrakur	48	49½
East Indian	42½	43½
Equitable	46½	46½
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	65	64½
Standard	69½	69½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	365	350
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2409	2400
Bowreah	730	730
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	820	820
Central India	3050 / 1525	3050 / 1525
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	1800	1800
Khatau Makanji	5600	5600
Muir	120	120
New Ring	540	540
Phœnix	850	850
Svadeshi	3100	3100
JUTE.		
Alliance	762	740
Barnagore	200	200
Budge Budge	600	603
Clive	295	295
Dalhousie	505	505
Delta	635	603
Fort Gloster	1002x	1002x
Gourepore	1125x	1125x
Howrah	44¼	43
Kamarhatty	986	923
Kanknarrah	775	765
Khardah	520	520
Kinnison	1005	1005
National	440	440
Standard	655	655
Union	890	890
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	652x	652x
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	245	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	210	210
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General Steam	155x	155x
Indian Iron and Steel	110 / 90	110 / 88½
Marshall Sons and Co.	15⅝	15⅝
Titaghur Paper	375	375

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JANUARY 17.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	24½
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	83
" " Div.	Frs.	120
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11 5/16
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	28
" priv.	£	4½
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	103
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	2
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 7/8
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	6⅜
Société des Immeubles	£	8 1/16
Bonded Stores	£	17½
Unifiée	£	80⅜
Privilégiée		66⅜
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	13½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 3/32
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅞
" Ord		104/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	24
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	103
" Jouissance	Frs.	167
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		41/-
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	440 x
" Div.	Frs.	400 x
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	317
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	9 3/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		55/7½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	712
" Fondateur	Frs.	950
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	450
" 1903 "	Frs.	309
" 1911 "	Frs.	288½
Consolidated Land	P.T.	18
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1 3/8
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	390
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2½
Urbaines & Rurales		4½
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅜
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1 3/32

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Jan. 26	Feb. 2
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	60	58½
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	67	67½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		82	82
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		71	71
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		73½	74½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		8⅜	8
Eastern		7⅞	8
Mercantile of India A.		41½	43
National of India		58	60
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		9/-	8/9
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/9	13/9
Burma Corp.		13⅞	13½
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		13/6	13/-
Champion Reef Gold		4/-	3/9
Mysore Gold Mining		1 7/16	1⅜
Nundydroog		15/6	15/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		8⅜	17/6
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		20/9	22/9
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2½	2⅜
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		42/-	41/3
Brit. Burmah		3 1/8	3 7/8x
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		20⅝	21⅛
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 8% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10	10
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		52½	53
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		141	139½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		54½	55
Bengal-Nagpur		119	117½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		105⅞	105
Burma Railways		113	112
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13⅛	13⅛
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13⅛	12⅝
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		12 1/16	13
Madras and S. Mahratta		111½	111
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		134½	134½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		82	82¾
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		38/6	38/6
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		85	84½
Do. Deferred		660	645
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		67x	66
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16⅜	16½
British Indian Tea Ord.		8½	8½
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		16⅜	16
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		13/-	12/9
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		3⅜xb	3½
Consolidated Estates		8	7⅞
Darjeeling Co.		26/-	25/-
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		3½	3½
Dooars Tea Ord.		3½	2 15/16
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		18/9	19/3
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		68/1	68/-
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		36/3	36/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.		25/-	25/-
Jhanzie Tea Association		11	11
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		22⅜x	23
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		19/9	19/1½
Lanka Plantations Ord.		30/-	30/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		55/-	26/6xb
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		47/6	48/6
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		14	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		32/6	33/1½

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CHANDA.....	6,169	Feb. 7	—	Madras & Calcutta
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COLABA	6,019	Feb. 14	—	Bombay & Karachi
*CULNA	6,152	Feb. 14	—	Madras & Calcutta
MANORA	7,888	Feb. 17	—	Bombay & Karachi
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CITY OF KARACHI ..	5,566 ..	March 17 ..	Bombay & Karachi
CITY OF LONDON ..	9,000 ..	March 27 ..	Bombay & Karachi
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†*PATRICIA ..	14,466 ..	Feb. 7 ..	Bombay

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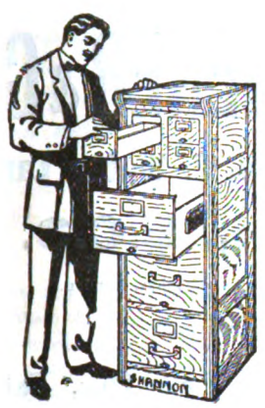

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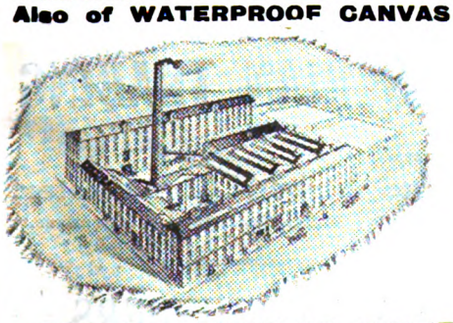
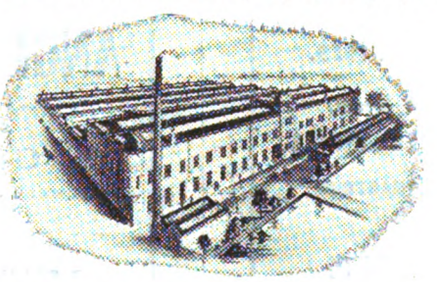
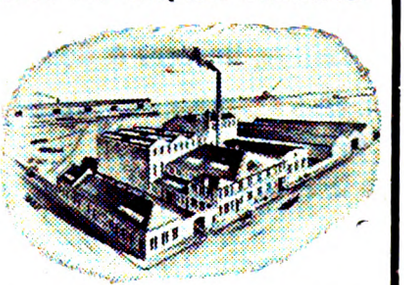

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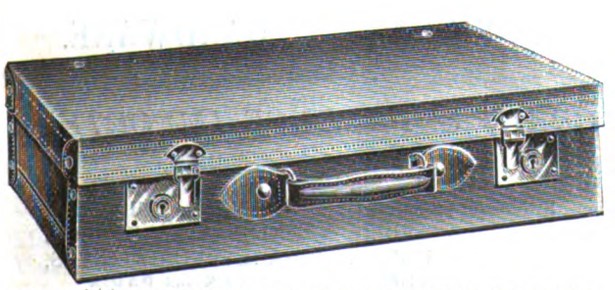

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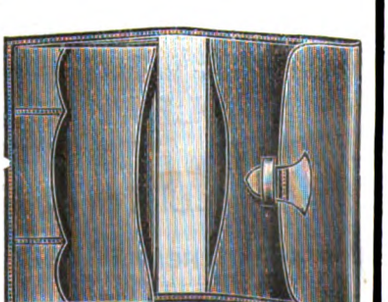

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 458.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The reply of the Yugoslav Government to the Allied demands upon it reached Paris on January 28. It was a discreet and, on the whole, carefully worded document, which neither flatly rejected nor accepted the proposals made, but in effect asked for more time to consider them and to propose modifications of them. It permitted itself to remark that the Powers' proposals were not entirely in agreement with the principles proclaimed by the Peace Conference, and also to express surprise that "a Treaty conducted between third persons, without its co-operation and the clauses of which have never been communicated to it, could be applied to it in default of the immediate acceptation of their proposals." The reference to the Treaty of London might have been made still more pointed, but the Yugoslav Government was wise to be moderate.

On February 7 the French and British Ministers at Belgrade informed M. Davidovitch that the Allies had decided to adhere to the January compromise; and that their Governments desired a definite reply from Yugoslavia, stating whether it accepted the Allies' proposal or whether the Treaty of London should be applied. The terms of that Treaty were at the same time officially communicated to M. Davidovitch, accompanied by a friendly intimation that Yugoslavia would be well advised, for its own sake, to choose the former alternative. One result of the crisis in external affairs has been another attempt to form a Coalition, or Concentration, Cabinet in Belgrade. The Prince Regent has made a fresh appeal for the union of all parties in the national interest, at a time when it is so essential for Yugoslavia to show a united front to the world, and, with the exception of the Serbian Radicals, all parties appear to be ready to respond to the appeal. Should the Radicals persist in their purely selfish policy, they may succeed in injuring their opponents, but they must also injure the country, and most seriously, and will earn for themselves the disapproval not only of the majority of their fellow-countrymen, but also of all foreigners who wish Yugoslavia well.

In connection with the Adriatic difficulties, Signor Nitti took up a firm attitude in the debate in the Italian Chamber, and his speech should certainly enhance his reputation for courage and true statesmanship. There were, he said in effect, three possible solutions: the legal solution, the satisfaction of Yugoslav ideals, and an equitable and just solution, harmonising Italian and Yugoslav interests and aspirations, and he declared frankly that he hoped to win the entire confidence of the Yugoslavs. His speech puts a more hopeful complexion on the case, and, approached in such a spirit, the problem ought not to prove insoluble. According to Reuter's report, Signor Nitti declared that in cases of dispute in Asia Minor and Turkey, as well as in the Adriatic, the principle of nationality should prevail. This upholding of an ideal which in certain quarters has appeared to be practically ignored in the case of Turkey and the Turks is commendable, and it is to be hoped that it will meet with the approval of all the Allies.

A little while ago we were told that the British military authorities in Constantinople, suspecting that leakages were taking place at an ammunition dump which was under Turkish guard, determined to shift the dump, and, desiring to show every courtesy to the Turk, notified him of their intention in advance. The result was what might have been expected: a grand explosion. Now comes news of a daring raid on the dumps of surrendered war material at Akbashi Liman, whence the raiders carried off 8,500 rifles, 33 machine guns, and 500,000 rounds of ammunition. The Nationalists are, not unnaturally, credited with this raid, although it does not appear that any of the raiders were captured. On the other hand, it is reported that the French soldiers who were guarding the dump were "overpowered and captured." Whether they were carried off has not been allowed to transpire, but it appears that the bulk of the loot, if not the whole of it, was simply transported to the Asiatic shore by the raiders. Probably in consequence of this surprising occurrence British troops have occupied Matchka Arsenal, Constantinople, and Panderma, on the Sea of Marmora.

The new Turkish Chamber has elected its President, in the person of Hikmet Bey, and its officers; and the unfolding of the Government programme is now expected. The new President has declared his confidence "that the Powers which at present control the destinies of Europe will keep their promises," and that the Peace will be "in accordance with the principles laid down by President Wilson." Unfortunately, these sentiments and this correctness of attitude are not shared, or copied, by all the residents of Constantinople. An orator at a mass meeting held there on January 30 indulged in some violently anti-British talk. According to the *Morning Post's* Constantinople correspondent, this orator is a subject of Azerbaijan.

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the republic whose independence we have just recognised. It is to be hoped that he is not a fair sample of its citizens. Had his speech been addressed to a more intelligent audience it would have been a subject for amusement only; for he talked of Turkey having entered the war in order "to free millions of our Turkish and Moslem brethren under a foreign yoke," and declared that Azerbaijan's independence was "due to the blood shed by Turks in Palestine and the Caucasus." These daring perversions of fact apparently found favour with, and were accepted as truth by, the Constantinople mob, who indulged in hostile cries against this country. It almost seems a pity that the modern democratic (and demagogic) methods that have found their way to the shores of the Bosphorus cannot be blended with some of those older methods with which the name of that beautiful, but often ill-omened stretch of water used to be associated.

The opposition to the French occupation of Syria continues, among the latest manifestations reported being an attack by Bedouin upon the post at El Hammam, which necessitated the despatch of reinforcements and led to the death of an officer. A delayed telegram from Cairo states that at the beginning of the month the situation, while not alarming, was causing anxiety to the French by reason of attacks, such as this, on isolated posts; and according to other messages it would seem that the French had occupied towns and villages with small detachments, thus ignoring friendly hints that had been given them, and inviting attack by the natives. In view of the outspoken expression of opinion by the Arabs and others regarding their presence in Syria, this policy would appear strange, unless it was intended to lead up to a situation justifying the employment of further forces and an extension of the French influence.

It is not only with the Bedouin and the Syrians that the French have to reckon. In the Aintab and Marash district, in Cilicia, there has been fighting of some severity. Described in some messages as having "occurred between the inhabitants and brigands" and having necessitated the intervention of the (French) troops, this fighting is said in other reports to have taken place between Nationalist bands and their local sympathisers on the one hand and the French forces on the other. The latter reports have it that the Nationalist bands treacherously attacked and murdered several French officers and men, and compelled the French to evacuate Marash and Aintab. The French armed the Christian population and defended themselves in the hilly country around Aintab until they received reinforcements, when they took the offensive, shelled the Turks out of several fortified positions, and recaptured Aintab and Marash. As it is also reported that the Emir Faisal is co-operating with General Gouraud to calm the Arabs, the outlook for the French seems to be improving.

Changes in the status of the rupee affect so many classes other than those whose views are reflected in our commercial columns that it may be of interest to examine the measures taken last week from what may be called the social standpoint. People whose pockets are not immediately affected are disposed as a matter of sentiment to regret that the Indian coin should have to part company with the sterling pound, but at the same time it is generally recognised that the "Bradbury" is not at the moment a very reputable companion. There is no question of a permanent divorce, as some journals have hastily assumed, and when the "Bradbury" gets back to a gold basis, the relation to the rupee will be automatically stabilised, but in existing circumstances a temporary separation is probably, as the Misses Spenlow put it, "better for the happiness of all parties," and in the case of some important classes the adoption of this attitude of resignation is facilitated by the immediate prospect of some very substantial advantages.

The Englishman in India, for instance, finds the difference in his home charges, which have lately become an almost intolerable burden. To maintain his family in England he needs, roughly speaking, two pounds where six years ago he needed one; at the present rate of exchange he can buy two pounds for the number of rupees which went to buy one, and he is thus restored to something like the "pre-war" footing so far as expenditure in this country is concerned. The rupee-pensioner benefits in a similar way, and even the sterling-annuitants of the Civil Service reap a modest advantage in virtue of the almost-forgotten rule that their annuities are payable in India at a fixed rate of exchange. The authorities at Whitehall have now very properly taken this rule into account, and are paying these annuities on the recognised basis of 10⅔ rupees to the pound, so that while the pound remains cheap annuitants will have a few more pounds to spend. These classes at least can view the depreciation of English currency with something more than equanimity.

The Indian in England benefits in the same way, for at current rates his rupees will buy about as much as they bought before the war, and we may therefore expect a rapid expansion in the stream of visitors to this country for business, study and recreation. Probably both countries stand to gain by the tendency. It is true that young Indians may be marred, as well as made, by a period of study abroad, and their parents should discriminate much more carefully than they have been wont to do; but we should say that more of them are made than are marred; while at the present juncture it is undoubtedly advantageous that as many Indians as possible should obtain practical experience of the every-day working of representative institutions. It means disillusionment, of course, for few will assert that our current politics are inspiring, but Indians have been taught to expect so much from votes and legislatures that disillusionment must come. India has now to get down to the bedrock of hard facts, and the process will be accelerated most effectually by experience of countries where facts are taken fully into account.

Perhaps the question may be asked how the Indian peasant stands with regard to the measures which benefit these and other classes. On this question we have heard two theories advanced. One school maintains that the effect of "gilding the rupee" will be to deprive the peasant of his fair profits, if not actually of his market; the other regards him as almost the worst of all "profiteers," selling grain and oilseeds, or cotton and jute, at prices out of all relation to the cost of production, and battening on the necessities of an exhausted world. The Currency Committee seem to us to have come very near the truth, which lies between these theoretical extremes. The Indian peasant has done well in the war, and he is so poor that we need not grudge the fact, but at the same time we need not provide further immediate benefits for the peasants, or for the middlemen who intercept so large a share of their gains; the peasants' market is assured because the world needs his produce; if prices fall in India, he will benefit as a consumer of clothes, oil, salt, metals, and minor articles; and in any case it is practically certain that a portion of the recent rise in prices represents a permanent gain.

We anticipate, then, that when prices have settled down in accordance with the new value of the rupee, the peasants will be found, on balance, distinctly better off than in the year 1914, but we recognise that there is a possibility, though, in our opinion, only a faint possibility, that this anticipation may not be realised, and we should like to have a definite and formal recognition that the authorities are alive to this aspect of the situation. The matter concerns, primarily, the Revenue and Agricultural Department at Delhi, a Department which for some years past has not enjoyed the entire confidence of the public; a change in *personnel* is nearly due, and we trust that in the selection of the new Member of Council this particular question will be borne in mind, and that, whether the choice falls on an Englishman or an Indian, he will have the strength and the wisdom needed to watch the interests of the peasants, and to impose his judgment on his colleagues. The peasant will, later on, take charge of India, but until he finds his feet he will need a bold and vigilant watchdog at headquarters.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

The Doomed Country House.

Now that large estates are being broken up everywhere, the problem of the country house has become urgent. No country has so many of this type of mansions, great and small, as England—the mere fact that *Country Life* has been illustrating them one every week for years past is sufficient proof of their number. But the large country house loses its old *raison d'être* when the surrounding estates are sold; and although there are plenty of wealthy men who could afford the upkeep, it is not every new millionaire who wants to live on so vast a scale. The mere business of administration takes up too much time; to the old type of country gentleman it was a pleasant side-occupation; to the new retired business man, who still has interests in the City, it would be a nuisance. A country house is to him a place for rest and recreation, and not necessarily a home.

But it would be a pity to pull down some of the magnificent piles that have lately come into the market, simply because no individual wants them. Fortunately no such fate need be anticipated, as public institutions are buying them up for convalescent homes, old-age retreats, and so on. John Jones, ex-costermonger, and certified tuberculous, may sleep in a room once occupied by a Georgian beauty; and Bill Brown, basket-worker, certified mentally defective, occupy a bed in which a Prime Minister, racked with the storms of State, used to rest. *Sic transit gloria mundi* . . .

The Diminishing Squirearchy.

Perhaps the country gentleman is also doomed. The yeoman is going up in the world and farming his own farm; the squire is coming down, or selling out and emigrating to a ranch in East Africa. In many ways it is a pity; it was an old-fashioned, straight-spoken, and God-fearing type, and it did a good deal of work for the country without looking for reward.

It is the fashion among modern intellectuals to laugh at the squirearchy, and to suggest that it never had any brains. As a matter of fact it probably had pretty much the same mental endowment as the rest of us—Shelley was curiously enough a squire's son—but it had character, an asset of no small value, and its children did their full share in Empire-building.

Population and Housing.

Somebody who was bewailing the shortage of houses the other day remarked that he could not understand where all the people came from. The Registrar-General's return of births and deaths for the great towns supplies part of the answer. Last week there were over eleven thousand births and only four thousand deaths in the urban areas of Great Britain—and an increase of seven thousand a week means an increase of getting on for half a million a year. Every baby obviously requires a certain amount of house-room; if it were not for the children a number of people would probably share houses to reduce expenses. But it is far easier to love one's neighbour as oneself than to love one's neighbour's children as one's own.

These and other statistics incidentally knock on the head the theory that the country is committing racial suicide; but I have not observed that any of the current figures support the old supposition that more boys than girls are born after a war. More boys than girls are of course always born, but owing to the greater delicacy of the male sex fewer survive, and this higher mortality is kept up through life, as every insurance table shows. But the excess of boys over girls does not appear to be greater than usual; nature works slowly to correct the ravages of man.

This steady increase explains why more houses are needed—it does not explain why they are not built. But the growing congestion is sufficient reason for the fact that the price of houses has again gone up quite recently—even this year, only a month old, has already seen an appreciable rise, according to the house agents.

Tobacco Prices Increase.

The newspapers are reporting further increases of prices of other things besides houses. Coal is up again, owing to the railway rates this time, not the miners; the fact that butter has jumped from 2s. 8d. to 5s. 6d. a pound need not disturb one, seeing that it is almost as rare as gold; but the last straw has come with the advance in cigars and tobacco. This is due, not only to advances in cost of manufacture and distribution, but to the adverse American exchange.

There is hardly even a crumb of comfort in the news that the American pussyfoots are agitating for the abolition of the sale of tobacco in the United States, for if they won the day—which seems highly improbable—they would proceed to stop it being grown, and the last state of the world would be worse than the first.

The agitation, however, across the Atlantic may lead to more tobacco being grown within the British Empire. There used to be some excellent Nyasa pipe tobacco a few years ago, but it has not been seen on the market for some time; no doubt South Africa and Australia could grow a great deal more, but the real difficulty comes with the curing, which is a tedious technical process. Some English tobacco was grown in Hampshire just before the war, and a shop in Bournemouth used to sell it to the more courageous customers; it was not so very bad in the open air—nothing like so deadly as a Trinidad cheroot or an Irish cigar, the consumption of either of which should qualify for a military medal.

Currency Questions.

A secret Treasury Conference has been held during the week to discuss the international financial situation. No definite remedies appear to have been devised; nor can these things be improvised on the spur of the moment; but it is now generally agreed that an international conference should be held—Holland has announced her desire to participate—and that some form of artificial stabilisation of Continental exchanges will become necessary. It is increasingly doubtful whether the United States will take any practical part, and the appeals in the British Press that America should help, not England, which needs no help, but the Continental countries, appear to provoke resentment rather than sympathy across the Atlantic.

Two other points in the financial situation should be placed on record. At the annual bankers' meetings held during the past week, the experts have agreed that the increasing currency is a consequence, and not a cause, of high prices; and it is stated, apparently with some authority, that the Government are contemplating the introduction of nickel coinage, in view of the shortage and high price of silver. The convenience of nickel can hardly be denied, but any serious attempt to reform the coinage would at once bring up again the old question of a decimal currency and decimal weights and measures—an interminable controversy in which the specialists disagree, and the public remains consistently apathetic.

Parliament.

With the re-opening of Parliament, the political correspondents are again predicting "the most momentous session of modern times"—an annual prophecy which leaves the country entirely unmoved. Ireland,

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Housing, Nationalisation, and the Budget are the foremost topics; but at the moment it is not principles so much as parties which count. If Mr. Asquith can win at Paisley—and local betting is now 2 to 1 on the ex-Premier—then Independent Liberalism will have rallied from its deathbed to the dose of oxygen, and some of the deserters to Labour may find it in their hearts to desert again, while many Coalition Liberals would probably return to the Asquithian fold. If Mr. Asquith loses, then Labour is the only alternative to the Coalition, and the Coalition will be correspondingly strengthened.

It is understood that Mr. Lloyd George will be present in Parliament more often than last year; and although he has felt the strain of fourteen years' continuous office, there is no reason to believe that he desires to relinquish power. Mr. Garvin, in the *Observer*, has made the fantastic suggestion that the Prime Minister is worked out, and should take a year's holiday and a trip round the world. Mr. Lloyd George might reply effectively with a *tu quoque*.

Mr. Roberts Goes.

The Labour members of the Government will soon be like the ten little nigger boys—"then there were none." The resignation of Mr. Barnes is followed by that of Mr. Roberts, Labour member for Norwich and Food Controller. A pleasant little man, his small size gives no indication of his pluck, as Socialist pacifists in his constituency discovered during the war to their sorrow, and he has done well in office. There are now only two Labour men in the Government—Messrs. Parker and Wardle, and they are by no means of the calibre of Messrs. Barnes and Roberts.

Brawn or Brains.

The Labour Party has got its own particular trouble as well as the Government. A great effort has been made to secure the vote and support of the brain-worker as well as the manual labourer, and a few intellectuals like Mr. G. H. D. Cole have joined the party, and more may follow. These naturally want to stand for Parliament, but it is said that while Labour is ready enough to take their help it does not particularly want them in the Commons, and it is inclined to fob them off on hopeless constituencies. The evil-minded suggest that the ordinary Labour member dislikes the idea that he may be outshone by a brilliant young recruit, who may aspire to the leadership over solid and even stolid trade union secretaries; and it is true that jealousy springs eternal in the human breast. But a party that keeps its best brains out of action is never likely to rule England.

Pianos and Prices.

The decision of the well-known piano manufacturers, Brinsmeads, to shut down their works, apparently permanently, has caused much discussion this last week, and will cause more. The firm state that the cost of production has increased too much, and in far larger ratio than the selling price; the employees have issued a reasoned answer. There the matter rests for the present. Seeing the prices which even old-fashioned second-hand pianos fetch in these days, the ordinary person would have thought the price of a new piano would be anything the manufacturer chose to charge, but apparently Brinsmeads think differently.

This particular dispute, however, combined with certain other indications during the past week or two, seems to show that the upward tendency of wages in non-essential trades is being checked. In the necessaries of life, it is true, the producer still has the consumer under the harrow, and both wages and prices increase; in non-essentials the consumer is apparently finding the appropriate remedy of refraining from consumption. The result may, of course, be a certain slackening of employment, but that is an inevitable part of the process.

In this connection two significant facts may be noted. There has been a great outcry on the part of the public and the trade unions generally against the forthcoming increase of fares on the London Underground Railway, but one trade union and one section of the public has announced its determination to support the increase on the ground that high wages cannot be paid without high prices being imposed. That trade union is the National Union of Railwaymen. They are fully aware that the public has got to travel by Underground Railway whether it wants to or not.

On the other hand, a well-known tobacconist gave it as his considered opinion that the increase of 20 per cent. in the price of cigars would "simply kill the Havana cigar trade in this country." After all, one need not smoke Havanas.

The struggle for power between producers of essentials and non-essentials could hardly be more strikingly illustrated.

Bradford and Vienna.

In view of the suffering and famine in Vienna, the Bradford Finance Committee are thinking of inviting a thousand necessitous Austrian children to be accommodated and cared for in the Yorkshire city. The commercial connection between Bradford and the Central Empires before the war was, of course, a very close one, and the fact may have had some weight in shaping this practical charitable proposal; and since Bradford has made enormous sums of money out of the war, and since the war, the rather large expenditure such a scheme would contemplate is by no means beyond the reach of her citizens. All the same, the proposal is a kindly one.

The German War Criminals.

The demand that Germany should give up her war criminals has stirred the late pacifist Press into passionate denunciations of "the policy of vengeance," and they are again at their old game of vilifying France under the cloak of fair words. Probably the list of war criminals is too long, and the delay in demanding them has certainly been unfortunate, but the demonstrations of the defeatists in favour of the men who sunk hospital ships and tortured our prisoners will provoke nothing but disgust. Nor will the attempt to drive a wedge between England and France in favour of Germany meet with much success.

The Dynasts.

The most interesting theatrical event of the week will be the production of "The Dynasts," Mr. Hardy's monumental play, by the Oxford University Dramatic Society—suspended during the war, but recently revived. This amazing blank-verse epic-drama has been staged before, it will be curious to see if one's original impression will remain, that it is far more suited to the study than the footlights.

Current Literature.

Many students of current French literature will be grateful to Madame Duclaux for her book, published by Collins, entitled "Twentieth Century French Writers." It is a very useful and discriminating guide to a fertile territory which is apt to confuse the stray traveller through its very variety.

Mr. G. A. B. Dewar, whom one still thinks of as quite a young man, makes public confession of advancing years by publishing his autobiography under the title of "A Younger Son." The author is frankly rather a puzzle. A naturalist at heart, he chose to live in Fleet Street, and although there are some very strange birds there, they are not easily got under the miscroscope. At another time he edited the *Saturday Review*; but his real metier in a rationally-constructed universe—if he could have tolerated such a world—would have been as a writer of short stories. Some day the collectors will hunt for those slim little volumes, "The Leaning Spire" and "Dreams," and wish there had been more of those delicate fantasies.

A new war book that may be briefly mentioned is "G.H.Q.," by G. S. O., which discusses with knowledge and apparently from inside information the detailed working of the British General Headquarters. It is issued by a new publishing house, Philip Allan and Co. The man who can start as a publisher in these days of costly paper and printing deserves commendation for his pluck; if addresses go for anything, the firm should issue only first-class work, for their domicile is Quality Court. Some firms that could be named would be more appropriately housed in Rotten Row.

OCELLUS.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 26.

The Attempt on the Prime Minister.

The sentence passed on Erian Youssef, the Copt accused of trying to assassinate the Prime Minister, his Excellency Youssef Wahba Pasha, has now been promulgated by the Commander-in-Chief, and turns out to be one of ten years' penal servitude. This has given rise to considerable comment in Egyptian as well as European circles; for there is little doubt that considering all the circumstances the sentence is extremely light. In this connection it is amusing to note that one of the vernacular organs referred to the verdict as being in accordance with all the dictates of justice, and added that had he been brought before the native courts, the prisoner would have been sentenced to at least fifteen years' penal servitude!

The Milner Mission.

No further news has been received from Paris, where Aly Bey Maher has already arrived on his mission to Zaghlul Pasha, beyond a telegram communicated by an Italian telegraphic agency, stating that Zaghlul Pasha in an interview had declared himself ready to come to terms with the British Government on the basis of the independence of Egypt. Considerable anxiety is being experienced by both Extremists and Moderates as to the attitude which Zaghlul Pasha will adopt. Meanwhile the mission is quietly continuing its inquiries into the administration, and several of its members have just returned from visits to the provinces. These visits have not been to the liking of the Cairo Committee of the Zaghlul Delegation, who have sent delegates out into the provinces in order to address the people—and incidentally to collect more funds—and exhort them to have nothing to do with the mission. The unfortunate feature about these visits made by the Zaghlulite representatives is that in many cases demonstrations have taken place and, although, except at Luxor, the members of the mission have suffered but little inconvenience, these have tended to rekindle excitement in places in the provinces which for some time now have been relatively quiet.

The Situation in the Provinces.

During the last week trouble has again broken out in the provinces. This time the offending centre is Tantah, which has always been regarded as one of the most fanatical towns in the country. It appears that on the evening of the 20th a series of most inflammatory speeches were delivered by certain well-known agitators, amongst them a notorious Nationalist lawyer, in the Ahmady Mosque, at the conclusion of which the audience swarmed into the streets and began to demonstrate. On their way they met two members of the British military police, whom they mishandled. British troops had to be called in to restore order, and a few casualties ensued. The next evening, while a company of Indian soldiers was out on patrol it was attacked with bricks and revolver shots by a hostile crowd, which mortally wounded the corporal in charge.

This incident created great excitement in the town, and the British officers had much difficulty in restraining the Indians from avenging the death of their comrade. More troops were sent down, and martial law was at once rigorously enforced. The appearance of the troops seems to have calmed the town, which has been quiet ever since, and the man mainly responsible for the demonstration, the native lawyer—who last summer for similar activities was interned at Rafa, and was released only in the autumn—has now been arrested. It is to be hoped that on this occasion no leniency will be shown him, or any others who may emulate him; for the policy which has been followed during the past few months of arresting agitators or relegating them to their villages and then releasing them has not by any means conduced to improving the general situation.

Trouble of a different nature and having a different origin has arisen in Upper Egypt, where one of the express trains has been derailed and robbed by a band of armed brigands. The attempt was made late in the evening about a hundred kilometres from Cairo. About ten metres of the railway line had been removed, and by the merest good luck the engine driver was able to pull up in time to prevent the train from falling down the embankment. The brigands fired on the train, and wounded one of the officials in the postal wagon, from which they managed to take about £E3,500. It is understood that the train carried about £E20,000, but the brigands were prevented from getting hold of the whole amount by the postal officials, who with great sangfroid concealed it, and by some police who were escorting prisoners, and who fired on the brigands, thus forcing them to run away.

An inquiry has been opened and has progressed to the point where there is reason to believe that the gang will be discovered. This is the third attempt that has been made during the last two months on trains at this spot. The motive is purely one of robbery, and has nothing to do with the political situation, except in so far as these incidents are symptomatic of the state of public security resulting from that situation.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, January 31.

The Fiume Crisis.

Consternation was caused in Belgrade by the news of the presentation of the ultimatum that Yugoslavia must accept Signor Nitti's terms, or be prepared to see the Treaty of London enforced. Astonishment and resentment were mingled, not so much, perhaps, at the terms themselves as at the sheer injustice of the thing. In the first place, Signor Nitti is uttering fair words and smooth talk of friendly compromise, while Italians are stirring up trouble in different parts of Dalmatia and fishing in dirty waters in Montenegro and urging on the Albanians against the Serbs; then, suddenly, he presents an ultimatum embodying intolerable conditions. The alternative is to subject the young kingdom to the terms of a treaty to which they are not parties, made without their knowledge. They may well ask: Are we Allies or defeated enemies? It is notorious that the Italian advance across the Piave in November, 1918, came after, and not before, the mutiny of the Slavonic troops in the Austrian army, and the consequent break-up of that front, and immediate incorporation of the Austrian Slavs into the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. The Slavs, too, are hurt that this ultimatum should come from their friends and recent comrades in arms, the English and the French. Opinion was very divided as to the best answer; but it was possible to observe that every hour the die-hards gained in strength, with the policy of rejecting the ultimatum, and leaving to the British, French, and Italian Governments the invidious task of enforcing the Treaty of

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London; they argue that this would still leave the question open, and that under their protest they would have the right and power to reopen it at a more favourable opportunity.

The Cabinet were in prolonged session, and it appears that their reply was to the effect that the ultimatum was presented by three separate Powers, and not by the Peace Conference, and as it is a vital question for them, and they are members of the Conference, they ask that the question be settled by the Conference as a whole. Immediately after this came the news—with the newspaper headings "America to the Rescue"—that the Government of the United States has lodged a protest against the ultimatum and its form. Shrewd observers consider that in reality England, and perhaps France, too, have really been serving Serbia's interests and bringing about an intolerable situation, which they themselves knew could not be solved in the way they suggested. The Powers have muddled the Adriatic problem as badly as they have muddled the Russian one; it would have been better and simpler not to have meddled in it at all, but to have allowed the Serbs and Italians to settle it themselves; or at least, to have held Fiume and not allowed the claimants on one side to hold the town.

The weakness of the Serbs has been their slackness in propaganda and failure to educate the public in friendly and Allied countries. Nobody grudged Trieste to the Italians, although even there half the population is Slovene and the town an ancient Slavonic settlement. But the Italians realised that whereas Trieste would feed Vienna, now a second-rate provincial poverty-stricken town, Fiume would be a much more important place, being the inlet for Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, and perhaps even Poland. Consequently, their much-prized Trieste was of far less value than they anticipated, and to save the situation for them they felt obliged to seize Fiume, where their claims are really of the shallowest. It is perhaps worth while repeating that there are two old Croatian settlements on the coast adjoining each other, separated only by a brook, Rijeka (or the River) and Sushak. Circumstances led Rijeka to become a port; so Hungary, by fraud, since exposed, stole it from Croatia, and in order to lessen Croat influence there, popularised the Italian form of the name, Fiume, and encouraged Italian settlers and colonists, and made a political alliance with them so that Magyars and Italians should run the town to the exclusion of the Croats. To-day the Italian population of Fiume admittedly slightly exceeds the Croat, but as Sushak is exclusively Slav, the two taken together—and they are really one town—have a largely preponderating Slavonic population. Apart from that, both geographically and morally, the town and port are unquestionably Slavonic. Italy has an immense coastline and numerous ports. Yugoslavia has none; the possession of Fiume is an absolutely vital question for Yugoslavia; her struggle towards the sea resembles the secular struggle of Russia for an ice-free port. Any compromise would be unfair. The proper solution of the Fiume problem is absolutely simple: give it unreservedly to the Yugoslavs, to whom it belongs by all rights except force. Probably not one Italian in ten thousand had ever heard of Fiume before the Italian Government made it a popular question for purposes of their own, and then could not tame the Frankenstein that they had called into existence. The very fact that they ask for a corridor along the coast for purposes of access is further evidence of the artificiality of their claims.

One thing is certain: one day, sooner or later, Fiume will again be Rijeka—the Serbs have been able to wait five centuries to free their land and people from the Turkish yoke; they have known how to wait to throw off the Hapsburgs; it will be easier for them to recover Rijeka. They are patient and determined, and the local population are inflexible. They have seen enough of Italian methods in Istria during the past unhappy year to refuse to submit one day more than necessary. The Belgrade Government has had great difficulty in restraining the infuriated people. Act on the side of justice or it will stultify itself; if it fails, then the outraged people will take the law into their own hands. The Southern Slavs have long memories and strong arms.

The Paris correspondent of the *Pravda* wires that the Government's reply has produced a very favourable impression; for while expressing most cordial sentiments towards the Powers, they remind the Council that they have no knowledge of the Treaty of London beyond what they have read in the Press. As Great Britain and France signed away Austrian territory to Italy in 1915, but afterwards recognised the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, they are in an awkward dilemma; for if the Treaty of London is enforced, it will be the duty of Britain and France to enforce it against their friends and allies, who would undoubtedly resist. This consideration appears to have been overlooked at Paris, and this, with America's protest, will certainly lead to a revision; meanwhile, Italy will have again lost ground by Signor Nitti's attempt to represent his personal ultimatum as that of the Peace Conference. Once again have the Yugoslavs shown moderation and restraint in the face of great provocation, and this attitude will certainly win them much sympathy in Britain and France.

Serbs and Croats.

An incident is reported from Paris, which shows how insidious and far-reaching, and also how effective, Italian propaganda has been. It is stated that when Dr. Ante Trumbitch, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Kingdom of the S.H.S., who is well known in London, had finished his *exposé* at a recent session, M. Clemenceau stated it seemed to him that there were two currents in Yugoslavia, one, the Serbs, who deserved all their consideration, and were very reasonable in their attitude towards the Fiume problem, and the other, the Croats, who were *intransigeant* and, moreover, during the war fought to the end against the Allies in the Austrian Army. M. Pashitch immediately protested against this inference, and then Dr. Trumbitch spoke at some length, thanking M. Clemenceau for what he had said about the Serbs, but taking up the cudgels on behalf of the Croats, indignantly repudiating the suggestion, circulated in Italy, based on exaggerated reports on Yugoslav politics by Italian agents, of want of harmony between the two branches of the Yugoslav people. At England's request he had proceeded to Rome and participated in the conference which led to the famous Pact of Rome in 1917, where he engaged the Croats to do all in their power to bring about the rupture of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. He pointed out how Croats had deserted *en masse* on every front, how they had formed whole units thus in Russia which had fought on our side against their oppressors, and how the famous Yugoslav division had travelled half way round the world from Southern Russia, Archangel, and the Murman through Great Britain, and even through Siberia and distant Vladivostok, to Salonika, where they had performed prodigies of valour, and contributed a large share to the break through on the Macedonian front. And those that remained behind prepared the ground for the revolution, and, working in unison with their Slovene brothers, had induced the mutiny of the Slav troops, in sympathy with the Czecho-Slovaks, which resulted in the melting away of the Austro-Hungarian Army on the Piave, and consequent Italian successful advance.

There is no doubt that Italian agents have cleverly worked an anti-Yugoslav propaganda throughout England and France, artfully suggesting that the Serbs are our gallant Allies, but that the Croats are dangerous to European peace. This is seen in Montenegro and Dalmatia, and is constantly reflected in the British and French Press. It is, of course, very difficult for foreigners to judge the strength of political movements in another country; and to-day, when Democrats are abusing the Radicals for their "unholy pact" with the Croat Nationalists, and the Slovene Clericals are savagely attacking the Democrats, it is very easy to overrate these differences, and to forget the bitterness of party politics in these regions and to exaggerate the importance of alleged centrifugal movement. Both Croats and Slovenes know well enough that they are not strong enough to stand alone, and that mere self-preservation

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makes it advisable for them to join with the Serbs, quite apart from all the other factors. Of course, among the Croats there is a substantial proportion that has been Hapsburgised, and accustomed to look to Vienna as the source of everything that is good, and these feel rather lost in the democratic world in which they find themselves, and are noisy. It will be time enough to believe in a movement towards separation when we see it, and to judge its force when we have seen its action. They may very likely fight like Kilkenny cats among themselves on questions of internal politics, but they will close up their ranks and show an uncommonly solid front to any foreign interference.

The Italians in Dalmatia.

News from Splijet (Spalato) reports that the Italians are continuing to behave in the occupied parts of Dalmatia as a conqueror rather than an ally. Over two hundred respected natives of Knin have been taken awav in fetters and manacles to Zadar (Zara) for the crime of singing patriotic songs and celebrating their Christmas with the usual firing. At Zlosela, because the Yugoslav colours were shown, two prominent citizens were taken off in chains to Shebenik (Sebenico) to be court-martialled. By such means the Italians seek to endear themselves to the population of the territory which they occupy by force in spite of the protests of the Slavonic population, which claims some right of self-determination.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 11.

The Question of Constantinople.

The announcement relative to the fate of Constantinople, upon which I commented in last week's letter, has been the main theme of the Press throughout the country; while the Athenian journals which have arrived also discuss the same question. After the first shock the Turkish Press derived some comfort from the comments of *The Times*, according to which the announcement was premature. The effect upon Turkish opinion may be judged from the following extracts from the leading articles upon the matter. The *Yeni Gun*, a strongly Nationalist organ, after having pointed out that the question of the Straits could be settled without changing the attribution of Constantinople, and that the power to close the Straits was left to Turkey by the express desire of the European Powers, especially Great Britain, continues:—

But the question does not concern the form which is given to these principles and which cannot be rejected provided they are interpreted in a logical and equitable spirit. The real question is to know whether the Turks and Islam, of which the Ottoman Empire constitutes the supreme refuge, are admitted to have a right to exist.

The *Peyam-Sabah*, edited by Ali Kemal Bey, a former Minister of the Interior, and one of the few just men in Turkey, writes in a very pessimistic spirit:—

It will be only after matters have run their course, and the Powers have rendered their first decisions, when we shall have dashed our head against the stones, that there will be a useful task for the Government and the nation to accomplish in the direction of repairing faults committed. In our opinion, all that can be done in the meanwhile is to leave the present Government and the National forces . . . to finish what they have begun. It is said that he who sows the wind reaps the whirlwind, and these men (the Nationalists) will reap what they have sown.

The utter collapse of the Volunteer Army has not improved the situation, and there is good reason to believe that there is some sort of an understanding, if not between the Nationalists and the Bolshevists, at least between Enver and Trotzky. What hope is there of the Volunteer Army being able to prevent the Reds from entering Turkey by way of the Caucasus? Further east, also, there is not a very reassuring situation. From Roumania and Bulgaria comes news of increased unrest; and the Allied armies in Constantinople have been so far reduced that it is doubtful whether they number 20,000 men, all told. The Turks are permitted to maintain an army of 50,000 men, and the Nationalists could raise as many more. The general trend of opinion is, even among those who have very little sympathy for the Turks, that under present circumstances it would be a mistake to make them suffer the extreme penalty.

Reforms.

Fourteen months after the Armistice, the Turkish Government announces a scheme of reforms. The scheme consists of the formation of a body of European inspectors for the various tribunals and judicial institutions throughout the Empire, together with a "judicial" police corps under European direction. It is difficult to see what object the Porte expected to attain by this scheme, which, in the nature of things, must remain a dead letter. Whatever may happen to Constantinople, it seems certain that the Allies themselves will determine what reforms are necessary; and the Turkish Press generally recognises that the reform scheme is labour wasted. The non-Moslem Press naturally takes the same view, and recalls the various edicts by which successive Turkish Governments have announced reforms that have never been put into operation.

Mustafa Reshid Pasha, in an interview accorded to a local journalist, stated that with the administrative, political, judicial, and financial reorganisation carried out with the assistance of the Powers, the Turkish Empire in its integrity could and must continue to exist. With regard to the question of Constantinople raised by the interviewer, the Foreign Minister replied: "Constantinople—the newspapers have said a good deal about it, but for us the question does not exist. For four centuries and more Constantinople has been the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Without Constantinople Turkey is a body without a head, without a soul, without life. There is no more to be said."

The Turko-German Secret Treaty.

For the last few days the revelations of Javid Bey published in *The Times* have provided the Press with an interesting theme. Mahmud Pasha, who was a member of Said Halim Pasha's Cabinet, and who retired after the outbreak of war, declares that the treaty was never discussed at any Cabinet meeting at which he was present, and he had no knowledge of it, but certain signs had led him to the conclusion that there was a "rapprochement" between Turkey and Germany.

Ibrahim Bey, who was Minister of Justice in the same Cabinet, had something more interesting to say, in that, according to his statement, Said Halim Pasha undertook the responsibility for the conclusion of the Alliance, which was negotiated without the knowledge of any of the other members of the Cabinet except

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Enver and Talaat. The existence of this secret alliance was not officially acknowledged until the autumn of 1918; but it was commonly known in certain circles in Constantinople that some kind of a secret agreement had existed for years. In fact, according to the assurances of certain people who are generally well informed in these matters, it was Marschall von Bieberstein himself who commenced the negotiations. Curiously enough, to this day the actual text of the treaty is unknown, and there is only the vaguest information as to its general conditions.

The Parliament.

Although the Imperial Decree convoking the Parliament for Monday was announced yesterday, there seems to be some doubt about the matter. While the Ministry of the Interior has sent a circular to the provinces announcing the convocation of the Chamber for Monday, according to authoritative sources at the Sublime Porte, this will be impossible, and the cards of invitation have consequently not even been prepared.

In one of my former letters I stated that the Government was said to be contemplating plans to prevent the Chamber from meeting, and also that the victory of the Unionists in the elections might have been a "plant" on the part of the opposition in order that the party responsible for the war should be obliged to make the peace. There is now reason to believe that this was substantially correct; for while those who are in favour of the immediate convocation of Parliament are to a great extent inimical to the Nationalists and Unionists, it would appear to be the Government that is placing obstacles in the way of the Parliament, and the Government is simply the instrument of the Nationalists.

Meanwhile, a section of the Nationalists are in favour of removing the seat of the Legislature to the interior of Anatolia, but the news of the possible fate of the capital has brought about a considerable difference of opinion on the subject; for to remove now would be equivalent to committing suicide. On the other hand, the extremists, who are determined to fight to the bitter end, reply that sooner or later this step will have to be taken, and it would be better to have the Parliament near the Nationalist headquarters from the beginning. There are indications that there has been some sort of a compromise, and that it has been agreed that the Parliament shall make its debut in Constantinople, and that the Chamber itself will then decide whether to remove or not.

The Nationalists state that their field of action at the present moment is not in Constantinople, and that having sworn that Turkey shall belong to the Turks, they intend to hold to their oath.

The Trial of the Unionists.

At last the famous trial of the scoundrelly assassins who carried out the scheme of the Committee of Union and Progress to exterminate an entire nation has come to a conclusion. It will be remembered that Enver, Talaat, and Jemal were condemned by default to death, and that the Chief of Supply, Ismail Hakki Pasha, who made millions out of his office, was condemned to one year's imprisonment—also by default. Out of the rest, who did not make good their escape two have just been condemned to ten years' hard labour, and the others are to await their sentences for a while. The hundreds of thousands of women and children who were slaughtered with every accompaniment of ferocity and outrage can hardly be said to have been avenged by such paltry measures, and the Turks have committed yet another grave fault in this matter.

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ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 1.

The Danube Commissions.

In several of the States through whose borders the Danube flows it has been possible to trace a certain uneasiness at the prolongation of the activities of the Upper Danube Commission, and the constant extension of control which this body has been exercising. The Roumanian Press is demanding to know how and why the military mission sent out under the command of Admiral Troubridge to regulate the transportation of supplies to the Allied armies in Hungary is continuing to regulate the traffic of the whole of the Upper Danube, and one of the Liberal papers recently stated that this Commission has even fixed a new scale of taxes to be levied on shipping at the Sulina mouth. This is pointed out as an infringement of the prerogatives of the International Commission of the Lower Danube, a body created by the Treaty of Paris in 1856. This Commission consisted of eight members representing respectively Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Russia, Turkey, and Roumania, and had its seat at Galatz. The regulation of the traffic of the Lower Danube, the maintenance of an adequate body of engineers to keep the Sulina mouth of the river dredged and the channel up to Braila navigable to the great grain-carrying cargo-boats which bore the rich Roumanian harvest to the ports of Belgium and Britain were among the duties of this Commission. The necessary funds were obtained by the taxes levied on shipping.

The Upper Danube Commission provided for in the Treaty of Versailles was to be of a purely temporary character, and was to consist of members from each of the States through which the Danube flows and representatives of the Great Powers. This Commission was to control the Upper Danube until definite mutual arrangements could be made and embodied into an international treaty for the purpose of regulating navigation on the Upper Danube. This Commission has just been called into existence at Budapest, and the Roumanian delegates are leaving shortly for the Hungarian capital. It is to be hoped that the urgency of the task before the new Commission will not be lost sight of. In the present disorganisation of the railroads of this part of the world the Danube is an all-important means of communication between western Europe and Serbia, Roumania, and Bulgaria.

More Labour Troubles.

The success obtained by the tram drivers in their recent strike evidently persuaded the rest of Bucharest's workers that the possibilities of the surprise strike were not yet exhausted, so on Thursday the Electric Light and Gas Company's workers ceased work, and the city was plunged into darkness.

Roumania is not a highly industrialised State, as we are frequently told, but, however opinions may vary as to the adequacy of this standard, such organised labour as exists here has nothing to learn from its Western brethren. For instance, the electric light and gas workers demanded a flat increase of 40 per cent. in wages all round, retrospective from November, 1916, when the capital was evacuated in order to save it the

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horror of enemy bombardment. It would be interesting to know whether the strikers expect to collect the just proportion of their wages from Marshal von Mackensen direct? The 40 per cent. increase was granted in principle after two days' gloom, and the men went back to work, but the date has not yet been fixed when the higher wages are to be paid.

The Tobacco Monopoly has also been having difficulties at the local factory. In the autumn the employees asked for an advance of 1,000 lei in order to purchase wood for the winter, giving at the same time a pledge that this sum should be recovered by the monopoly in the form of weekly instalments to be deducted from the increased wages simultaneously demanded. Trouble arose when in due course an attempt was made to retain the instalments. The wood bought with the 1,000 lei had in all probability been burned by the time the monopoly had completed the book-keeping arrangements necessary, and the severe weather only just beginning. The workers then proposed a compromise:—"Give us another 1,000 lei and we shall pay it back if you give us higher wages." As soon as these concessions were made the strike at the cigarette factory ended, and the men at the railroad repair workshops came out.

So at present we are enjoying all the anomalies of highly industrialised States: our tram drivers get more wages than our judges receive emoluments, and the lot of the "white-collared slave" is no easier here than in England or America.

Roumanian Congratulations to M. Paul Deschanel

On the occasion of his election to the Presidency of the French Republic the Roumanian Government addressed to M. Deschanel a telegram couched in terms of the warmest friendship, and expressing the most sincere congratulations. M. Deschanel formerly visited Roumania on a political mission, and there is a note of personal friendship in the wording of the telegram, part of which reads as follows:—

The Roumanian people and Government can never forget the feelings of fraternal affection and cordial sympathy with your Excellency has always evinced and the strong support you have afforded to Roumania at every opportunity, and especially in her saddest and most trying moments.

The memorable words of encouragement which your Excellency was good enough to pronounce in our favour at the Sorbonne in July, 1917, made a deep impression upon the minds of the Roumanian people, to whom this manifestation of sympathy afforded the necessary power of resistance to continue their prolonged struggle in the name of civilisation against the common enemy.

I desire to assure your Excellency that besides preserving a sentiment of profound gratitude towards the French Republic for all she has done and is still willing to do for the national aspirations of Roumania and her establishment within her ethnical frontiers, the Roumanian Government will strive to preserve a sincere political friendship and close collaboration with her great Allies, and especially with France, being convinced that this policy is entirely in accord with the best interests of Roumania.

Parliament.

The Council of Ministers is meeting daily to discuss the Bills to be presented to Parliament when the session begins. (At the present moment, February 1, there is a semi-official vacation of three days, as many of the deputies and Ministers have gone to Cluj to the opening of the University.)

It has been decided that the question of the ratification of the decree-laws passed during the time when Parliament was not sitting shall be settled in each case separately. This means practically a debate upon the merits or demerits of each decree before its ratification by the Legislature, and as the political position of the Liberal Government is far from what it was at the time when the decrees were passed there is no doubt that a considerable body of decree-made laws will be rejected. There is talk of opposition being developed, especially to those decrees which sanctioned supplementary expenditure for payments made on account of war damages in certain parts of the country. The late Liberal Government are accused of having made many of these payments for political purposes.

The necessary measures have been taken for the repatriation of the Polish refugees from the Ukraine.

MOROCCO.

TANGIER, January 29.

An Official Ceremony.

Thursday, January 15, was the day selected for the solemn ceremony of taking official possession of the German Legation in Tangier. At an early hour crowds began to assemble, the route to the Legation being kept clear by companies of the Sultan's troops. In spite of a heavy *levante* blowing, the sun shone radiantly upon the gay scene. The arrival of Naib Tazi, the Sultan's representative, was announced by buglers, and his cortège was brilliant and picturesque, being composed of the Moroccan notabilities in gala dress and splendidly mounted. As the Sultan's representative arrived at the German Legation the keys were handed to him, the gates were opened, and the Moroccan flag was hoisted amid loud cheering from the crowds. Accompanied by the Allied Ministers and his suite, the Naib entered the gardens and proceeded to the ex-Residence, where, in the grand reception room, he read a document announcing his taking official possession on behalf of his Sherifian Majesty's Government. Naib Tazi then offered lunch to all his guests.

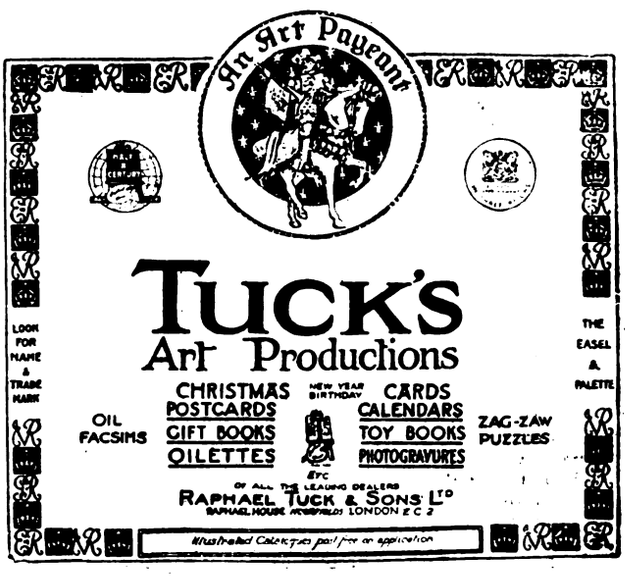
The gardens of the ex-Legation are very beautiful; they were thrown open to the public in the afternoon, and, judging from the numbers who took advantage of it, this privilege was fully appreciated.

It is not quite decided what use shall be made of the building and its gardens. Possibly it will be utilised for the offices of the Sultan's representative and of the local government.

I give below a translation of a leading article from the French local paper, treating of the ceremony just described. The views expressed are hardly consistent with the reference to the treaties in General Lyautey's speech mentioned in my last letter, and the article might almost be taken to imply a menace to the decision regarding the Government of Tangier upon which the Governments interested may eventually agree. The Sultan is, of course, the Sultan of Morocco, but he delegated his power in the Spanish Zone, and during the war it was excusable to think that he was not quite master in his own house.

The translation is from an article in *La Dêpeche Marocaine*:—

The position of Morocco with regard to Germany was clearly defined by the Maghzen's declaration of war on the Government of William the Second, and by the expulsion of Germans and the representatives of Germany in Tangier. By this measure of courage, justice, and security the Sultan signified his intention of being the indisputable master in this town, and that in future none other than him should have control there. Nevertheless, by reason of the war which nullified the treaties and reopened every problem to discussion, an impartial spectator or, if you prefer, a neutral spectator might have considered this ejection as provisional and as a measure which one day might turn on those who formulated it. It was, in fact, the prologue of a great drama which only the judgment of arms would unfold. After four years of frenzied warfare, during which Moroccan soldiers bore themselves as heroes, the god of wars places outside the game



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the very Power which, in order to ingratiate itself, had proclaimed him their god alone. The Germany Army, vanquished and broken, only escapes from total annihilation by the signing of an armistice, in virtue of which it surrenders unconditionally. Peace and victory are being celebrated here and, even to far-off shores, public rejoicings testify to the triumph of civilisation, of justice, and of right.

Act the First.

In these rejoicings the Maghzen and the whole of Morocco are taking their just part, but except for "powder plays," no tangible fact bears witness to the definite eviction of Germany and the strengthening in Tangier of all Maghzenian power. The Allies, in their wisdom, nevertheless introduced into their Treaty a clause concerning the property of German subjects and of the German Government in Morocco. Private property to be sold by public auction, official property to return to the legitimate Sovereign of this country. The Treaty being definitely ratified on January 10, Sultan Mulay Youssef, in the person of Naib Tazi, his representative, therefore presented himself yesterday at the gate of the German Legation and publicly and officially, with the consent of the Allied countries, whose Ministers were present, he entered, so to speak, his own house. And, in truth, in future he will be in his own house.

Act the Second.

The show is not yet finished; it is not yet time to leave one's seat. Prevented from exercising his power to the full here by reason of the survival of the diplomatic agreements, which agreements victory had virtually annulled, the Sultan must one day manifest his sovereignty in Tangier by the proclamation of a definite policy. This policy must involve on the part of all the Powers the full recognition of his unquestionable rights. On that day the third and last act of the piece will be played, and there will be nothing further for us to do but to lower the curtain. But in the meantime we may rejoice at the solemn expropriation of our enemies. Their loss is our gain. The Maghzen's power is thereby reinforced, and just as our victory brought about yesterday's happy events, so also this event must bring with it the rupture of the last obstacles which retard the triumph of order here and the dawn of an age of prosperity.

SYRIA.

JERUSALEM, January 10.

Important Events.

The state of things in Damascus continues to be obscure. Nothing is settled, and the constant changes cause great anxiety to the people. The following are some of the most important items of news received here from those parts:—

1. All salaries and bonuses of the Government employees of the Arab Government have been decreased, and as a result great dissatisfaction reigns among all the officials. Many, including sixty policemen, have resigned in Damascus alone. 2. Emir Zaid, brother of Faisal, has at last approved of the Bill instituting compulsory service for all men between the ages of twenty and forty for the period of six months. This too, has caused dissatisfaction among all classes of the people. Some, however, argue that this step is essential to independence. 3. Great changes have been made among the administrative officers. All the old Executive have resigned or have been made to resign, and new men have been appointed in their places. Among the more important of the changes are: Nimet Pasha, in place of the Military Governor-General of Syria, Rikabi Pasha (resigned); and Haddad Pasha, who has been replaced. 4. The tone of the Arabic newspapers in Damascus has recently been harsh and very bitter against the Allies. They were warned a short time ago that unless they made a change they would be suppressed.

Disturbances.

Several incidents have occurred recently between the French Army of the Western section of Syria and the native Arabs. Three of these have been on a rather large scale, and much panic has been caused in the surrounding districts. The first occurred in the Hule region (S.E. of Damascus). Certain Arab tribes attacked and pillaged Christian villages of the plain. Many persons were killed and many more fled towards the coast, where they await the settlement of their fate. The largest of the villages attacked were Deir Mimas and Balat. The reason that led the wild Arabs to such an action derives mainly from their passion for independence—a passion inflamed by seeing the French hoist the French flag over the minaret of a mosque in that region. Seeing this, they thought that the French had commenced their Occupation, and thus their religious passions were aroused. General Gouraud, the French High Commissioner in Syria, has sent a force against them.

More important than this is what occurred at Baalbek. According to the recent agreement between the French and the Arab Governments, the Arabs were to stay in Baalbek while the French kept the line of the railway as far as Rayak and Zahleh in the Anti-Lebanons. On December 15 there arrived in Baalbek a French officer and three men. Their entrance into the city was prevented, and they were forced to go back. The inhabitants of the city were furious at the arrival of these Frenchmen, and treated them with scant courtesy. This action of the people enraged the French military authorities, and two days later they sent some artillery. A battle ensued between the people and the French, lasting several hours; it ended in the victory of the latter, who entered the city and still remain there. This incident has had a great effect on the people, and the Moslems of the region insist absolutely that the French should not be allowed to remain there. It is worthy of note that the Arab Moslems of that region (as well as those of the adjoining cities or Homs, Hama, or Aleppo), who are both rich and fanatical, have declared several times that they will stand against all French encroachments.

A still more noteworthy event is one that happened at Tel Kalakh (N.E. of Tripoli). For some time it was kept secret by the French, who allowed no word of it in the Press. Full light has now been thrown upon it in the Arab Press, and the gist of the affairs appears to be as follows: When the inhabitants of Tel Kalakh ascertained that the country had been definitely divided, and that their country had come under French protection, they sent to the French Military Governor, who had come among them, an ultimatum, and demanded: 1. The removal of the French flag. 2. The preservation of Syria, free, undivided, and independent. 3. The removal by the French Government of the French Army from the adjoining districts. These demands were naturally ignored by the Military Governor, whereupon the inhabitants prepared for fight. They surrounded the barracks and opened fire. The French Governor was killed, with two others. The French High Commissioner dispatched a force to the spot. Severe fighting took place, lasting for two days, but when their ammunition was exhausted the inhabitants surrendered. The leaders were sentenced to death, and several others to imprisonment. The tribe that caused this trouble is known by the name of the Dandash. It is very unfortunate that the French have met at the beginning with so much resistance and unpopularity. It is the division of the country into three parts, which has caused all this trouble.

THE ARMENIAN REFUGEES' (LORD MAYOR'S) FUND.

Our readers will be interested to learn that excellent work is being done by this fund, which exists for the relief of distress among the refugees in Asia Minor, the Caucasus, and Persia. Its head offices are at 96, Victoria Street. The relief work is being administered at Adana by Dr. and Mrs. Kennedy. Operations are shortly to be extended into Cilicia. At Bardezag, where the fund has an orphanage and does much relief work, Miss Newnham is in charge. At Erivan (Caucasus) Captain Gracie is doing splendid work, and within a few days a new assistant is being sent out to him. In Hamadan (Persia) the distress is very great, and a new worker is being sent out there. It may be stated that everywhere the relief is being administered by English people—the direct representatives of the fund.

"THE AUCTION OF SOULS."

The film which is now being shown at the Albert Hall under the title "The Auction of Souls" has aroused much discussion. We have seen the film and we have read the report and book upon which it is based. The pictures represent the massacres of the Armenians by the Turks from 1915 onwards, and, presumably (though this has without convincing been denied), are given to the public to show them the real character of the Turks (and, incidentally, the Kurds and Arabs), who committed the atrocities. The story of the film consists of the sufferings of a young Armenian girl who, driven from her home in Chemushgezek, undergoes, with other Armenians, most painful and harrowing experiences in places like Arabkir, Malatia, Severek, Diabekir, and so on. It is impossible, unless one be a pro-Turk, not to sympathise with the Armenian people; it is equally impossible not to be convinced that the Turk, as judged by these atrocities, is outside the pale of civilisation. The discussion that this film has provoked should therefore centre round two points: the truth of these pictures and the desirability of making them public. Their truth in the main we do not question, though this is by no means the same thing as saying that the fault is wholly and always on one side. The desirability of associating these atrocities with a kind of commercial propaganda is another matter. We confess that when we saw the film we kept persuading ourselves that it was taken in America, and remembered that the League of Nations Union, under whose auspices it is published, have, in employing commercial American enterprise, used a double-edged weapon. But the villains of this film, the Turks, are still technically our enemies, and propaganda against them may therefore be justifiable. We are glad to think that the film was not taken in England, but this is a matter of self-respect, and has nothing to do with the actual justice and expediency of the case.

King Alexander of Greece having congratulated M. Deschanel on his election as President of the French Republic, the latter has replied that he will always remain a faithful friend and admirer of Greece.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

EGYPTIAN SIDE-LIGHTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—When ex-officials of such high standing as Sir Malcolm McIlwraith and Sir Walter Bond take opposite sides on the Egyptian question, and then write to *The Times* claiming the late Lord Cromer as supporting their respective views, the public may well be puzzled what to believe. I think that Sir Walter Bond would have been more correct had he stated that Lord Cromer acquiesced in rather than approved of the proposed evacuation in 1887. I happened to hear Lord Cromer say that he looked on the Egyptian question as part and parcel of the larger Eastern question, and on that account it could not be dealt with in the interests of the Egyptians alone. Lord Cromer was not singular.

I remember years later Lord St. Audries, who was at that time Chief Whip of the Conservative Party, telling me that if the Young Turks succeeded in putting their own house in order—at that time there seemed every probability of their doing so—he did not see how we could well refuse to evacuate Egypt, should the Turkish Government asks us to do so. Poor Turkey! in those days both parties deemed it of some importance to meet her wishes!

But this is all ancient history, and the Egyptian problem of to-day is by no means the problem which confronted Lord Cromer in 1887.

As regards Sir Malcolm McIlwraith's contention that the Egyptian Ministers of to-day are less dependent and have more power than the Ministers who held office in the eighties and nineties, this is hardly corroborated by Sir Valentine Chirol and other unbiassed correspondents writing from Egypt. It is quite true, however, that for a brief period during the Gorst *régime* the Egyptian Ministers were given a free hand. It is equally true that the late Lord Kitchener made less use of his advisers than either Lord Cromer or Sir Eldon Gorst, working as he did to a great extent direct with the Ministers. But it by no means follows that the Ministers had in consequence more power, for the simple reason that Lord Kitchener was his own adviser, and the Government became more personal than at any time during the occupation (Lord Cromer's Abbas II.). Zaghlul Pasha was, of course, a strong Minister, but I doubt his being appreciated on this account, either by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith or Mr. Dunlop, the two advisers with whom he worked. Zaghlul Pasha is really very like the late Riaz Pasha in character, and though very obstinate was open to reason—at least, I found him so when on one occasion he supported an action of mine which was questioned even by my own Minister of the Interior. It was on this account that I ventured to suggest, both in your columns and in *The Times*, that it would facilitate matters if Zaghlul Pasha and other prominent Egyptians were asked to become members of the Commission which would give them the right to assist in the final report, an altogether different matter to being asked to appear and give their views before the Commission. Is it too late even now for such a procedure to be followed? It would seem from the letter Zaghlul Pasha has written to *The Times* that he now recognises that he can only look to the British Government for what he considers justice—altogether there seems to be a more reasonable atmosphere all around notwithstanding the boycott.

I fear that I have already exceeded the space which you are likely to be able to spare me, but there is still another Egyptian question on which I would like to express my views. I refer to the educational policy described by Sir Valentine Chirol in *The Times* as our worst failure. Of the subjects dealt with by Sir Valentine Chirol in the series of articles which he has contributed to *The Times* it is the one, and the only one, in which the British official directly concerned has been, in my opinion, handled with uncalled-for severity. Mr. Dunlop, the late Adviser, is silent, probably considering that *qui s'excuse s'accuse*, but he appears to me to have such a very strong case that I cannot refrain from stating the facts as I read them. I am not an Educationist, so cannot say whether Sir Valentine Chirol is justified in condemning Mr. Dunlop's whole policy to the extent he has. Sir Valentine has taken as his text a report made by Mr. Boyd Carpenter, and we are told that for the first time the Egyptians learned the failure of our educational system, as Mr. Dunlop had "been keeping the machinery of education and its results to himself. . . . Since Lord Milner left Egypt there had been very few Englishmen in responsible positions who had paid more than lip service to the importance of education." Now this is a very sweeping condemnation, and if true (again I say I am not an Educationist) reflects not only on Mr. Dunlop, but also on Lord Cromer, Sir Eldon Gorst and Lord Kitchener, who adopted Mr. Dunlop's policy as their own. We have only to read the annual reports to see that this is so. In 1905, especially, Lord Cromer deals at length with education, he tells us what he found in 1882, what has been attempted to date, and his hopes for the future. Incidentally, Lord Cromer regrets that he is unable to give Mr. Dunlop all he asks, as even education "must yield to the paramount necessity of maintaining financial equilibrium." It is clear, therefore, that if less was expended on education than in some "backward Balkan States," the fault is not Mr. Dunlop's. It must be remembered, too, that we were all being cut down and were never granted anything like the credits we demanded. I have often pitied the financial advisers in their annual budget struggle with the spending departments! On Sir Eldon Gorst taking charge he devised a scheme whereby the expenditure on education was nearly doubled, and it has always appeared to me that Sir Eldon's Provincial Council reform never received the credit it deserved if only in this matter of education. In the last report (1913), submitted by Lord Kitchener, the results attained by the Provincial Councils in education are dealt with at length, and I may say enthusiasm, by his Lordship. It is hard to reconcile these reports with Mr. Boyd Carpenter's compilation of the examination results of 1919. Was it that many summers in Cairo without leave had got on Mr. Boyd Carpenter's nerves and made him unduly pessimistic, or was it merely a stunt on the part of the educational experts to capture the Financial Adviser at the next distribution of grants? Anyhow, it seems hardly fair to condemn a whole policy on account of one year's failure when all the students were certainly out of hand and many of the English teaching staff were absent at the war. Again, is it the personal element, then, more to blame rather than the policy? Mr. Dunlop was never popular, and undoubtedly failed to maintain discipline either amongst his own British subordinates or the students. But will Mr. Paterson be more successful? An educational team is always a difficult one to drive, and once having succeeded in unseating their coachman, the same manœuvre might again prove successful. Possibly "self-determination" may be granted to the students to elect their own Adviser.—I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

THE BAKU EPISODE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of 5th instant, in an article under the heading "Caucasia," appears the following:—"Baku was seized by British troops coming from the direction of the Caspian, but had to be evacuated under pressure, largely because of the attitude taken up by the local Armenians, who form a considerable element of the Baku population. These Armenians not only failed to help adequately in the defence of the city, but actually intrigued with the besiegers to hand it over."

An eastern proverb says, "A lunatic threw a stone into a well, forty sane men could not fetch it out." It is applied to a case in which someone, wanting in sufficient discrimination, publishes an evil report which the efforts of the more correctly informed meet with apparently little success in putting right. So it appears to be in this instance. As a result of the Baku episode in the late summer of 1918, someone erroneously or designedly (I do not know which, for it has never, to my knowledge, been clearly explained) at an ill-balanced moment sent out a message that the failure of the gallant but somewhat "romantic" (as the British Press styled it at the time) British Expedition to Baku was due to Armenian intrigue. The credulous amongst the general public immediately believed the report; it afforded them an explanation of the unpleasant position of affairs; it attached the blame to someone to the exoneration of another; that was sufficient for them, nothing else mattered! Then came explanations and disclaimers from better informed quarters, notwithstanding which the mischief caused by the first amazing report seems to echo and re-echo from time to time, as in the instance quoted above. Perhaps the following extract from the Parliamentary Debates of October 24, 1918, as officially reported, may, once for all, dispel from the minds of the public the wrong idea conveyed to them by the unjust accusation if you will be good enough to give publicity to it, in fairness to the Armenians of Baku:—

SURRENDER OF BAKU (ARMENIAN FORCE).

Major George Peel asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is able to furnish any information as to the friendliness or otherwise of the action of the local Armenian force during the recent evacuation of Baku by the force of General Dunsterville?

Lord R. Cecil: It would appear that a certain amount of misapprehension exists in the public mind as to the action of the local Armenian force in entering into negotiations with the enemy relative to the surrender of Baku. His Majesty's Government have now been informed that these negotiations were undertaken by the Armenians on the advice of General Dunsterville when he saw that the fall of the town was imminent, and therefore no blame attaches to the action of the Armenians in this respect.

Mr. Aneurin Williams: How did the report which was sent out in this country come to be sent out on that occasion, blaming the Armenians in this matter?

Lord R. Cecil: I am afraid that I could not answer that without notice. I am very glad to have this opportunity of making the matter absolutely clear.

Mr. Bliss: Is it not a fact that the Armenians rendered gallant service in aid of the Allied cause during the Turkish campaign?

Lord R. Cecil: I should not care to say offhand, but I believe that to be true. Certainly the Allied cause owes a considerable debt to the action of the Armenians. I am, etc.,

February 7, 1920. S. M. GREGORY.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Mr. Mark Henry Raphael, whom I heard for the first time, gave a song recital at the Wigmore Hall on January 28. He commenced very well with some old Italian songs (Caldara and Bassani) and "Eri Tu," from Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera." In these he used a semi-operatic style, which suited, at any rate, his middle voice admirably. Then he sang some Schubert, and one simply longed for the German and a good accompanist! The English translations, inadequate on all (except war) occasions, were in this case especially unpleasing—you had on insignificant notes words like "shattering" and "thrilled"—and one feared that neither the singer nor his accompanist (Miss Nem Cooper) know the charm of *lieder* singing. In some modern French songs, however, both did much better; and Debussy's "Air d'Azaël" was, but for an occasional rasp on loud notes, sung with excellent feeling and taste. Duparc's "Elégie" was beautifully done. In this Mr. Raphael gained his highest success, and showed that, within limits which certainly are somewhat narrow, he has a very fine voice. Of his own compositions (words and music) with which he concluded I shall say nothing; it is better so.

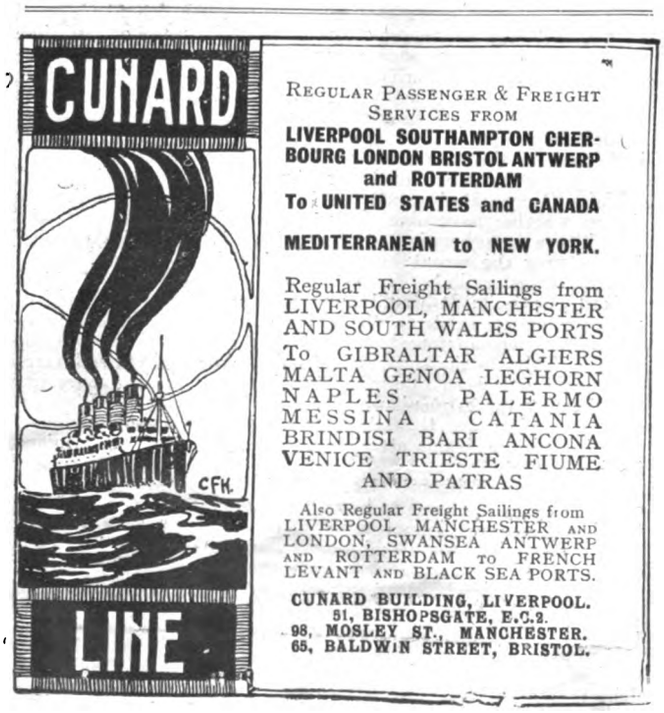
On January 30 I went to a performance of the recently-formed Russian Musical Dramatic Art Society, "Lahda." Though the interest, which was intense, lay chiefly on the dramatic side, it may be well briefly to note the music. It was all by Moussorgsky, except for some incidental music to Evreinoff's "Merry Death" by M. Saminsky (some of whose compositions I remarked a few weeks ago), and a folk-picture, "Vanka-Tanka," by Dargomijsky. Moussorgsky has a perfect genius in the quaint simplicity of Russian folk-music, and he was well sung by Mlle. Nikitina, and excellently by M. Rosing. M. Saminsky's music seemed to be quite adequate without being very original; it consisted chiefly of dances, the merits of which depend partly upon one's conception of Evreinoff's piece. Dargomijsky's music to "Vanka-Tanka" made it a very pleasing thing, for he, who was the first Russian, I suppose, to think of introducing humour into music, knew completely the art of preserving simplicity without being obvious. There is no nation with more natural genius than the Russian: in it chaotic greatness and cultivated perfection flourish side by side. It is the artistic side, upon the existence of which no two opinions are possible, that this society "Lahda" is so satisfactorily displaying.

The main interest during the past week was in the concerts given by foreign musicians—I mean the Czecho-Slovak Folk Songs Trio and the Ukrainian National Choir. The Czecho-Slovak concert was at the Wigmore Hall on January 31. Remembering what this newly formed Republic gave us last year, I was in high hopes of hearing something similar this time. As a matter of fact, there was only one bright star in an evening of cimmerian darkness, and that was the very fine singing of M. Milo Luka, a baritone. He has a commanding voice, and on this occasion was so masterful that he compensated for all the deficiencies of the accompanist, It would be foolish ever to miss an opportunity of hearing him again. His wife, Mme. Milo Luka, who performed both alone and with her husband, I regret to say, does not sing. She has boundless enthusiasm, and seizes with gusto on the rhymths of her folk-songs, but why this should be so is not clear. Her voice is shrill and thin, and her joyful personality is sometimes a hindrance to her song. Of the accompanist not much should be said. He regarded himself as a soloist, whose aim was to play loudly and (generally) belatedly a lot of unnecessary notes. An accompanist should be just as much an artist as a singer, but even in Czecho-Slovakia they appear not to be aware of this fact. England is therefore not the only country which sins. The violin solos which Mlle. Zdena Kubesova contributed were some of the most painful things I have ever heard outside a practice-room. She had a dashing technique which simply carried all the notes off their feet; semi-quavers and quavers were as often as not upside down, and as for the poor crotchets and minims, they were half on one side, and sounded very drunk. The impression it made was as if you, having stayed some time at an inn, heard outside a fiddler playing who also had refreshed himself, and were told that it was Wieniawski's "Faust" Fantaisie. The only difference is, that in the one case you would probably say "Quite so," and at the Wigmore Hall I didn't say that.

But another disappointment was in store for me. The Ukrainian National Choir, which I heard at the Queen's Hall on February 6, has had a tremendous "boosting" in the Continental Press, and certain of our own journals have remarked on its marvellous splendour. Now, I admit that I suffered certain disadvantages: I know neither the Russian nor the Ukrainian language, and although Ukrainians have told me that their folk music is far superior to the Russians', my knowledge extended no farther than that. As a self-acknowledged ignoramus, then, I perforce judged the music *per se*. I did not discover this choir to have a "soul." What I found was a quite wonderful technique, and a very keen perception of effect. The *pianissimos*, the prolonged notes with closed mouth, the fiery yet always controlled violence, were nearly thrilling. The fine sonority of the bases I admired immensely: the basses of the Eastern peoples seem leagues ahead of other peoples. The altos were very good also; they did no less than was required of them. But the sopranos and tenors we should not have to search very far in this country to beat; and I wonder what sort of reception this choir would have, say, in Wales or the North of England. As I say, the conductor, M. Koshitz, obtained wonderful results from his machine, but when, as occasionally happened, a little grit got in it, he had an impossible job in trying to rid himself of it. The tone of this choir (always excepting the basses) is like its technique; it is precise but hard. The songs themselves were so modernized that the orchestration often became as important as the folk-song itself; and to attempt to get at the soul of the people through songs like these was stiff work. I confess that after about an hour I became very weary, yet began to suppose that independence was, in spite of certain and not distant things, probably a good thing after all.

The London Chamber Society commenced its spring season at the Wigmore Hall on February 3. The English String Quartet, with Mr. Murray Davey as vocalist, and with Mr. Haydn Draper (clarinet), Mr. A. E. Brain (horn), Mr. W. James (bassoon), and Mr. Claude Hobday (double bass), to help in Schubert's Octet, provided a most enjoyable evening. The Quartet, who have attained such efficiency that over nothing merely technical need you worry in the least, played Debussy's Quartet in G minor excellently. This musicianship (the word, unfortunately, but I suppose of necessity does exist) is very smooth and sound; and although they have not very fully the power of suggesting what is outside the music, they work a long way into the music. The second movement of the Debussy, for instance (*Assez vif et bien rythmé*), they played with unsurpassable charm, giving to its *pizzicato* at once the delicacy and strength that come from true grace. Schubert's Octet is not often played, and it was very good to hear it again. Except for a slight and, happily, not persistent, tendency of the horn to play flat, it was given a beautiful performance. Its flowing melodies are so plentiful that it is very easy, when playing it, to suffer from an *embarras de richesse*; but on this ocasion everything was brought out fully. The balance between the string and the wind instruments was everywhere superb. In the first, third, and sixth movements the music was played absolutely perfectly. Mr. Murray Davey sang three songs of his own composition with Quartet accompaniment. In a deep voice he has some notes of very fine quality, but his own songs did not give him much scope. He gave to the Quartet all the important things to say; and only in the last song—"Le Repas Prepare" (A. Samain)—did he show that his modesty was unnecessary. He sang this song very well, but the connection between the words and the music was very far from being clear. They both have movement, but there is little else in common.

ANDANTE.



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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE MODERN CRUSADERS." By Captain R. E. C. Adams, M.C. (London: George Routledge. 3s. 6d. net.)

II.—"RUSSIA IN RULE AND MISRULE." By Brigadier-General C. R. Ballard, C.B., C.M.G. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

I.—PALESTINE FROM BRIGADE H.Q.

Here is a record in diary form of the doings of the 231st Infantry Brigade (74th [Yeomanry] Division) from October, 1917 to May, 1918. It therefore incorporates some of the most important events in Palestine, and for the more or less inside account which it gives of those events it is interesting. The disjointed form of the book, however, makes it rather difficult to read; and in despite of the radiant good humour which informs the author's views on most things some of the descriptions are too trivial to warrant publication. Generally speaking, the book does fairly represent the average British officer's attitude towards the war in Egypt and Palestine; but it is doubtful whether that fact will be a sufficient inducement to those who did not take part in the campaign here written of to read it. The practice of publishing diaries has become widespread, and its desirability decreases in proportion to its universality. Yet there is, notwithstanding the misleading title of the book, a local and temporary value attaching to it; and one of its best things is the inclusion of some photographs, which are well-produced and informing, and upon which we congratulate the author and his publishers.

II.—RUSSIA: PAST AND PRESENT.

It would not be an unwise statement to make that almost every settlement now being made in the Near and Middle East will be revised when Russia attains stability. Many of the decisions that have been made and are to be made by the Paris Conference derive from the collapse of Russia, and probably their strength will endure no longer than the impotence of that once mighty Empire. Of necessity, then, every man who looks more than a few years ahead must study Russia, her achievements and her possibilities. It is with the object of providing a basis for such study that Brigadier-General Ballard, lately Military Attaché in Roumania, has written this small volume.

It has been said of France, and it might be said of Russia, that her history is the story of the development of two qualities—the religious and the military. On the religious side of Russia General Ballard does not touch, but as a soldier he lays much stress on the military history of Russia; and for the rest he is inclined to regard her history as the history of her governments. In about a hundred pages he deals with the events of a thousand years, and it is literally impossible for him to do more than prefer a few and some very bare facts. Whether this was worth doing is doubtful, but it has one merit: his sources of information are entirely Russian (chiefly Ivanoff). As he has no space, however, to give the Russian interpretation of facts, his naked recital is not so valuable as it otherwise would have been. In the first half of the book (why it should have been called "Russia in Rule" is not obvious; might such a title be given to every country that has suffered revolutions?) there is one thing lacking, the inclusion of which would have proved very useful; we mean the conquest, annexation, incorporation, or whatever one likes to call it, of the outlying provinces of Russia—Bessarabia, the Ukraine, the Caucasian provinces, and so on. The author knows as well as anyone that the futures of these places are by no means determined, and in his history of the growth of the Russian Empire we think he might have shown the artificial or natural character of their adoption by Russia.

The second and greater part of the book is devoted to "Russia in Misrule," or rather to the antecedents and causes of that misrule. Here, of course, the author is on very controversial ground, but, although his horizon is by no means unlimited, it must be said he deals with his subject very fairly. Indeed, except for mild sarcasm at the efforts of revolutionaries and a thorough dislike of Kerensky's idealistic *fainéance*, he seldom obtrudes his personal views into his recital of the facts. In his account of Russian affairs from the beginning of the war to the beginning of 1917 he has endeavoured to collate different points of view, and the result is instructive. The year of 1917 he divides into three periods: (1) March to June, the period in which all good Russians attempted to make the best of the revolution; (2) July to the end of October, the months which the author calls the Kerensky period; and (3) the period of the Bolshevists. With the establishment of the "Red Terror" he concludes his book. His final judgment on Lenin's régime is: "The Russian nation has no longer any delusions about its present Government; perhaps a small percentage of the people are still contented with the present rule." From this quotation it will appear that the author does permit himself to express views as well as to announce news.

As we have said, this book is merely an introduction to the subject, and its merits must be judged more by what it will lead to than by what it is. Whether it will serve its purpose is not certain; for the author, though convinced that we ought to study Russia, does not really show why we should do so. His book, therefore, is a disappointment; his aims are scarcely attained, and the possibilities (his access to Russian sources, and his at least partial knowledge of Russia) of his work are not fulfilled. It is naturally, but need not of necessity have been, a disjointed effort, and the knowledge that he was writing for English readers ignorant of the subject has caused the author to devote undue space to elementary facts, thus making his book rather like a lumpy pudding. For one thing, however, all must be grateful to him, *viz.*, his Appendix II., which is the translation of an allegory taken from a Russian magazine. It depicts the relations of the Russian working man with his revolution, and shows very cleverly (how truly even after reading this book we do not know) how his feelings turned successively from worship to knowledge, and from knowledge to disgust.

BOOK NOTES.

"A History of the Nationalist Movement in India," which Sir Verney Lovett has written, is being published by Mr. Murray.

Messrs. A. and C. Black will shortly publish "The Salonika Front." By Captain A. J. Mann, of the Salonika Balloon Company.

Our readers will be interested to learn that Mr. Francis H. Skrine, F.R.Hist.S., a name well known to them, has had reprinted the address which he delivered at the Millbank Boys' School, Westminster, on December 8, 1919. The title of the pamphlet is "Democratise Education."

General Townshend's book, "My Campaign in Mesopotamia," is being published this month by Messrs. Thornton Butterworth.

The Bodley Head announce for immediate publication: "With the Serbs in Macedonia," by Douglas Walshe.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"A Kut Prisoner." By H. C. W. Bishop. With illustrations. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 6s. 6d. net.)

"Indian Nationality." By R. N. Gilchrist, M.A. With an Introduction by Ramsay Muir. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The First Year of the Czecho-Slovak Republic." By Alexander Broz. With a Preface by H. M. Hyndman. (London: The Twentieth Century Press (1912), Ltd. 1s. net.)

THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA.

We hope to publish next week an important article, based upon recent information, upon the future of Mesopotamia and Great Britain's responsibilities in that region.

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THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(From Our Social Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 26.

A Cold Snap.

Since my last notes we have had an exceedingly cold snap, such as had not been our experience for many years. To Anglo-Egyptian residents the change is welcome, as we require something of the sort to brace us up for the long period of hot weather through which we have to go in the years we do not take leave; but for the visitor element, who have come out from home to escape the hardships of a northern winter, it has come as an unpleasant surprise, though even a cold snap in Egypt is deprived of the terrors of slush and fog, which would have been their lot had they remained in the old country.

The change in temperature has not interfered with the season's gaieties, and has not prevented anyone from attending the races and other out-of-door fixtures. Thus, during the last week, in addition to the usual meetings at Ghezireh and Heliopolis, we have had the first of a series of trotting matches—quite a novelty in Egypt—and an interesting polo tournament at Ghezireh for the Sultan's Cup, which ended in a victory for the 11th Hussars' team. All these events attracted large crowds.

A Successful "Fancy."

The event of the week has been the fancy dress ball given at Shepheard's Hotel on the 20th instant, which was an unqualified success. This was undoubtedly due to the fact that not only was it given under the auspices of Lord and Lady Allenby in aid of a most worthy cause—that of the English School, towards which the British Government has recently given a substantial grant—but also that it was the first event of its kind since the outbreak of war. Year in, year out, Cairo has revelled in its masked and fancy dress balls—it has, indeed, been famous for them—and Tuesday eve's event did not in any shape or form fall short of its pre-war forerunners. From the point of view of attendance and of costumes it left nothing to be desired, and wherever one goes one hears the same remark: "A top-hole affair."

Before the dance, the dining and grill rooms were the scenes of many merry parties, and long before the hour fixed for the dance the ante-rooms and hall were filled with a large and hilarious throng of mummers, who appeared to have ransacked the bazaars in their efforts to disguise themselves, and had displayed considerable ingenuity and artistic sense in the choice and confection of their "glad garments."

There were pierrots and pierrettes, Arab sheikhs, Jerusalem Jews, Chinamen, pirates, the inevitable cook, courtiers, and their dames of every period as far back as the Elizabethan, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, wild animals from Central Africa, Johnny Walker still as young as ever—and most energetic in his efforts to direct a most amusing coster troupe, who between the dances gave a regular Hampstead Heath display—several *suffragis*, some of whom quite took in the guests, including a much respected General, whose name wild animals would not drag from me but whose munificent tip went to swell the school funds; and a host of other characters, who contributed greatly to the attraction of the kaleidoscopic scene which met one's eyes in the ballroom.

Prize Costumes.

Two prizes were offered by the committee for the best dressed ladies and the best dressed men, whilst Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Congreve, the Commander-in-Chief, and Lady Congreve generously offered two other prizes for the best male and female costumes, not costing more than P.T.100 (£1). There was great competition for all these prizes, and the committee, presided over by Lady Congreve, had indeed an exceedingly difficult task in making its collection from amongst so many qualified candidates. Eventually the Congreve prizes were awarded to a French lady, who came as "La vie Parisienne," and to Colonel Holmes, who looked every inch the ancient Briton that he claimed to represent. Of the other prizes, those to the ladies went to Mrs. Castle-Smith, who looked sweet in early Victorian costume, which admirably suited her, and Mrs. Alcock, who made a striking Carmen in every detail in the traditional costume and pose correct; whilst the men's prizes went to Captain Foulger, a handsome Mandarin, and Colonel Baggaley, a ferocious but excellently got-up pirate. At the end of the distribution the committee announced that they had decided to award an additional prize to Mr. Sydney Merton, whose costume as a "hot-water bottle" was considered to be deserving of recognition.

Dancing continued to the strains of the excellent Hussars' band until an early hour, when the merrymakers reluctantly took their departure, giving one another rendezvous at the Continental, where another fancy dress ball will be given on Shrove Tuesday. The committee are deserving of the warmest praise for the excellent manner in which everything was arranged, and they are to be congratulated on the success which crowned their efforts, which should give the English School a substantial leg-up.

The English School.

Mention of the English School reminds me that a delightful party was recently given there to a large number of children of the British community. They thoroughly enjoyed the side-shows which had been provided for them and the usual games which had been arranged, and their crowning delight was a superb Christmas tree. Rumour has it that the little ones of the community are to have a further treat in the near future in the shape of a children's party at the Residency.

Visitors to Upper Egypt.

The season seems to be going strong in Upper Egypt, whither many residents and visitors have wended their way since the turn of the year. Both the Cataract Hotel at Assuan and the Winter Palace Hotel at Luxor are doing good business, and amongst those staying at the last-named are Sir Valentine Chirol, Lady Rodd and her daughter, Mrs. Spender, and the Hon. John Collier and Mrs. Collier.

Amongst the latest arrivals in Cairo are Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Chesterton, who are making a short stay at the National Hotel. "G. K." has during the past week delivered lectures to the Garrison on "The Difference Between the Wandering Jew and Christian" and "Sight-seeing by the Blind," and he has now left for Palestine, where he will deliver a series of lectures to the troops in connection with the War Office educational scheme.

The Wedding of the Season.

A very pretty and fashionable wedding took place at the Ismailia Temple on Sunday afternoon, when Major Eric Waley, O.B.E., son of Mr. Alfred Waley, of the London Stock Exchange, was married to Miss Aida Ades, daughter of Monsieur Nessim Ades, the well-known Cairo banker. The interior of the synagogue had been most beautifully decorated with red and white flowers, the garlands having the initials of the happy couple artistically woven into them. Lieut.-Colonel W. F. Sterling was best man, and with him was Major Courtney; the bridesmaids were Miss Ades, sister of the bride, and Miss Balley, of Alexandria, whilst three little pages carried the bride's train. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Levine, C.F., who delivered a simple but touching address to the happy couple. Under the canopy erected in front of the Ark, in addition to the best man and the bridesmaids, were Mr. Alfred Waley, who had come out from England expressly for the ceremony, and Monsieur and Madame Nessim Ades. The congregation included Mr. Herbert Samuel, Sir Gilbert and Lady Clayton, Brig.-General and Mrs. Gregory, Mme. Rolo, Major and Mrs. Wethered, M. and Mme. Delanker, Mme. Naus, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Merton, Major Tweedie, Mr. Grafftey-Smith, Mr. Vereker, Mr. F. N. Walton, Mr. Devonshire, Maitre Merzbach, Mme. De Rizo, Mme. Spetsaropoulo, M. and Mme. Tueni, Mr. Nagib Sarrouf, Capt. Morris, Mons. Youssef Aslan Cattaoui Pasha, Mr. Adolph Cattaoui, Mr. Joseph Mosseri. The ceremony included some beautiful singing by singers of the Sultania Opera House, and during the signing of the register—Mr. Samuel and Sir Gilbert Clayton were among the witnesses—the orchestra played Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." M. and Mme. Ades subsequently held a reception at their residence at Kasr El Doubara, after which the happy couple left for Mena House, *en route* for Italy and France, where the honeymoon will be spent.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. February.	1920. January.		1338. Jumada I.	5680. Shebat.
12	30	Thursday	22	23
13	31	Friday	23	24
14	1 February	Saturday.....	24	25
15	2	Sunday	25	26
16	3	Monday	26	27
17	4	Tuesday	27	28
18	5	Wednesday	28	29

General Sir William Birdwood has accepted an honorary generalship of the Australian Military Forces.

Lieutenant-General Sir Aylmer Haldane left London on February 9 for Cannes, *en route* for Mesopotamia.

Major-General Sir David and Lady Campbell are sailing for India this week. Their address will be Mhow, Central India.

Raja Sir Hari Singh, Commander-in-Chief of the Kashmir Army, left London on February 3, on a visit to the battle-fields of France.

A telegram from Jerusalem to the Zionist organisation, dated February 7, states that Mr. Herbert Samuel has arrived there.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling will preside at the festival dinner of the Royal Society of St. George on St. George's (England's) Day, April 23.

Sir Robert Williams, M.P., of Bridehead, Dorset, and his daughters, have returned from a three months' tour in Palestine, Egypt, and the Sudan.

As a result of the two concerts which Mr. Eric Rice, assisted by Miss Janet Dunlop Smith, gave at the Æolian Hall, and at 26, Seymour Street, the sum of £280 is being given to the Children's Hospital, City.

Colonel R. Rosetti, the Roumanian Military Attaché, who was prevented by illness from being present at any of the entertainments given in honour of the Roumanian Prime Minister, is now convalescent, but will not be able to resume his duties at the Mission for a fortnight.

In the list of those who were present at the banquet given by His Majesty's Government to Dr. Vaida-Voevod, the Roumanian Prime Minister, on January 29, the name of Sir Frederick Black, K.C.B., was inadvertently omitted.

His Excellency Monsieur Michailo Gavrilovitch was received in audience by the King on February 9 and presented his Letter of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, at the Royal Astronomical Society's Lecture Room, Burlington House, Capt. Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, F.R.G.S., M.P., will read a paper on "The Organization of British Responsibilities in the Middle East," on February 18, at 4.30 p.m. The Rt. Hon. Lord Carnock, P.C., G.C.B., will take the chair.

The Coronation of the King of Greater Roumania, says *Reuter*, will take place this spring at Alba Julia, in Transylvania, the historic centre of the old Roman colony and of what is now Greater Roumania, including Bessarabia and Bukovina. King Ferdinand's Coronation, which could not take place for a year after the death of King Carol, was postponed owing to the war.

The marriage was celebrated on January 27, at St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Valetta, Malta, by the Rev. Canon Fargus, assisted by the Rev. F. J. Walker, Senior Chaplain to the Forces, and the Rev. A. C. Moreton, Naval Chaplain, between Major William Hallaley Brooke, M.C., West Yorkshire Regiment, only son of William Brooke, Esq., of Leafield, Moor Allerton, Yorks, and Marjorie Constance, youngest daughter of Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., Governor of Malta, and of the Lady Plumer, O.B.E.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Sir Charles Marling and Mr. Ernest Rennie, both of whom are known to our readers for their work in Persia, have been appointed as Presidents of the Administrative Commissions instituted under the Peace Treaty with Germany in Schleswig and East Prussia (Allenstein).

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on February 3, at Mysore, S. India, of Arnold, third son of the late Robert B. Baker, solicitor, London.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* states that Mr. J. P. Foster, a leading British barrister, died on January 31, at Luxor.

The death occurred on February 4 in London of Henry Neville Harris, late Deputy Inspector-General Police, Bengal, aged 73.

Colonel M. E. Sowerby, Under-Secretary of Communications in the Sudan, died on January 28. He served in Gallipoli and Salonika, and, as Deputy-Director of Railway Transport, he was to a great extent responsible for the administration of the Palestine Railway during the main advance.

The death occurred at Oxford on February 8 of Sir Thomas Raleigh, K.C.S.I., Fellow of All Souls and Deputy Steward of the University. In 1899 Lord Curzon sent him to India as Legal Member of the Viceregal Council. He was made Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University in 1900; and on the legislation and education of India he set an imperishable mark.

Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, late chief instructor to the Army of the Sultan of Morocco, died on February 4. Sir Harry Maclean was born in 1848. He entered the 69th (Warwickshire) Regiment, and while his regiment was stationed at Gibraltar he crossed the straits to Tangier and paid a visit to Moulai el Hassan, who was then Sultan of Morocco. His ability and personal qualities made so great an impression on the Sultan that he invited him to take up his permanent residence in Morocco, and to become Military Instructor to the Moroccan Army. The Sultan installed him in a magnificent palace in Fez, and gave him a salary of £7,000 a year. When Abdul-Aziz succeeded Moulai el Hasan as Sultan he treated Sir Harry Maclean as his sole adviser in all military affairs. The name of Sir Harry Maclean came prominently before the public in 1907, when he was treacherously kidnapped and detained for several months by the brigand Raisuli. He was buried at Tangier on February 6 with full military honours.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (January 26): Anglo-Egypt has suffered a great loss through the death of Mr. E. A. Harrison, which took place recently in England. Mr. Harrison, as general manager of the firm of Thos. Cook and Son (Egypt), Limited, has been connected with this country since 1894, and he has throughout the past twenty-five years been a prominent figure in the British community. Mr. Harrison was well known by reason not only of his activities as head in Egypt of the great tourist firm, but also of the leading part he has played in all charitable enterprises and in the local Masonic world. He was a man of keen business instinct and sound judgment, and his advice was always eagerly sought and followed by the authorities. It will be difficult to fill his place in the British community, and at a time like the present we can ill afford to lose a man with his ripe experience and far-seeing qualities.

The death occurred on February 6 at Oxford of Mr. Vincent Arthur Smith, C.I.E., D.Litt., I.C.S. Vincent Arthur Smith was born in 1848. He was selected for the Indian Civil Service in 1869, and passed out first in 1871. He was appointed to the North-West Provinces and Oudh (now known as the United Provinces). He was appointed a District Judge in 1895, was Chief Secretary to the Government, and then Commissioner in 1898, and retired in 1900. As a Sanskrit scholar, he gave his attention early in his service to the antiquities which abound in those Provinces,

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and thus wrote on the coinage of the early Gupta dynasty and the antiquities of Mathura. Historical studies specially interested him, and he described "Græco-Roman influence on the civilisation of ancient India," the history and conquests of Samudra Gupta, and the life and edicts of Asoka, the great Buddhist emperor. Mr. Smith wrote the "Oxford Student's History of India," a work in small compass which has gone through seven editions, a catalogue of the coins in the Indian Museum at Calcutta in 1906, and an "Oxford History of England for Indian Students" in 1912. He did for Indian art what he had done in the political sphere, by his "History of Fine Art in India and Ceylon," published in 1911.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A message from Constantinople states that the Turkish Minister for the Interior and Minister of Justice have resigned.

Viscount Allenby has issued a proclamation removing the prohibition on the import of gold into Egypt.

It is reported that from April to December, 1919, 4,807 motor-cars were imported into India, of which 4,560 were American and 200 British.

The Serbian Red Cross Society has given 10,000 francs (in Swiss money) to the League of Red Cross Societies for relief in Eastern Europe.

It is announced in Rome that Father Basilius Lucasiu, the Transylvanian Minister in the Roumanian Cabinet, is negotiating a concordat with the Holy See.

Graves of Yugoslav and Allied soldiers buried in Serbian territory are to be under the care of a special department of the Yugoslav Ministry of Worship.

All persons travelling to Egypt from the United Kingdom must have their passports vised at the Passport Office, 1, Lake Buildings, St. James's Park, S.W.

Ramadhan Shalash is still attempting to create disturbances in the Deir-ez-Zor district of Mesopotamia. A patrol has been sent by the Emir Faisal to effect his surrender.

French native troops lost twenty-six killed and the Moorish tribesmen sixty killed, and many wounded, in a fight near Mekinez in which the tribesmen were routed.

In the Prize Court recently a sum of £31,000 was awarded to the officers and crew of Submarine E 14 for sinking the Turkish transport Gul Jemal in the Sea of Marmora in May, 1915.

The Indian Government notifies the creation of a Forest Engineering service, the scale of pay to be the same as that of the Imperial Forest service. Recruits for the new service are to be trained in Canada and America.

The evacuation of Beyrout by the British troops was complete at noon on January 19. The whole of the area of French occupation, i.e., that to the north of an east and west line half-way between Acre and Tyre, is now clear of British troops.

Turkish newspapers in Constantinople state that the Government appears to have decided upon steps to prevent those Deputies from taking their seats in the Chamber who are in any way responsible for massacres, deportations, and profiteering.

A telegram from Algiers to Paris states that the Algerian aerial squadron, which is carrying out a flight over the Sahara, left Algiers at 2.5 on February 3, and arrived at Biskra at 5.15. General Nivelle was a passenger on one of the machines.

A telegram received in Paris from Belgrade announces that the Ministers of France and Great Britain have presented to M. Davidovitch, the Premier, a copy of the Pact of London asked for by the Yugoslav Government in its reply to the last Note from the Allies.

Owing to cases of bubonic pest having occurred east of the town of Hotin, access to Bukovina and Bessarabia across the frontiers of these provinces has been completely stopped. The passage from Roumania to Poland is allowed, but travellers are not allowed to return.

Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following telegram from the President of the Council of the Montenegrin Government:—"During a recent encounter in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza between the Serbian troops and three companies of Montenegrin infantry, the former were completely annihilated, leaving one hundred and fifty dead and over three hundred prisoners, with three large guns and six machine guns, in the victors' hands. Following a further advance of the Montenegrins, Podgoritza was evacuated by the Serbians, and many leading Montenegrin citizens, imprisoned for more than fourteen months, were rescued. Serbian reinforcements have at present stayed further progress, and as a reprisal Serbian troops have burnt several villages, more than 1,500 women and children being compelled to seek refuge in Albania."

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY AT JERUSALEM.

Based on a report by Dr. Weizmann on his return from Palestine, a programme has been drawn up by the Zionist Organisation for immediate work in connection with the Hebrew University, the foundation stone of which has been laid on Mount Scopus, Jerusalem. It is proposed to establish in the house of Lady (Gray) Hill on the site: A Physical Research Institute; a Chemical Research Institute; a Micro-Biological Research Institute, in a temporary building to be erected; two lecture rooms; a number of small rooms for lectures, administrations, etc.; and two reading and reference library rooms and a library. A start is to be made with a Hebrew Institute and a general course in arts. The plans for a noble range of buildings with a magnificent dome are now in London, and will shortly be made public.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1920.

EGYPT AND THE MILNER MISSION.

That Lord Milner's Mission should have progressed so far with its task that it is able to contemplate an early return to England indicates that the curtain is about to be rung down on the first act of a drama which will always remain an outstanding feature in the piquant history of Egypt. The announcement of the British Government's decision to send a Mission to Egypt to inquire into the causes of unrest in that country, and to report on the form of constitution best suited to it, was the signal for the outbreak of a series of riots and general disorder throughout the country. Unfortunately, owing to the season of the year, it was impossible for the Mission to start immediately after its composition had been fixed, and the delay seemed to lend colour to the belief that the Home Government hesitated to expose the members to the risk of personal danger. The mere suggestion served to encourage the opposition in Egypt; but the pace set by the extremists was too strong to last, even if the authorities had not felt compelled to adopt more drastic measures against the agitation. Order reigned when the Mission started, and no untoward incident marked its arrival in Egypt. No doubt strict precautions were taken for the safety of Lord Milner and his colleagues on their journey to Cairo; but the excesses of the earlier programme arranged by the extremists had been abandoned in favour of a boycott. No Nationalist, no patriotic Egyptian, was to have anything to do with the Mission; and to strengthen their resolve demonstrations against it became the order of the day. The Nationalists had overlooked only one thing in their elaborate organisations; it was the personality of the head of the Mission. They were prepared apparently for everything except the imperturbable calm and consummate tact with which Lord Milner met their noisy clamour. The Egyptian Nationalists were to prove the truth of the saying that you can fool some people all the time and all the people for some time; but you cannot fool all the people all the time. The student demonstrations continued, and prominent Egyptians publicly exhorted one another to have nothing to do with Lord Milner. Privately they arranged for early interviews with him, anxious lest their point of view should be overlooked or be prejudiced by the statements of others of their own people. Instead of formal meetings at which each speaker would be more concerned with the effect of his remarks on the other members of the deputation than with the presentation of facts to the Mission, individual Egyptians could unburden themselves of their real views to Lord Milner and his colleagues. It is not a matter for surprise, therefore, that the latter have been able within a comparatively short time to collect the evidence that they required and can prepare to return home in order to correlate their opinions and frame their report.

In the course that events have taken in Egypt Zaghlul Pasha, the head of the Nationalist movement, has remained practically outside the picture. A man, undoubtedly, of parts, he has missed his opportunity, either because he was not quite equal to the rôle that he had to play or because he has fallen a victim to the attractions of Paris. He failed to realise that his success was at its zenith when the announcement was made that a mission would be sent to Egypt. From that point he had the ball at his feet, if he had chosen to play the game. He showed, however, that there was nothing constructive in his agitation; he may have forgotten nothing, but he had certainly not learnt anything. His cry for "complete independence" had rallied the extremists to his standard, and appeals to mob passion could be counted upon to produce disorders. But a policy which had nothing else to fall back upon could never have taken Egypt far. He failed to realise in what a strong position he would have been if, instead of boycotting the Milner Mission, he had hurried back to Egypt and marshalled temperately and effectively the counts of his indictment, and supported his case with convincing evidence. He misread the purpose of the British Government, he misjudged the character of the Mission, and, worst lapse of all, he displayed his ignorance of his own countrymen. His henchmen in Egypt have done his bidding, they have received and circulated his fulminations against the British; but they had occasion, in spite of the boycott, to compare Egypt's best product in the person of Zaghlul Pasha with just one of the products that Britain could spare to examine the Egyptian question, and they were compelled to award the palm to Lord Milner. Zaghlul Pasha has ignored the recent history of South Africa, otherwise he could not deliberately have chosen the rôle of an Egyptian Hertzog, when he had open to him the career of a Botha or Smuts. Badly as he has played his cards, even now it may not be too late to retrieve his mistake. Certain it is that, if he does not make the attempt, Egypt will soon learn how well it can get on without him, and will institute a comparison between the achievements of the man for whom such large sums were contributed to enable him to carry on his propaganda, and the achievements of those who gave evidence before Lord Milner and laid the foundations for a constitution that will satisfy every legitimate aspiration of the Egyptian.

For, whatever may be the opinion of Zaghlul Pasha, there can be no doubt that the British Government is in earnest in its resolve to meet the wishes of the Egyptians as far as is compatible with the country's prosperity and with the interests and integrity of the British Empire. Our experience in Egypt has been a shock to the British conscience. Of the agitation and of the outrages, on which others might set store, we take no reckoning. The heartburning has been caused by the discovery how Britons have failed, under the stress of a most exacting war, in the qualities for which the nation's prestige has been gained. It is more disconcerting to hear that a subordinate official's wife has used her husband's position to secure provisions from natives at half their market value, and that bribery and corruption have flourished, than to learn of mistakes in high politics. Each offence has its roots in the same set of conditions, the temporary shortage of good material caused by the demands of the war. But the net result is there in the injury to British prestige, and the surest way to rehabilitate it is to leave as much of the future administration of the country in the hands of the Egyptians as is compatible with the safety and well-being of the British Empire as a whole. That the constitution that will be recommended by the Milner Mission will conform with this principle may be taken for granted. To make it a success Egypt will need to make use of all the best material that she has, and if Zaghlul Pasha claims to be in this category, he cannot do better than abandon his present attitude and endeavour to reinstate himself in the eyes of those of his countrymen who are becoming disillusioned in regard to him. Great Britain has no other object in view than to help Egypt make the best of her opportunities. She will bear no ill-will to Zaghlul, although his foolish policy hitherto must weaken for some time any confidence in his political capacity. It is probable that Lord Milner and his colleagues in the framing of their report in England will still need to consult representative Egyptian opinion. If Zaghlul Pasha hastens back to Egypt, he may yet be able to make a useful contribution to the common stock of knowledge by the ventilation of opinions which have been obscured or distorted by extremist excesses. An invitation to representative Egyptians to visit England for a final consultation with the Mission will enable the Government to make amends for an omission which, in the face of invitations issued broadcast during and since the war, has not unjustly been resented in Egypt.

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CAUCASIA.

II.*

A strong claim may be made upon our sympathies by all the Caucasians, and especially by the Georgians and Lesghians, who have carried on a struggle for independence, with varying success, for nearly 2,000 years, and indeed we may well sympathise not only with them, but also with the Cossacks of the Kuban and Terek in their efforts to escape Bolshevist rule.

But in the case of the Caucasians proper many people do not realise or remember that they are in no sense Russian, either in race, language, or sympathies. Nevertheless, many people in England would object to a policy of support for these nationalities struggling for freedom, on the ground that we must not interfere with Russians in the settlement of their domestic affairs, which concern them alone. It is to be hoped that a knowledge of the real facts may spread, so that if intervention or support by this country becomes necessary there may be no such ill-grounded opposition.

A real problem is, to what extent the purely Caucasian races and the Turco-Tartars and Armenians are likely to prove capable of forming stable governments. The Georgians have maintained an independence or quasi-independence for nearly 2,000 years, in early days relying for support sometimes on the Byzantines, and sometimes on the Persians, in later days relying on the protection of Russia, their country being overrun at intervals by Arabs, Mongols, Turks, and Persians. Finally they voluntarily joined Russia for greater security in 1803. The kingdom of Georgia, whose boundaries varied constantly, had latterly become divided into principalities, Khacheti and Karthli, in the eastern part, constituting Georgia proper, and Imeretia, Mingrelia, and Guria westwards to the Black Sea coast, being separate states. The latter countries were not joined to Russia till some time after Georgia had consented to that union, which the Georgians have never ceased to regret, for the Russian view of the union was that it surrendered the Georgians' right to be considered as a separate people, whilst the Georgians had looked upon the union as merely an effective form of protectorate. The Georgians are an extremely clever and ambitious people. Placed at the doorway between East and West, they look towards the West, and consider themselves as essentially European and not as Asiatic. Except in Guria and some other western districts they are all Christians, belonging to the Orthodox Church. Many Georgians are well educated and cultured, and under the rule of the Emperors of Russia many entered the Government service, and especially in the army, where they often served with distinction as officers. Under the Russian Republic Georgians have also figured prominently—Tseretelli and Chkheidze, to mention two of them, are Georgians. The Georgians have shown themselves to possess some military capacity, but their political capacity remains an unknown quantity so far. Commercially they are inferior in competition with the Armenians, who form a large element of the population of Georgia. The most that can be said at present seems to be that there are great possibilities of the success of a republic of which the population largely consists of a people as attractive, versatile, and clever as the Georgians. Time alone can show whether the necessary political stability and power of national cohesion now exist.

The Georgians number probably about 1,400,000, though a larger number is sometimes claimed. In the South, towards Armenia, the Georgian and Armenian populations are much intermingled, while towards the East in the Steppes of the Kara, some Georgians are dispersed among the large Turco-Tartar element which predominates there. It seems probable that the Georgian Republic will extend mainly over the old Russian Governments of Tiflis and Kutaïs. The total population of Caucasia, south of the Caucasus ranges, including Georgians, Armenians, and Turco-Tartars (of whom there are over 1,750,000), is about five and a-half millions.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is essentially Turco-Tartar, though a considerable Armenian element is to be found, especially at Baku, the capital.

Azerbaijan, which is the name not only of the new Republic, but also of the adjoining province of Persia, is inhabited mainly—as already pointed out—by Turco-Tartars; but the population includes many Persians, and of the total Mohammedan population of Caucasia some 2,000,000 are of Sunni and nearly 900,000 of the Shia variety, and the latter are largely Persians. At present there does not appear to have been any effective movement among the Turco-Tartars of Persian Azerbaijan to join their brethren in the Azerbaijan Republic across the Russian border, but such a movement may wel. develop. Both districts were at one time under Persian rule. The boundaries claimed by the Republic of Azerbaijan are at present too vague, and too little known, to enable more to be said than that they probably include the late Russian Government of Baku, with Baku as its capital, and part of the late Russian Government of Elizavetpol, together with an uncertain stretch of Caspian coast northward of Baku. The importance of this new Republic lies first in the possibility that it may form a link in a Pan-Islamic chain uniting the Ottoman Turks with the Mohammedans of Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Persia; secondly, in the possibility that it may cause trouble in Persian Azerbaijan, by inducing the Tartars there to attempt to join it; and, finally, in the fact that it includes some of the finest oil wells in Europe. Very considerable progress in culture has taken place of late years among the Tartar population of Russia, including those in Azerbaijan. But, again, as in the case of Georgia, one can only conjecture whether the elements of a stable government are to be found.

There remain among the new States forming out of Southern Caucasia the Armenian Republic. This, however, will largely consist of territories which formed part of the Ottoman Empire, but many difficulties will be found in devising frontiers between it, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

On the northern side of the Caucasus matters are scarcely so advanced as on the southern. Daghestan and some of the adjoining districts to the west appear to have formed a North Caucasian Republic. The Lesghians, who inhabit Daghestan, are, like all the Caucasian tribes on the northern slope, magnificent fighters. They were not subdued by Russia till 1859. The more central part of the northern side of the range is inhabited by the Tchetchentzes and Khabardians, and both these gave excellent troops to Russia during the late war. Still further westward are to be found the Fugushes, who are a relatively small nation, but they have shown a strong desire to assert themselves recently. The western end of the Caucasus on the northern side was formerly the territory of the Circassian nation, but most of them have been exterminated by the Russians during the long wars of the nineteenth century in which Russia was engaged in subduing them. The remainder of the Circassian nation is to be found scattered over Turkey. The actual districts along the Black Sea at the western end of the Caucasus are thinly populated—the Circassians and Abkhassians, who formed the population, having perished in the fighting (which only ended about 1864) or emigrated—it has been found impossible to colonise the empty lands with Russian settlers. Numerous attempts were made, but the Russian peasants who came were found incapable of living in the feverish climate of that country.

There seems to be no reason why these mountain tribes on the northern side of the Caucasus, who are for the most part connected in race and language (though there are smaller nations such as the Ossetes and Khevzurs which are quite distinct from them) should not form a republic or federation. Some such group is essential if buffer States are to be formed which can effectively bar the aggression of the Russian Soviet Government. The obvious and rational solution of Caucasian problems would seem to be the formation of a Federal Republic on the lines of Switzerland—the component States of which might give all the various nations and tribes a full opportunity of local self-government, and of preserving their national and racial identity. Such a federation might well include the

*The first portion of this article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of February 5.

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Kuban and Terek Cossacks. The States or cantons would be united for defence, and united in a Customs union, and would co-operate in maintaining and controlling the railways uniting the Caspian and the Black Sea north and south of the Caucasus, as well as the horses, wool and oil of such a federation would be very great. Even Armenia might with advantage be included. Unless some such solution is adopted, there seems little hope that the States forming themselves out of Russian Caucasia can long survive. The prospect, apart from federation, is one of continuous strife among the Caucasians themselves during such time as they may resist being once more subjected by the Russians. But there is not much chance that the various half-fledged States, composed of so many races, divided by religious differences, will succeed in federating themselves. If the Allied Powers will plan a definite policy and help, by promising protection, there seems some reason to think that success might be achieved.

INDIA'S GIFT TO NEPAL.

Reuter's Delhi correspondent, in a delayed message dated January 27, writes :—A letter is published to-day, dated December 27, from the Viceroy to the Prime Minister of Nepal, expressing the profound gratitude of the British Government and the Government of India for Nepal's assistance during the war. The letter remarks that Nepal contributed 58,000 recruits for the Gurkha battalions, besides war material, and states that the good relations between Nepal and India have been cemented and strengthened. The Government of India now makes an offer to Nepal of an annual present of 10 lakhs of rupees as a recognition of the sacrifices Nepal has made. The Prime Minister of Nepal, replying on January 12 in graceful terms, says that his Majesty and the Government of Nepal gratefully and thankfully accept the offer.

THE CAMPAIGN IN MESOPOTAMIA.

On February 4 Lieut.-Colonel G. P. A. Philips lectured at King's College, London, on "The Campaign in Mesopotamia." He said that it was no part of the German plan that the Turks should come into the war at the first. When they did the Indian Government was ready, and the first troops were landed in Mesopotamia almost on the same day as Turkey came into the war. Various actions were fought, and Kut was taken by the British as the result of a battle which was a masterpiece of tactics, and in which they beat a Turkish force greater in number than themselves and very strongly entrenched. If General Townshead had then advanced, his men were flushed with victory and would have followed him anywhere, while the enemy was beaten and demoralised; but he was kept waiting for six weeks, giving time for two whole Turkish army corps to come down the Tigris. Consequently, when he received the order to go on to Baghdad he met the Turks at Ctesiphon, and fought them under every disadvantage. For four days and nights his force beat off the attacks of the enemy, until it was decided that there was only one thing to do—to get back to Kut. Then came the retreat, and on one day the rearguard marched forty-three miles, only halting to fight, and then marching on again. When the British arrived again in Kut it was only to find that the Turks and Arabs had passed them on the road, and had got astride of the river lower down. There was no way out, the troops were utterly exhausted, and General Townshend decided to remain at this strategic point. The Turkish engineers built a wall practically round the garrison, and every day there were attacks, trying to wear them down. Sickness was rife, and the want of green vegetables and fresh meat was felt very severely. Eventually, in spite of a most gallant defence, the garrison of 9,000 men was compelled to surrender.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Arab Self-Determination.

In the *Manchester Guardian* of January 23 and 26 there appeared two important articles on the Arab countries. The writer refers to the causes of division among the Arabs, but states that there are elements among them that make for union. In politics this is especially so, he says:—

Particularism is strongest among the most backward of the Ottoman Arabs, the Bedawi, though there are no physical barriers between one group of tribes and another, and their institutions conform to a standard pattern. The movement towards national unity is making most progress in Syria, where the different districts are divided and subdivided by mountain ranges and creeds, but where there is more literacy, economic efficiency, and political experience than elsewhere. It looks as though this latter tendency were destined to prevail as civilisation spreads through the area, and we are encouraged in this belief by the wisdom and moderation which the Nationalist leaders have shown in their policy since the beginning of the war.

He comments at length upon the problems arising out of the Anglo-French agreement, and then describes the actual events of the war in Syria. He says in connection with the rout of the Turks: "Before French troops could arrive on the spot, Beirut had run up the Arab flag and set up a national Administration, while the Syrian army of liberation was entering Tripoli and Latakia." He continues:—

The French were disappointed, but the Arabs' turn for disappointment was soon to come. Both French and Arabs in Syria were under General Allenby's command, and (acting, of course, under instructions from home) he ordered the Arabs (that is, the Syrians) to hand over to the French the provisional administration in the greater part, though not quite the whole, of the coastal zone of Syria as defined in the negotiations discussed above. Thus we saved our own face and left both our Allies aggrieved; and our recent withdrawal from Syria, while it extricates us from an embarrassing position and vindicates our diplomatic good faith, is not so certainly to the interest of France, who pressed for it, and is quite certainly against the interest of Syria. The French and Syrian military administrations now stand face to face without the restraining influence of a superior authority; the French seem to be advancing into the districts of their "zone of direct administration" (in the terms of the agreement) which were not handed over to them by Allenby; there are reports of resistance by Syrian national volunteers, and it is to be feared that, even if Feisal has reached an agreement with the French, his Government may be swept away by a revolution, and Syria plunged into a desperate attempt to drive the French out by force.

He concludes with a presentation of the case from the Syrian and from the French point of view:—

What is the Syrians' case? First, they have a strong desire to govern themselves: the different sections of the population have proved it by taking part in the war against the Turks; they consider that the Allies are bound by their principles to respect this desire; and they point out that national self-government is being vouchsafed to peoples less fitted for it than themselves. The Turks, for instance (who, incidentally, were on the wrong side in the war), will certainly be allowed to have it, yet the Turks still massacre non-Turkish minorities. Nothing like the Turkish treatment of Greeks and Armenians can be brought up against Syria, and, in fact, there are no alien minorities there in the same sense as in the country beyond the Taurus, for everyone in Syria speaks Arabic, and the sense of nationality has been growing fast between sect and sect. The Syrians, then, deny the necessity of placing their country under a mandate, and in the second place they represent that France has special disqualifications for that commission. The two countries may have conflicting economic interests, for there used to be a large export of raw silk from Syria to the factories of Lyons, and the French could hardly look with favour on the Syrians' ambition to make use of the water power of the Orontes and work up their silk at home. But economic considerations are secondary. The besetting fear of the Syrians is that French policy would break up their new and cherished national movement, not, perhaps, deliberately in order to "divide and rule," but because French policy in Syria is sentimental and traditional. It dates back to the Crusades, when religion and not nationality divided and united people politically, and it rests upon a local championship of the Roman Church. In a French mandate the Syrians foresee a Catholic hegemony—not an ascendancy of foreign Catholics over all Syrians, which would not matter so much, but an incitement to the Syrian Catholics to leave the national camp and throw in their lot with France, which would mean the end of Syrian national unity. Recent reports indicate that the Syrian Catholics themselves are more and more taking the nationalist point of view on this question.

And what is the French case? First, a very human desire to bring home spoils as fine as ours. But the driving force behind the French claims is historical sentiment. "Remember," said M. Clemenceau last year to an advocate of the Arab cause, "that French interests in Syria go back to the Crusades." "And you, sir, must remember," said the other gentleman (who told the story to the writer of this article), "that the Syrians won the Crusades, and are proud of it." But those are terrible memories to call up. Moslems regard the Latin

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invasion of the Levant as we regard the Turkish conquest of Constantinople, and it is a rather sinister coincidence that the line drawn in the Anglo-French Agreement between the French littoral and the international Palestine on the one hand and the "independent" interior of Syria on the other coincides almost exactly with the boundary between the Catholic and Moslem principalities during the Crusading period. Across this line Frenchmen and Syrians are facing each other again to-day with arms in their hands. *Absit omen.*

The Turkish Tangle.

In the *Fortnightly Review* of February Mr. H. Charles Woods deals with the problems arising out of the Turkish settlement. He divides his subject under three heads, Constantinople and the Dardanelles, Armenia, and Turkish Anatolia. Of these two latter he says:—

With respect to Armenia, which should either be entirely independent of Turkey or, at any rate, subject to only a nominal and theoretical suzerainty, there is but little divergence of opinion, for it seems practically an accepted fact that an Armenian State should now be brought into existence. Consequently, the primary problem here is one of frontiers—a problem which cannot be decided exclusively upon the ethnological distribution of the inhabitants, for to adopt this course would be to reward the Turks and other Moslems who have endeavoured to solve the Armenian question by means of the destruction of that race. Here, therefore, the only foundation upon which to work is to establish a State sufficiently large to secure its independent existence and to enable it to receive emigrants now domiciled beyond whatever may be its future frontiers. If this thesis be accepted, I think that the six so-called Armenian vilayets (with the exception of North-Western Sivas), together with the eastern part of Trebizond, should become part of Armenia, her southern frontier being made contiguous to whatever may be the northern boundary of Mesopotamia. The Armenian Republic of Ararat is reported to have elected to become part, and therefore should be included. For the rest, that is, the questions of Cilicia and of a port upon the Mediterranean, a solution must depend largely upon the arrangements arrived at for the distribution of Syria and upon the identity of the Mandatory or Protector of the new State.

When we come to the remainder of Anatolia there are two alternatives—disruption and the maintained integrity. The adoption of the first would probably mean the at least partial realisation of the Anglo-Franco-Russian agreement of 1916, of the Pact of London, and of Greek aspirations at Smyrna. Such an arrangement, carrying with it a series of different mandates, would almost certainly cut off Turkey from the Mediterranean, and in robbing that country of areas which are preponderatingly Turkish in race it would prove neither durable nor fair. Rejuvenated integrity, on the other hand, would maintain, as Turkish, territories the population of which is probably 75 per cent. Moslem, and it would avoid the establishment of two rivals—Italy and Greece—as neighbours in Asia. No doubt therefore remains in my mind that the easiest and least unsatisfactory course of adoption would be for the Allies to abrogate the above-mentioned agreements, rendered obsolete as they are by the exit of Russia from, and the entry of America into, the war, and to prolong a supervised and controlled Turkish administration, with its capital at Constantinople or elsewhere, in all the areas situated to the west of the Armenian frontier.

Kurdistan.

The Times of February 2 discusses in a leading article the consequences of Great Britain's assuming responsibility in Kurdistan. Its comments on the new proposals are as follow:—

Apparently the new proposal is to accept a mandate including the whole of the Mosul vilayet, which will carry us into the mountains of Central Kurdistan, where the recent fighting has occurred. Such a decision ought not to be reached without the most careful investigation, and the Minister who ought to say the last word is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because he will have to find the money required. There is a pleasant but wholly delusive theory that the Kurds of Central and Southern Kurdistan can be formed into a "loyal" *gendarmerie*. Past experience of the Kurds does not support this assumption, and last year we saw the tribal militia on the Indian frontier crumble to pieces almost in a night. If we go into these wild and difficult ranges of mountains, we shall be undertaking responsibilities which may eventually prove immeasurable. The enthusiastic reports of local officers are in this case, as in most similar cases of the kind, extremely misleading. Before entering Kurdistan we should examine our enormous commitments elsewhere in the Middle East, the future of our Standing Army, and our financial position at home.

Tangier.

In the *Morning Post* recently there was, under the title, "Where East Meets West," a good description of Tangier. The writer says:—

On a moderately clear day Europe is clearly visible from Tangier, and the Straits barred in by the mountains of Spain and Morocco seem no more than a lake. Nowhere in the world do such a few miles of sea, so narrow a material gulf, mark such a vast cleavage between two worlds of thought and civilisation. For Spain is the West and Tangier the East, in derision of all geographical definition. For the visitor unaccustomed to the East, Tangier is a sudden plunge into the Arabian nights. On board the boat from Algeciras he may see a Moor or two, probably interpreters sent from the hotels at Tangier to assist the foreigner. The fez, the djellaba, or burnoose, that, not unlike a friar's habit, covers clothes of bright colour, the legs bare to the knee except for socks, which display with strange incongruity European suspenders, all uncovered, and the yellow slippers or babouches, announce a strange land and a new civilisation. But the great majority of the passengers are European.

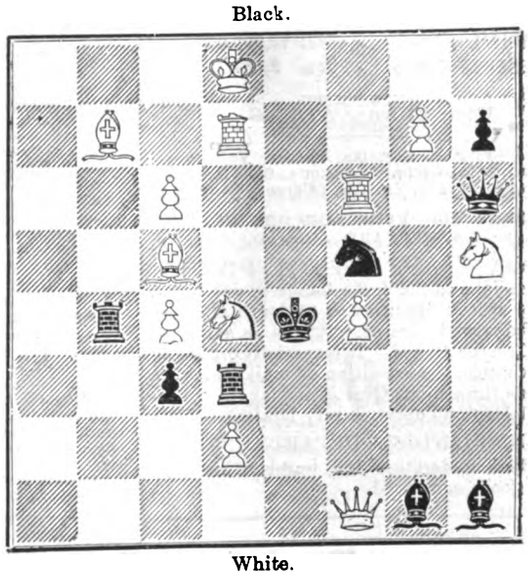
He then shows what Tangier itself is like, with its maze of streets.

The European would be far more at home falling down the White Rabbit's hole in Alice in Wonderland than he is at first in a maze of bewildering, tiny, zig-zag streets. Except for the cool shadow below, everything is dazzling white in the African sun. The streets, roughly cobbled, are all sharp turns and archways and unexpected ups and downs. The whiteness of it all recalls a war impression in the Italian Alps—the dazzling brightness of the snow tunnels which took the place of trenches in the high mountains. The impression deepens when, making one's way uphill towards the Kasbah, the ancient citadel, one passes between walls and houses washed with faint blue, a colour which in that luminous atmosphere suggests the transparent blue of the ice in tunnels which the Alpine soldier had driven deep in the glacier. In these tortuous streets it is rare to see a European. Dignified figures in turbans and burnooses of many colours, women closely muffled up in white robes, wearing the "haik" across the lower part of the face, or with a corner of their dress held in front of their faces for modesty's sake, fascinating children of every age, a water-carrier or two with their goatskins, and donkeys, heavily loaded, bumping their way down the steep streets, form a perpetual kaleidoscope. Grave Moors squatting on the floors of their little shops sell their wares without haste or acrimony, and Jews clothed in black walk hurriedly along with anxious, furtive step. A half-opened door shows a great, cool courtyard, ornamented with bright mosaic. Europe is in another world.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 13.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

This problem, by Frank Janet, New York, obtained the first prize for two-movers in the Victory Tourney of the British Chess Problem Society.

Solution to Problem No. 12:—(1) K—Kt3, K—Kt3; (2) K—Kt4 (Black's P of course still cannot advance), K—Kt2; (3) P—R4, K—B2; (4) P—Kt6 (ch.), K—B3; (5) K—B3, K—Kt2; (6) K—Kt3, K—B3; (7) K—Kt4, K—Kt2; (8) K—Kt5, P—Q6; (9) P—R6 (ch.), K—Kt; (10) K—B6, P—Q7; (11) P—R7 (ch.), K—R; (12) P—Kt7 (ch.), K × P; (13) K—B7 and wins, for if the BP Queens, white mates in two, and if K—R3, the mate is still threatened, and the pawn is lost. If (9) . . . K—B or K—R (10) K—B6, P—K7; (11) P—Kt7 (ch.), K—Kt; (12) P—R7 (ch.), etc. It will be noticed how after the sixth move White loses a move.

The annual University match is to be played in March at the City of London Chess Club. The fixture was revived last year, mistakenly, in my opinion, as Oxford was evidently far from ready for a contest. Reports from both Universities show that the game is far more popular now than in pre-war days, and I think it will be found that Oxford will put up a much better fight on this occasion, though I have little doubt that Cambridge will win the match, but of course there are such things as surprises even in chess matches. Cambridge has only had two victories over Oxford since 1904, the first occasion being in 1910 and the second last year.

Information is now forthcoming as to the terms of the proposed match between Lasker and Capablanca. Whatever the result, Lasker claims 60 per cent. of the stakes. The match is to go to the leader by eight games, but if thirty are played without that happening the title will go to the leader at that stage.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The latest news from South Russia is uniformly unfavourable. The Bolshevists, it is reported, have succeeded in advancing along the sea coast in the Odessa region, and have occupied the town. Further east the menace of their advance has led to the evacuation of Grosny by British and American subjects, and it would appear that we must be prepared for news of the occupation of the oilfields in that region. Bolshevist successes are also reported on the opposite shore of the Caspian Sea, and in the direction of Khiva. The loss of the South Russian market is a comparatively minor matter set against the possible damage to British interests that might be expected to accrue from the capture of the oilfields. One can but hope for the best, but, assuredly, the lot of shareholders in Russian enterprises at the present time is very hard.

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The effect on the Constantinople market of the Bolshevist advance has been very pronounced, a result which I indicated would be the case some weeks ago, when it became clear that South Russia was once again menaced. There have been very large consignments from Odessa and other ports, and the result of the curtailment of the South Russian market has naturally been that Constantinople is now overstocked with supplies. Of course, as soon as the position improves these surplus goods will simply vanish, but in the meantime it behoves exporters to exercise considerable discrimination in the nature of their consignments.

***

Apart from anything else, it follows that the delay in the peace settlement as regards Turkey is bound to have a most prejudicial effect on business at Constantinople. In this connection I am able to quote an interesting extract from a letter from Constantinople dated January 19:—"Everything is at a standstill," says the writer, "and there is a complete stagnation of business owing to the uncertainty of what is to be the fate of Constantinople. The public is very much unnerved, and no one thinks of business, consequently the foreign exchanges have risen considerably, and the Turkish pound has lost in value. The shilling may be reckoned at 21 piastres—420 piastres to the pound sterling. Under these conditions you can easily understand that there is no chance of booking orders."

***

Little improvement is so far apparent as regards the cable service. I understand that the delay in the case of telegrams to Egypt is 7½ days and to India 9 days. The position with regard to the Near East generally is most unsatisfactory, and I am constantly receiving complaints on the subject. In extenuation of the delays, it is urged by the authorities concerned that the number of telegrams despatched is now treble the number sent in 1918, and in addition that the arrears of construction entailed by the war have to be made good. But the Armistice is now receding into the distant past, and I am of the opinion that the time is arriving, if it has not already arrived, when we ought to hear no more of the war as an excuse for inadequate services.

***

First views from India on the reform of the rupee indicate a strong current of hostility on the part of the Indian mercantile community to the development. The fear is, it appears, that the measures taken will have a markedly adverse effect on India's export trade, and that falling exports and increased imports will put an end to India's favourable trade balance and bring about new difficulties in regard to the financing of imports. Of course, the higher rupee exchange by increasing the purchasing power of India should facilitate the stream of imports, but apart from any other consideration in view of the world-wide scarcity of commodities, it is, on the face of it, taking much too pessimistic a view to anticipate disastrous consequences as regards the export trade. Besides, whatever may be the case in the future, India's exports to-day consist almost wholly of articles of primary necessity, such as jute, hides, cotton, etc., and the fact that more has to be paid for these articles is not in the least likely to restrict the demand.

As regards companies in India and Ceylon, two effects of the higher rupee exchange are to be noted. The railway companies and business concerns which have simply to remit the profits home, of course, stand to benefit greatly, and in the case of the railways the increased profit on exchange will help to make good the increased expenditure which has to be undertaken as the result of the war. But the plantation companies which dispose of their produce here, and remit to India to meet the working costs, will, of course, be seriously affected.

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Mr. Walter Leaf, in his speech at the general meeting of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank last week, the report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns, touched on a number of the most important problems of the day. Referring to the serious increase in the price of cotton, which he pointed out was likely in the near future to hamper the growth of the country's greatest textile industry, he emphasised the fact that it is due to "an alarming shortage of the raw material." He drew attention to the competition of the United States with this country for the limited crop of Egyptian cotton, which had resulted in forcing up the price from about 29d at the beginning of October to 76d., and said that it was to be hoped that speedy effect would be given to the efforts now being made to extend the growth of cotton within the Empire.

***

Mr. Leaf strongly criticised the importation of luxuries at the present time. He quoted certain items from the Board of Trade Returns, and said that it was there they should look for an earnest effort of self-denial if they were honestly determined to hold up their heads before the world and to face their creditors with a clear conscience. He put the question whether the country had done its best to reduce the import of articles of mere luxury, and after giving a few illuminating examples declared that it would not be an over-estimate to say that of the gap of 150 millions or so which last year represented their addition to foreign indebtedness, at least one-third, perhaps a half, might have been saved.

***

Turning to the currency question Mr. Leaf expressed his unbelief in proposals for artificial restriction. The only remedy, he declared, was to stop the issue of claims to currency in the form of Government expenditure and Government credits. To fix an arbitrary limit, in his view, would simply be delusive. Happily, as Mr. Leaf pointed out, the temperature of the currency barometer has fallen a little during the past few weeks, though the normal is still a long way off, and will only be reached when the "Bradbury" exchanges freely for a sovereign and a sovereign for 4.866 dollars. That end, Mr. Leaf emphasised, can only be gained by steady and determined self-denial, and would be only definitely postponed and made harder of attainment by waste and luxury, private as well as public.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 18.

Improved Trade in October.

The statistics of the foreign trade of Egypt during October show an improvement over these for the corresponding month of 1918. Imports totalled £E4,885,741, and exports £E6,642,886, as against £E3,485,615 and £E2,980,875 respectively during the previous October. Re-exports showed a slight improvement, and transit trade was about the same.

The principal items of import during the month were wheat-flour £E209,173, coffee £E76,234, kerosene £E104,253, stationery £E118,369, timber £E83,215, coal £E413,761, nitrate of soda £E106,585, cotton yarn £E108,827, cotton-piece goods (grey) £E141,608, cotton-piece goods (bleached) £E242,556, cotton-piece goods (printed) £E247,229, cotton-piece goods (dyed in the piece) £E261,282, cotton-piece goods (dyed in the yarn) £E258,263, woollen and worsted cloths £E120,037, and tobacco £E213,586. The principal increases were in wheat-flour (Australia and New Zealand), kerosene (United States), coal (United Kingdom), nitrate of soda (Chili and United Kingdom), cotton-piece goods (United Kingdom, Japan and Italy). No preserved meat came in during the month, and there was a serious falling off in benzine.

Under exports the chief items were cotton-seed £E368,250, refined sugar £E83,268, raw cotton £E5,586,064, cigarettes £E97,238. The rise in the value of cotton-seed can be seen from the fact that whereas the quantity exported during the month was the same, the value was double that of the previous October. Cotton exports rose from 284,000 kantars to 610,000 kantars, whilst the value increased by over 140 per cent.

The United Kingdom doubled its share of the imports, and the only other noteworthy increases were Italy and the United States. Our share of the exports more than trebled, whilst France took a very much larger proportion, practically every other country showing a falling off.

CAIRO, January 26.

Effects of Spring Disturbances.

The State accounts for August, which have just been published, still further reveal the unfortunate financial effects of the spring disturbances. Revenue during the period amounted to £E10,043,899, against £E10,469,304 on August 31, 1918; whilst on the other hand expenditure rose from £E8,491,420 to £E9,371,726. In other words, revenue fell off by £E425,405, expenditure increased by £E880,306, and the excess in receipts for the five months fell from £E1,977,884 to £E672,173.

Under revenue the only items which show any improvement are, tobacco dues £E260,039, Ghaffir cess £E176,881, interest on funds £E97,638, and sale of land £E97,763. Very large decreases are recorded under Customs £E574,231, judicial fees £E138,326, and railways £E403,820. The increase in expenditure was fairly evenly distributed, but the largest share goes to railways £E540,979, war gratuities £E424,421, and Ghaffir cess £E105,527. There is, however, a decrease under War Office of £E195,164, and under extraordinary war expenditure £E178,505.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 16 (delayed).

The Depreciation of the Leu.

Another financial question engaging the attention of the Government is the depreciation of the leu. To-day it is practically impossible for the Roumanian to purchase abroad the manufactured goods indispensable to the rehabilitation of the country. The Commission de Valuta, the organ created about a year ago for the purpose of regulating all payments abroad and thus controlling the value of the leu, has ceased to function owing to its inability to purchase foreign exchange at the official rates and the impossibility of limiting transactions to the official channel. Severe penalties were provided for infringements of the law, but as the official rates fixed were far below the real market rates, the only result has been to take the exchange business out of the hands of the banks who were unable to purchase at the official rates and unwilling to engage in transactions at an exchange rate forbidden by the Commission, and to throw it in the way of the money-changers who have reaped fortunes. How profitable speculation in exchange has been may be judged from the fact that the market rate was about forty lei to the pound sterling when the Commission was instituted last February, while to-day it is 160.

It was simple to forbid travellers leaving the country to take more than 2,000 lei with them in any currency, and the confiscations at the frontier stations show that a certain control can be maintained, although how effective the control may be we have no means of knowing, as we hear nothing of the sums that are not found and confiscated. Until recently the export of jewellery was permitted, and many small merchants purchased diamonds and pearls locally and took them to Paris or London, where they sold them and used the proceeds to buy goods. The export of all jewellery and precious stones is now prohibited.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, January 31.

The End of the Krone.

The Ministry of Finance hopes to recall the old krone currency and issue the new dinar-cum-krone notes on February 1; one and a-half milliards of the new dinars have arrived from Paris, and it is hoped that these will be overprinted with the krone value on one side in time for issue at the date appointed; another 600 millions are on the way. This will be enough to replace the eight milliard krone in circulation. As a 1,000-krone note will be worth 250 dinars, it is obvious that to replace each 1,000-krone note there are required two 100 and five 10 dinar notes, for there are no 50-dinar notes. Thus will the Austro-Hungarian krone be buried. It is probable that the exchange has been fairly discounted, and that there will be little disturbance.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 11.

Lighterage.

The charge for unloading cargoes has been raised from £T30 to £T50 per ton, and there is a prospect of a still further increase. In a recent letter I dwelt upon the heart-breaking hindrances to business caused by the congestion in the port, and touched upon the outrageous demands of the porters and lighter owners which largely contribute to the throttling of commerce. Such is the power of the lightermen's monopoly that a marine agent who is responsible for the following information begged that his name might not be mentioned, as he might be *boycotted by the lightermen.*

While in most other ports of the world each steamship company has its own organisation for the discharge of cargo, or else there are a number of private companies that undertake the operation, here one is at the mercy of the bargees and lightermen. So powerful is their corporation that it is certain if a company were to commence the construction of lighters to be independent there would be all sorts of difficulties before the enterprise could commence operations.

To-day a lighter obtains £T15 a day, or about £4 sterling, and contains hardly 200 tons of merchandise. As goods remain for weeks at a time in the lighters, there is usually a heavy bill to pay. Imagine the case I cited of goods that remained in a lighter for 72 days. The lighter bill thus came to £T1,080, or about £280 sterling. As the lighters are insufficient in number there is never a day unoccupied, and the lighterman can therefore reckon upon an income of £T5,400, or over £1,300 per annum! And still they are not satisfied. Who is going to put a stop to what is nothing less than brigandage? What have the Allies fought for if their trade is going to be strangled by bargees?

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The Customs.

The Turkish Government has decided to re-establish the pre-war system of an 11 per cent. *ad valorem* duty, and has submitted the scheme to the inter-allied authorities, who have not yet come to any decision. The Government proposes to levy the duty upon the gold value of the goods before the war, in order that time should not be lost in obtained certified invoices and so forth, as the port is very crowded. Taking into consideration the depreciation of the paper money and the increase in the price of goods, the Government estimates the actual increase over pre-war prices at ten times more, but states that it will be satisfied with an estimate of eight times pre-war prices. It is proposed to draw up lists in which every article will be valued at eight times the pre-war standard, and duty will be levied on this basis. This is very generous of the Turkish Government, but it needs no expert to detect the fallacy of the scheme. Some articles are considerably more than eight times pre-war prices, while others are less. On the whole, it would be better to stick to the old method of levying duty according to a properly certified invoice. But as peace is to be signed shortly, in all probability the Allies will advise the Government to leave the matter alone for the time being.

High Prices.

There is a general and sharp rise in prices, but especially in foodstuffs. It was generally supposed that after the armistice there would be a fall in prices, but there is very little difference between the prices of to-day and when the Unionist profiteers were in the hey-day of their power. All the reasons that are invoked to account for the general dearness of things existed before the armistice, and in those days it is well-known that certain individuals made enormous profits out of monopolies and corners.

One of the principal reasons for the present rise in prices is undoubtedly the slump in Turkish paper money. This was brought about this time by the mild panic caused by the unfavourable political news and the fear that the Turkish lira would drop to the level of the mark or the krone. There was a rush to buy gold or foreign securities, and, of course, the rate of exchange went up rapidly. The pound sterling rose to 380 piastres, and the dollar was quoted at more than a Turkish pound.

In reality, there was no justification for the panic. There is very little likelihood of the Turkish lira dropping to anything like the value of either the mark or the krone. Turkish war paper hardly amounts to 150 millions, and the Peace Treaty with Germany in no way threatened its value. The gold which guaranteed part of the emission is now in French custody, so there is no reason at all for panics, beyond "bourse" manœuvres and public ignorance. It is an ill-wind that blows no one any good, however, and those who had the sense to exchange their sterling for Turkish money will make a very satisfactory profit shortly.

The Economic Effect of the Massacres.

The *Orient News*, in an interesting article, draws attention to the effect upon the financial stability of Turkey caused by the massacres and deportations that occurred during the war, and points out that the foreign bondholders are likely to suffer. For instance, the bondholders are interested in the Turkish tobacco crop, for 12½ per cent. of the tax upon land under tobacco cultivation goes to the Public Debt. Three such districts, which in 1910 produced over two and a-quarter million kilos of tobacco in 1917 produced only 922,379 kilos, because the Greeks had been deported from those districts. The loss to the bondholders under this head is estimated at £T1,200,000.

Again, the official reason for the 47 per cent. decrease in certain revenues in 1915 is stated to be the "emigration" of the population in certain important agricultural districts.

In letters written some months ago, I commented upon the ruin of the once-flourishing silk industry, and now according to all reports, Greek and Turk between them have finished off the best part of the Smyrna fruit-producing district.

It is difficult to find adequate expression for the abysmal folly of the Turks in coming into the war in the first place, and, secondly, in coming in on the side of the German.

MOROCCO.

TANGIER, January 29.

Importation of Sugar.

The President of the British Chamber of Commerce here in his last annual address remarked upon the curious action of the authorities of the Protectorate in discouraging the import of sugar except that authorised by them from France, notwithstanding the fact that any sugar imported from elsewhere released the same quantity for consumption in France, where it was so scarce. The situation in the Protectorate is now quite altered, and importation is encouraged no matter whence. In Tangier, however, this is not the case; sugar imported from one special refinery in France is controlled as regards price and distribution by an official sent here from the Protectorate to control all commodities imported into Tangier from France or from the protected zone. Some British merchants purchased a considerable quantity of sugar from a refinery in France, bought freely on the French market, and without any licence. When this arrived in Tangier the official mentioned above claimed the right to control the distribution of it, preventing its leaving the custom-house in the meantime. After considerable negotiations had taken place he found his position untenable, but the importers engaged themselves to give him the name of their buyers, though they were under no obligation to do so. The shopkeepers who had regularly obtained licences to deal in the French sugar which was authorised to come into the country were informed, however, by the official that if they dealt in any other sugar they would receive no more licences for the authorised sugar. An official request was made to the French Government to prevent the export to Morocco of any other sugar than that authorised from here. This included Java sugar transhipped at Marseilles under the French law that all goods transhipped at a French port become French on being landed.

MALTA.

MALTA, January 19.

Two hundred and twenty-five British steamers of a total tonnage of 503,205 called at Malta during the year 1918-19, and 132 foreign steamers of 184,407 tons. The increase of £169,713 in the exports of the island has been due to food, drink, and tobacco, raw materials and manufactured articles. The value of the imports was £271,654 below the average for the past three years. Cotton has been a notable import, no less than 51 packages arriving on one boat.

The Malta Government are in a position to secure the import from Algiers of 300 head of cattle. The export from the island of winter and irrigated potatoes has been forbidden.

The Italian local paper, *Malta*, has devoted some space to criticising the amount which has been set aside in the past in the annual estimates for depreciation on Government securities. Its criticisms have been proved to be very wide of the mark, as the fund set aside to cover depreciation was increased solely in the interests of the island, and was to meet any emergency in the event of a fall in stocks—Consols in particular. In the 1917-18 estimates no provision has been made for further depreciation.

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The Egyptian Cotton Crop.

By John A. Todd.

IV.—THE FUTURE OF THE EGYPTIAN SUPPLY*.

It is almost impossible to keep pace with the movement of events in these days, changes are so rapid, and so extreme. F. G. F. Sakel is now (February 6, 1920) standing at 82.50d. per lb., against 28.65d. for fully middling American, representing a premium of 188 per cent. The difference between the prices in Alexandria and New Orleans is still greater. In Alexandria, on Tuesday, March futures opened at 143.50 dollars per kantar; while in New Orleans they closed that day at 36.80 cents per lb., making the premium 290 per cent. The difference between the premiums is, of course, accounted for by the fall in the American exchange, a factor which is at last beginning to make itself seriously felt in the cotton market. The exchanges are producing strange results in other ways. Thus, to-day, New England spinners can buy their Egyptian cotton in Boston about 30 per cent. cheaper than the Lancashire spinner in Liverpool, and they can buy imported Egyptian cotton cheaper than they can buy Egyptian cotton grown in America for the same reason—at least they could if there was much of it to buy. Unfortunately, the latest reports of the Arizona crop are unsatisfactory, and the higher estimates mentioned in the previous article (45,000 to 60,000 bales) are now not likely to be fulfilled. 37,500 is spoken of as the probable maximum.

The moral of all this is obvious. It is of the very first importance that the supply of Egyptian should be increased at the earliest possible moment. It, of course, goes without saying that the fellah will do his best to increase the acreage under cotton in Egypt this summer, and it should be safe to assume that the area this year will be at least up to pre-war records. There are, however, two questions behind that: (1) Is there any probability of pre-war records of acreage being exceeded; and (2) given pre-war acreage, is it reasonable to expect a pre-war crop?

Taking the latter question first, it is unfortunately beyond question that the average yield in Egypt during the war has suffered considerable diminution, and that the reduction is not likely to be remedied in one year, nor perhaps in several. The main reason for that is the fact that the water logging of the Delta is yet to be cured, and the remedy, which is primarily one of drainage and reclamation, cannot be fully applied until further irrigation supplies are available.

That brings us to the answer to the first question. There can be no substantial increase of the area under cotton in Egypt, nor in the Sudan, until the various irrigation schemes now under consideration or under way, in the Sudan, are completed, and that will inevitably take time as well as money. For the benefit of those of your readers who are not familiar with the details of these schemes, it may be recalled that they are two in number, and entirely distinct in character and purpose, as well as in regard to the financial responsibility for them. Yet they are essentially parts of one comprehensive scheme, for the question of water supply in Egypt and the Sudan must always be regarded as a whole.

In the first place then the scheme for the erection of a barrage or regulator on the Blue Nile is intended to facilitate the irrigation of an area, limited in the meantime to 300,000 acres, in the district known as the Gezira, lying between the Blue and White Niles. That is essentially a Sudan scheme, and the financial responsibility rests primarily on the Sudan Government, who propose to find the money out of the £6,000,000 loan authorised by the Bill introduced into Parliament last Session. But while this is primarily a matter for the Sudan Government, it must be considered in the light of Egyptian interests, in order to make sure that the water to be taken from the Blue Nile will not imperil the supply available in Egypt, for the principle has never been questioned that Egypt has first claim on the Nile supply.

The second scheme is for a great storage reservoir on the White Nile, which is to serve the double purpose of holding back the flood in the White Nile in the early stages of the rise of the river (when the Blue Nile alone is quite sufficient to fill the channel below Khartoum), thus reducing the risk of flooding in Egypt, and at the same time largely increasing the possible supply in Egypt at a later stage. This is essentially an Egyptian scheme, and the fact is recognised in the decision that the financial responsibility must rest on the Egyptian Government alone. Funds will therefore not be available for this work out of the £6,000,000 loan, and there is danger that in the present disturbed state of the country, which has involved considerable financial embarrassments, the finding of the funds for this great work may involve delay in its execution.

The first point therefore which must be kept constantly before the Egyptian authorities is that, great as is the cost of these schemes, the profit to be derived by Egypt from their *immediate* execution is certain to be out of all proportion to their cost. It is true that all the estimates of cost have had to be raised since they were first planned, but the rise in the cost is not to be considered as against the rise in the price of cotton, and the consequent increase of the returns to be expected from the schemes. Financial difficulties, therefore, no matter how great, must not be allowed to stand in the way of these works being pushed on at once.

Unfortunately however, there are other difficulties than financial. The political situation in Egypt at present is most unsatisfactory, and it is necessary to make the Egyptian people realise that while the world is admittedly in great need of increased supplies of Egyptian cotton, it is the Egyptian grower who will benefit first, and probably most, by the increase of the crop. Present prices ought to be sufficient to show that there is no question of exploiting Egypt for the benefit of Lancashire or America.

But even political difficulties are not the last fence. It is very much to be regretted that there is grave danger of the schemes being held up while certain unfortunate differences of opinion between experts as to the best methods to be applied are still further threshed out. It is, of course, inevitable that these differences must be left to experts to settle, but it is peculiarly desirable at the present juncture that the authorities should realise that every year's delay in completing these works involves a loss to Egypt of something not far short of *the total cost of their execution*. The drainage and reclamation of the Middle and Northern Zones of the Delta would probably add at least three million kantars to the crop, which at present prices are worth over £80,000,000. There is a very large margin available there to allow of a fall in the price of cotton, and yet to cover the cost of the schemes in a few years. The total cost of the drainage, reclamation and irrigation of these zones will probably be about £30,000,000. In this calculation, no account is taken of the yield of the Gezira scheme, which would be very substantially in excess of its cost.

Delay, therefore, means certain loss. The risk of adopting a scheme which might turn out in the long run to be not quite the best that could have been devised is, of course, a serious matter for a Government spending public money, but there are times when risks must be taken, and the responsibility is very heavy on the Egyptian Government to decide whether this may not be one of them.

It is at least very desirable that the public should have some definite assurance that those parts of the schemes which are not seriously affected by the points in dispute, such as the completion of the two sections of the drainage scheme which were already in hand before the outbreak of war, are being pushed on with the utmost rapidity. Even although, owing to the lack of sufficient irrigation, the work of reclamation of the Northern Zone cannot be overtaken in the meantime, the completion of the drainage of the Middle Zone would go far to restore its pre-war fertility, and to increase the average yield per acre. That alone might mean a considerable addition to the crop.

It cannot be too strongly insisted upon that we are faced with a serious shortage of fine cotton, and that there is no other source to which we may look for early relief, except Egypt. Mesopotamia may come on some day, but that will take time. Egypt is the only country in the world that could give us a substantial addition to the supply next year, or perhaps even this year. The failure of the Sea Island crop, through the long threatened arrival of the boll weevil, and the development of the American tyre demand, both of which have unquestionably come to stay, are Egypt's opportunity. If she does not rise to it, the loss will be hers as well as the world's.

* The previous articles appeared on January 16, January 29, and February 5.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.—The demand for currants has slackened appreciably, buyers showing an evident intention to wait for a reduction of quotations before coming to business. Sultanas have been in good request.

Coffee.—The firm tendency of this market has been maintained, and what movement there is has been upwards. Futures have been steady. Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson point out that on its merits and the strength of the position, coffee should reach higher levels, but that this again is contingent upon the purchasing power of consumers, who now, in many cases, are prevented by the operation of exchange from exercising their buying desires.

Sugar.—Business has been less active as far as manufacturers are concerned. The market for refined has continued active at the controlled prices. There is nothing of interest to report from producing centres.

Oilseeds.—The market is strong, linseed being a particularly firm spot. La Plata January-February, Hull, has been done at 46s. 6d., while February-March has come to business at 45s. Rapseed is firm, with Toria at 55s., February-April, Hull. Cottonseed is a strong feature, with Egyptian nominal at 33s.

Oilcakes, etc.—English linseed cake has been done at 505s. and over. There is a good supply of cottonseed cake, and prices are somewhat lower in consequence. Oils are strong, with linseed at 108s. spot, and 109s. February-April. Crude cotton oil is rather weaker, but edible is unchanged.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report for the week ended January 17:—We have had again a very active week, with sales amounting to 60 cases of manufacturing qualities at piastres 835 to 970, which is equal to 17s. 6d. to 21s. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange advanced three days ago to piastres 435 per pound sterling for cheque and 0.86 dollars for one Turkish paper pound; to-day, however, we have a drop to piastres 410 and 9.92 respectively. The arrivals are 1,398 cases, against 195 at same date last year.

Messrs. Barker Brothers report for the week ended January 23:—We have had a quiet market this week, with sales amounting to only 6 cases of current qualities at piastres 920 per oke, equivalent to about 17s. per lb., c.i.f., and 2 cases extra selected Kara-Hissar at piastres 950—18s. 6d. per lb. The exchange for cheque on London is now about piastres 420 per pound sterling and 0.90 dollars per one Turkish paper pound. The market, although firmly maintained, we consider some needy sellers may make a slight concession should a serious buyer come forward to buy. The arrivals to date are 1,405 cases, against 165 at same date last year.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to November 30, 1919 (New Style January 14 to December 13, 1919).

	Monopolies, tobacco stamps stamped paper & Naxos Emery	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmae.	Drachmae.
Gross receipts, November, 1919.....	5,185,363	5,058,591
Do. do. 1918.....	2,616,579	2,371,000
Estimated receipts for 11 months (Law of Control)	26,491,666	9,808,333
Actual do. 1919.....	45,455,664	45,409,309
Do. do. 1918.....	34,296,054	28,944,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 11 months 1919	+ 18,963,998	+ 35,600,976
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 11 months 1918	+ 7,804,388	+ 19,135,666

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper and Naxos Emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos Emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmae at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

Grosny Evacuated by British.

The North Caucasian Oil Fields, Limited, have received a telegram from their Grosny manager, dated Constantinople, January 30, stating that he and other British members of the administration, together with their families, have left Grosny en route for England. The company understand that this step has been taken on the advice of the British authorities, owing to the advance of the Bolshevist Army in the direction of Grosny.

The Spies Petroleum Co., Limited, state that a telegram has just been received from the manager of the company in Russia, dated Constantinople, January 30, to the effect that, acting upon the advice of the British authorities in the Caucasus, all British and American subjects have been evacuated from the Grosny Oil Fields, in view of the danger of the town of Grosny, where this company's properties are situated, being cut off by the advance of the Red Army. The telegram further states that the British members of the staff of this company and their families are proceeding to England, and that the properties of the company have been left in charge of two of the Russian employees of this company, and that the manager considers that the properties are safe should conditions improve.

Oil Situation at Baku and Ural District.

The following report on the oil industry at Baku and in the Ural district has been received from the British Military Mission, Economic Section:—Baku.—Production in 1914 was 425,000,000 poods, but fell to a minimum after the capture of Baku by the Turks. The half-yearly output since the British entered Baku has been:—1918 (first half-year), 117,352,484 poods; 1918 (second half-year), 53,149,805 poods; 1919 (first half-year), 104,674,528 poods. In 1918 the Bolshevists exported 70,000,000 poods to Astrachan, since when there has been no export in that direction. The Baku-Batoum pipe line started working in January, 1919, but owing to its bad state of repair only 17,000,000 poods have been pumped. No considerable quantity has been exported by tank car owing to the bad state of rolling stock. Total exports from Baku for the first seven months of 1919 in all directions amounted to 20,709,000 poods. Owing to the great falling off in export, stocks have increased so much that no further storage is available. Oil is at present being stored in open ambars. The total stocks at Baku on August 1, 1919, were 209,235,000 poods.

Ural District.—Owing to the firmness displayed by the Ural Cossacks there has been little actual Bolshevism in this district. Conditions of working have none the less been very bad. No drilling has been done during the last two years, and there has been no export since 1917, as the sole outlet, viz., the Volga, has been in Bolshevist hands. All available storage has been filled. Total stocks on July 1, 1919, were 15,153,000 poods.

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ENGINEERING.

MOTOR TRANSPORT IN THE SUDAN.

By Joseph Rhodes, A.M.I.Mech.E., A.M.I.Auto.E., S.G.S,

The need for reliable and inexpensive transport in a rapidly developing country like the Sudan is realised by everyone who is sufficiently interested to give the matter proper consideration. There is only one solution of the situation, and that is motor traction. Camels and other draught animals are already in heavy demand, and no great development can possibly take place in districts dependent upon such means of transport. At the present time animal transport is slow, unreliable, limits the weight of loads, and is by no means cheap.

After a recent journey of 400 miles in the Eastern Sudan by light motor lorry, the writer is convinced that mechanical transport of the correct type can be worked as a paying concern, between the outlying districts and the railways. The arguments put forward in support of motor-buses in England are applicable to the question of tractors in this case, and it is well known with what success the motor-buses competed with railways and trams. It is not intended to imply that tractors are better than a modern railway or light railway, though they have the advantage in many ways.

A few of the advantages of motor transport as compared with a railway are: (1) No expensive permanent way, station, or running sheds are required. (2) A service of tractors can follow the traffic demand in any direction. For instance, it may be that during certain months transport is required for a cotton crop in one district, and at another season a gum or grain crop in another. (3) Native labour can clear roads for tractors, but cannot lay a railway. (4) A much smaller European staff would be required for tractors. (5) Tractor service is justifiable in sparsely populated country where a railway would be a commercial failure. (6) The capital required for tractors is a very small percentage of the large capital expenditure of a railway. (7) In the desert districts of Kordofan and the Northern Sudan, there would be great difficulty and expense in providing an adequate water supply for a railway, whereas enough is obtainable now to supply cooling water for motor tractors.

The Correct Design.

Without the proper type of tractor and an experienced staff of capable motor-men, a mechanical transport service is doomed to failure. Motor tractors are, as a very little observation will show, widely different in design; indeed, no type of motor vehicle differs so radically in individual makes. There are more than thirty well-known models of chain track tractors, and great improvements have been made in their construction since the commencement of the war. One cannot lay too much emphasis on the necessity of designers paying great attention to reliability and interchangeability. At first sight the problem of designing a suitable tractor appears to be comparatively easy, until one considers the conditions under which the machine must work and the possible difficulties which may be met with. All that is required is ability to work at lowest cost, and elegance, neatness, and comfort do not enter into the subject. It is plain that many designers have had little knowledge of the varied requirements of traction work in countries like the Sudan. The two outstanding difficulties to be overcome are:—(1) Soft, sandy stretches of road, and soft mud in the rains. (2) Shortage of water in the dry season.

To overcome the former special attention must be given to the method of driving and the area of tractive grip. There are hundreds of miles of firm, cleared roads in many parts of the country where, provided the tractor has fairly wide driving wheels, there will be no difficulty in using any of the up-to-date types which are well geared down to give ample power at the draw bar. It is when such a vehicle is called upon to cross the broad bed of a sandy watercourse, or a deep sand drift, that it gets bogged. This is caused by the wheels having to sink in the soft ground until a point is reached when the surface of the wheel support in contact with the ground equals the surface area required to carry the load. The ground resistance is being increased as the surface of support is being increased, and when the balance is reached there is no further sinking in. The smaller the wheel used, the more it will have to sink in before sufficient of its periphery is in ground contact. It will further be seen that increasing the wheel width will increase the effective wheel surface, and with a given diameter the depression will be less in proportion to the increase in width. Where it is undesirable to increase the diameter of driving wheels, as in the case of motor-cars with interchangeable wheels, this principle has been applied, and it is customary to fit dual wheels on the driving axle, as in the colonial model F.I.A.T.

Crossing Soft Ground.

In crossing soft, loose sand with a light motor lorry having a total weight of five tons, two rolls of strong woven wire netting, ½-in. mesh, were laid on the ground in front of the driving wheels. This method was found to be successful, and the same principle could be used for heavy tractors, using sheets of expanded metal instead of wire netting. The mesh distributes the weight and prevents the wheels sinking in.

This sinking in is undesirable because, if the wheel sinks into the ground it rests on a hole, and has either to climb out or push the load of earth in front of it along, to make a track for itself, either of which calls for a considerable expenditure of power, and so much so that if the conditions are bad enough, the vehicle will be unable to extricate itself. To negotiate the sandy roads of the Northern and Western Sudan, tractors would have to be fitted with the chain track, e.g., "Caterpillar" drive, and carry their own tracks. The opinion has been expressed that a motor would extricate itself from a bad hole by means of a cable and anchor, in a similar manner in which a river steamer pulls itself of a sand bank, with its winch. The scheme does not appear workable.

The Water Problem.

The vehicle can be found which is capable of travelling over wet roads and sand; therefore, before discussing the subject further, attention may be given to the water problem. Steam tractors would be the most suitable in many ways. If designed for wood fuel, the fuel would be cheap, and easy to obtain. The mechanism of the steam engines is more easily understood by the native drivers, which is also an advantage. On most roads the lack of water prohibits the use of such vehicles, unless one could be designed to condense its exhaust steam and so economise feed water that it was capable of travelling, say, 100 miles between water supplies. Unless this can be done the only possible tractor is an oil one.

The "Ford" cars used for transport work by the Army on the Egyptian Western desert have condensers fitted to the radiators for the purpose of saving the precious cooling water, which otherwise boils away. In a hot country like the Sudan, the tractor radiator would need a similar condenser, together with a fan of ample size, easy of access and with simple driving gear. The cooling surface would

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have to be extra large, and the water supply carried must be sufficient for 100 miles.

The very best solution of the problem would be the development of a suitable air-cooled engine. One of the well-known American Franklin cars with an air-cooled engine is at present being tested in Khartoum, and has now been running satisfactorily for some months. The engine is fitted with aluminium pistons, and works at high speed.

Bad Roads.

The conditions of the roads on the war front in France were worse than anything likely to be met with elsewhere. It can hardly be called ground over which the military tractors have to travel. It resembles more a morass. These conditions have stimulated invention, and it can be stated without hesitation that there are now machines which will haul loads safely over marshy ground in which a man would sink to his waist; in fact, it can safely be said that where a track can be found seven feet wide which does not present rocky obstacles over ten inches high, whether over sand, ash, clay, snow or marsh, on the level or on gradients up to one in three, the chain tractor has proved itself capable of travelling and performing useful work beyond the capacity of animal haulings.

The development of this type of vehicle is owing to the difficulty in working wheeled tractors over bad surfaces, and they are destined to occupy a position of increasing importance in the development of the Sudan, and in any new country where it is necessary to transport goods over roadless country.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Molybdenum Steel.

A new method of determining the percentage of molybdenum in steel by chemical analysis is by dissolving the steel to be tested in dilute sulphuric acid. The ferrous sulphate is then oxidised by the addition of powdered permanganate of potash, care being taken to avoid adding an excessive amount, and the solution is then rendered alkaline by potassium hydroxide and boiled, after which it is passed through a filter. An aliquot portion of the filtrate is then diluted, faintly acidified by the addition of a few drops of hydrochloric acid and treated with an excess of standardised titanium trichloride solution. The excess is then titrated with ferric chloride solution, using potassium thiocyanate as an indicator. In solutions containing less than 0.05 gramme of molybdenum per litre and having an acidity corresponding with one cubic centimetre of free hydrochloric acid per 100 cubic centimetres, the reduction proceeds according to the equation $2MoO_3=Mo_2O_5+O$. Vanadium may be determined in a similar way, the reduction being according to the formula $V_2O_5=V_2O_4+O$. If molybdenum and vanadium are both present in a steel, they are determined together as described. The vanadium is then determined colorimetrically with hydrogen peroxide and the molybdenum is obtained by difference.

Fires Caused by Hertzian Waves.

The fact that the cause of many fires which have recently happened in towns in the Near East cannot be explained, reminds one of the assertion of a French scientist that the Hertzian waves of wireless telegraphy were the sole cause of several fires which were brought to his notice. Wishing to corroborate this view, this scientist proved by direct experiment that it was possible. He devised an apparatus called an "inflammatory resonator," and in which he could place the substances necessary for experimenting. He used for the experiments a Rohmkorff coil, which was made in his own workshop owing to the difficulties of war. The primary coil was suited for a maximum current of 20 amperes, and from the terminals of the secondary, sparks of 45 cm. to 50 cm. long could be obtained. He initiated the arrangements for wireless telegraphy by laboratory methods, and with such feeble currents as described succeeded in setting fire to guncotton, paper, cotton wadding, etc., from a distance of several feet. In cases, therefore, of spontaneous fires in warehouses with bales of cotton bound with hoop-iron, etc., he believes that these could be set on fire by the electric waves used in wireless telegraphy.

The Bank of Athens is opening a branch in Port Said.

Lieut.-Col. George Clifford Miller Hall, C.M.G., D.S.O., late R.E., and late Egyptian State Railways, has joined the board of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines) s.s. Worsley Hall, for Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, Cyprus, etc.), will sail from Liverpool on February 14.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Beyrout direct, will leave Liverpool on February 15.

The Ellerman Line s.s. City of Oxford, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on February 12.

The Ellerman s.s. Douro, for Patras, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 20.

The Bibby Line s.s. Warwickshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on February 25.

The Prince Line s.s. Tudor Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria, direct (taking cargo for Cyprus and Syrian coast ports, with option of transhipment at Alexandria), will close for cargo at Manchester on February 20.

The Johnston Line s.s. Rapidan, the first steamer of the season for the Danube, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 14.

The Anchor Line s.s. Massilia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 18.

Notes.

The ex-German twin-screw 14,000 tons steamer Patricia, which has been handed over by the British Government to the Ellerman Lines, Limited, left Liverpool for India on February 7, with a large number of passengers. She is calling at Marseilles to embark about 2,000 Indian troops for conveyance back to their own country. With the object of giving the Board of Trade officials and members of the shipping community an opportunity to inspect the ship, Mr. Graham Smith, the Liverpool manager of the Ellerman Lines, Limited, entertained at luncheon, on February 5, in the spacious dining-room, a large gathering, when, in the course of a short speech, he said he wished to express, on behalf of the company, their thanks for the great courtesy and consideration that they had met with from all those who had anything to do with the vessel in preparing her for the new trade, the vessel having previously been employed in the Atlantic service of the Hamburg-Amerika Line. It was only by their united efforts that the company had been enabled to get the ship ready for her first voyage to India under their ownership. In conclusion, he wished to give them the toast of, "Success to the German ships under British management."

The s.s. Alexandra Woermann—a former German liner, allocated to the White Star Line by the British Government—left the Mersey, with a large complement of passengers, for Bombay, on February 9.

Shipping Movements at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, January 19.

Considerable interest has been caused by the departure from the harbour of several naval craft, said to be bound for the Black Sea.

H.M.S. Tumult, Somme, Iron Duke, Steadfast, and Seraphis have all left for the East. The transport Assaye has arrived from Marseilles, and the transport Magdalene has left for England.

Lord Allenby has issued a proclamation removing the prohibition of the import of gold into Egypt.

According to statistics published by the Greek Ministry of Shipping, during 1919 new ships of an aggregate capacity of 265,460 tons were added to the Greek mercantile marine, which now totals 550,000 tons.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended January 14 were:—Cattle markets, £1,688; general markets, £759; total, £2,447; total for year, £5,489. The figures for the corresponding week last year, ended January 16, were:—Cattle Markets, £1,339; general markets, £635; total, £1,974; total for year, £4,470.

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COMPANY MEETING.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK.

A Plea for Economy—Currency Problems—Mr. Walter Leaf's Statement.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the above bank was held at the head office, 41, Lothbury, E.C., on February 5. Mr. Walter Leaf (the chairman) presided.

The Chairman, at the outset, said there was hardly a point in the political situation which had not some bearing on the outlook of bankers, but he would be able to touch only on those which had a direct bearing on the shareholders' interests as proprietors of the bank. Proceeding, he analysed the leading figures of the balance-sheet. They were, he said, truly remarkable figures. Their deposits had grown during the year by no less than 42 millions, of which about six were due to the absorption of the Nottingham and Notts Bank. In so far as the figures were only a reflection of an inflated currency, these large figures were by no means a ground for satisfaction; and they would be entitled to congratulate themselves when a falling off in circulation began to reduce them to a more modest total. They had carried out the increase of capital proposed a year ago, and had raised the reserve to £8,750,000. To do this they had transferred from profits £165,720. The rest of the increase came from the premium on shares issued. There was a large increase under the head of advances to customers and acceptances. This was the measure of the assistance the bank was giving to the remarkable increase of British commerce and industry which was developing, as they had always hoped, with the long delayed coming of peace. The demands which they anticipated, and which were a strong motive for the strengthening of the large banks by amalgamation, were now coming upon the bank in full force, and at the present rate promised soon to tax all our resources to the full. He then made a running commentary on other leading items in the balance-sheet—their investments and the premises account. The Ulster Bank had continued to make satisfactory progress; he gave details of the bank war memorial scheme, and as to the staff, they had received during 1919 no less than £400,000 in excess of what the bank paid them in 1918, in addition to the bonus in shares given them in the course of the year. Further, they had just adopted a fresh scale of salaries, with a bonus for the current year designed to meet the needs of the staff on a liberal scale.

He could not refrain from alluding to the sudden and very serious increase in the cost of cotton, which was likely to hamper in the very near future the growth of our greatest textile industry. This increase was quite independent of any question of exchange; it was due to an alarming shortage of the raw material. The American crop had been materially curtailed by the ravages of an insect pest, which was, unfortunately, spreading till it threatened the complete destruction of the Sea Island cotton. At the same time the United States were competing with us for the limited crop of Egyptian cotton, which was of the utmost importance to Lancashire, with the result that the price had been forced up from about 29d. at the beginning of October to no less than over 76d. to-day. The prospect was undoubtedly serious, and it was to be hoped that speedy effect would be given to the efforts which were being made to extend the growth of cotton within the Empire. Their bank had, through its branch at Liverpool, so large and direct an interest in the cotton trade that he ventured to call special attention to this grave question. Referring to our imports and exports, he quoted certain items from the Board of Trade Returns—especially articles of luxury and foreign wines and spirits. Here it was that we should look for an earnest effort of self-denial if we were honestly determined to hold up our heads before the world and face our creditors with a clear conscience. Had we done our best to reduce our importations of articles of mere luxury? Referring to the heading of foreign wines and spirits, especially foreign brandy, rum, port, and champagne, he said it was, to his mind, a scandal that, when everyone should be earnestly doing his best to put the national balance-sheet straight, we should during 1919 have imported no less than £26,695,000 of foreign wines and spirits. Of this, importations from Portugal—that was, port wine—amounted to over eight and a half millions, and champagne alone to £3,861,000. It was an increase over 1918 of sixteen and a half millions—all a dead loss, a hindrance and a discouragement to those who were striving earnestly to set our national finances on a solvent basis. This was only a part of the whole system of wanton extravagance which was only too obvious. Remember that these things were not done in a corner. They were discussed in the United States, as he found on his recent visit to America. We are at present in the position of having to ask America, in one form or another, for extended credits due to our excess of imports. It would not be an overestimate to say that of the gap of 150 millions or so, which last year represented our addition to foreign indebtedness, at least one-third, perhaps a half, might have been saved if we had been content to live in comfort and eschew mere vulgar ostentation.

Great Britain and United States.

Proceeding, he said that he had had an opportunity of discussion with many of the leading men in political thought as well as in finance alike in New York, Washington, Boston, and Chicago. Everywhere he was impressed with the feeling of real friendliness towards this country, a feeling which attained a really astonishing climax in the reception of the Prince of Wales in New York. Wherever he (the chairman) went he was asked to say something about co-operation between the two countries. On the other hand, there was clearly a strong revulsion, after the enthusiasm of war, against European entanglements. Of the traditional boastfulness of our American cousins he saw nothing; the part that this country had played in winning the war was more than generously acknowledged, and he never heard a more eloquent eulogy of England than from the mouth of a Chicago banker who had held an important post with the rank of brigadier-general in the American army in France. When the talk turned on European mandates, he had rather to complain of American modesty—a reluctance to take any part in European administration on the ground that the United States had no trained Civil Service capable of the work. And it was clear that in this direction no help was to be looked for. When it came to a question of credits, the American attitude was distinctly critical and suspicious of our expenditure on luxury—all the more because they had imposed on themselves the severe restrictions of the prohibition law. This was continually brought up against him, and he found it difficult to reply. There was also an idea, which he disclaimed without hesitation, that the fall in the American exchange was favourably regarded here as an incentive to our export trade. But, generally speaking, the attitude taken was that which had been so forcibly summed up by Mr. Hoover, that the remedies for our own troubles were in our own hands, in our own resolution to work and save; and that it was neither prudent nor consistent with our dignity as a great nation that we should come to the United States with petitions for great loans to help us through. With that view he was entirely in agreement; and he could not help expressing his regret that well-meaning, but, he was afraid, mistaken appeals should have been recently made for amounts which could only defeat co-operation by their very magnitude. That was not the policy either of English financiers nor of the British Government. So long as we take the bold stand that we mean to pay our debts, and were well able to do so, and that we were anxious to co-operate with the United States in the great task of the restoration of Europe, he for one had no fear either of the loss of our commercial and financial place in the sun, nor of any serious discord between the two great Anglo-Saxon nations on whose friendship such vast issues depend.

The Currency Question.

He went on to say, the question of the depreciation of our currency, with its direct effect in the rise of prices, was a matter which came home to all of us every day, and was at the bottom of a great part of the universal sense of unrest. He was no believer in proposals for artificial restrictions of the currency. To say that the total issue of Treasury Notes should not exceed an arbitrary amount seemed to him useless; it came to the same thing, since the amount of gold in the country was a fixed sum at any time, to say that the currency could only be issued against a fixed percentage of gold. So long as the Government was freely issuing claims for currency, it must supply the currency to meet them; to fix an upper limit would in time merely bring us to a point when the banks would find themselves unable to meet their customers' demands for notes, and we should have to choose between bankruptcy or a removal of the restriction. It would be like trying to cure a fever by plugging your clinical thermometer at "normal," and the only result would be that you would burst your thermometer. The only remedy was to attack the fever, to stop the issue of claims to currency in the form of Government expenditure and Government credits. It seemed to him that the fixing of arbitrary limits, so far as it had any effect, was rather to delude us by the idea that the limit was the normal, and that so long as we were below it we were all right. The currency returns were an infallible clinical thermometer to measure the fever from which the body politic was suffering. Happily we saw our temperature had fallen just a little during the last five weeks; we might hope that we had reached the turning point. But we were yet a long way from the normal. Just where that would be we could only find out by experience; we do not yet know how many £1 notes would circulate when we had reached stability, but there would be no difficulty in saying when we had reached that point; we should have reached it when a "Bradbury" exchanged freely for a sovereign, and a sovereign for $4.866, so that London was once more a free market for gold. And that end could be gained only by steady and determined self-denial; it was definitely postponed and made harder of attainment by waste and luxury, private as well as public. That was the direction in which we could each best set ourselves to help our country now.

International Position.

Finally, he alluded to the International position, observing that it was necessary to take a wide and humane view, a generous outlook which took cognizance of more than the passions of the moment. We must learn to put aside all thoughts of mere destruction, and to recognise that the attempt to annihilate Germany by preposterous demands for reparation would hurt ourselves far more than it will hurt Germany, and would mean not only economic but social suicide for England. Nor must there be any boycott of German trade. The blackness of the cloud which hung over the Continent was alarming to us all, and was a gloomy background to all the hopes which we could base upon our own reviving trade. But the prospect must be boldly faced and fearlessly handled; and we might well hope that the coming year might see, abroad as well as at home, the turning point of our economic troubles with our own land in unquestioned place as the leader in the new civilisation. (Applause.)

The report was unanimously adopted and other formal business transacted. A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway.

The report of the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway Company for the year ended September 30 states that the company's share of the net earnings for the year is £157,679, against £151,479 for 1918. The actual rate of exchange was, however, much higher than 1s. 4d., the book rate, and adding the actual gain in remittance, the net earnings for the year are £174,567, against £164,634. After bringing forward the balance from last year of £27,011, providing for interest on debenture and preference stocks, interim dividend and bonus, interest on capital advances, and making other adjustments, the amount to be dealt with is £59,902. The directors recommend a final dividend of £5 per cent., together with a bonus of £3 per cent. on the ordinary stock, subject to tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, and that the balance of £11,102 be carried forward. The dividend with bonus recommended for the year is at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum. The total coaching receipts show an increase of Rs.2,41,793, due partly to the greater number of passengers carried, but to a greater extent owing to the rise of fares. The total number of passengers carried was 332,433 more. The total tonnage carried increased by 73,013, but receipts decreased by Rs.65,860. The coal traffic increased by 41,880 tons. General merchandise decreased by 3,612 tons. The capital expenditure during the year amounted to £2,203 on the open line and £3,619 on the Jhind-Paniput extension. Of the amount expended on the Jhind-Paniput extension, £1,297 was provided by the company and £2,322 by the State. Meeting, Gresham House, E.C., February 18, noon.

Shahdara (Delhi)-Saharanpur Railway.

The report of the Shahdara (Delhi)-Saharanpur Light Railway Co., Ltd., for the twenty-eighth half-year ending September 30 states that the length of the open line is 92.50 miles. The total expenditure on capital account up to September 30 was Rs. 44,00,756. The expenditure incurred during the half-year on capital account for additions to station buildings, etc., amounted to Rs. 7,157. The earnings for the half-year were :—Coaching, Rs. 2,39,819; goods, Rs. 1,01,196; sundries, Rs. 5,453; making a total of Rs. 3,46,468, as compared with coaching, Rs. 2,36,907; goods, Rs. 1,83,953; sundries, Rs. 1,076, a total of Rs. 4,21,936 in the corresponding period of 1918. The excess in coaching is due to raising of the third-class fare from 3 pies to 4 pies. The decrease in goods is due to restrictions by Government on the consignment of goods outside the province. The working expenses were Rs. 2,12,610, which include Rs. 50,000 transferred to credit of renewal fund, or 61.37 per cent. of the gross earnings. The net revenue for the half-year is Rs. 1,37,473, which includes Rs. 3,615 interest accrued on the surplus funds of the company, and the balance brought forward from the previous half-year was Rs. 1,96,918. The interest on debentures at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum amounting to Rs. 54,084, and the London Agency charges Rs. 1,803, have been paid, and income-tax Rs. 4,000 also provided for. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of Rs. 3½ per share, equal to 7 per cent. per annum, which will absorb Rs. 52,500, and that the balance of Rs. 2,28,806 be carried forward, out of which Government's moiety of profit is Rs. 23,736, and managing agents' commission amounts approximately to Rs. 9,000.

East Indian Coal.

The report of the East Indian Coal Company for the half-year ended October 31 states that, after making the usual allowance for the depreciation of buildings, plant, and machinery, writing £15,000 off development account, and adding £10,000 to general reserve, the half-year has resulted in a profit of £19,080, making, with £3,102 brought forward, a total of £22,182. An interim dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, was paid on January 2, and the balance to be carried forward is £4,182. The output was 427,374 tons during the half-year, against 313,359 tons. The loan from Messrs. Jardine Skinner and Co. has been substantially reduced during the past half-year, and a further reduction should be effected during the current half-year. Meeting, 14, Billiter Street, E.C., February 17, noon.

SALE OF STALYBRIDGE MILLS.

A circular has been issued by Messrs. Henry Bannerman and Sons, Ltd., of which Sir Charles Macara is chairman, announcing that a change has taken place in connection with the Bannerman Mills Co., Ltd., of which they are the proprietors. The merchant business of Henry Bannerman and Sons was established 115 years ago. Subsequently the mills known as the Bannerman Mills Co., Ltd., were carried on by the members of the firm of Henry Bannerman and Sons, but as separate concerns. These businesses, although converted into limited companies, remained the property of Henry Bannerman and Sons, Ltd. After the original purchase of mills at Manchester and Dukinfield, spinning mills at Stalybridge were acquired. The Stalybridge mills were mostly engaged in spinning yarn for sale and export. It has now been decided to dispose of these latter mills and to carry on and extend the original mills at Manchester and Dukinfield (at which both spinning and weaving cotton are carried on) under the sole proprietorship as heretofore of Henry Bannerman and Sons, Ltd. The purchaser of the Stalybridge Mills is Mr. Samuel Langshaw, of Lees, near Oldham, on behalf of a syndicate.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended December 31 amounted to £E16,663, making the total for the year £E278.427. The figures for the corresponding period of 1918 were £E14,188 and £E272,209.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

We continue to experience a very strong market. Price concessions are quite out of the question, and the tendency of values has been against buyers. The position of affairs with regard to Egyptian cotton becomes more extraordinary from week to week, and another substantial rise in quotations has to be recorded. The demand for the article is very extensive, both for Lancashire and the United States. The requirements of tyre cloth producing companies are increasing by leaps and bounds. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton have been put up in price very firmly. Small lots have been sold at tremendous figures. Producers experience no difficulty in clearing the output of the machinery, and many spinners are fully sold up to the end of this year. In piece goods for Egypt, sales have not been quite so numerous this week. The demand, however, is persistent, and the falling off in the turnover is only expected to be temporary. Some shippers to the Levant are now showing less enterprise, as there are reports of dealers on the other side being over-supplied. More business has come round in piece goods for India. Encouraging sales have occurred for China. The South American outlets have given useful support. Manufacturers as a body have met with plenty of demand, and much more cloth could be sold but for the fact that the output of the looms is not nearly sufficient to meet the requirements of customers. American yarns have been stiff in quotation, but trading has not been very important. Twists well maintain their strong position, but the lower numbers in wefts are getting a little more plentiful. Demand continues to be met with in coarse numbers for the Levant, and trade remains active for India.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at November 30, 1919, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

		£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund:		
Statutory Reserve		1,462,500
Special Reserve		487,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts		16,910,894
Mixed Tribunals		2,663,752
Egyptian Government		10,499,977
Bankers Accounts		1,060,937
Cheques and Bills payable		201,899
Sundry other Accounts		1,496,595
		£E.37,709,054
		£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		14,062,739
Sundry Securities		228,819
Advances on Merchandise		7,274,088
Advances on Securities		1,613,124
Advances otherwise Secured		316,057
Sundry other Advances		461,214
Bills of Exchange		6,884,528
Local Bills Discounted		78,096
Buildings and Furniture		237,019
Money at call and at short notice		1,564,875
Bankers Accounts		1,307,097
Sudan Government		65,574
Sundry other Accounts		554,684
Cash :—	£E.	
Notes	2,716,472	
Gold	21,641	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	323,027	
		3,061,140
		£E.37,709,054

Issue Department.

		£E.
Notes Issued		67,000,000
		£E.67,000,000
Gold	3,333,190	£E.
*British Treasury Bills	30,166,810	
		33,500,000
Securities:—		
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	534,917	
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	32,965,083	
		33,500,000
		£E.67,000,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills deposited in lieu of Gold. (See "Journal Officiel" 30th October, 1916).

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, London, W., successfully recommends Chaperons, Lady Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Lady Nurses, Nurse Companions, etc.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

PANDERMA, January 15.

As was indicated in the previous report, the collection of the tithes from olives of the regions bordering our town which had been put up for auction towards the end of November has finally been adjudged for £T36,500. The production of the crop is estimated at more than 1,300,000 kilos, and the forecasts of the price of olives indicate a rise in this produce.

The rains that have fallen during the month have been so abundant that their continuance threatens, we understand, the winter sowings in the plains or in the flat country. On the other hand, the sowings on higher land or on the hills are greatly benefiting by this excess of rain.

Business has been very quiet during the month.

STAMBOUL, January 17.

The Constantinople market has suffered this week from the influence of a marked rise in the price of exchange and of gold, which has thrown business here into confusion. However, the prices of merchandise have increased in a proportionate measure to the more or less strong demand for them. But the high course of the exchange, which seems largely to have been reached as the result of speculation, could not long be maintained, and a sharp recoil followed, leaving the market, so to speak, disorganised.

Manufactures.

The high prices continue at Manchester. Raw cotton has reached 37¼d. per lb. (the highest price during the war was 26d.), and manufacturers refuse all delivery for 1920, the nearest date being from 16 to 18 months. It is estimated that both in England and America the prices of all kinds of manufactured goods have risen at least 50 per cent. since the Armistice. In these conditions merchants who take delivery of their orders in England find it easy to realise in the same place.

During the week three vessels arrived from England and one from America loaded in part with manufactured goods. But it is estimated that there will be a marked decrease in future arrivals. Thanks to purchases made by the large houses from weak holders, the crisis that was feared has been averted.

The Public Works Department in Tunis has just introduced a measure created by the decree of December 29, 1913. A committee has been appointed to examine all claims affecting mineral taxes. It is presided over by the Director-General of Public Works, and is composed of the Chief Inspector of Mines, a representative of the Financial Administration, and two mining prospectors.

The receipts of the Egyptian markets for the week ended January 28 were:—Cattle markets, £1,641; general markets, £682; total, £2,323; total for year, £10,062.

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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

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Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

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NEW COMPANIES.

Baltic and Black Sea Grain.

The Baltic and Black Sea Grain Co., Ltd., was registered on January 23 as a private company, with a capital of £15,000, in 1s. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of grain importers and exporters, shipowners, etc., in the United Kingdom, British Dominions, Russia, or elsewhere. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Solicitor: H. J. Fisher, 9, Great St. Helens, E.C. Registered office: 14, Copthall Avenue, E.C.

Seferiadis Tobacco.

The Seferiadis Tobacco Co., Ltd., was registered on January 28 as a private company, with a capital of £100,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To take over the business of a tobacco merchant and manufacturer carried on by B. Seferiadis as the Seferiadis Tobacco Co. The first directors are:—B. Seferiadis, 10, Berkeley Street, W., tobacco merchant; L. Jacoubovitch, 20, Jermyn Street, S.W., banker; S. de Castro, 20, Jermyn Street, S.W., merchant; M. Berline, 48, Onslow Square, S.W., gentleman. All the above are directors of De Sefi, Ltd., and all, except L. Jacoubovitch, are directors of the Russian Foreign Trade Co. Solicitor: T. Trimnell, 71, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

Oriental Mercantile Air Navigation.

The Oriental Mercantile Air Navigation, Ltd., was registered on January 15 with a capital of £225,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in aircraft, etc., and to enter into an agreement with the I.A.C. Syndicate, Ltd. The first directors are:—A. M. Barnes, J. A. Gant, J. W. Jones, and W. J. V. Hoytema. Solicitors: Corbould-Ellis and Co., 1, Church Court, Clements Lane, E.C.

United Oil and Coal Corporation.

The United Oil and Coal Corporation, Ltd., was registered on February 4, with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers and sellers of a compound and combination of oil and pulverised coal, coke, lignite, or other material, vendors of oil for fuel, lubricating, lighting, or heating purposes, manufacturers of apparatus for the lubrication of machinery and engines, manufacturers of patent fuel, etc. The first directors are:—Sir Frederick W. Black, K.C.B., 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.; Sir Byron Peters, K.B.E., M.I.M.E., 3a, Deans Yard, Westminster; T. Jowett, 51, Savoy Court, W.C., manufacturer; W. T. Watts, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. Registered office: 38, Victoria Street, Westminster.

Algiers Bunkering Association.

The Algiers Bunkering Association, Limited, was registered on January 31 as a private company with a capital of £25,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of steamship bunkerers and agents, coal, coke, oil and fuel merchants, contractors and agents, coal dischargers, stevedores, owners of coal depots at Algiers or elsewhere, etc., and to adopt an agreement with Frank C. Strick and Co., Limited. The first directors are: F. C. Strick, E. Brodrick, and A. L. Thomson. F. C. Strick may retain office, while F. C. Strick and Co., Limited, hold £2,000 shares, and E. Brodrick may retain office while Sir John R. Ellerman holds £2,000 shares. Managers, Frank C. Strick and Co., Limited. Solicitors, Bullen, Debenham and Co., 52-53, Cheapside, E.C. Registered office, Baltic House, 127, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

London, Paris and Marseilles Steamship.

The London Paris and Marseilles Steamship Co., Limited, was registered February 4 with a capital of £1,000,000 in £10 shares (50,000 preference). Objects: To carry on the business of shipowners, carriers by land and water, shipping managers, chartering agents, wharfingers, etc. The subscribers (one share each): H. C. Albino, The Manor House, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucester, shipowner; A. L. Thomson, 9, St. Albans Road, Kensington, W.8, shipowner; A. E. O'Neill, The Moorings, Bushey Hall Road, Bushey, shipowner; A. Walker, 206, Walm Lane, Cricklewood, N.W.2, marine engineer; R. W. Woods, 13, Upper Phillimore Gardens, W.8, solicitor; J. W. Holmes, The Shute, St. Laurence, I.W., merchant; H. M. A. Hennessy, Bourton, Station Road, Wokingham, secretary to steamship company. Minimum cash subscription, seven shares. First directors: Felix G. Chacon, F. C. Strick, F. G. Jonas, A. Walker, A. L. Thomson, H. C. Albino, J. W. Holmes, R. W. Woods, and A. E. O'Neill. Qualification, £500. Managers, Frank C. Strick and Co., Ltd.

"Bragosev," Ltd.

"Bragosev," Ltd., was registered as a private company on February 2 with a capital of £1,000,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of timber merchants, sawmill proprietors, timber growers, manufacturers of and dealers in wood goods, etc.; also to establish and maintain lines of steam and other ships between the United Kingdom and Poland, Russia, Baltic and Eastern ports, and elsewhere. The subscribers (one share each) are: F. Thwaite, 4, Langham Mansions, Earl's Court Square, S.W., solicitor; E. C. Mercer, 38, Morrison Street, S.W., solicitor's clerk. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Solicitor: W. E. Pickerd, 20, Gamage Buildings, 118-122, Holborn, E.C.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

The firmer tone at the end of last week did not last long; a further depreciation in the European exchanges brought out a good bit of selling of Government stocks, and this, coupled with a bout of profit-taking in Egypt, caused a certain amount of depreciation here, so that most prices are lower this week. At the close, however, a better feeling seems to have come over the Egyptian market, and there is again some renewal of inquiry from that side at the lower prices now current, with every indication that, should the European exchanges stop depreciating, there will be a sharp rally in prices. Egyptian Unifieds are 3½ points down at 75, and the 3½ per cent. Prefs. have dropped two points to 63½. The Turkish 3½ per cent. Egyptian Tributes are half a point lower at 60½, and City of Alexandria Bonds, after dropping to 68, finish half a point down at 69. Turkish Unifieds have also dropped 1½ points to 36.

In Bank shares, Nationals, on some quite small sales, have tumbled rather heavily one point to 22¾, and Agriculturals are a quarter down at 5½. There has been a sensational movement upwards in Anglo-Egyptian Banks to 19¾, a rise of two points, on various unconfirmed rumours. Land Banks have also been a firm spot, advancing an eighth to 6¼.

In Railways, Delta Lights have put on one-eighth at 6¾.

In Land shares, Aboukirs and New Egyptians have been the firmest spots, and have been practically throughout the week in good demand for Egypt round the current levels. Some business took place in Allotments at 4. Béhéras close three-quarters down at 24¾. Consolidated Lands have been very active and strong all through the week, and close 3½d. up at 3s. 5d. Delta Lands, on the other hand, have come on offer, and are 1s. down at the close at 20s. 6d. Gharbiehs have changed hands to the extent of a few hundred shares round the current price. Sidi Salems have been done at 3 3-16, a decline of one-sixteenth. Sudan Plantations are three-eighths down at 8½. Union Foncières, on the other hand, are a very firm spot at 6, a rise of one-eighth.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, Alexandria Waters have risen ⅛ to 10⅞, Egyptian Markets have declined 9d. to 23s., and Salts and Sodas are 3-16ths lower at 3 1-16. Of Khedivial Mails there is some quiet buying at the present level, and the same remark applies to Morum's Oriental Stores.

In Greek securities, there has again been a hard tendency. The 1881, 1884, and Monopoly Loans are all half a point up at 54½ and 48½ respectively. Some small business has been done in Larissas round the current level. The 1902 Loan is quieter and a point down at 57, and the 1914 London issue is also a point lower at 64. The 1910 Loan has been in good demand, but the price closes half a point lower at 44½.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LTD.

A branch of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., has been opened in temporary premises at 17, Ivegate, Bradford. The bank has branches at Manchester, Liverpool, New York, Canary Islands, Egypt, and throughout West Africa and Morocco, and agents and correspondents in all parts of the world.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended January 10 amounted to £E16,188, making the total for the year £294,615. The corresponding figures for 1919 were £12,883 and £285,092.

Notice is given in the *Gazette* that the provision of the Treaty of Peace to the effect that the property of German nationals within the territory or under the control of an Allied or Associated State may be constituted a pledge for enemy liabilities is applied to Egypt.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Feb. 2	Price Feb. 9
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28½	28½
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	69½	69
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	78⅝	75
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	65⅛	63⅛
Greek 5%, 1881	54	54⅛
Do. 5%, 1884	54	54⅛
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	48	48½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	45
Do. 5% 1890	53½	53½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	52	52
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	58	57
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	45	44½
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	65	64
Do. 5% Currant	91xd	91xd
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68⅛
Persia 5% 1911	83	76
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69	69
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	61	60½
Do. 4% Unified	37⅛	36
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68½	68½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70½	70½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17⅜	19⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	40/-	40/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	5½	5½
British Trade Corporation	10	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅝	1⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	6½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	6½
London County and Westminster	15⅛	15⅛
National Bank of Egypt	23⅜	22⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	78⅞	78⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	11	11
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	52	48
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	49	48½
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	45/6	45/6
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	20/-	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	25½	24⅜
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	35/-	35/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	3/1½	3/5
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	21/6	20/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	18/-	18/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	4	4
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	36/3	36/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	38/6	38/6
Sidi Salem Co.	3½	3⅞
Sudan Plantations	8⅞	8½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅞	6
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	12/-	12/9
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅞
Associated Cotton Ginners	22/6	22/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/9	23/-
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	65/-	61/3
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99½	99⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/9	18/9
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	20/3	20/4½
Suez Canal	178	178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	102	102
Chinese 4½% 1898	67	64
Do. 5% 1896	84	83
Argentine 5% 1890	79	78½
Do. 5% 1907	85½	86
OIL.		
Algerian	4/9	4/6
Anglo-Bulgarian	9/7½	9/6
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅜	4⅞
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/6	24/3
Do. 5% Debs.	82½	81½
Anglo-Roumanian	8/4½	8/4½
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/1½	5/4½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	13/3	11/9
Roumanian	22/6	23/6
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	8/3	8/6
Trajan (Roumanian)	9/3	9/3

The President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, at the annual meeting on February 9, said the demand for cotton goods exceeded the supply, and there was no hope of an early increase of production. Prices were high, but it would be foolish to reduce them, as most of the goods went abroad and helped to swell our exports.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Dec. 18. Rs.	Jan. 9. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	63	61½
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	2200	2230x
Bank of Bombay	2700	2800
Bank of Madras	1800	1800
Bank of India	150	123
Tata Industrial Bank	58½	57
COAL.		
Baraboni	18	18
Bengal	860x	800
Burrakur	49⅜	49½
East Indian	43½	41
Equitable	46½	45½
Pench Valley	370	362½x
Raneegunge	64½	64½
Standard	69⅛	69½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	350	480
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2400	2850
Bowreah	730	955
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	75	201½
Century	820	1007
Central India	3050	4215
Elgin	1525	2107½
Gold Mohur	118	118
Khatau Makanji	1800	1800
Muir	5600	5650
New Ring	120	200
Phœnix	540	700
Svadeshi	850	980
	3100	3900
JUTE.		
Alliance	740	790
Barnagore	200	193x
Budge Budge	603	653½
Clive	295	327
Dalhousie	505	515
Delta	603	600
Fort Gloster	1002x	1045
Gourepore	1125x	1473
Howrah	43	45½
Kamarhatty	923	1017
Kanknarrah	765	836
Khardah	520	520
Kinnison	1005	1000
National	440	460
Standard	655	709
Union	890	930
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	81
Bengal Timber Trading	652x	700
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	245	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	210	216½
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General Steam	155x	160
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
	88⅛	90
Marshall Sons and Co.	15⅜	13½
Titaghur Paper	375	345

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JANUARY 24.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	24⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	83½
" " Div.	Frs.	115
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	27
" priv.	£	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	104
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅛
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	6⅜
Société des Immeubles	£	9⅛
Bonded Stores	£	20
Unifiée	£	85
Privilégiée		69⅜
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	13⅛
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅛
" Ord		104/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	23⅛
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	102
" Jouissance	Frs.	163
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		48/-
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	435 x
" Div.	Frs.	400 x
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	310
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	10⅛
Egyptian Salt and Soda		55/9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	725
" Fondateur	Frs.	1020
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	—
" 1903 "	Frs.	—
" 1911 "	Frs.	—
Consolidated Land	P.T.	18
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1⅛
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	388
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2⅛
Urbaines & Rurales		4⅜
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅜
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1⅛

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Feb. 2	Feb. 9
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	60	58½
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	67	67½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	82
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	71	71
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	73⅜	74⅜
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	84	84
	Eastern	7⅞	8
	Mercantile of India A.	41½	43
	National of India	58	60
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	9/-	8/9
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	13/9	13/9
	Burma Corp.	13⅞	13½
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	13/6	13/-
	Champion Reef Gold	4/-	3/9
	Mysore Gold Mining	1⅛	1⅛
	Nundydroog	15/6	15/6
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	8½	17/6
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	20/9	22/9
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	2⅛	2⅛
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	42/-	41/3
	Brit. Burmah	3⅛	3⅛x
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	20⅞	21⅛
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22/6	22/6
	Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10	10
RAILWAYS.			
	Assam Bengal	52⅛	53
	Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	141	139½
	Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	54⅛	55
	Bengal-Nagpur	119	117½
	Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	105⅝	105
	Burma Railways	113	112
	Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
	E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13⅛	13½
	East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	13⅛	12⅝
	Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	12⅛	13
	Madras and S. Mahratta	111½	111
	Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	134½	134½
	Nizam's Guaranteed State	82	82½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
	Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	38/6	38/6
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	10	10
	P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	85	84½
	Do. Deferred	660	645
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
	Assam Co.	67x	66
	Bengal United Tea Ord.	16⅜	16½
	British Indian Tea Ord.	8½	8½
	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	16½	16
	Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	13/-	12/9
	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	3⅜xb	3½
	Consolidated Estates	8	7⅞
	Darjeeling Co.	26/-	25/-
	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	3⅜	3¼
	Dooars Tea Ord.	3⅜	2⅜
	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	18/9	19/3
	Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	68/1	68/-
	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	36/3	36/-
	Hewagam Rubber Co.	25/-	25/-
	Jhanzie Tea Association	11	11
	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22⅞x	23
	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	19/9	19/1½
	Lanka Plantations Ord.	30/-	30/-
	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	55/-	26/6xb
	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	47/6	48/6
	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14
	P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	32/6	33/1½

Prague will shortly have a population of over a million through the incorporation of the suburbs into the city.

For the relief of Eastern Europe, the Serbian Red Cross has given 10,000f. (Swiss) to the League of Red Cross Societies.

Reuter's Bombay correspondent, in a message dated February 4, states:—The mill strike has ended. All mills are again working normally.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take

WILKINSON'S (Estd. since 1829)

ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

"We cannot speak too highly of it."—LANCET. **SARSAPARILLA**

(The best "Pick-Me-Up")

Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.—"We recommend your Jamaica Sarsaparilla."—MEDICAL REVIEW.

"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.

The late LORD CLYDE said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."

"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.

N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

A World-wide Reputation for over Three-Quarters of a Century.

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ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA, LTD.,

with which are incorporated
THE PUNJAB BANKING CO., LTD.,
THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,
AND
THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Head Office - SIMLA.

Authorised Capital	-	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital	- - -	,, 86,82,400/-
Reserve Fund	- - -	,, 37,00,000/-
Reserve for Depreciation of Government Paper		,, 13,00,000/-

BRANCHES.

Abbottabad, Agra, Ajmere, Allahabad, Ambala, Amritsar, Bareilly, Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Dalhousie, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi City, Delhi Civil Lines, Ferozepore, Gwalior, Jullundur, Karachi, Kasauli, Lahore, Lahore Cantts, Lucknow, Meerut, Multan, Murree, Mussoorie, Naini Tal, Nowshera, Peshawar Cantts, Peshawar City, Quetta, Rangoon, Rawalpindi, Sialkote, Simla (Town Office), Srinagar (Kashmir), Ujjain (Gwalior State).

SUB OFFICES: Barnagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Morana (Gwalior), Nushki (Quetta), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior). Sadar Baza (Delhi).

LONDON BANKERS: Messrs. BOULTON BROS. & CO., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C.
LONDON PROVINCIAL AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, Ltd., 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, Ltd., Bartholomew Lane, E.C.

Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.
Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other branch.
Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected, Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.
Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.
The Bank undertakes **Banking Business** of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.
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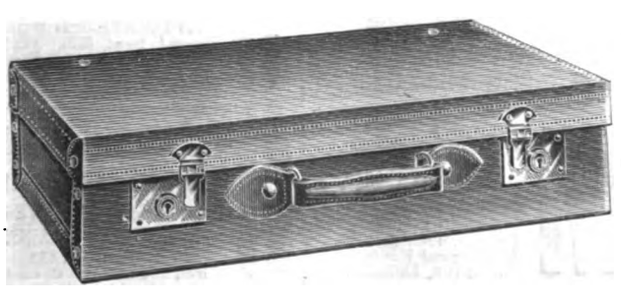

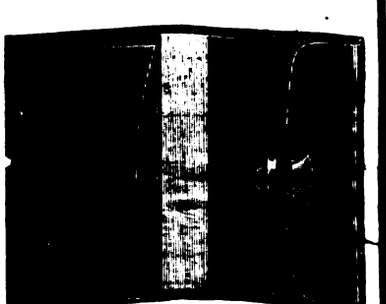

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 459.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The decision taken during the past week by the Supreme Council of the Allies sitting in London to allow the Sultan and the Turkish Administration to remain at Constantinople was not altogether unexpected. In these pages we have insisted for some months past that the logic of events was opposed to any other solution. If the Allies in peace time had been able to live up to the principles enunciated as their war aims, they could have made out a good case for an ideal administration in Constantinople. But ideals went by the board in Paris, and there was little in the history of the Conference to distinguish it from the "Pull devil, pull baker" record of any previous gathering of a similar kind. Not only was there no unchallengeable alternative to the maintenance of Ottoman jurisdiction in Constantinople, but any alternative proposed was seen to be open to objections as serious as those that could be brought against the Turkish *régime*. The present decision, therefore, is wise, although, in view of the repeated assertions that the opposite policy would be adopted, it must be recognised as heroic.

The most unfortunate feature in connection with the decision is that it should have been so long delayed. Time has been given for a variety of movements to make capital out of the retention of the Porte in Constantinople. A political agitation in India has been offered a weapon of which it is likely to make further use in the future; the Nationalist party in Turkey, which bears a strong family likeness to the organisation of the Committee of Union and Progress, will be quick to pose as the saviour of the country. It will be well, therefore, if the Allies publish a candid statement of the reasons which have led them to withdraw from their former position regarding the future of Constantinople. Certain it is that their decision has not been prompted by the revelation of an unsuspected capacity for administration on the part of the Turk. They can be under no illusions as to the necessity for making themselves strictly responsible for the good government of Constantinople and the rest of Turkey, and as a mandatory condominium is out of the question, there ought to be a definite understanding that the Turks are to be required to look to one Power, and to one Power alone, for practical and disinterested advice in the art of government. If the Allies in this matter will "play the game" themselves, they will have still better reason to be satisfied with their Turkish settlement. By strengthening the hands of the mandatory State they will be able to convince the Turks that they are indifferent to all considerations of party and are only concerned to see that Turkey is provided with an efficient and progressive Government.

It would be nothing short of a world tragedy if the decision to leave the Sultan and the Turkish Administration in Constantinople implied that the Allies proposed to wash their hands of the Turks after a drastic curtailment of Ottoman jurisdiction in Asia. The reluctance to insist upon differences in political development among the Allied States may have been natural and would reflect credit on the more advanced Powers; but to allow mutual jealousies to deprive the Turks of the period of political training which in their own interests they ought to undergo would merely lay up an additional heritage of trouble for Europe. Justice to the Turks as a race, to whose individual qualities testimony has often been borne, requires that, if in any part of the world a new era is being ushered in, they should be given every assistance in evolving a worthy administration. To this end it will be necessary to avoid taking sides in Turkish politics at an early stage, in the light, for instance, of events during the Armistice period. Lip-service to the Entente cause may not necessarily cover greater administrative capacity than rough-and-ready methods of defending what were regarded as Turkey's rights. The confidence of all Turks, as far as possible, should be won by a readiness on the part of the Allies to start with a clean slate. But such a policy presupposes the strength of mind to deal firmly with any attempt to take undue advantage of Allied altruism, and, above all, to perpetrate fresh massacres.

While the Supreme Council will receive considerable support—particularly in France—for their Turkish settlement, their self-complacency has been subjected to a severe shock by the receipt of a long memorandum from President Wilson directed against the latest move in the adjustment of the Adriatic question. Amid a variety of proposals that have been put forward in the last two years for the settlement of this controversy, the main point at issue is whether the frontier line between Italy and Yugo-Slavia shall be so drawn as to bring Italian territory up to the walls of Fiume or whether it shall run a little west of the middle of the Istrian peninsula. After having agreed to the latter proposal in concert with the United States Government, Great Britain and France appear to have been won over to the Italian demand and presented the Yugo-Slav Government with the choice, in the form of an ultimatum, between accepting this solution and the enforcement of the Treaty of London. There was no justification for this

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action, and President Wilson has apparently reminded the British and French Governments of this fact. Clearly a delicate position has arisen in consequence of this step, and the two Governments are once more confronted with the alternative between insisting upon a wrong course and going back upon a deliberately chosen line of policy.

A telegram received in London a few days ago from the Chief Agent of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of Armenian refugees reported the massacre of 1,500 Armenians near Marash, at the end of January. It added that two Americans were murdered near Aintab on February 1, and that both outrages were believed to be the work of Nationalist bands. Later reports, coming by way of Constantinople, put matters in an even worse light, the total number of victims being estimated at 7,000, and fears being expressed for the safety of 150,000, unless assistance is sent promptly. There can be no doubt that these events are directly connected with the Turkish Nationalists' recent attempt to drive the French garrisons out of the Aintab-Marash district. The French, it will be recalled, were reported to have armed the Christian population; and eventually they dislodged the Turkish bands from the positions they had captured. But they were not in sufficient force to do more than this; so the Turks have been able to wreak their vengeance on the ill-fated Armenians for fighting against them. If this reading of events be right, it affords some explanation of—but, of course, no excuse for—the outbreak at a time when even the Nationalists might have been expected to show some discretion; and especially to avoid irritating or embarrassing the French, who are apparently not so hostile towards them as some of the Allies. It will be interesting to see what French official reports have to say regarding these deplorable occurrences, if, and when, any are published.

In his outspoken championship of Montenegro, Mr. R. McNeill has not only deserved well of that country, but he has saved his own in some measure from the reproach of being wholly indifferent to a grave injustice which it seems powerless to prevent. Mr. McNeill's speech in Parliament on February 12 was a masterly indictment of British action or inaction in regard to Montenegro, and no impartial reader of the debate could pretend that Mr. Bonar Law attempted to meet, still less to counter, any of the charges. He did, however, carry the matter one point further than any Government apologist had done before, by definitely ranging the British Government against King Nicholas in the Montenegrin controversy. "Our information," he said, "is not to the effect that there is on the part of the majority, or any thing like a majority, of the Montenegrin people any desire to have the King restored as King of Montenegro." If the British Government believe that to be the case, there is still less justification for their failure to insist that the Montenegrin people should be left entirely free from all outside pressure in order to be able to record the national will by an uninfluenced plebiscite. The most elementary knowledge of Balkan psychology would have told them that they have adopted a course which must lead to constant intrigue and unrest, while a free vote would have settled the future of Montenegro in a way that would have prevented the perpetuation of dynastic feuds that have retarded the development of the Serbs for a hundred years.

The notorious Ramadhan es-Shallash has departed from Deir ez-Zor, but his departure has not been followed by that change for the better which might have been expected. Indeed, a semi-official statement issued last week declares that the new Governor, one Maulud Pasha, "continues his predecessor's policy of inciting the tribes throughout Mesopotamia to active revolt and rebellion": and it adds, significantly, that he appears to be well supplied with funds for this purpose. It would be interesting to know whence these funds come, and doubtless our Intelligence is making, or has already made, the necessary investigations. But what concerns us much more closely is the fact that he has had the effrontery to threaten the lives of our political officers, and has actually attempted—fortunately unsuccessfully—to waylay one of them. It would also seem probable that he is referred to in a Busreh telegram, which reports that "the representative of the Arab Government" has repudiated the temporary frontier between Syria and Mesopotamia fixed by the Peace Conference; has suggested that we should retire, in his favour, below Anah: and has forcibly occupied Miadin (or Mayyadin).

This is precisely the kind of policy that might have been pursued in the past by the Sheikh of one petty tribe in dealing with the Sheikh of another tribe, but it is, emphatically, not what would be expected from the official representatives of one Government in dealing with representatives of another. We are ready to recognize the difficulties under which the young Arab Government is labouring at present, owing partly to the peculiarities of the Arab temperament, partly to the conditions under which the Arab lands have lain for many years, and partly to unfortunate conditions for which they cannot be held even remotely responsible. Making every allowance for these things, however, it is obvious that such a situation as that which has arisen on the Euphrates is not to be tolerated indefinitely; and the Damascus Government would be well advised to give it immediate attention. Maulud Pasha is as clearly the wrong man in the wrong place as was his predecessor: he should be recalled, and every care should be exercised to see that no third firebrand is appointed to succeed him. We cannot cheerfully contemplate a succession of Ramadhans and Mauluds as governors of towns or districts in which they can work us harm.

Without advertising them extensively, Persia has been conducting operations against the Kurds in the Urumiah region, who have never been famous for their law-abiding character, and who lately, egged on and assisted by the Turks, have been making fresh trouble. The operations referred to are reported to be progressing favourably, certain strategic points having been occupied and a notorious chieftain, Simkho, having been surrounded in his stronghold near Salmas. The chief referred to is presumably the one who distinguished himself by his treachery towards the Assyrian refugees, and is usually supposed to have been responsible for the death of their much-loved Bishop, Mar Shimun. It is to be hoped that he will not succeed in slipping through the cordon and escaping the vengeance that he so justly merits. As British aeroplanes are taking part in the little campaign, his difficulties are likely to be much greater than they would otherwise have been.

The report that the Sheikh ul-Islam at Constantinople and the Grand Mufti at Cairo have both denounced Bolshevism as contrary to Islamic law causes the *Times* Delhi correspondent to ask what attitude the Ameer of Afghanistan will adopt towards the Bolshevist Mission at Kabul. As we have pointed out in these notes, it is absolutely impossible for any man to be at once a good Moslem and a good Bolshevist. He may be a bad Moslem and a good Bolshevist or a good Moslem and a very poor Bolshevist: but Bolshevism and Islam have nothing at all in common. It will, therefore, be of some interest to observe what line the Ameer will follow in view of the pronouncement on Bolshevism by the Moslem spiritual leaders. The "Mission" appears to be composed of very heterogeneous elements, and the Ameer is not likely to be blind to its character or, let us hope, its real purpose: but thus far he would seem to have tolerated, if not welcomed, its presence in his capital. If he continues to do so after its condemnation by the Sheikh ul-Islam and the Grand Mufti, he must certainly forfeit his claim to be a good Moslem.

Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha, the Egyptian Minister of Public Works, has resigned. He has allowed it to be understood that the resignation is connected with the appointment of the Nile Irrigation Projects Commission, and presumably it is intended to free that body from any possible embarrassment in regard to the projects, for

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which he felt a large measure of responsibility. It is easy to understand also that after so many years spent in the service of his country he should feel the need of rest, especially when his countrymen show so little sense of his service as to indulge in an attempt on his life. It will be remembered that such an attempt was made on January 28, and an Egyptian student has lately been arrested on suspicion of being the person who threw the bomb. The Sultan of Egypt has marked his sympathy with his Minister by conferring on him the Grand Cordon of the Order of Mohammed Ali; and by all thinking Egyptians, as well as by the many Englishmen who are able to appreciate his services to Egypt, the honour will be recognised as thoroughly well merited, and his resignation will be sincerely regretted.

Englishmen in the Near East, like their countrymen in other parts of the world, will learn with pleasure of a step that has been taken by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. This is the appointment of a committee to advise him in regard to the steps to be taken to promote solidarity among British communities, and to make British ideals known, in foreign countries. The Foreign Office has taken the matter up in consequence of representations received from various chambers of commerce, schools, and other institutions abroad, and among proposals already put forward are the encouragement of such schools and chambers of commerce, of British clubs and associations, and, where possible, of local British newspapers. The Committee will take all these suggestions into account, and will consider what means may be adopted to achieve the desired purpose. We welcome its appointment as a sign of a new spirit in a quarter where there was room for it, and we are confident that British communities throughout the Near East will share our pleasure, and will unite in working to make the scheme a success.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

The Government's Revival.

A week ago we were being entertained with lugubrious tales of the Government's staleness, the weariness and desire for rest of the Prime Minister and his colleagues, and the impending doom of the Coalition. It was like a boat, one understood, which was already sinking fast; only the precise moment of the last plunge remained in doubt.

After these predictions, it was distinctly unkind of the Government to meet the House of Commons with every appearance of health and vigour. Mr. Lloyd George has made three of the best speeches of his life. Mr. Balfour followed suit with one of those analytic orations which resemble thinking aloud rather than a speech; even Mr. Austen Chamberlain, who does not usually go in for cut-and-thrust work, showed some of his father's genius for attack in his defence of the Treasury against the critics. But the unkindest cut of all was Mr. Lloyd George's regret that the Opposition was so weak as to be ineffective.

The "Siamese twins," as Sir E. Carson called Sir D. Maclean and Mr. Adamson, the leaders of Liberal and Labour Opposition, have both been ineffective. The best Opposition speech was made by Mr. Brace, the coal miners' representative, who advocated nationalisation of the mines on the ground that it would increase output and result in industrial peace. It was studiously moderate and persuasive in tone, but its effect was ruined by another Labour member immediately afterwards threatening direct action if Parliament did not immediately obey the miners' demand. To this threat of sectional revolution the Prime Minister responded with a cogent statement of the determination of the State to fight to the death any such tyranny, from whatever quarter it came. The effect both in the House and the country was crushing; after the speech one of the Liberal Independents said gloomily to a Coalition member in the Lobby: "You are in for five years longer, and if Labour plays the fool like that any more, probably for twenty."

The Labour Difficulties.

The plain fact is that the Labour differences cannot be concealed any longer. The party is pledged to nationalisation of mines and other industries, but it is becoming increasingly clear that what they want is not nationalisation in the generally understood sense at all, but the control of their own industries by themselves—in a word, a variant of Guild Socialism, with or without an element of confiscation. The moderate Labour leaders, intent on the general vote, without which they can never obtain a majority in the United Kingdom, put the case persuasively, as good for the country and the industry; the extremists always contrive to threaten a revolution, force, and "frightfulness." It is an instructive contrast in mentality; and still more instructive is the fact that most of the moderates are in the House of Commons and most of the extremists outside.

Labour Aspirations.

Another and very different aspiration of Labour has been mentioned by Mr. Bevin, the Dockers' leader, at the enquiry now proceeding into the dockers' demand for a standard wage. He has bluntly declared that while higher wages are required to meet the increased cost of living, shorter hours are demanded because the workers are determined to secure leisure to educate themselves. The statement has been laughed at in certain quarters, but there is no reason to doubt its accuracy. There is a passion for information and education among large sections of the workers, which is a very hopeful sign for the future of the country; they are reading a great deal, attending lectures, and taking courses in general culture with all the passion of the young bluestocking. It is an entire change from the soullessness of twenty years ago.

Their interest at the moment appears to be mainly in economics and politics, studies which lie, so to speak, on their doorstep; but many are investigating the hitherto hidden treasures of English literature, and while the middle classes are satisfied with Miss Ethel M. Dell and Mr. Charles Garvice, the working-man appears to prefer Shakespeare and Shelley. There is reason to believe that several publishers have their eye on this new development, and are ready to cater for the demand with cheap books. The difficulty is that cheap books must be non-copyright books, if authors are to live, and that restricts the new working-class audience to works of the mid-Victorian period. It is not easy to see how this trouble can be surmounted.

The League of Nations.

The first business meeting of the League of Nations was held last week in St. James's Palace. Mr. Balfour made an ideal chairman for the occasion, and signalised the opening by a very happy and dignified speech, in which he deplored, as was but natural, the absence of the United States' representative, owing to the dispute as to the ratification of the Treaty in Washington. By a curious coincidence a portrait of King Henry VIII. looked down on the assembled statesmen. In his days there were the same aspirations for the abolition of war and the union of the nations, and these aspirations found classic utterance in "Utopia," the work of Henry VIII.'s Chancellor, Sir Thomas More. The lapse of four centuries leaves us with the same aspirations and the same problems.

The Washington Embassy.

Rumour is again busy with the appointment to the British Embassy at Washington, and some papers have declared that Lord Reading is, after all, likely to take it, and to relinquish the Lord Chief Justiceship, which would be offered to Mr. Asquith in the event of his being beaten at Paisley. The one thing that seems certain in the fog of gossip is that Lord Grey will not return.

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But matters are to a certain extent complicated by the very curious position at Washington itself. If one were to believe half the things Americans in London say about their home politics, George Washington must be turning in his grave; but the Wilson-Lansing correspondence is a sufficient indication that matters are far from normal, and they seem likely to remain abnormal until the next President is installed. In the present circumstances there is, unfortunately, little scope for anything beyond the formalities of diplomacy —a fact which is the more to be regretted because the American Ambassador in London is having the usual success of American Ambassadors in London.

Germany in London.

The German Chargé d'Affaires has arrived at the great house in Carlton House Terrace which Prince Lichnowsky made a social as well as a political centre in the days before 1914. The house is the same,but for some time political relations will be confined to absolutely necessary business, and there will hardly be any attempt to revive social relationships on either side for some years. It has been rumoured that the German Embassy may seek more modest quarters, but the German representative has wisely refused all interviewers, and keeps his own counsel.

The Stock Exchange.

The flood of new issues has again begun, once more mostly for industrial companies, and speculation is rather less on the Stock Exchange, partly on this account, partly because the income-tax man is displaying that intimate interest in our personal affairs which culminates every February. The City is frightened of the rumour that the new Budget will tax the issue of bonus shares, which have been a feature of the enlargements of many old-established companies appealing for fresh capital; but it is also taking an interest in the prospective amalgamation of the great drapery companies in the West End. Gossip is busy with several names which have not yet come into the recent purchases, and it is suggested that in the long run there will only be three great drapery trusts in keen competition with each other and the smaller fry which do a more specialised business. Many of the big premises are to be pulled down and rebuilt on a still larger and more elaborate scale, and in another ten years Oxford Street will present a very different appearance. Another new development is that some of the great retail drapers are now opening their own factories in the country, and thus rendering themselves more independent, and this policy, which secures economies both in manufacture and sale, is compelling the reorganisation of the whole trade, and accounts for some at least of the demand for more capital.

A Wife's Value.

An important statement has been made by Mr. Justice McCardie as to the assessment of damages in divorce. This is a principle peculiar to the English law; in the judge's opinion, damages should be assessed according to the actual value of a wife to a husband, and also "the proper compensation for a husband for injury to his feelings, the blow to his marital honour, and the seriousness of the hurt to his matrimonial family life" should be considered, as well as the character of the husband and the pecuniary position of the co-respondent.

Damages can be awarded against a man for taking away another man's wife. but "it is doubtful whether one woman can sue another for taking away her husband, as apparently the law takes the view that a wife has not such a right to the control of or claim to the husband's services as is possessed by a husband in regard to his wife." Whether this is another "scandalous injustice to women," and the result of "man-made laws," need not be discussed here: but as the point is apparently doubtful, perhaps some woman will bring an action against another woman for the loss of her husband's society. It would be an interesting test-case for the lawyers, and would give a further fillip to the discussion on divorce law reform, which seems to light up and die down from time to time without apparent reason.

Thackeray Filmed.

One wonders what Thackeray would have said had he been told that Colonel Newcome would be filmed at the Charterhouse—a sight which attracted some curious spectators this week. But even more, one wonders how many of the people who go to the pictures have ever heard of Thackeray? I remember when they were showing the "Inferno" pictures in town a few years ago hearing one shopgirl say to another on a Putney 'bus, "Who is this man Dante? I don't think he's half as good as John Bunny"; which made one ponder over the limitations of fame.

But there is another cinema story going the round. it is said that a cinema producer recently entered a music shop, and asked one of the young ladies to play a few selections from Haydn's "Creation." After listening a little while to an arrangement of the oratorio for the piano, he thanked her, and said regretfully, "No, I'm afraid it won't do, miss. You see, I'm reproducing the 'Creation' on the pictures, arranging for a whole company to go out to Mesopotamia, *where it took place*: I wanted a little incidental music, but your friend Haydr is too thin for my stage effects. He'd turn the Flood itself into a trout-stream."

The Week's Books.

There has been another outburst of war literature during February, this time mainly naval. Commander Carlyon Bellairs, one of the few naval members of the House of Commons, has indicted the whole school of naval education in "The Battle of Jutland: The Sowing and Reaping" (Hodder and Stoughton). He ruthlessly criticises Lord Jellicoe's handling of that action, and suggests that what might have been a decisive naval victory was in some ways little better than a defeat in its results. Mr. A. H. Pollen, another of the anti-Jellicoe school, some time ago said much the same thing, but this view appears to be held only by a small minority.

Copious extracts have been published from an authoritative account from the German side of the battle in Captain Georg von Hase's "Die Zwei Weissen Völker." He was chief gunnery officer on the German battle-cruiser Derfflinger. He gives a graphic account of the German Admiral being forced to abandon his flagship, the Lützow, owing to her damaged condition, and proceeding in a destroyer to "the least damaged ship" in the squadron. Derfflinger, next in line, was disqualified by damage to her wireless, secondary armament, and a large hole in her bows. Seydlitz, next addressed by Hipper, had lost her wireless and shipped several thousand tons of water; the Admiral thereupon remained on board the destroyer until a lull in the firing enabled him to join Moltke.

In von Hase's opinion, Jellicoe acted in accordance with strategic requirements when he refrained from pushing on into German territorial waters; the German fleet was in any case checkmated, and further pursuit could only have added to the possibility of British loss without adding to the real as distinguished from the spectacular results of the victory. He describes the British gunnery as "admirable" and "remarkable"; "salvo after salvo landed close to us, and hit after hit shook our vessel." When the action was broken off, "Derfflinger" was on fire fore and aft, only two heavy guns forward and two six-inch guns were still in action. She was in dock for six months. "Seydlitz" only reached Wilhelmshaven two days after the battle.

An authoritative account of a very different kind of military enterprise—the Salvation Army—has appeared in Mr. Harold Begbie's full-dress "Life of General Booth" (Macmillan). As the biography contains about half-a-million words, the present writer will not swear that he has read it from cover to cover; but in some ways it promises to be as interesting as "John Wesley's Journal," that classic of the eighteenth century. Booth was, indeed, the greatest emotional religious leader since Wesley's day, and to the student of psychology, as well as to the followers and admirers of that extraordinary man his letters and views are of profound interest. The book, reduced to more reasonable compass, and shorn, perhaps, of some of Mr. Begbie's exuberances, will attain standard rank.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, February 1.

Another Attempt on a Minister.

The Extremists this week had to their credit another attempt to murder a Minister. This time it is H.E. Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha, Minister of Public Works, War and Marine, who narrowly escaped falling a victim to the results of the intemperate campaign which the Extremists have been conducting during the past few months. Sirry Pasha was on his way home on Wednesday morning, when, just before he reached the turning to his house, a bomb was thrown at his motor car. A loud explosion ensued, but no one was hurt, and his Excellency ordered his chauffeur to continue. That he had a narrow escape is proved by the fact that the bomb was a very powerful one, and that the back of his car was damaged. Unfortunately, the thrower of the bomb managed to get away. Both the Pasha and the chauffeur of a car standing by noticed a young man throw something, and, as far as they could do so, they have given his description to the police, but the latter have not yet been able to identify him. The attempt created a great sensation, for Sirry Pasha is the last man whom one would expect Egyptians to want to put out of the way. He has held the post of Minister of Public Works for nearly twelve years, and is considered to be one of the ablest engineers Egypt has produced. He is well-known to have a dislike for politics, and merely consented to retain his portfolio because of his interest in the development works which are under consideration, and because he felt it his duty to try to serve his country in this respect. That an attempt should be made to remove such a man merely shows to what limits irresponsible Egyptians have been excited by the Extremists, for his death could not possibly advance the interests of the latter, and would certainly be a very serious loss to the country.

The Situation in the Provinces.

The situation in the provinces is unchanged. There have been no further demonstrations, and Tantah, the scene of trouble a week ago, has remained perfectly quiet. The arrest of Abu Shadi Bey, the man responsible for creating the demonstration, has evidently had a good effect on the rest of the agitators. The inquiry into the train attack in Upper Egypt reported last week has made very satisfactory progress. All the loot has been recovered, and the men implicated have been arrested.

The Milner Mission.

Lord Milner has left with his secretaries, Mr. A. T. Loyd and Mr. H. M. B. Ingram, for a short trip by river to Upper Egypt, so no important development in the political situation need be anticipated for the next week or so.

The expected reply from Zaghlul Pasha has been received. He first of all sent a telegram stating that he approved of the attitude adopted by his Cairo Committee towards the note issued by Lord Milner, and that as regards the action taken by the ex-Ministers he knew that they had been actuated by feelings of patriotism and prudence. A couple of days later, a letter was received from him, confirming his telegram and dealing at length with the terms under which he would consent to a discussion with the mission. These terms are the old ones which have been reiterated *ad nauseam*, and the latter itself does not in any way change the situation. Nevertheless, there are signs that the pessimism displayed in some quarters is not justified. Indeed, it does not do to attach too much importance to what the Extremists say, especially at the present juncture. Those who can read between the lines with knowledge of what lies behind are of opinion that all this reiteration on the part of the Extremist leader and his refusal to listen to wise counsels of moderation are due to his fear of the rank and file, and that for this reason Zaghlul will neither agree to return to Egypt nor give a proxy to anyone in this country to take up official discussions with the Mission on the lines suggested by the ex-Ministers.

This, however, would not prevent him from joining in a discussion with the British Government outside Egypt, and there is reason to believe that eventually the Egyptians will form a body representative of the nation in which Zaghlul Pasha and some of his fellow delegates will participate, and that it will go to London with a view to coming to an agreement with the British Government when the Mission returns home and reports upon its labours. Opinion certainly seems to be inclining more and more in this direction, and such would not be at all a bad solution to the present absurd *impasse*.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, February 6.

Serbo-Hungarian Relations.

Although the point of Hungarian national movement to-day seems directed more particularly against the Roumanians, Serbs are watching the course of events at Budapest with close attention; they dreaded especially a restoration of the Hapsburgs, and welcomed with relief the recent statement from Paris categorically denying that the Allies would permit such a thing. Meanwhile, the Magyars are doing all in their power to stir up national feeling in the districts of mixed population, especially along the demarcation line. A dozen agitators have recently been expelled from Novi Sad and sent across the frontier into Hungary. It is reported that the Magyars have made not only a National League, but also a League of the Lands torn from Hungary, of which Count Pereli is president. While nobody can blame the Magyars for cherishing their national ideal, it must be remembered how signally they have abused their power in the past and it is to be regretted that they cannot reconcile themselves to the situation and make an honest attempt to cultivate the goodwill rather than the enmity of the young States formed from the peoples whom they have systematically maltreated for so many generations. It is true that Budapest has apologised officially for the attack across the demarcation line in the Prekomurje some weeks ago, and has punished the guilty officers, but reports continue to come in of bands of regular troops collecting on the north side of the line threatening the adjoining districts and encouraging bitter feeling between the different races of the mixed population. The Serbs of Parania and Prekomurje are living in a state of constant anxiety.

The Dearness of Living.

To combat the dearness of living, the Government has decided to stamp out profiteering in essential foods by making a monopoly of grain foods, and it is stated that similar measures will probably be applied to meat and other essential foods. It is earnestly to be hoped that some good will come of this proposal, for the high cost of most of the necessaries of life is pressing very hardly upon many sections of the population. Those who feel it least are the artisans; for there is so great a demand for skilled labour that bricklayers, masons, painters, carpenters, and men of kindred trades are earning wages that seem fabulous compared with the pre-war standard. Architects state that they are paid less than the bricklayers who work under them, and it is a common thing for a groom-gardener to get 200 dinars a month and his keep. Those on whom the dearness of living falls most heavily are officials and

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officers, who receive rates of pay fixed before the war. The former have mostly organised co-operative buying syndicates, and succeeded in getting special allowances from the Government, as have the railwaymen. The latter in particular deserve all they get, for in the present disordered state of communications the life of a guard or engine-driver is tiring in the extreme. But most heavily of all, the prevailing dearness falls upon the officers; any extra allowances that they may get are inadequate. The pay of a lieutenant-colonel is said to be only 400 dinars a month; in the heyday of Serbia's prosperity a man could live like a prince on this pay, especially if he had a little property of his own, such as practically every Serb has, and usually one well stocked. They also have certain privileges and special allowances. But to-day, with the cost of food and fodder, and extortionate price of rents, many officers, especially those with families, find it almost impossible to make both ends meet.

A Royal Fugitive.

At the time of the Nevesinje rising and the armed opposition to the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1881, one of the most redoubtable voivodas, or leaders of insurgent bands, was one Petar Mrkonjitch. When at last the Imperial troops, by sheer strength and numbers, succeeded in imposing their will upon a resentful people, the bands scattered, and many of their members emigrated. Among others, Petar, hunted like a fox, with a price on his head, closely pursued by gendarmes, sought refuge with a family named Politsa, who hid him so successfully that he escaped his enemies' vigilance, and saved his life. It is, indeed, a romantic life he has led, for Petar the voivoda, after passing many years as a refugee at Geneva, lived to become Petar I. of Serbia. In his old age he has had to see his beloved country entirely overrun by a hated enemy, and once more to seek safety in the sanctuary of a foreign country; but he has been spared to see the land liberated and his scattered and much-divided people reunited. The gallant peasants that played the *rôle* of Flora Macdonald to this Serbian Prince Charlie have since passed away, but the old King has ordered a plaque to be put up in their house in remembrance of the time when the old folk saved the life of the royal fugitive.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 19.

The Opening of Parliament.

In spite of the absence of a quorum, Parliament was opened on Monday afternoon by the Grand Vizier, the Sultan being "indisposed." Whether his Majesty's indisposition was of a diplomatic nature or not, it is certainly significant that neither the Heir Presumptive nor any other member of the Imperial House was invited to represent the monarch. I was unable to state the exact situation last week, but it now appears that the Sultan was opposed, up to the last moment, to the opening of Parliament, and only signed the decree of convocation under pressure exerted by the Nationalists, who are resolved to have a popular assembly as an additional instrument.

The Speech from the Throne was more empty and meaningless than is usual even with those meaningless pieces of rhetoric, and as he read it the Grand Vizier seemed to want to get it over as quickly as possible. There was but one point worthy of mention about it: the frightful crimes committed during the war were passed over with a casual expression of regret at certain "misdeeds" committed by persons unspecified. Not a word of punishment for the wholesale murders and pillage that made the war years in Turkey one long nightmare of blood and tears; not one word of repentance! Then the house adjourned on account of the quorum being incomplete.

Mass Meetings.

Both in Constantinople and in the provinces mass meetings have been held during the past week to protest against the expulsion of the Turkish Government from Constantinople. On Tuesday an enormous crowd gathered in the square of the Sultan Ahmed Mosque in Stambul, and many passionate speeches were made. The porters and lightermen struck work for a few hours to attend the meeting, and many Turkish ladies were also present. The following is the text of the circular convening the meeting, and its contents are a good guide to the tenor of the speeches made:—

Citizens! Your right to live is being taken from you! By your faith in God, let Europe hear your voice; upon this day of sadness, lift up your voices and invoke the names of liberty, law, and justice. You are threatened with expulsion from the capital and from your country, which is in danger of partition. Let all Moslems be present. Your country is being broken in pieces and your honour is being trampled underfoot. Turkey is in danger of being divided up. A sovereignty of seven centuries is being attacked, and the Europeans are daily curtailing and amputating our boundaries. They are even discussing the removal of the Khalifate.

Citizens! Until now we have borne suffering and loss in the defence of our country, but we cannot allow our right to exist to be infringed. We believed in the honour of the Great Powers, but now we must make them listen to us.

The meeting was perfectly orderly, and the Allied Police who were in attendance had no trouble of any kind. It would be a mistake to interpret these meetings as symptomatic of any popular determination to create disturbances, much less as foreshadowing an organised outbreak. When there is going to be trouble out here no one knows anything about it until the affair is actually under way. Such was the case with the Armenian massacres of 1896, the Counter-Revolution of 1908, and the *coup d'état* of 1913. Mass meetings out here usually end in "hot air."

Political Undercurrents.

A careful study of the local Press reveals the existence of two noteworthy tendencies in Turkish politics at the present moment. The collapse of General Denikin's armies seems to be regarded as an opportunity of obtaining better peace terms in exchange for Turkish opposition to Bolshevism. Turkey is held up to Europe as the sole barrier against the spread of Bolshevism in the Orient. The threat is obvious, of course; but its potency is considerably discounted by the fact that Bolshevism has certain views concerning women which could never be reconciled with Turkish ideas, while the Osmanli *intelligentsia*, which has for so long battened upon the Anatolian peasant cultivators, would hardly welcome a government of soviets composed of Ahmeds and Mehmeds from the wilds of Asia Minor.

Next there is a distinct and steady cultivation of amiable sentiments towards Italy. While it is perfectly true that the conduct of the Italian military, naval, and police forces has been exemplary ever since their arrival, there is something in this movement that is more than mere recognition of courtesy and tact. Public speakers have declared that if there is to be a mandate over the country, an Italian mandate would be preferable to any other; and certain papers which take their cue from the Unionists, who have hitherto been all in favour of an American mandate, now plead for Italian "assistance." Thus the *Vakit*, edited by Ahmed Emin, a quondam friend and associate of Talaat, remarks that both the Italian Press and Italian statesmen have "worked hard in favour of truth," and have "followed a policy in harmony with our national interests." The *Vakit* further remarks that this is not so much a matter of sentiment, but is rather due to the fact that "at the head of the Italian Government are far-seeing men who are fully aware of the real interest of their country." This is a transparent allusion to Smyrna, and it must not be forgotten that the Italian landing at Adalia, without the slightest preliminary hint to the other Allies, was the prelude to, if not the reason for, the Hellenic occupation of Smyrna. It looks as if the *Vakit* has let the cat out of the bag, and the "far-sighted men" alluded to may suddenly discover that they have been playing the part of pawns in the good old-fashioned game so long practised by the Turks, of playing one Power off against another. If reports from the Greeks are to be believed, the Italians, whose zone of occupation is contiguous to that of the Hellenes, have certainly carried complaisance to a degree that invites remark.

The Nationalists.

Ekrem Bey, the President of the Kurdish Club of Diarbekir, and a protagonist of Kurdish independence, has arrived in Constantinople, where he has made some interesting statements to the Press with regard to the Nationalists, who, it appears, made things too hot for him in Anatolia. While admitting that Mustafa Kemal possesses certain fine soldierly qualities, Ekrem Bey states that the Nationalist leader, upon arriving in Diarbekir, installed himself magnificently and embarked upon a series of debauches which recalled the "stories of

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ancient Rome." Not only was there the wine which delighted Omar Khayyam, but the celebrated rose and violet brandy of Diarbekir cleared to-day of all its cares, while cypress-waisted houris danced to the music of youths whose complexions rivalled that of the peach. And after the joyous night, there were baths where—but here we must refer the reader to the unexpurgated edition of the "Arabian Nights."

Ekrem Bey also stated that the persecution of the Kurds by the Unionists during the war and by the Nationalists after the Armistice have caused the death of 300,000 to 400,000 Kurds! And yet the Sublime Porte denies the existence of a Kurdish Independence movement.

Echoes.

The *Times* article concerning the Turko-German treaty of 1914 has given rise to further interesting revelations. The *Vakit* has been publishing the results of the Government inquiry into Turkey's entrance into the war, which was held about the time of the Armistice. With regard to the arrival of the Goeben and Breslau, the German Ambassador, upon being informed that the ships must either leave or be disarmed, flew into a rage, and declared that the ships had arrived at the request of the Turks themselves. The *Stambul* states that as a matter of fact, a wireless telegram to this effect was actually sent to Admiral Suchon by the Turkish station at Osmanieh, which *had been forcibly seized for the occasion by the crew of the German Embassy yacht, Lorelei*, the publication of which incident was strictly forbidden by Jemal Pasha, then Minister of Marine. Thus, little by little, details of the whole foul plot are coming to light.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, January 20.

Socialist Strikers.

For three weeks past the State officials belonging to the two Socialist parties—the Communists and the Moderate Socialists—have been on strike in the railways, post, telegraph, and tramways services, as have the workers at the Pernik coalfields. Their companions of the bourgeois and agrarian parties did not follow suit; so that the desired stoppage of the State machine and the overthrow of the Government were not brought about.

In connection with the strikes, M. Dimitroff, Minister of the Interior, replying to an interpellation by the Socialists in the Chamber, made clear the Government view and its policy on the subject; which amounts to the preservation of order throughout the country and the enhancing of authority. The Government will use every means at its disposal to break attempts at rebellion and any *coup d'état* on the part of the Communists; and as a matter of fact every attempt at creating a state of disorder and excess has been broken thus far, both here and in the provinces. The Government, supported by the Chamber, and backed by the nation, has succeeded in keeping order and in supplying the country with the necessary provisions. Since the 14th inst., the bread ration has been increased from 500 to 600 gr. per head, at the price of 1.60 levas the kilogramme for the poor and of 3.60 levas for the well-to-do. Railway communications have never been brought to a complete standstill; though fewer trains than usual have been running. The tramway men have resumed work, and so have some 2,000 coal miners at Pernik. The Government refused to make any compromise with the strikers, allowing only those to resume who signed a declaration of submission to the existing regulations. It is hoped that all the strikers will very soon capitulate.

The Prime Minister to the Nation.

M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister, has addressed an appeal to the nation, in which, after giving some account of his stewardship of Bulgarian interests before the Paris Conference, he expresses the belief that the country will ere long win diplomatically what it lost through fighting and the old, foolish Bulgarian diplomacy. But henceforth Bulgarians must devote themselves steadily to work, in order to prove that they are not a mad nation, ready to create troubles or be disseminators of Bolshevism. After condemning the Socialists' strikes and reiterating the intention of the Government to break them, the Prime Minister thanks the peasants and citizens who supported the Government, and declares again that Bulgaria must win the sympathies of the world and repair the misfortunes brought upon her by the war.

A Turkish Inspectorate.

A Turkish Inspectorate has been established at the Ministry of Public Instruction. It will be directed by an Inspector-General, for Sofia, and two assistants, one for Plovdiv, the other for Shoumen. Mustafa Djepoun, former director of the Turkish Gymnasium at Souhindol, has been appointed first Inspector-General for Sofia.

Land for Refugees.

M. Janeff, the Agrarian deputy, has brought before the Chamber a proposal to appropriate fifty decares of land for cultivation by families of refugees of Bulgarian origin whose native lands have been placed under foreign rule by the Peace terms.

Trial of Radoslavist Ministers.

A Royal decree has been issued appointing the Crown judges for the trial of the Ministers of M. Radoslavoff's Cabinet on charges of causing Bulgaria to enter the war against the Entente Powers. M. Stefan Kyriakoff, a member of the High Court of Cassation, is president of the examining committee, and M. Nicholas Tchehlaroff, Vice-President of the Sofia Court of Appeal, and M. Boyan Ivanoff, Vice-President of the Sofia District Court, are members, in association with six National Deputies. Thus constituted, the examining commission has begun its labours by examining the former War Minister, General Naidenoff, and M. Apostoloff (Ghenadievist) and M. Veliko Koznitchky (Stambolovist), former Ministers of Railways and Communications in the Radoslavoff Cabinet. When the examination of the remaining Ministers and National Deputies of the same party is concluded the trial proper will take place before a tribunal specially appointed by the Chamber.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, January 29.

A battle, which raged from January 16 to January 20, between the Greek and the Turkish forces in the environs of Cassaba in the Hermus Valley has apparently been indecisive, as neither side has been able to advance its lines. Both sides had considerable losses, and the Turks showed that they were astonishingly well equipped and able to keep up a sustained effort. Their action is generally re-

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garded as an attempt to mark their disapproval of the rumoured decision that the Turks will have to clear out of Constantinople.

The train service between Balajik and Sokia on the Aidin Railway (British) is now definitely suspended, as the Turks have blown up a bridge. Communication between Sokia and Smyrna is now effected by mule to Ephesus over the mountains, a station on the Aidin Railway. The Italians, who are established in Sokia, have their base at Scala Nuova, which port is connected with Sokia by a good road over the Michaelian range of mountains.

For Armenian Orphans.

To-day the Armenians collected subscriptions, by means of "cocardes," for the large number of orphans left to their community through the Turkish massacres in various parts of Asia Minor. The Turkish authorities around the Government House disapproved of this appeal for funds; and seized many of the collectors and confiscated their money. The Armenians appealed to the Greek authorities, who were only too happy to compel the Turks to release the Armenian collectors and refund the money. After this incident the collections continued and a considerable sum was obtained in Smyrna. Almost every Greek officer wore cocardes showing that he had given several subscriptions; and civilians of all nationalities and all ranks generously subscribed.

CYPRUS.

January 25.

Legislative Council.

The Council met on January 23; four of the Greek deputation attending, as well as the one, M. Zeno, who remained on the island. The Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Stevenson, opened the Sitting, which was convened in order to pass a Bill to establish offices for the verification of debts due by British to German subjects and *vice versâ*. The King's Advocate having moved the first reading of the measure, it was at once opposed by a Greek member, M. N. Lanitis. On the Chief Secretary seconding the motion, the objects of which were fully explained by the King's Advocate, another Greek member, M. Sevéris, opposed it on the ground that there was one question only to which Greek Cypriots had to give attention, viz., that of union with Greece. The motion, as well as one for the third reading of the Bill, was then put to the vote and passed by majority, on the votes of the British and Turkish elements. The occurrence is quite characteristic, and indicates the spirit of predetermined obstruction and subordination of all island interests to that of the party's political aim.

Salaries of Officials.

It is rumoured that all salaries are to be increased from April 1. It is insisted in the papers that the rise in all grades, overdue as it is, should be a substantial one, corresponding proportionately with the actual increase in the cost of living, and not masquerading under the title of *bonuses*. The winter, with greatly advanced cost of fuel, has been pressing very heavily on all but the well-to-do classes. The finances of Cyprus have reached a point at which it can well afford to pay its public servants properly for their services; and those who have retired on the slender pensions which existing regulations allow should also be enabled to live respectably.

Generosity of Rich Cypriots.

Greeks who have made fortunes outside the limits of Hellas are often very generous benefactors to their country and the places of their birth; as many of the educational, municipal, and other institutions testify. Cyprus has been no exception. Cypriots who have enriched themselves in the island, and others in Egypt, have been late examples. One such benefactor, Mr. Y. Metellas, has recently died at Limassol, having given liberally for some years past to various town institutions and charities. Another wealthy Cypriot in Egypt, Mr. Mantsouras, is founding a Poor-house at Famagusta, which is among the needs of the town, and he intends to bear the whole cost of its equipment.

Personal.

Mr. A. L. C. Stuart, President of the District Court of Larnaca, has been appointed Puisne Judge.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. R. A. Cleveland, has been invalided, and is in hospital at Nicosia.

Lt.-Colonel Gallagher, D.S.O., Chief Commandant Military Police, has been appointed to be a member of the Legislative Council, during the absence of Dr. Cleveland, C.M.O.

MALTA.

Valetta, February 4.

The arrival of Russian refugees has created a temporary sensation here, with all the usual rumours of disease and famine in the train; in fact, the matter was made the subject of special comment in the Council Chamber. For the time being, hospital accommodation was afforded for 500 wounded or sick, but this arrangement has had to be subjected to considerable alteration in local interests, with the result that the Panama, conveying the wounded, has been ordered to sail for Constantinople at once.

Malta Militia.

The Governor has issued a special fortress order on the disembodiment of the 1st and 2nd Battalions King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia, in which His Excellency wishes to place on record his appreciation of what both officers and men have accomplished.

Social News.

There is much gaiety and sport here. During this month a golf competition, open to all ships, regiments, corps, and departments, will be held. The struggle is to be carried on on tournament lines, one round of 18 holes in the preliminary rounds, and two rounds of 18 holes in the semi-final and final round. There is grand opera at the Theatre Royal, and the Malta Amateur Dramatic Society are busy rehearsing another play for early production.

Personal.

The death of Mr. Lewis Paris at Port Said has occasioned great regret. It was he who showed great zeal and charity in doing so much for the Bishop's Bread Fund of 1919. We understand that his loss has been felt just as keenly at Port Said.

Capt. A. E. Austin, attached to the Rifle Brigade, has been assigned the duties of Senior Censor, *vice* Major Fox (Reserve of Officers).

The greatest social event recently has been the marriage of Major H. Brooke, M.C., West Yorkshire Regiment, with Marjorie Constance, youngest daughter of F.M. Lord Plumer. The ceremony, highly fashionable and select, took place at St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Valetta. The Reverends Canon Fargus, F. J. Walker, S.C.F., and A. C. Moreton, Naval Chaplain, officiated. Amongst the lavish list of wedding presents was one from the people of Malta. This consisted of three large bowls on an ebony stand, richly ornamented with gold coins of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Malta Crosses and Roses of England.

SYRIA.

Jerusalem, January 19.

The Hule Trouble.

News has just been received of the very bad state of affairs in and around the Hule (Merj-Ayun) region, south-west of Damascus. The Bedouin and the Metawalis of that region have, since the arrival of the French High Commissioner at Beyrout, caused great disturbance. I gave an account last week of some of their doings, from which they have not desisted. The French, either because they did not have a force large enough to cope with the situation, or for some other reason, did not deal with them drastically enough. They allowed matters to drift, thus causing harm to the Christian natives, both in lives and material. When the French authorities became aware of the situation they sent a small detachment which, according to people who were actually present, could not stand against the thousands of Metawalis and Moslems. They were naturally defeated, and the natives began, with the captured guns and ammunition, to storm the Christian villages. Whole Christian villages were spoiled and burned. It is not yet known how many persons were killed, but it is certain that many villages, including Khiam, Judaidet, and Deir Mimas, were destroyed.

The French have since sent an army to this district, and this has succeeded in reaching the residence of the chief of this notorious tribe, Kamil Assad, lately a Turkish M.P. His house was destroyed and burned by the French, but he himself succeeded in escaping to Damascus.

News from Damascus is obscure. Emir Faisal was accorded a big reception on his arrival at Beyrout. It is understood now what his mission to the Arabs means, as the whole matter has been discussed in the Arabic Press of Cairo. The Arabs desire independence, but all these recent riots do harm to their cause, and it would not be a matter for surprise if all the Christians who voted for independence under Shereefian rule should now decide that the country is not yet fit for it, and should prefer to stay for purposes of protection under a Christian Power.

TURKISH CABINET CHANGES.

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent writes (February 12):—The appointment of Fevzi Pasha to the Ministry of War has necessitated the partial reconstruction of the Cabinet. Hazim Bey becomes Minister of the Interior, Seppa Bey Minister of Justice, and Kiazim Bey Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

ROUMANIA AND THE DOBRUJA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The very hospitable welcome accorded to Dr. Vaida-Voevod, the Roumanian Prime Minister, in London should convince him and his fellow-countrymen of the genuine friendship which exists in this country towards Roumania. Roumania unquestionably has a grievance in regard to the division of the Banat. I was in Bucharest in the summer of 1916, and had knowledge of the negotiations which then took place between M. Bratiano and the Russian Minister Plenipotentiary, who practically represented the Entente Powers at the time. Roumania, like Italy, declined to participate in the war until all her claims were fully satisfied. Among these was the boundary formed by the rivers Danube and Teiss. This, on the whole, would have been the best arrangement, for the Danube from its confluence with the Teiss to its mouth is the real southern boundary of the Roumanian race. The Ruman population which occupies the north-eastern corner of Serbia may be regarded as counterbalancing the Serbian element in the south-western regions of the Banat. But M. Bratiano, while rightly insisting on the importance of the river frontier as regards Serbia, would not hear of the application of his own doctrine as regards Bulgaria in the lower reaches of the river. In point of fact, that doctrine was peculiarly valid with respect to the Dobruja, which is mainly inhabited by Bulgarians, Tartars, and Turks, and where there is no Roumanian element comparable to that in north-eastern Serbia.

Subsequently, M. Bratiano apparently relented—at least as regards the Southern Dobruja, which Roumania appropriated in 1913 without the assent of Europe or the shadow of an ethnic claim, after a war made, as you observe, without a quarrel, inasmuch as her difference with Bulgaria had been settled a few months previously by the award of the ambassadors at Petrograd. It was commonly stated in "well-informed circles" in London and Paris at the beginning of last year that Roumania was ready to restore the captured province to Bulgaria, whose title-deeds date from the Berlin Congress (this intention was alluded to by M. Venizelos in an official memorandum to the Paris Conference), but after his disappointment regarding the Banat, M. Bratiano hardened his heart. It is earnestly to be hoped for the tranquillity of the Balkans, for the sake of justice and for the welfare of Roumania herself, that his successor will take a larger view of this question. His principal difficulty will probably be found in the chauvinism of military coteries at Bucharest. In this respect he may be compared with Dr. Trumbitch and other enlightened leaders in the newly-liberated lands of Yugoslavia, who find their policy hampered by similar opposing tendencies at Belgrade.

The restoration of the Southern Dobruja to Bulgaria would be an act of high statesmanship on the part of Roumania. It would increase the respect with which she is regarded by Europe, and would secure for her the good-will of a neighbour whose friendship is of the utmost importance for her future career. The fortunes of the two riverain States, the guardians of the lower Danube, are linked together. In past years an almost ideal friendship prevailed between them to which no parallel can be found in the history of Balkan relationships. Roumania was ever the refuge for Bulgarian patriots who maintained the long struggle against Turkish tyranny; when one of these, Stamboloff, afterwards became all-powerful in Bulgaria he did his utmost to strengthen the ties of cordiality between the two peoples. There is no reason why those ties should not be restored, but this can never take place so long as the Southern Dobruja remains a Bulgarian "Alsace-Lorraine."

In view of the immense accession of territory which she is now receiving, Roumania can hardly regard the surrender of this small and alien region as a serious sacrifice. It may be painful to pluck a thorn from one's side, but the little operation is salutary and brings relief. The Dobruja was forced upon Roumania in exchange for kindred Bessarabia; her reunion with the cognate province should be marked by the restitution of at least a portion of the alien region to its rightful owners.—I am, etc.,

JAMES D. BOURCHIER.

SIR EDWIN PEARS: AN APPRECIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Five names are closely connected with our liberation. They are those of Dr. G. Washburn, Dr. Long, Sir Edwin Pears, Mr. Macgahan, and Mr. E. Schuyler. Sir Edwin Pears was the last alive of these five eminent men; he died on November 27 last, while on his way from Constantinople to England, in the island of Malta. The four companions of Sir E. Pears were Americans.

I have known Sir E. Pears since 1870. My personal relations and correspondence by letter with him were uninterrupted from 1876 down to a couple of months before his death. It was in 1876 that he fearlessly addressed his first telegram to the *Daily News*, giving to the world the first news of the atrocities committed upon the Bulgarian people. From 1876 down to the day of his death he never ceased to interest himself in the destiny of the Bulgarian nation, towards the setting free of which he contributed so greatly.

Drs. Washburn and Long, confiding in their friendship with Sir Edwin Pears, entrusted him with the details received by them of the wholesale massacres of Bulgarians, and he sent off his first telegram to the *Daily News*, but, as he has himself told me, with a strain upon his heart, so improbable did the story of the massacres appear. Sultan Abdul Hamid had not yet developed his bloodthirsty instincts; it was with these massacres of Bulgarians that he inaugurated his reign of blood.

The publication in the *Daily News* of Sir Edwin Pears' telegrams raised a storm in British public opinion. Gladstone zealously took up the matter, and the then Turcophil British Government was driven to send out a commission of inquiry. Simultaneously with this British Government's inquiry, another was carried out by the United States Consul-General in Constantinople, Mr. E. Schuyler and Mr. Macgahan, specially sent out for the purpose by the *Daily News*, on Sir E. Pears' demand. To relate how the inquiry resulted in the Constantinople Conference and the Russo-Turkish war, etc., would be, I think, to repeat well-known history. My present object is to point out the principal part Sir Edwin Pears played in saving the Bulgarian people from destruction and starting it into new life—the liberation of the Bulgarians. The great national Sobranye, the Constituante, fully appreciated the services rendered by Sir E. Pears to the nation and voted him an expression of gratitude. Later he received further recognition of his services in the shape of decorations from the Bulgarian Prince. As he defended the Bulgarian people and its establishment, so, in the same manner, and with the same faith, he defended the Armenians; he was ever the friend and supporter of the oppressed. In Constantinople he was popularly known as the Ambassador of the *Daily News*, and was a constant thorn in the side of the Turkish Government. More than once the authorities attempted to expel him from the country, but his courage and decision, which proved that he would be even of greater danger to them outside than within, saved him, and he was left to his work.

I remember his visiting Sofia three times. After each visit he felt, as he told me, more proud of the progress which the Bulgarian people was uninterruptedly making and more happy in the memory of the great effort he had made with his telegrams to the *Daily News*. I say great effort because only men such as the Drs. Washburn and Long could have induced him to make it, and these founded their belief on letters received by secret ways from men personally unknown to them!

Sir E. Pears established himself as barrister in Constantinople in 1870. For decades past he was the leading figure of the British colony in that town. His favourite residence was in his villa in the island of Prinkipo. There was no man better acquainted with the questions of the Near East and the peoples of the Turkish Empire. He was an eminent archæologist, and the best authority on the archæology of Constantinople.

The last survivor of the five men who contributed so greatly and so successfully to save the Bulgarian people from the ashes to which Abdul Hamid had condemned it, to obtain its liberty and to astonish the world with its energy for progress and enlightenment, was Sir E. Pears. His name is well-known to all Bulgarians, and his memory, along with that of his four companions, will be fittingly preserved in the country. The late wars only interrupted the carrying out of plans formed to this effect.—I am, etc.,

Sofia, January 3, 1920. P. M. MATTHIEFF.

A Salonika message says that, according to a telegram from Sofia, 230 railway workers, alleged Communists, have been arrested at Sofia, 350 at Philippopolis, and 300 at Plevna.

The Turkish Government (says a Constantinople telegram) has made representations to the Entente Governments, asking them to prevent the landing at Constantinople of Russian refugees fleeing from Russia, in view of the shortage of housing accommodation and foodstuffs in Turkey.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Belgrade, has invited the Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund, London, to organise and operate the bulk of their institutions for disabled and invalid Serbian soldiers, of whom there are between 175,000 and 200,000 in Yugoslavia. The English staff will work in close co-operation with the Serbian Government; and orthopædic hospitals, tubercular sanatoria, workshops, and agricultural schools will be established. A formal acceptance of the offer of the Ministry of Social Welfare to undertake this great responsibility is being conveyed by Major Hardwicke, Director of the Serbian Relief Fund in Serbia, who will hand it to the Ministry of Social Welfare.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Pan Turanianism.

The *Berliner Tageblatt* has recently published some remarkable articles from the pen of Ernst Paraquin, who was formerly Imperial German Colonel and Head of Halil Pasha's General Staff. In the summer of 1918 Colonel Paraquin was attached to the Turkish army under the command of Nourri Pasha, who was fighting against the mixed force commanded by Major-General Dunsterville, at Baku. In the issue for January 24 he gives a report of conversations that he held at Mosul with Halil Pasha, commander of the former Goltz army and youthful uncle and confidant of Enver Pasha. The following are extracts from the plans which Halil Pasha put forward for a Pan-Turkish Empire.

In the first place, it was necessary to unite all Turkish-speaking peoples. The national element stood in the foreground. Therefore, the conquest of Turkestan, the cradle of the Turkish Empire, was the first thing necessary. Next, connections must be formed as far as the Siberian Jakuts, whom Halil Pasha regarded, on account of their kinship in language, as the extreme outposts of Turkdom in the East. The Tartars in the Caucasus, akin to the Turks by race, were next to be included in this union. The national minorities in the Caucasus, of whom those most important to consider were the Armenians and the Georgians, must submit, either voluntarily or under compulsion. The Armenian question has certainly, through the war, come nearer to "solution," for the annihilation of the Armenian race had been furthered by all the Turkish departments concerned with ruthless decision. It was regrettable that the Georgians, fearing to incur a similar fate, had thrown themselves into the arms of the Germans, and that the German Empire had officially taken them under its protection. But the future rôle of Germany in the Caucasus Halil Pasha did not estimate very highly. Turkish policy would certainly find means, even perhaps by a game of intrigue with England and Russia, to shove us out of the way, perhaps to a place where we had just as little to gain as the Turks had in Courland. Then the time would come when the Georgians, surrounded by Turks and Tartars, at variance among themselves through their religious division into Mohammedans and Christians, would fall under Turkish rule. Decisive for the execution of this plan was the possession of the most important Georgian port, Batum, which had been granted to the Turks by Germany by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, with incomprehensible facility and short-sightedness.

This great nationally-exclusive Turkish Empire must, as a Mohammedan Supreme Power, have a great attraction for Afghanistan and Persia. In Afghanistan, the country bound to Turkey by the common Sunnite creed, the Turks reckoned on strong Turkish sympathies. The heir to the throne was to be brought up in the Turkish spirit. The incorporation with Turkey of Azerbaijan, the richest Persian province inhabited by Tartars, was a requirement of which the fulfilment was hoped for in the near future. The rest of Persia Halil Pasha rightly estimated as of very little value. He was aware of the hatred borne by the Shiites to the Sunnites, but he thought Persia incapable of organising adequate resistance. Besides this, there was the Pan-Islamic movement, which was doing its best to allay the hostility between the opposed co-religionists.

The position of Arabia was interesting, where the skilful co-operation of the different members of the Young Turk clique is conspicuous. While Halil Pasha defended the Pan-Turk position, Enver Pasha played, in a masterly way, the rôle of the Pan-Islamite. Halil Pasha made no secret of his contempt for the "Arab swine." He regarded Arabia as an appropriate article of exchange in negotiations with England. He was sure that England would make no objection to an establishment of Turkey in Turkestan if she had in exchange the great Arabian land-bridge between Egypt and India. If we decisively won the war against England, and a withdrawal from the Arabian provinces were therefore, unnecessary, so much the better for the Turkish dreams of world-dominion. Enver Pasha, who since the defence of Tripoli had become the hero of Islam, considered the Arabian policy, above all, from the standpoint of Turkey as an Islamic Great Power. With great skill he employed Arabs as Turcophil propagandists in the Caucasus, who were there admired and venerated among the simple mountain folk as the holy people of the Prophet. The resuscitation of the ancient Arab Empire under the Turkish Khalif, together with the addition of provinces of the Turco-Tartar race, would make Turkey the undisputed Great Power in Asia, whose influence, with the help of Islam, would extend as far as Africa.

The writer proceeds to show that the realisation of these dreams was systematically pursued.

In the frame of this decidedly Nationalist policy the annihilation campaign against the Armenians proceeded. The Armenians residing in the Turkish vilayets had been "transplanted" into the Arabian vilayets. As a matter of fact, they had, in thousands, been starved to death or had succumbed to sickness on the marshes or in the desert steppe. . . . Against Armenian atrocities of this kind, of course, all official German protests are in vain, as the Turkish Government, with hypocritical indignation, denies all barbarous conduct against Armenians. The evacuation of Anatolia by the Russians furnished the desired opportunity to clear out also the Russian Armenians, who lived between the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish fresh establishment of Azerbaijan. Over the frontiers fixed by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk pressed the Turkish divisions, which could be ill-spared from Palestine, into the Russian Caucasus, expelled the Armenians from house and home and drove them, amid murder and robbery, to the desert mountain country round the Goltsche Lake. Alexandropol had already fallen; the Turkish columns stood just before Erivan—when the unheard-of happened. To meet the victorious march into the Georgian Tiflis came, unexpectedly, German troops with arms in their hands. It came to skirmishes, there were wounded and prisoners. But before the seriousness of the German arrival the Turkish pride in victory recoiled, with gnashing of teeth. But one of the main aims was achieved, the fruitful Plain of Aras was in Turkish possession, the Russian Armenians, like their Turkish companions in misfortune, were abandoned to poverty and misery. Again had the achievement of the object, viz., the extermination of the Armenians and the creation of an exclusive district inhabited only by Mohammedan Turks and Tartars, stretching from the Mediterranean to the Caspian, come an important step nearer. And as on September 16, 1918, in conquered Baku the Caucasian song was played, as my Turkish *Sous-Chef* assured me: "We shall regain our old possession."

With the same inexorable ruthlessness the Armenians living in Persian Azerbaijan were treated, as well as all persons who did not unconditionally further the Turkish plans. To combat English influence, as a preparation for a gigantically planned enterprise for the reconquest of Bagdad in 1919, on the road through Persia, Turkish troops, under Kiasim Pasha, were quartered in Tabriz.

The writer concludes this article with an incident which, he says, demonstrates "how little respect Turkish politicians and authorities had for German prestige and German interests, if it were a question of the effective prosecution of their own national aims."

Bolshevism and the Middle East.

The *New Statesman* of February 7 has some outspoken comments on what by some journals has been called the Great "Red" Plot. It refers to what it calls the "fallacy" of hoping to tranquillise the East by smashing Bolshevism in Russia. It proceeds:—

But it also is absurd—and dangerously absurd—to attribute the state of the Middle East to the machinations of Bolshevism. Are we really asked to believe that Egypt and Syria and Persia and the rest would be nice quiet places at this moment but for the wickedness of Lenin and his friends? Are we to believe that Arab sheikhs and Cairene effendis are in sympathy with Marxian communism, or that Mohammedans, even if they do not like Christians, can conjure up an honest affection for "blatant atheists"? And if we are told that it is the simple, illiterate Moslem and not the enlightened leaders of Pan-Islam who are being deluded by the Bolshevik agitator, we reply that the simple, illiterate Moslem will follow the enlightened leaders of his own race and creed in a Holy War, or for any other purpose, without Russian propaganda. What it comes to, in fact, is this—that there is a great body of Moslems hostile to British or French domination, and another body of Russian Bolsheviks also hostile to Britain and France, and that these two bodies find it convenient to make common cause against us for the moment. But the folly of supposing that it is the Bolsheviks who dominate the Moslems and are mainly responsible for our troubles, is precisely that we blind ourselves to what is really the matter with the Middle East. What is the matter with the Middle East is that it, like other parts of the world, has been infected not with Bolshevik doctrines, whatever these may be, but with ideas of liberty—perhaps vague, perhaps ill-understood, ideas, but, nevertheless, ideas, and that our statesmanship has blundered, and is still blundering, in dealing with the situation. Some of our scandalous diplomacy, no doubt, merits a harder name; but we will call it blundering. The list of blunders begins with the declaration of the Protectorate over Egypt in 1914, it includes many of our dealings with the Hedjaz Arabs, the manner, if not the matter, of the Anglo-Persian agreement, our shufflings with the Turks, and other lesser but not unimportant matters. Nor is it only in its acts that our statesmanship has failed, but in its spirit and outlook also. We can see little evidence of a consistent British policy in the Middle East. The Foreign Office, the War Office, the India Office, and capitalists behind the scenes have all had their fingers in the pie—and they have made a mess of it. . . . . We have involved ourselves in difficulties with France—we do not say, of course, that in the actual issue France has been right and we wrong; but our point is that a straightforward and honest policy from the beginning would have avoided the difficulties. We have made ourselves disliked from the Caucasus to the Persian Gulf, from Constantinople to Cairo. It is true we have got control of the oil wells of Baku and Tekrit, of Palestine and Kurdistan. We have got a promise in the Caucasus of some sort of a buffer for India. We have got a commanding position in Egypt for our aviation services to Baghdad and India and the Cape. But all these things we have got at a heavy price—the profound suspicion or fierce hostility of most of this vast region, difficult and expensive to hold, easy to lose. And now when we are assailed by angry Nationalists in Egypt, Syria, Anatolia, the Caucasus, Kurdistan, and Persia, we are urged to fight the Russian Bolsheviks! The Bolsheviks, we repeat, are not the real danger. The real danger, not merely to the progress of liberty and order, but to actual peace, is to be found in our own "old-gang" politicians and their Press.

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THE CARAVANSERA I.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

So Dr. von Rosen has been rejected by Spain, and Germany will have to look around for some other representative at the Court of Madrid. As I understand it, his rejection was due to his having supported some French claims at the Algeciras Conference; and Spain has not forgotten, or forgiven, him for that. He has served his country diplomatically at Teheran, Jerusalem, and Baghdad, and has, I believe, a somewhat uncommon acquaintance with Oriental languages. I never met him personally, but a friend who knew him well—as far as any Englishman can be said to have "known" any German in the East, that is to say, for the Germans never showed themselves frankly to us, as we now recognise—has quite pleasant memories of him. The German used to make frantic efforts to play tennis, but never gained any real mastery over his racquet; but he took his failure philosophically and with good nature, and used to remark that he thought he would do pretty well at it—in twenty years. Let us hope he will take the disappointment over Madrid in the same philosophic spirit.

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The following passage is extracted from a letter written by a correspondent in Constantinople shortly after the opening of the Turkish Parliament, to which it refers. If the shade of Abdul Hamid could see Turkey now, would he smile cynically, I wonder, or weep Weep, I fancy; for in his own way he loved Turkey. Perhaps his instinct that Parliamentary institutions were not good for his country was not so very far wrong after all! Here is the extract:—The opening ceremony was a mournful affair, and as the seventy-two deputies came forward to take the oath, one could not help contrasting their subdued air and the general lack of enthusiasm with the scenes that occurred at the opening of the first Parliament in 1908. On that occasion Sultan Abdul Hamid, surrounded by a brilliant retinue, occupied the Imperial box, while the gold lace and cocked hats of the numerous diplomatic representatives added a further touch of colour to the scene. After the deputies, nearly three hundred in number, had taken the oath and the Speech from the Throne had been read, the air rang with cheers, "Vive la Constitution! Vive la Liberté!" But never a word for the Red Sultan, who, leaning upon his gold-hilted yataghan, looked silently down upon the scene from beneath his heavy eyelids and—who knows?—already plotted the destruction of those who had dared to clip his despotic powers. On Monday, gone was all the enthusiasm, the colour, the brilliance, and—the high hopes that twelve years ago filled the hearts of all but a handful of pessimists, whose prophecies have been justified by events. Nervously and amidst a chilling silence the handful of deputies took the oath on the Koran. "Wallahi, Billahi!"

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What seems to be an amusing story comes from a Serbian correspondent:—In the pleasant village of Bela Tsrkva, or Whitchurch, as it may be translated, two priests returned from their military duties as army chaplains to find themselves widowers of some years' standing. They applied to the ecclesiastical authorities for permission to marry a second time; long they waited; then as no answer came to this constitutional question, they took the law into their own hands. Widowed Pop Popovich married his comrade, widowed Pop Laushevich, to Miss Darinka Ohradovich, who in his turn promptly married his friend to Madame Smilja Novakovich, widow of a schoolmaster, on the principle of "one good turn deserves another." All the local notables attended the double ceremony, which passed off with great success.

CORSAIR.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

ALBANIA. PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. WIRELESS SQUADRON, MESOPOTAMIA. INDIA: Cost of Living.—Retired Civil Servants (Directorships). DARDANELLES AND GALLIPOLI (GUNS AND AMMUNITION). ARMENIAN REFUGEES. BAQUBA CAMP. (February 12.)

THE MIDDLE DANUBE.

Lecturing at King's College on February 11 on "The Problems of the Middle Danube," Dr. R. W. Seton Watson said it was almost a fashion now to speak of the Balkanisation of Central Europe, and the phrase was presumably a protest against the substitution of a number of small States for a powerful empire, implying that the new organisms rested on a less healthy and natural basis than the heterogeneous and slow-growing organism which they had replaced. But the new forms had their basis in history, and, *mutatis mutandis*, there was a very strong resemblance between the Europe of to-day and that of the closing Middle Ages. The Austrian Empire had been mainly the creation of the House of Hapsburg, when the Turkish danger had brought many divergent peoples together in the countries round the Middle Danube and had enabled the Central Government to curtail liberties in a way that would otherwise never have been dreamed of. But by the nineteenth century Turkey had utterly ceased to be a danger, and the great mission of the Hapsburgs had been achieved. Thenceforth the policy of that house had consisted in finding a new basis for the Austro-Hungarian combination in the circumstances of the modern world.

Dr. Watson described the political conditions of Austria-Hungary during the reign of Francis Joseph up to the break-up of the Austrian Empire, which, he said, was not destroyed by the Allies, but fell by its own weight. The States which succeeded it were not the creation of Paris; Paris had merely ratified accomplished facts. Czecho-Slovakia was the strongest and most flourishing of these States, and seemed as if it would have the brightest future, provided it could surmount certain internal problems. The first of these was that of the German minority; there were over two million Germans in the new Republic, living in compact masses on its periphery adjoining their co-nationals in the neighbouring States. Czecho-Slovakian statesmen had begun well in their handling of the problem: the difficulties that arose were due to chauvinism on both sides. The second internal problem related to the Slovaks; there was a difference of temperament between the Czechs, who were the most go-ahead of all the Slavs, and the Slovaks, who were a backward mountain people. The real issue here, however, was not between Czech and Slovak, but between Clerical and Anti-Clerical. The natural development of the future, said Dr. Watson, was to form a league of States, consisting at first of Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, Yugoslavia, and Roumania. Hungary would afterwards come into line, a working arrangement would be made with Poland, and, finally, Greece would be admitted as an adjunct, and possibly at a later date an economic arrangement might be made with Bulgaria.

PROPOSED SANATORIUM FOR MERCHANT SEAMEN.

Lord Inchcape, immediately before his departure at the end of January for India, issued an appeal for funds with which to equip and endow a much-needed sanatorium which is to be conducted under the ægis of the Seamen's Hospital Society. The existing sanatoria are of insufficient capacity to meet the general demands made, and presently to be made, upon their resources, and, although the percentage of cases among seamen is not abnormal, the circumstances of the sailor's calling render it difficult for him to await his turn on the long list of those seeking admission. Thus, the temptation of the tuberculous sailor is to put to sea again with the disease still active, but the conditions of life there tend to aggravate his own condition and to make him, at the same time, a special source of danger to his shipmates. It is felt, therefore, that in no way can the merchant seamen's courage and devotion to duty, so manifest during the war, be more usefully recognised than by providing for the immediate treatment of such as may be attacked by tuberculosis. An initial grant has been allocated by King George's Fund towards the purchase, for such uses, of Bramshott Place, Hants. The chosen site has been approved by the Ministry of Health, and provides the essentials of good air, suitable soil, sufficient immediate accommodation, and ample space for extension. For the establishment of the sanatorium a sum of £70,000 is needed: £1,000 will suffice to endow a bed. The P. and O. Company and its associates have promised £10,000, and Messrs. Furness, Withy and Company £2,500. In Lord Inchcape's absence, communications on the subject may be addressed to Commander Hodgkinson, R.N., at 122, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3.

TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

The Editor will be glad to consider photographs of Near Eastern scenery, types, places of interest, etc., etc., suitable for reproduction in THE NEAR EAST. *When desired, payment will be made for the right of producing such photographs. Readers should state, when forwarding pictures, whether payment is desired or not.*

Photographs should be sent either packed between stout cards or rolled in a cardboard tube, and should on no account be folded. Titles and notes should be attached to each photo, and should be very clearly written.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I. "A Brief Description of THE HOLYS EPULCHRE, JERUSALEM, and other Christian Churches in the Holy City: with some account of the Mediæval copies of the Holy Sepulchre surviving in Europe." By George Jeffery, F.S.A (Cambridge University Press. 10s. 6d. net).
II. "INDIAN NATIONALITY." By R. N. Gilchrist. (London: Longmans, 7s. 6d. net.)
III. "MORNING KNOWLEDGE." By Alastair Shannon. (London: Longmans Green and Co. 14s. net.)
IV. "SIR LIMPIDUS." By Marmaduke Pickthall. (London: Collins. 7s. net.)

I. THE CENTRAL SHRINE OF CHRISTENDOM

There is no fascination in the world equal to that of old buildings; for architecture is both the record of a country's past and a faithful register of its mental growth and equipment. Few countries are more rich than Palestine in ancient buildings. It is strange how many have survived the storms of wars and changes; it is no less strange that they are all of Christian origin, with the one exception of the Harames-Sherif.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre holds an unique place in Christendom. Throughout long ages Christian devotion has flowed eastwards to its doors, and Christian blood and treasure have been poured out like water in its defence. No church in the world has such a "storied past," yet, despite all the conflict of which it was both cause and centre, it has preserved inviolate its sanctity, its haunting beauty, its mysterious and elusive charm.

Mr. Jeffery is fully alive to the fascination of the church he describes so minutely, but he has not allowed it to enslave him. With quiet measured steps he traces the strange, eventful story of the church, from a thoughtful account of "Primitive Christianity" down to "Modern Times." The largest portion of the book describes the church and its surroundings, and here the trained hand and eye of the architect are clearly discernible, technical knowledge, balanced by strong artistic and literary taste, giving weight to his argument. Mr. Jeffery is singularly free from bias. He rides no pet theory to death, but is content to sift and weigh with patience and judgment, leaving his readers to form their own conclusions upon the most hotly debated subject in the world. Whether or no the author believes in the authenticity of the site, the reader must decide for himself; but even an extremist will find it hard to quarrel with the clear, dispassionate, and reverent manner in which the subject is handled. "The finding of the Holy Sepulchre is described by the Bishop of Cæsarea (Eusebius) as a simple operation. We are given to understand that the site was well known, and the presence of the pagan temple built to desecrate it was sufficient to indicate its exact position. Eusebius seems to have been present at its discovery when a boy; he speaks as an eye-witness. The temple . . . was first pulled down; then the podium or platform was completely carried away. . . The Holy Sepulchre when laid bare by the removal of the temple podium seems to have astonished the explorers by its intact condition" (p. 3). "It is true that we have at present no very clear historical evidence of the condition of the Holy Sites before c. 333 A.D., but to most minds this fact is reasonably accounted for by the known circumstances of the Christian era. The Gospel history is not out of harmony with this state of oblivion, or at least absence of records, succeeding the Apostolic age, and such records may even still survive for future explorers to unearth in Egypt or elsewhere" (p. 219). We can all respect a tradition so old and reverend, even if we regard it as a tradition only.

The long and careful description of the church, past and present, is the most absorbing part of the book. The author has made a minute study of the chronicles of the old Pilgrims (translated by the Palestine Pilgrims Text Society, Palestine Exploration Fund), and from these he rebuilds the church for those who know it only in its days of mourning. The church no longer "glows with mosaic work of incomparable beauty," as when Theodoric saw it in 1175, but we have from him and others vivid pictures of its glories. "Few buildings of the twelfth century rivalled it in size. Perhaps the only churches resembling it of equal or greater proportions, at that time in existence, would have been Santa Sophia, Constantinople, or the older rotundas of the Pantheon and San Stefano, Rome; and certainly none other excelled it in boldness and novelty of construction. The great Basilicas of Rome . . . were of so utterly different a style as to admit of no comparison with the new church of Jerusalem and its Gothic vaults and domes of an unprecedented fashion" (p. 72).

"The old circular church was carefully retained by the Crusaders, and indeed survived in an almost intact condition until the unfortunate fire of 1808" (p. 76). "After this fire, which calcined and destroyed the encircling arcades with their columns, and consequently reduced the surrounding galleries to a complete ruin, the rotunda was reconstructed *de novo*. The outer semi-circular wall, following the rock cutting of the earliest period, seems the only part to have been retained." Thus perished one of the fairest jewels of the Christian Kingdom. "The general proportions and dimensions seem to have been adhered to with Chinese exactness," however, in rebuilding. "No such remarkable case of restoring an ancient building has ever taken place before or since the rebuilding of the Holy Sepulchre rotunda"; the reason being that, while "the Christians were permitted by their Turkish landlords to rebuild the premises," the latter insisted on "the most scrupulous reproduction in dimensions of all that had been burnt" (p. 78)..

There are some interesting and suggestive notes upon European churches built after the pattern of the Holy Sepulchre. These notes are the result of personal observation and study, and are illustrated by delightful little sketches and plans. It was Mr. Jeffery who first suggested that the apse mosaic of St. Pudenziana, Rome, was a contemporary representation of the fourth century buildings at Jerusalem. Churches within and without the city are also touched on, though not in detail. We hope that Mr. Jeffery will some day make an exhaustive study of these, and of other churches in Palestine, many of which are now used as mosques. No one could do it better. He is justly severe upon certain "quite deplorable" modern buildings around Jerusalem, which are "marked with a singularly commonplace utilitarianism"; but modesty forbids more than a passing reference to the stately group known as St. George's College, built by Bishop Blyth, of which Mr. Jeffery was the architect; described by the late Sir Charles Wilson as being "the most beautiful and appropriate modern buildings at Jerusalem."

It seems ungracious to draw attention to one or two weak points in a book so thoroughly admirable, but that very excellence "makes them visible. The dictionary gives us no such word as madre*pearl*," and it seems unnecessary to render the familiar name of Felix Fabri as "Faber." We think it misleading to describe the futile crusades of Frederick II. and Richard of Cornwall as "*restoring*" the Latin Kingdom. Frederick's treaty with the Saracens secured a nominal possession of Jerusalem for fifteen years, but he was barely one month in the Holy City, where his coronation by himself was purely an act of defiance of the Pope; and we believe we are right in saying that Richard of Cornwall entered Jerusalem only to worship. The Greek Patriarchate seems too interesting a building to be dismissed thus: "Some of the whitewashed buildings have a venerable appearance, and may, indeed, be of the Middle Ages" (p. 170). According to Conder ("Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem," p. 104), "The kings of Jerusalem fixed their abode where now the Greek Patriarch resides . . . It included many vaulted rooms, and could with comfort contain a hundred persons" (F. Fabri, vol. i., part ii., p. 394).

Mr. Jeffery has done full justice to his subject. He has given us a scholarly, substantial, and unbiassed account of one of the chief shrines in the world. The book is packed with information, which the clearness of its style and the ample notes given make yet more valuable. The illustrations and plans (many of them the author's own work) enrich and explain the text. Though it embodies the labour of years, it appears most opportunely now, after the liberation of the Holy Sepulchre by the last Crusade: one fruit of which, we trust, will be the opening of Palestine (like Egypt) to legitimate and systematic archæological research. Mr. Jeffery's aim, as he says modestly enough, has been "to be permitted to assist in elucidating the exceedingly interesting mass of information which has accumulated around this most important monument." We think the unhesitating verdict will be that he has made a valuable and convincing contribution to this end.

II. A NATION IN THE MAKING.

Principal Gilchrist here attempts to set forth the fundamental facts of Indian social, religious, and political life, and their possible bearing on Indian responsible Government. He brings to his task wide reading, clear thought, and absolute fairness; in fact, he is too fair to satisfy partisans, and his book will be appreciated best by serious students in search of materials for a reasoned estimate of the future of the great experiment. The writer takes the ordinary tests of nationality one by one, and has little difficulty in showing that India does not satisfy them in regard to race, language, religion, or social institutions; but at the same time he gives reasons for thinking that the forces now in operation may overcome these obstacles, and that a definite Indian nationality may emerge. He realises, better, perhaps, than most recent writers, the danger that local chauvinism may wreck the evolution, but he considers

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that the difficulty can be met by a rather loose federal organisation, coupled with almost unfailing wisdom in the central Government—in other words, that we have taken up an exceedingly difficult task, but that we ought to be able to secure its accomplishment. We think these conclusions are in the main sound, but, as Professor Ramsay Muir points out in the introduction, the aim of the book is not to spread doctrine, but to present the relevant materials for an intelligent opinion; from this point of view it must be described as a success, and we wish that its study could be enforced on the extremists of both sides.

III.—CREATIVE TRUTH.

It is a commonplace, but it is untrue, to say that the war has left no one unchanged. Some there are whom it has not affected, others who through it have lost themselves, and still others who through it have found themselves. It is to the third category that Mr. Shannon, the author of this very remarkable book, belongs; and it is solely because of the surprising joy at finding himself in this third category that he has written his book.

For two and a-half years Mr. Shannon was a prisoner in the hands of the Turks. It was in the last year of his captivity at Afion Kara-Hissar, that he resolved to set down the workings of his mind, and the whole of Volume I. of this book is taken up with the process of his thought. It is written in the form of conversation, and shows how he drew from his fellow-prisoners types of the opposition with which his philosophy has to contend. First, he meets the scientist, and disposes of his view of life by asserting that his (the scientist's) world is one of pure intellectual vision, a world in which nothing happens, but where everything is governed by the laws of necessity. Next he fells the theologian, who has a belief in History. To him he says: "The more we study history the more liable we are to become bound by precedent, the more liable we are to assume that present cures can be effected by past remedies." Thus having overcome the main intellectual obstacles of man, he proceeds to a discussion of pure philosophy, and it is at this point that his book gathers both strength and interest.

Always with sympathy, and often with contradiction, we follow our author. His lot has been, in a sense, one of the finest that can befall a man: like many others, he has seen Life and Death, and has experienced Suffering and Joy. And from these experiences it is that he has gained his vision. It is not an unique vision, but is one which those who partook (and some who did not partake) in the war possessed in a supreme degree. It is the vision of the New World, the realisation of which will alone compensate for the grief of mankind. In one part of the book the author says that it was through Activity that he obtained his vision, and that it was through Loneliness that he was able to understand it. This experience was undergone by thousands of other men, but Mr. Shannon is the first Englishman, we believe, to set it down in terms of philosophy.

Briefly, his belief is that Creative Truth is the only thing which matters, that it is in fact the explanation of Life. His is a difficult conception because as he says: "Unless I *make* it (Truth), there is no Truth either for me or for the universe about me. Mystics have tried to express this experience, and they have failed. In the very act of putting it into words so that you may hear, I slay the meaning of it for ever." It is this belief in the personal necessity of creating Truth that leads him on to say that Man is essential to God's knowledge of himself, that Man is in short part of God, that God, therefore, is not infinite but finite. To support this contention the author necessarily indulges in Mysticism, and (perhaps necessarily also) in a little mystification. But he glows with the passion of his discovery, and reaches his highest eloquence towards the end of Volume I. After insisting on the paramount value of Silence and of Freedom, he brings to an end his inquiry into the meaning of Life, and says to his comrade in his mental process: "We can only hope to produce Morning Knowledge. Noonday or perfect knowledge can only come where *every* individual has found for himself that Silence and that Freedom which make him God in Expression." But at the end of his thought he knows he is just beginning, and says: "All life seems only introductory somehow."

In Volume II. the conception of Creative Truth is applied to life through the medium of Love, and it is in this volume that the author's statements are at once the most strong and most disputable. In the first volume, for the sake of the right conclusion, we suffered much: we endured the very dull conversational form of the writing, we let pass almost unnoticed the introduction from German and American philosophers of such ugly compounds as "view-points," "thought-evolutions," and so on, and we read (though most unwillingly) the numerous footnotes which had been appended in the true academic manner. But in Volume II. the author discards these tiresome forms, and changing from Logic to Love, becomes much more readable. For the most part he uses the apostrophic method, and in impassioned vocatives pleads for the application of his principles to the world. Slipping into poetry as he does it cannot be supposed that all he says will be accepted. He is indeed guilty of such shining inexactitudes as was another young man when he wrote "Beauty is truth, truth beauty." Naturally men are more successful in the construction than in the application of their principles, but as a matter of fact, Mr. Shannon's Creative Truth is, much more than most philosophers' convictions, capable of application to modern life. His "discovery," one which many men unconsciously made in the war, is indeed the hope, and the only hope of the future, but it seems to us that he does not state it quite accurately. Take, for instance, his views on the present Western economic system. He implies that if employers and employees alike would allow this passion for Creative Truth, this Love, to inform all their actions, the present system would "do." But is it not the case that nearly all present systems have been established without the application of Creative Truth, and that they would therefore be destroyed upon its application? Again, in this connection he says, "The more wealth in the world, the more progress"—a notoriously untrue statement. Indeed, almost all through this volume it would be possible to pick minor quarrels with the author.

Yet this is a most notable book that Mr. Shannon has produced. He is, we understand, a young man, but his mental ability and his humanity are large—larger indeed than his power of expressing them. He is certain to develop, though in which direction we confess we cannot guess; but even if it were only for the things he says with which we disagree, we should say that he will make a name as a thinker. There is, however, much more for agreement than disagreement, and in any case, the author knows, as is shown by his introduction, where his weak spots are. His book is one of the most stimulating that the war has produced—it is literally thoughtful—and to those whom the war has changed, but who know not how, we recommend "Morning Knowledge" very heartily. Its purpose is admirable, and its achievement, of whatsoever use, will surely be of much avail.

IV.—THE FINISHED PRODUCT.

In this his latest novel Mr. Pickthall has deserted the field which he had made his own—the Levant—and has joined the already overcrowded regiment of social critics. He tells the life-story of Sir Limpidus, who, born of a baronet, and educated at a public school and the university, proceeds naturally to the diplomatic service and to fame. The author shows very clearly the side of our "best men's" life which one does not commonly talk about, and certainly achieves his aim in demonstrating that the possession of vice, ignorance, and other easy qualities in no way prevents, encourages rather, the inevitable development of our "born diplomats." Sir Limpidus does precisely what he ought to do, leaves undone exactly what he ought to leave undone, and so becomes what he ought to become—a Cabinet Minister. You do not notice the steps of the ladder which he climbs—Mr. Pickthall is as skilful as Du Calion with the ladder business—and when he has arrived at Cabinet rank, you do not marvel at the achievement, you merely know that it is time for the book to stop. And this it does.

The author is only partly successful. He succeeds in the setting of the story, and fails in his characters. His conversations are extremely interesting of themselves, but never as the speech of human beings. His thesis—that a creature produced, not a creature producing, is a fit and obvious person to rule others—is convincing, but those who demonstrate it are not. With feeling the author always writes, sometimes with knowledge, but rarely with imagination. His satire is too flat and direct; he lacks delicacy and subtlety. A little more inconsequence and fantasy would not have spoiled his theme, it would have made his novel a great work. For instance, the visits of Sir Limpidus to Russia and to Albania are not sufficiently accidental; one suspects that Mr. Pickthall deliberately chose these places for exhibiting his hero's folly. There is really not enough fun in the book; its tragi-comedy often makes one smile, but seldom can one laugh. However, it is a thoroughly readable work, and as a story it is enjoyable; but as a book it suffers through Mr. Pickthall's forgetting the fact that indirect fire has its uses as much in satire as in war.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"A Short History of the Great War." By Prof. A. F. Pollard. (London: Methuen and Co., Limited. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Forty-Four Months in Germany and Turkey: February, 1915, to October, 1918." By Har Dayal, M.A. (London: P. S. King and Son, Limited. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Jewish Peril: Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion." (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"A History of the Indian Nationalist Movement." By Sir Verney Lovett, K.C.S.I. (London: John Murray. 12s. net.)

"The Salonika Front." By A. J. Mann. Painted by W. T. Wood. (London: A. and C. Black, Ltd. 25s. net.)

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Even if we have no Paganinis with us now, there are in England at the present time some very competent violinists. Among these may certainly be named Mlle. Jelly d'Aranyi. She has a large and very enthusiastic following, and I believe is admired greatly by musicians. At her recital at the Wigmore Hall on February 9 (she was assisted by Miss Ethel Hobday at the pianoforte), she gave grounds far more for wonder than for admiration. Granted that her technique is quite remarkably fluent, and granted that she has individuality, yet of her genius one could not (presupposing no previous knowledge) be sure. Her choice of pieces was very reproachable: the Schumann Sonata in A minor, with which she started, was good, but the Joachim Concerto in Hungarian style was quite insupportable. It is not music, and even if the unhappy country which gave it birth is still proud of it, it should be granted a monopoly in its pride. There were in addition worthless pieces by Wieniawski and Bazzini. At times there were serious differences of opinion between Mlle. d'Aranyi and Miss Hobday: the one is intensely individual, and plays with a waywardness with which the rigid classicism of the other could not cope. Their temperaments are poles apart, and in music, at any rate, the Arctic and Antarctic have qualities that cannot be merged. Of Mlle. d'Aranyi's genius, however, one is quite certain, though her programme on this occasion did look as if she were presuming upon that certainty.

The concert of classical music which Miss Rhoda Backhouse (violin), assisted by Mr. Harold Samuel (pianoforte), and Mr. Felix Salmond ('cello), gave at the Wigmore Hall on February 12, did not arouse much enthusiasm in me. The things played were Brahms' Trio in C Minor (Op. 101), Mozart's Sonata for Pianoforte and Violin, No. 1, in A, and Beethoven's Trio, No. 1, in D (Op. 70). A balance between the players was not maintained, and though the piano and 'cello had great powers of interpretation, Miss Backhouse possessed little individuality. The work by her left hand was rather rough, and she played incorrect notes in quite alarming abundance. Mr. Samuel's playing I do not admire; he is very neat, and he can phrase beautifully, but his dynamic and demonic force sounds mechanical. Mr. Salmond is a superb player, and he did much that was excellent, but his lonely efforts were of little avail. One had to wait until the very last movement of Beethoven's Trio to find an *ensemble* achieved, but for this movement (*Presto*) one forgave, however unreadily, all that had preceded.

During the war Russian music had an opportunity of obtaining popularity in this country, and it made at least a good attempt to avail itself of it. But it has not yet conquered the British public, and before the Russian "Musical Dramatic Art Society—Lahda" there is plenty of scope. At the concert which this society gave at the Wigmore Hall on February 13 there was no new music played, but the Russian Trio, consisting of M. Doré (violin), Dr. Rumshisky (piano), and M. Charles Hambourg ('cello), made their first appearance. In addition, a fine singer, M. Nicolai Nadejin, sang some songs in Russian. The trio played pieces by Arensky and Tchaikowsky, two composers who are ranked, probably, more highly than they deserve. For their inspiration they looked not to their native land but to the West, and to that extent lose, not in greatness, but in interest. However, the trio made much of them, the violin and piano in particular bringing out the meaning of the music; the 'cello was not sufficiently assertive. Dr. Rumshisky is a sound musician who makes an excellent member of a trio. M. Doré maintains an extraordinarily full tone, more full, indeed, than rich, and seems a most capable exponent of Slavic music. M. Nicolai Nadejin, who is a singer new to me, has a resonant voice, full of dramatic fire. His songs were by Tchaikowsky, Napravnik, Rimsky-Korsakoff, Borodin, and Arensky. Of the Rimsky-Korsakoff—the arietta of Griaznoi from "La Fiancée du Tsar"—he made a very fine thing, and "Prince Igor's Aria" he sang with most passionate art. The familiarity of his songs makes it not difficult to judge him; and one can say that, without approving of his choice of songs—Tchaikowsky and Napravnik do not wear very well—he is a distinguished singer whose future, unlike that of many who perform, is what he chooses to make it.

ANDANTE.

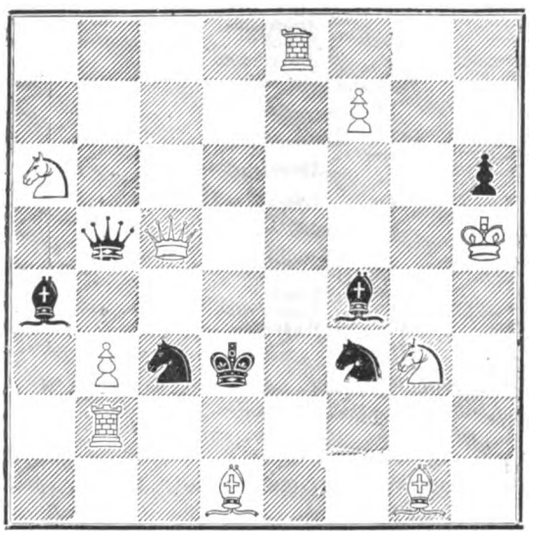
AN ALBANIAN PROTEST.

As we go to press the following telegram reaches us:—Albania, whose independence was confirmed at the London Conference of 1913, and who has not been a belligerent throughout this war, will not recognise the right of the Paris Conference to dispose of any of her territory among other States. At the same time, whilst energetically protesting against so flagrant an injustice, the Albanians declare that they will never submit to any foreign domination, and will hold the Conference responsible before the world for all future conflicts that will surely arise in the event of this inequality of justice being carried out.—The Delegates of the Albanian National Committees to Canada, the United States, and Switzerland.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 14.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem by Dr. J. J. O'Keefe, Sydney, was awarded the first prize in the December competition of the Good Companion Chess Problem Club.

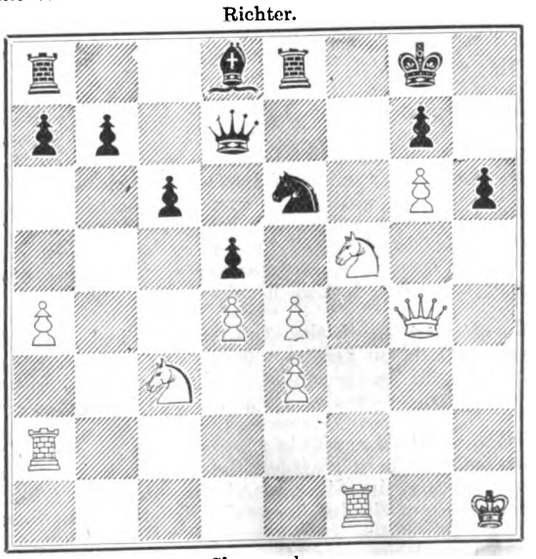
Solution to last week's problem:—1. Kt—Kt5; if R x R (ch.), 2 P x R mate; if R x Kt Q x R mate; if Q x R (ch), 2 Kt x Q mate; if R—K5, K4, etc., 2 Kt x P mate.

Since 1910 the University match has been held at the City of London Chess Club, and this year's match, the precise date of which I have not yet heard, will be played there. The last match took place in the club's old premises, and I think there is no doubt that the rooms at Wardrobe Court will be found much more convenient. The University contest will, of course, be preceded by the usual series of London matches against the City, the Metropolitan, Hampstead, and other clubs, in which the University teams will be aided by the strong contingent of past-members who are always available on these occasions.

There is little or no change in the positions in the chief London tournaments. In the City Championship, Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. R. P. Michell stand in the best positions. The Metropolitan Championship lies between Mr. E. E. Colman, Mr. R. H. V. Scott, and Sir G. A. Thomas. Mr. Colman has only Mr. Scott left to play, and it is more than likely that the result of that game will decide the contest. The Murton Cup tournament is now in progress at the City Club. This ever-popular event has attracted a very large number of entries. Three sections of eleven each have been started, and a fourth section will shortly be commenced.

Here is an interesting ending from a game between Charousek and Richter:—

Richter.



Charousek.

Play proceeded:—1. Kt x KtP! B—Kt4; 2. R—B7, Q—B; 3. Kt—B5, Kt—Q; 4. Q x B! Kt x R; 5. P x Kt., dbl. ch. and mates in seven by . . . K x P; 6. Q—Kt7 (ch.), K—K3; 7. Q—Kt5 ch.), K—B2; 8. Kt—Q6 (ch.), K—B; 9. Q—B6 (ch.), etc.

CARO-KANN.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. February. 19	1920. February. 6	Thursday	1338. Jumada I. 29	5680. Shebat. 30 Adar.
20	7	Friday	30 Jumada II.	1
21	8	Saturday.....	1	2
22	9	Sunday	2	3
23	10	Monday	3	4
24	11	Tuesday	4	5
25	12	Wednesday	5	6

Count Zamoiski, the Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs, has arrived at Claridge's Hotel.

The Aga Khan sailed from Marseilles for Bombay by the P. and O. mail steamer on February 14.

The Earl and Countess of Sandwich have left for Spain and Tangier, where they will be until after Easter.

Viscount Allenby was expected to arrive at Cairo on February 14 on his return from his visit to the Hejaz and the Sudan.

Colonel Rosetti, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has now recovered from his illness and has resumed his duties.

Sir Marshall Reid has resigned his membership of the Council of the Secretary of State for India on the ground of important business calls in the City.

Dr. Anté Trumbitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, arrived in London from Paris on February 12 in connection with the proceedings of the Peace Conference.

Sir Charles Eliot, who has been appointed his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Tokyo, left London on February 14 for Japan to take up his duties.

The King has been pleased to approve a special posthumous award of the war medals, the 1914 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal, to Earl Roberts and Earl Kitchener.

It is understood that Sir Edyard Denison Ross, director of the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution, has been offered and has refused the Vice Chancellorship of Hong Kong University.

The Shah of Persia, accompanied by the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Rome on February 14. He was received by the King, and is to be the guest of his Majesty at the Quirinal.

The relinquishment of his appointment by Major-General G. F. MacMunn, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O., as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, is announced in the *Gazette*.

On February 2 the Roumanian University of Cluj (Transylvania) was inaugurated, the King and Queen of Roumania presiding at the ceremony. The Universities of England telegraphed their hearty congratulations.

Colonel Bailey, of the Indian Political Department, arrived at Delhi on February 9 (states the *Times* correspondent). It will be remembered that he was arrested by Bolshevists while on a political mission in Turkestan.

Viscountess Esher, who is a Lady of Justice of St. John of Jerusalem, has been awarded the medal of the Reconnaissance Française in silver-gilt, in recognition of her work as inspectress of British hospitals with the French armies.

M. Yovan Plamenatz, the Montenegrin Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, arrived in London on February 12 from Paris. He is accompanied by M. Popovitch and M. Labud Tatar, who is acting as secretary and interpreter.

Under the auspices of the Egypt Exploration Society, a lecture will be given by Mr. H. Idris Bell to-morrow at 8.30 p.m. The lecture is entitled "The Historical Value of Greek Papyri," and it takes place in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House.

Dr. Mackichan, four times Vice-Chancellor of Bombay University and Principal of Wilson College, Bombay, for the last 41 years, has arrived in London from India. Dr. Mackichan has now retired from the Principalship of Wilson College, and will reside in this country.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, attended by Commander Talbot, specially attached, arrived in London on February 15, from Paris. M. Caclamanos, the Greek Minister, and the personnel of the Legation were present at the station. M. Venizelos is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

The King has granted to Mrs. Mary Harriet Carey, widow of Bertram Sausmarez Carey, C.S.I., C.I.E., V.D., Commissioner of the Saigang Division, Burma, the style and precedence to which she would have been entitled had her husband survived to be invested with the insignia of a K.C.I.E.

Sir James Brunyate, Member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India, and Sir Solomon Bandaranaike, Maha Mudaliyar, of Ceylon, had the honour of being received by the King on February 12.

A dinner will be held on March 1 at the Wharncliffe Rooms, Great Central Hotel, to give an opportunity for social re-union to those who have worked abroad during the war on behalf of Serbia. Tickets may be obtained from the hon. sec., Miss Marx, 24, Melcombe Court, Dorset Square, N.W.1.

Mr. H. Charles Woods will give an illustrated lecture on "Turkey and the Straits," in the Lincolnshire Room, National Liberal Club, 4, Victoria Street, S.W.1, at 5.30 p.m. to-day. Colonel the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., will preside. The meeting is open to ladies and gentlemen, who are not members of the club.

The marriage took place on February 12, at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, of Miss Edith Wratislaw, the eldest daughter of Mr. Albert Charles Wratislaw, C.B., C.M.G., recently appointed Consul-General for Beyrout in Syria, and Mrs. Wratislaw, and Mr. Noel D. Agabeg, son of Mr. E. C. Agabeg, a partner in Agabeg Brothers, in India.

On February 12, states the Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post*, a Ministerial Decree announced the birth of a son to the Sultan. This is the Sultan's first son. By his first wife he had a daughter, who is now wife of the Governor of Cairo. A salute of twenty-one guns was fired in Cairo and Alexandria, where in official quarters the day was a holiday.

In a delayed Reuter message from Delhi, dated February 7, it is stated that the engagement was announced on that date of the Hon. Joan Thesiger, the eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Chelmsford, and Captain A. F. Lascelles, Bedfordshire Yeomanry, son of the Hon. F. Lascelles, of Sutton Waldron House, Blandford, Dorset, and A.D.C. to the Governor of Bombay.

The Athens correspondent of the *Times* writes (February 4):—

Vice-Admiral Coundouriotis, who commanded the Greek Navy in the Balkan War and defeated the Turkish Fleet at Mudros and the Dardanelles, has now retired from active service with the rank of full Admiral. He is the first officer to reach Admiral's rank, which until now has been held by the King alone.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Dr. Koessaiwanoff has been appointed Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires in Berlin.

M. Karovitch has been appointed Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Mr. Katiravelpillai Balasingham has been re-appointed an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of the Island of Ceylon.

The *Sudan Times* of January 24 states:—

Mr. A. D. Home, Assistant Director of Intelligence, is leaving Khartoum during the coming week to take up another appointment in the Government service as Com-

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mercial Agent in Abyssinia. Mr. Home is no stranger to Abyssinia and its peoples, having been at Adis Abeba previously to joining this Government. He has also been appointed His British Majesty's Consul for North-West Abyssinia.

OBITUARY.

Lord Dormer died on February 9 at Varenna, Italy. He was for some time Sub-Director of the Secretariat of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, Cairo. Lord Dormer married in 1897 Marie Hanem, eldest daughter of the late F. Eywaz, of Cairo, but leaves no issue.

A telegram has been received at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, announcing that Prince Alexis Kara-Georgevitch, a relative of King Peter, died at St. Moritz on February 13.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

All Bombay mills are again working normally, the strike having ended.

Work has been resumed in the Indian Marine Dockyard, Bombay, on the basis of a daily increase of four annas.

Yugoslavia has compensated Italians whose shops were looted and devastated during the recent disorders at Spalato.

As a part of its amnesty scheme, the Madras Government will reconsider the question of the securities deposited by the newspapers under the Press Act.

An Egyptian student has been arrested on suspicion of being the man who threw a bomb at Sirry Pasha, the Minister of Public Works, on January 28.

Agitation against the Poona municipality's proposal to introduce compulsory primary education for girls as well as boys is being conducted by the Nationalist Party.

Georgia, in declining the proposal of Lenin that it should take joint action with Soviet Russia against General Denikin, says it hopes ultimately to establish good neighbourly relations with Russia.

Election to the Hyderabad Legislative Council by direct suffrage, representation of all important classes and interests, and the protection of minorities are guaranteed in a new *firman* by the Nizam.

On the motion of Mr. Surendranath Banerjee, the Indian Legislative Council has appointed a Select Committee to meet deputations from British Guiana and Fiji to discuss colonisation schemes and Indian emigration.

A memorandum addressed to the Pope by Mussulman and Catholic Arabs inhabiting Palestine protests against what it calls the British pro-Zionist policy, and in particular against Mr. Balfour's statement to the effect that Palestine must be a country for the Jews.

The *Bombay Chronicle* states that the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, the scene of the disturbances in the early part of last year, has been definitely acquired by the leaders of the Indian National Congress, as an Indian national memorial, for about 5½ lakhs of rupees.

Speaking before the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the French Chamber, M. Millerand, the Premier, declared that 30,000 men are necessary for the occupation of the territory of Mosul, Aleppo, and Damascus, which are at present still occupied by the British.

It is officially announced in Washington that Admiral Bristol has submitted a demand to the Turkish Government that Turkey shall take steps for the apprehension and punishment of the murderers of the American relief workers who were attacked by Turks while accompanying a convoy on January 22.

The French Minister of Marine has issued a Note describing the flags of the new States which have been recognised by the Allies, and which will consequently be entitled to recognition at sea and in port. Georgia has a striking flag in rich crimson, with a rectangle, half black and half white, in the upper corner. The Hejaz has black, green, and white in horizontal stripes.

Abdallah Koury, head of the Lebanon Peace Delegation, arrived at Marseilles on February 9. He proposes to submit the following three claims for the consideration of the Peace Conference in Paris:—(1) The independence of the Lebanon; (2) the extension of the country's frontiers, viz., the return to the Lebanon of the provinces seized by the Turks; (3) the granting of a mandate to France on behalf of the Lebanese.

The "Bulletin" of the League of Red Cross Societies (February) states: The development of typhus in Roumania has assumed the character of an appalling catastrophe. In Bucharest 580 to 590 cases are notified daily. In Serbia epidemics are progressing steadily, and the misery is appalling. The Greek Red Cross, it affirms, has assisted 30,423 Greeks in Smyrna, besides 5,369 Turks. 5,028 Jews, 1,467 unorthodox Armenians, and 1,343 Catholics, malaria being rampant among the 12,000 emigrants living in this province of Asia Minor.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

"EASTAPROX, LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO

(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1920.

INDIA AND BURMA.

Among the numerous problems which have been raised, but not solved, by the framing of the new Indian Constitution, perhaps none is more perplexing than the ultimate place of Burma in relation to the vast federation of predominantly peasant-states into which India is apparently destined to develop. The ordinary Englishman is puzzled that there should be any problem at all: he knows Burma only as a province of India, and he does not realise that that position is at once novel and artificial, dating as it does only from the year 1825, and arising from the accident that British power was at that time located at Calcutta. For centuries before that period the countries which now form Burma had lived their own life; some of them had occasional frontier troubles with Bengal, but taking the Burmese peoples as a whole they regarded Indians with the complacent disdain due to unimportant foreigners, and if they admitted Indian merchants to their seaports, it was merely to secure the brightly-coloured cloths, and still more the opium, which India was so eager to supply. Burmans are marked off from Indians by fundamental differences of race and language, religion and culture—in a word, by all the characteristics which we are accustomed to regard as tests of distinctive nationality; they have never in the mass had experience of Indian rule, and the armchair student of political institutions would declare without hesitation that the unnatural relation now subsisting should be abolished without delay. He would argue that to incorporate twelve millions of Burmans in a polity of three hundred millions of Indians is merely to invite disaster: India has a fundamental unity of mental outlook which in favourable circumstances may ultimately harmonise the jarring elements so prominent to-day, but Burma stands definitely apart; it is certain that sooner or later she will develop an ardent nationalism of her own, and whatever views individuals may take of the eternal Irish question, they will at least agree that the Empire wants no more questions of the kind. The conclusion to be deduced from this line of thought is obviously that the connection between the two countries should be severed forthwith, and the smaller, like the greater, allowed to work out its own destinies under the guidance of Imperial statesmen and officials.

The armchair student has a strong case, but before we accept his conclusions it is necessary to take account of certain possibilities and tendencies other than those to which we have referred. For one thing, there is the danger on the North-East. At the present time no prudent man would venture on a confident prediction regarding the future of China, and until the future can be predicted Burma must stand prepared to face the worst. The military measures dictated by this consideration might well prove to be beyond the reach of a State organised independently of India, and thus prudence suggests the maintenance of the existing relations at least until frontier liabilities can be estimated in terms of the resources of the country. More important, perhaps, than this measure of insurance is the group of tendencies now at work which have been described collectively as the pull from the West. In the course of the last century Burma has become closely linked to India by the ties of commerce and finance, by the influence of common laws and by the working of the Indian administrative machine; uniform standards of conduct have been set before the two countries, uniform courses of action have been enjoined, and those who best realise the reflex influence of administrative activities on the men who carry them out are best able to judge of the effect produced where almost every literate family takes part in the work of administration. The influence of administrative uniformity is probably greatest in the field of education; as yet Burma has no university of its own, and Burmese students have learned to draw their inspiration from Calcutta, the most distinctively Indian of all the Indian universities. The effect of this inspiration has been obvious of late in the agitation conducted by young men of the class described as educated in favour of Indian institutions for their motherland, and in the evidence tendered before the Joint Committee of Parliament. Opinions differ widely as to the weight to be attached to these manifestations of opinion, but their mere existence is significant in a region where sentiments are the things which matter most, and those who are not in a position to determine their importance will be well advised to suspend judgment until the facts become clear. The pull towards the West undoubtedly exists, though its strength may be uncertain at the moment; we do not know whether it is destined to increase or to diminish, and both possibilities must be taken into account.

Such, in our opinion, is the position as things stand to-day. There are opposing forces at work, their present strength is not easily ascertained, and their future development is almost beyond the possibility of forecast. In the long run the destiny of Burma will be decided by Burmans alone, but the time has not come when the nation can speak with a convincing voice, and the essential thing now is that the question should not be prejudged, or any action taken which may place difficulties in the way of giving effect to the future national decision. We believe that this formula will furnish a definite policy for the present, and for some time to come. The political and administrative connection with India is an existing fact, and calls for no immediate alteration beyond the measures of decentralisation which are to be applied to all provinces alike. The interests of Burma should be represented in the new Indian Legislature as they are represented in the existing Legislative Council, and such measure of administrative supervision as is reserved to the Central Government should apply to Burma as it applies to the various Indian provinces, but it should be applied from the outset with a difference, based on recognition of the fact that the future is still uncertain. In other words, the Provincial Administration should have a somewhat freer hand than is necessary in the case of Bengal or Bombay, so long as it provides an opportunity for the voice of Burma to be heard, and its constitution should be settled with this definite object in view. We are entirely unable to accept the contention of the Indianising party that the particular form of governmental machinery devised for India is of necessity equally suitable to Burma; the question is one for dispassionate examination, and the determining factor must be the provision of means of expression adapted to the genius of the people. For all practical purposes Burma is still dumb; the first requirement of the situation is that her people should find their collective voice. When this has been achieved, and a certain amount of political experience has been acquired, we believe that the future will rapidly become clear. If the people should then elect to throw in their lot permanently with their great neighbour on the West, the decision will be accepted without question by the authorities of the Empire; should they decide to play a separate part as one of the smaller but still important members of the Imperial family, we trust that their decision will be accepted with equal readiness. The official tie between Burma and India will in any case be slight, and its severance will be a matter of little difficulty; it will be for Burma to decide, and for the Empire to meet Burma's wishes with a prompt and generous response.

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THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA

The liberation of Mesopotamia is an accomplished fact; that reawakening of the historic land to which a German Chancellor referred in a poetical moment has been brought about, but the spell has been broken by a British, instead of a Prussian, Prince Charming. The good work has been accomplished by Great Britain at a heavy cost, and our interest in the future of the country can be second only to that of its Arab inhabitants. Of the many problems in connection with what was formerly the Turkish Empire, the future of Mesopotamia is for us one of the most, if not the most, important; and though it has been discussed to some extent, it is remarkable that the discussion has not been wider and fuller.

Four articles which appeared in *The Times* from the pen of Sir George Buchanan constitute perhaps the most important, and certainly the most widely read, contribution to the subject published thus far. Sir George went to Mesopotamia from Burma with a great and well-deserved reputation. But conditions in the two countries are different, and it is possible that the temptation to apply to one country rules and theories which are perfectly sound for another may hamper the judgment of even the greatest of experts. Moreover, in any case, Sir George Buchanan left Mesopotamia some time ago, and with the change from war to peace, conditions there have altered materially. His views, therefore, though entitled to all the respect with which

Mesopotamian Arabs.

we naturally receive the opinion of an acknowledged expert, need not be regarded as beyond criticism. His articles, however, even if we regard them as too pessimistic in tone, form an admirable basis for discussion of the question; and the following notes are inspired largely by his remarks. They are compiled from sources which we know to be absolutely trustworthy, and chiefly from information supplied by an engineer of high standing, who enjoyed rather unusual opportunities of studying the subject from the inside.

I.—THE COUNTRY.

For practical purposes the region which we have to consider may be divided into three parts. From north to south these are: (A) The Kurdish hill country; (B) the rolling desert country, and (C) the irrigated land south of this and below Baghdad. Roughly, a line drawn east and west some 30 miles north of Baghdad may be regarded as the division between "B" and "C."

The Kurdish hills, of "A," run in a curve from the north of Mosul to the east of Baghdad, where they are continued in the Pusht-i-Kuh. For the greater part they consist of series of jagged ridges and deep valleys, covered with scrub oak. From any point of view it is not an easy country to travel in, the existing tracks being few, and difficult for pack transport, even when Kurdish brigands do not add to the difficulties of Nature's providing; and, from a military point of view, it is exceedingly difficult—according to competent judges, far worse than the Indian frontier. Timber for building does not exist. The chief export is raisins, as vines are extensively cultivated. The prospect of obtaining revenue from this region is not a bright one, and even if it were peaceable, it would hardly pay for its control and administration.

(B) Between the Tigris and the Kurdish hills the winter rainfall allows of extensive cultivation without recourse to irrigation, though the two Zab rivers have been used in the past to provide canals. Good crops can be grown in this area, and it is worth keeping. Between the Tigris and the Euphrates, except for strips of ground along the river and the immediate vicinity of Mosul, the country is rolling desert, and is uncultivated. It is inhabited, if it can be said to be inhabited at all, chiefly by the Shammar Arabs, one of the principal Bedouin tribes, and the great rivals of the Anazeh.

North of Baghdad the signs of oil are common everywhere: sulphur springs and gypsum abound in the desert; bitumen is plentiful at Hit and in its neighbourhood, and at Hammam Ali; and there are oil outcrops at Zakkho (our northernmost outpost), Qaiyarah (where it has been refined for use by our forces), Kerkook, the Fathali gorge, etc. Thus the region between Baghdad and Mosul should pay well, if occupied by us, and adequately worked.

(C) Years of neglect have converted the rich alluvial plain south of Baghdad into desert and swamp. As a result of rains and the melting of the snows in the north, the rivers come down in heavy floods from January to the end of May; the floods top the banks and spill over the country, dropping silt at once, and hence the rivers run along the tops of ridges above the level of the plain. Cultivation clings to the river banks or flood channels, and is protected from inundation by *bunds*. To get water for their land, the Arabs open *bunds*, or canal heads, and as they cannot close them again, the water that they do not use runs to waste, and usually creates, or adds to, a swamp miles away. In many places old canals have been converted into inundation channels, all control being lost. On one occasion* it became necessary for our engineers to carry out something like ten million cubic feet of earthworks to keep the Euphrates from breaking away and running into the Tigris at Baghdad. There is a very considerable fall between the two rivers, and had the work referred to failed to achieve its purpose, the result would have been a disaster of the first magnitude.

Corn can be, and is, grown in this area, and though doubt is expressed regarding the possibility of its being made to pay for export, the experience of the past would indicate that it should pay well. In pre-war days wheat from this Lower Mesopotamian area was sold in London at prices between 30s. and 40s. per quarter of 492 lb., c.i.f. London, giving a very good profit for both producer and exporter. As a matter of fact, some of the finest small-grain wheat in the world was produced in these parts, and can be produced again. In the old days the only serious bar to export was the placing of an embargo upon such export by the Turkish Customs at certain seasons. The record of the region in Babylonian days also points to its great possibilities as a corn-growing and exporting country.

It would seem possible, however, that it might more profitably be made a cotton-growing country. On a special experimental farm astonishing results have been obtained from both American and Egyptian cotton, the yield outclassing indigenous products. Cotton-growing would mean working in the hot weather, which, in turn,

* This was after the fighting at Ramadi.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE
KING OF SPAIN
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means storing the river floods, for after May the rivers fall steadily, and they are very low from August to December.

A factor to remember in connection with these subjects is that while it is possible to construct new canals at a fairly low cost, the population to cultivate fresh areas simply does not exist. This fact is generally recognised: differences of opinion only arise over the pos-

Hit on the Euphrates.

sibility of making up for the deficiency in population by bringing in emigrants from India or elsewhere. It is true that before the war a certain number of Indians were resident in Baghdad, where they had intermarried with the natives. But, upon the whole, it is generally agreed that the Arab despises the Indian—at any rate, the Indian cultivator—and Indian colonisation would probably lead to endless trouble, especially in view of the newly-awakened national consciousness of the Arabs.

What appears to be required, in the first place, is a body of irrigation experts to prepare a scheme which can be worked out gradually, as money and increase of population permit. Incidentally, medical institutions should be provided, to check the heavy infant mortality and introduce sanitation amongst the natives. Given these things, the irrigation engineers could, as finances and other considerations allowed, work upon: (1) River control (which is urgent), (2) new canals, (3) drainage of irrigated lands, (4) storage of flood, and (5) drainage of swamps. The last would come automatically, as the control of the rivers became assured.

II.—TRANSPORT QUESTIONS.

Assuming that Mesopotamia remains under British guidance, it is obvious that the military authorities must for some time to come have much to say in regard to all questions of transport. A Director-General of Transportation was appointed for the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, but before he had got into his stride the post was abolished, and at present there would seem to be ample room for improvement. The advisability of co-ordinating transport is obvious: it would lead to very great saving, financially and in other ways; and the sooner it is effected, the better will it be. Existing transport may be divided into: (*a*) river transport, (*b*) railways, (*c*) motor transport, and (*d*) animal transport.

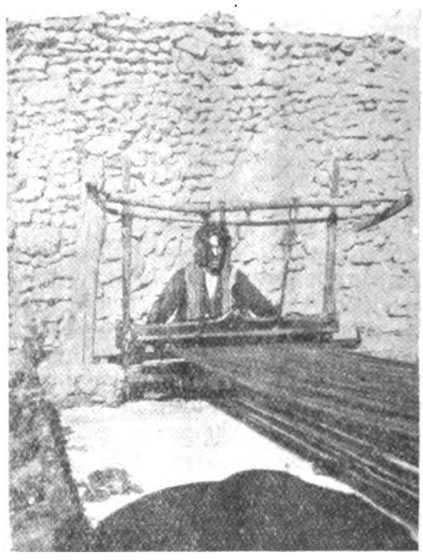
(a)—River Transport.

The Euphrates between Hillah and Samawah and between Nasirieyeh and its junction with the Tigris is merely a succession of swamps. Boats can get through during the flood season, but continuous river transport is out of the question under existing conditions. Between Baghdad and Kut the navigation of the Tigris is extremely difficult at the season of low water, and south of Amarah (or Kut el-Amarah), as far as Kurnah, the Tigris is a narrow and tortuous stream, which has lost half its water in swamps. In his report* Sir William Willcocks describes how the Bitera, the Chala, the Majar Kabir, the Machera, and other branches deprive the Tigris of water in low supply, and how the river in the reach below Kaleh Saleh has shrunk from a width of 350 metres (near Baghdad) to about 60 metres, and from a depth of 8 metres at flood to one of 4 metres. He also estimates the cost of regulating works to remedy the waste at less than fifty thousand pounds Turkish (£T48,380).

It must be remembered that while river control will improve conditions to a certain extent, barrages and other irrigation works designed to draw off water during the low season will naturally tend to hamper river traffic very considerably. It is to be hoped, therefore, that as long as river transport is used, or is useful, the effect upon it of any such irrigation works will be carefully considered before they are sanctioned.

(b)—Railways.

The railway policy for the country has been changed so frequently that it is practically impossible to-day to say what is intended, or what system will eventually work itself out. The completion of the German "Baghdad" railway appears, for the time, at any rate, to have been cancelled.[1] The idea is to construct a line (all-British) from a Levant port (probably Acre) across the desert to the Euphrates, and then down the valley of that river to Busreh.[2] The line from Busreh to Baghdad (which is metre gauge) was lately completed and opened for traffic, and the branch line of the "Baghdad" railway, from the city of the Khalifs to Hillah, is we understand, either already being converted or about to be converted to a metre-gauge line. From Baghdad also there is a metre-gauge line up the Dialah and on to the Persian frontier, and a branch line to Kifri was begun with the intention (it was understood) of carrying it on to Kerkook and Erbil. The idea was, apparently, to change the main Mosul communications to the left bank of the Tigris, thus allowing the line north of Samarra, on the right bank, to be picked up. The construction of the Kifri line was, however, stopped—it was understood, by the War Office—and the future of this branch is at present in the



A Weaver of Lower Mesopotamia.

air. To connect Mosul with Kifri by way of Erbil would be a big undertaking, necessitating two large bridges over the two Zab rivers; and that over the Greater Zab especially would be a stiff problem. Even then, the railway would only reach the Tigris on the bank *opposite* to Mosul, which is on the right bank of the river. From the military point of view, however, this might be no great disadvantage.

It is worth while adding that Decauville and light railways have not been used to any extent.

(To be continued.)

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* "The Irrigation of Mesopotamia" [Spon, 1911], sec. 16.

[1] By the Sykes-Picot Agreement it was agreed that the Baghdad Railway should not be prolonged southwards beyond Mosul or northwards beyond Samarra until a Baghdad-Aleppo line following the Euphrates Valley route should be completed by the French and British Governments. The line has however, been carried north beyond Tekrit.

[2] By the same Agreement, Great Britain was granted the right to construct a line from Haifa, to "facilitate the junction of Baghdad and Haifa."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The question of future railway developments in Persia was discussed at length in these columns in an article published on November 28, and it was pointed out that the first need was to improve Persia's communications with the outside world to enable her to receive and to export goods more easily, and that the first main route to be constructed would be from Baghdad to Teheran, providing Persia with rail communication with the Persian Gulf, and ultimately, when a Damascus-Euphrates line has been built, with direct access to the Mediterranean. It was stated that steps had already been taken to make a start with railway construction, and this week a message is published from the special correspondent in the Middle East of *The Times* stating that the Persian Government has granted an option to a powerful British syndicate for the survey of a railway from Kuretu, near Kasr-i-Shirin, via Kermanshah, Hamadan and Kasvin to Teheran, with a branch line from Kasvin to Enzeli in the Caspian. The correspondent states that the syndicate represents the Anglo-Persian Oil, Armstrong-Whitworth, Vickers, and Weetman Pearson, and that when the survey, to be immediately commenced, is completed, the Persian Government will have the right either to build the railway itself by a system of loans from the syndicate or to give the syndicate the concession for construction.

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Lord Faringdon made it clear in his speech at the annual meeting of the British Trade Corporation that the profit of £88,339 shown in the accounts was very far from representing the results achieved during the past year. Explaining that such credits as might be forthcoming from the operations of the various subsidiaries and branches had been left over for inclusion in next year's accounts, he stated that there were only credits to be taken into account. As regards the Near Eastern interests of the corporation, he mentioned that the Levant Company—which has opened branches or has established subsidiary companies in Batoum, South Russia, Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Baghdad, Greece, Egypt, and the Sudan—reported that the profits they were making were quite satisfactory, and that the National Bank of Turkey, of which the corporation holds 96,810 shares out of 100,000 and which, it may be noted *en passant*, has offices now at Galata and Stamboul and in Smyrna, reported a great growth of business. From Lord Faringdon's survey of the various activities of the corporation it is evident that in its short existence the institution is fully justifying the hopes based upon it, and is, in short, proving itself an invaluable "spearhead" for the promotion of British interests in hitherto largely neglected fields.

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A Greek correspondent, whose letter will be found on page 264, raises two very important points. In connection with the Athens Exhibition, it has been emphasised in these pages, notably in the article to which the writer refers, that it is essential in the interests of British trade that orders taken should be promptly executed. In this matter British firms are not acting merely for themselves, they are also representing *ipso facto* the whole body of British traders from whose ranks in due course the Near East markets may be expected to receive recruits. Their future must depend largely on the previous experiences of buyers in those markets, and if the methods of the pioneers have appeared dilatory it is not improbable that they will be unsuccessful. The correspondent in question gives a regrettable instance of delay in connection with an order he placed with a British firm for cloth for winter suitings. It was, as a matter of fact, four months before he received what he required, and that was almost at the end of last month, with the winter more than half over. This is the first complaint of the kind that has come to my notice, and I can only hope that it is an isolated example.

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The second point raised by the correspondent is in regard to the parcels post service. I have constantly been receiving complaints concerning the deficiencies of the postal and telegraph services between the United Kingdom and the Near East and India, but they have invariably been on the score of delay. The correspondent raises a new issue, stating that a number of parcels which arrived at Salonika recently had been emptied of their contents. The parcels go by way of France and Italy, and the writer states that it is thought that the parcels must have been tampered with in the latter country. I have long been urging the authorities to take steps with a view to the improvement of the various services mentioned, and I hope that this last instance will induce them to make representations to the authorities responsible for the present unsatisfactory position. I have no doubt that an inquiry would bring to light the fact that the delays in the services take place in one or other of the countries mentioned. It is unfortunate that this country lacks the means of direct communication with the Near East, but that is no excuse for inertia on the part of our authorities.

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Now that exports from America are restricted by the adverse exchange, which necessitates the strict limitation of purchases, British tobacco firms may be reminded that they can replenish their stocks to advantage in Bulgaria, which produces tobacco of excellent quality and fragrance, and has at the present time large stocks ready for export. On another page will be found the advertisement of the Bulgarian Tobacco Company "Nicotea" to which those interested in the import of tobacco or of cigarettes of extra fine quality and deliciously fragrant may be recommended to apply.

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Elsewhere in this issue will be found the prospectus of British Cotton Seed Products, Limited, which has been formed for acquiring and working under patent rights the "Segundo Cottonseed Defibrator" and the "Segundo Cottonseed Hull Defibrator." The authorised capital of the company is £250,000, and the present issue is one of 220,000 shares of which 150,000 are offered for subscription at par. The company has been formed under influential auspices, and among the directors are Mr. J. W. Pearson, chairman of the British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd., and Mr. N. B. Foster, managing director of the British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd., and Mr. E. C. De Segando, who is also the consulting engineer to the company. It is the purpose of the company to encourage the import into this country of the "woolly" varieties of cottonseed, and by removing the cotton fibre to make the seed readily crushable, and thus to extend greatly the available supplies. The value of the residual fibres is, of course, very considerable, and the development of the company's undertaking will mean the provision of an invaluable source of raw material for paper-making and other industrial purposes.

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The cotton trade has special reasons for watching with keen interest the progress of this company, since it is evident that the development of cotton seed utilisation may prove a factor of no slight importance in connection with the extension of cotton growing within the Empire. While on this subject, it is interesting to note that Mr. Cross, in his first Cantor lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, on February 16, on "Cellulose," gave an account of Mr. Segundo's work in establishing the value of the residual fibres of cotton seed for many industrial processes based upon cellulose, such as paper-making, explosives, artificial silk, and the like. The Segundo machine, he explained, had turned to account a hitherto neglected by-product, and he went on to refer to the immense importance of the residual fibres in industry,

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Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors:

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Every description of Banking business transacted.

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Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

COMMERCIAL AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT:
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Correspondents throughout Greece.

Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

CAPITAL - Drs. 1,500,000.
RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
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The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

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The Bank has offices in all the principal towns in **Greece,** also in **Egypt,** Cairo and Alexandria, in **Cyprus,** Limassol, in **Constantinople,** in **Smyrna,** and in **France,** Marseilles.

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CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 2,845,010.45.

Head Office: ATHENS.

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The Bank conducts every kind of Banking, Commercial and Stock Exchange business and extends special facilities to traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT:
The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,745,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 295,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The MINERALS of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 26·89 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅓ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000

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Capital Paid-up - Drs. 5,000,000. Reserve Fund - Drs. 3,095,000.

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Every kind of Banking business transacted.
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Correspondence invited.

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Capital Fully Paid-up - Drs. 15,000,000

The Bank has been established for the encouragement and development of Industry and Commerce, and undertakes every description of banking business.

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Every kind of Banking Business transacted

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and to their having also "political" importance, the reference being no doubt to the increased value of the cotton crop resulting from their adequate utilisation.

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The Dunlop Rubber Company, Ltd., is second to no concern in the assiduity with which it caters for foreign markets, among them the wide field included in the Near East, and it is, therefore, not surprising in the circumstances that the report of this undertaking, which has just been issued, shows that during the year ended August 31 record results were achieved. The net profit, after providing for excess profits duty, interest on income, stock and depreciation, amounted to £1,368,400, as against £649,500 for 1918, and £435,100 for 1917. In addition to this amount £178.000 has been retained for development in the rubber estates and subsidiary companies. The special allocations amount to £370,000 as against £121,300, the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 23¾ per cent. to 31¼ per cent., and £402,600 iscarried forward as against £122,800. Truly a result which emphasises the value of enterprise. I hope that those concerns which have hitherto ignored the Near East Markets will read the moral correctly.

COMMENTATOR.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, February 6.

Recalling the Krone.

The recall of the krone has begun; for some time past Belgradians have been accustomed to see carts laden with white packing cases, guarded by a soldier or two, slowly wending their way between the Ministry of Finance and the Uprava Fondova. It was possible to read the inscription of some of the boxes, "1 million-10Din.," really enough to make one's mouth water. Now at last, the serious work has begun, and at the banks high value notes of the Austro-Hungarian Bank, a legacy of the occupation, can be exchanged for the new notes. These are handsome in design and colouring, of typical French style. The 1,000-dinar notes are an innovation, as the highest denomination hitherto in Serbia has been the 100-dinar note; the 1,000-dinar note has the inscription in French on one side, and in Serb, Croat and Slovene on the other; beyond the value, the inscription simply reads "Ministere des Finance du royaume des Serbes, Croates et Slovene," and on the other side appears the signature of Dr. Nivchitch, late Minister of Finance with a warning of the penalties of forgery. One notices at once the absence of any statement about the metallic cover or guarantee, and also of the name of the issuing bank which is coming into existence on purpose to father the issue, which it is expressly stated, is not a Government issue. But the most striking feature about the note is the overprint in red, done at Belgrade, "4,000 Kruna-Kron"; so it is finally officially settled that the ratio of the krone to the dinar is four to one. The Austrian krona notes cease to be legal tender after due delay, which varies with the locality according to date of recall.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 1.

Industrie Chimique Roumanie.

A limited company with a capital of 10.000.000 lei has just been founded under the above title. The list of directors includes the names of several well-known engineers and professors of chemistry, some ex-deputies, and one ex-minister—all men of very high standing. The object of the company as announced in the prospectus is to manufacture chemicals in Roumania and from raw materials to be found in the country. Before the war chemicals to the value of 14½ million lei were imported from Germany (at the present rate of exchange 140 million lei), including oils, fats, dyes, cellulose, sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, salts of ammonia and other salts, for most of which the raw materials are available in Roumania, and it is hoped further to use petroleum residues for the preparation of certain pharmaceutical products and dyes. A factory provided with some of the necessary machinery has already been purchased in Bucharest and another is shortly to be established for the production of pure alcohol from wood. It is proposed by degrees, and as circumstances permit, to open other factories in connection with the various branches of industrial chemistry.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, January 25.

After good rains, cold, bracing weather has set in. There have been heavy snow falls, and the mountain heights are all snow-capped. The plains are looking their best, showing a green expanse of rising cereal crops. Agriculturists are well satisfied, as prospects are all that could be desired.

THE DANUBE COMMISSION.

Present System of Dues.

We have received the following report from Messrs. Watson and Youell:—

At a meeting of the delegates of the principal Powers representing the European Commission of the Danube held in Paris last October it was decided to raise the Danube dues to seven times what they used to be *in gold francs*. The dues are paid at Sulina, and are leviable in gold currency. At present payment in gold not being practicable the delegates fixed the equivalent in paper currency, and they decided that the rate in francs as per tariff (after the multiplication by seven as above) should be converted into pounds sterling at the par rate of gold (25.22) and then converted into French currency at the sight rate of the day in Paris for cheques on London. As the sight Paris rate on London fluctuates, it was decided that the rate on the 1st and 15th of each month should apply for the ensuing fortnight. As a matter of fact, the dues are now usually paid in Roumanian lei, and these are calculated at the day's rate in Roumania for French francs. This means that the rate per ton in lei will vary from steamer to steamer and will be fixed by the E.C.D. staff at Galatz.

To give a concrete example of how it works: The old rate on ships over 1,500 tons register (Suez Canal) was 1.77 francs, multiplied by seven equals 12.39 gold francs as a basis, which at 25.22 (par rate of gold) is equal to £0.4912 or 9s. 10d. Assuming 40 to be the Paris-London exchange, this equals 19.65 francs per ton on E.C.D. measurement, which is similar to Suez Canal measurement. Assuming the franc to be worth 4 lei, this would make 78.60 lei per ton.

Roumania not being represented at the October meeting of the delegates at Paris owing to political differences which have been subsequently adjusted, no effect was given by the Roumanian delegate (who was the only delegate in Roumania at the time) to the decision arrived at, and it was only put into force on January 1.

Lieut.-Commander Stone, of H.M.S. Ladybird, on service in the Upper Danube (Budapest-Belgrade), has lately been appointed Acting British Commissioner. He has been taking a great interest in questions affecting the navigation of the Danube. Hitherto the Danube has been considered navigable for sea-going vessels only as far as Braila, which is the limit of the jurisdiction of the European Commission as hitherto constituted, and the limit, therefore, of their operations. Small sea-going vessels have, however, in the past been as far as Giurgiu when the river was high, and it is suggested that with a little dredging the river might be made navigable for vessels drawing 16-17 feet as far as Oltenitza, at least, during the greater part of the year. As most of the general cargo liners discharge part of their cargoes at intermediate ports and arrive in the Danube drawing about 16-17 feet, they might advantageously be sent up to Oltenitza when they have on board cargo destined for Bucharest and district. This would have been extremely useful during the present autumn, when many thousands of tons that have helped to congest the port of Galatz to the point of being paralysed would gladly have been sent by their shippers to Oltenitza direct, whence they could have been taken to Bucharest by motor lorries. These goods, including arrivals as far back as September, are still lying at Galatz and cannot be moved.

Lieut.-Commander Stone is of opinion that by a rearrangement of the work of the pilots a large reduction in their numbers is possible, and no doubt other improvements tending to greater efficiency and economy would be evolved from the practical naval mind.

On pointing out to the E.C.D. that the greatly increased dues will affect freight rates from and to the Danube, they state that the increase will only be imposed during the period required for liquidating the debts which have accumulated during the war, and it is considered advisable for these liabilities to be discharged as early as possible and in circumstances the least onerous to the shipping community. In normal times the E.C.D. dues are regulated by their annual budget, and unlike the Suez Canal Co. no profits have to be provided for.

The suggestion to extend the limit of jurisdiction to a port on the Danube higher than Braila is especially refreshing, and we trust that all support and encouragement may be given to it and others of like importance and interest. Perhaps it will be found possible to put into execution at an early date the proposal to extend the piers at Sulina further into the Black Sea, so as to maintain and improve the depth of water on the bar.

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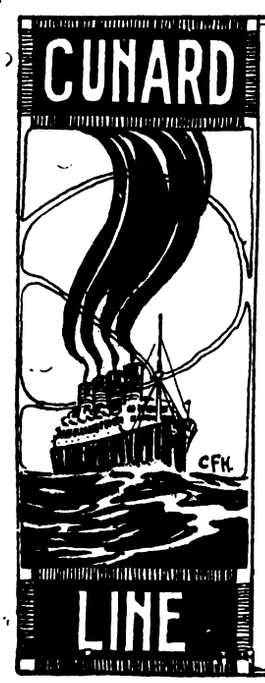

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE.

AN IMPORTANT TRADE OUTLET.

By Estelle Blyth.

If we would gleam some small idea of what England has done in and for Palestine during the two years that have elapsed since the liberation of Jerusalem, we shall find it, not in the pages of a grateful Press, but in the cold statistics of a Customs report. Probably not many care enough for Palestine to read through the pages of such a report as this brief article is based upon, namely, the second report issued by the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South), covering the period July-September last, and giving a detailed summary of the import and export trade of Palestine. A useful comparison is added, showing the increase or decrease on the preceding quarter (April-June). These are the only authoritative figures yet published showing the economic development of the country under British rule. The report is fascinating reading (even to one guiltless of a "head for figures") as the sober, detailed record of a great achievement.

It begins with a tabulated statement of total exports and imports of the O.E.T.A. (South), which we subjoin:—

Countries.	Imports. L.E.		Exports. L.E.
Great Britain	315,433	.....	8,288
Egypt	183,417	.....	108,988
France	20,863	.....	3,641
Italy	13,193	.....	1,100
Greece	19,702	.....	450
Holland	94,202	.....	—
India	35,179	.....	—
Japan	38,170	.....	—
America	24,194	.....	38
Other Countries	38,472	.....	—
Postal Parcels	79,044	.....	7,214
	861,869	.....	129,719

Egypt's high standing on the list may show, perhaps, that her position under British suzerainty has not been wholly disadvantageous to her. Holland, rather surprisingly, comes in a good third; while the disorganised condition of France at home is shown by her being able to take only the seventh place.

Great Britain heads the import trade in cotton goods (£E210,300), woollen goods (£E4,340), silks (£E3,280), clothing (£E23,923), and also in iron and steel manufactures (£E11,086). Egypt is the second great importer, with rice, petroleum, cigarettes, ground nuts, and sugar; Holland third, with sugar, valued at £E90,893. It is interesting to note that Japan's cotton imports are valued at £E15,878. Cotton is, of course, the largest import, being £E240,180, though that is a reduction of £E194,685 on the previous quarter. Sugar is second, the figures being £E102,124, an increase of £E70,640 on the previous quarter. Rice, clothing, petroleum, cement, and cotton yarn are all large and important items of the import trade.

There is a noticeable decrease in imports for the second quarter, imports dropping by £E237,069 and exports by £E744. This is due to various causes. (a) The dislocation of trade in Egypt. (b) Difficulties on the Palestine military railways in coping with goods, owing to the want of locomotive power, and also the introduction of Syrian personnel to replace demobilized British railwaymen; the Syrian, though talented, is far from methodical, and method is almost as necessary as talent in running a railway. (c) British firms have been unable to meet the demands of the market. (d) British shipping firms have shown too little eagerness to trade with Palestine, their unwillingness being in marked contrast to Italian and French lines.

The export trade has been largely hampered by bad harvests, and the consequent inevitable prohibition of the export of cereals. Wheat and barley were formerly the staple exports to Great Britain, but are now prohibited; dhurrah (maize), an important article of export to Egypt, is also restricted. Necessities of military rule have also placed heavy obstacles in the way of the exchange of commodities, thus restricting the free development of export trade. Political uncertainty is another important factor, combined with unrest in parts of the country, and this is likely to continue until the future of Palestine is definitely and courageously settled. The export of fruits—melons, dates, oranges, and nuts—has been rendered difficult by the high rates for freightage and the uncertain steamship communication. Egypt is Palestine's largest buyer in soap, dhurrah, melons and lentils (£E108,988), followed by Great Britain (£E8,288), and France (£E3,641). Soap, which is the greatest export of Palestine (376 tons), is made at Nablous from olive oil; and is valued at £E33,770; next come dhurrah (1,457 tons, £E15,750), and melons (£14,746). The exports are valued at £E122,505, a decrease of £E7,958 on the previous quarter.

These figures show that in Palestine there are now really splendid opportunities for British and Colonial firms. Timber, building material, iron and steel, woollen goods, agricultural machinery (imported free of dues), chemical manures (also duty free), live stock for breeding purposes, crockery, glass, and crystal ware, are essential to the reconstruction of Palestine. The country has been stripped for years by the Turks, ably seconded during the four years' terror by the Germans. It is crying out for the things that Great Britain and the Britains over the seas can supply; these are to Palestine necessities of everyday life, and if she cannot have them from us she will turn to Germany, Austria, and America. In authoritative circles a great development in trade is expected during the coming year, and signs of its approach are already apparent. It is indeed a mortifying reflection that Palestine, which has been freed by British troops at no light cost, is being neglected by British firms at a time, moreover, when Great Britain cannot, for her own sake, afford to neglect openings for trade. Nor should it be forgotten that Palestine is most important as an emporium for Northern Arabia, Damascus, and Trans-Jordania, the inhabitants of which will eagerly absorb western goods. The Haifa-Deraa-Damascus railway, passing as it does through some of the most fertile and adaptable parts of Palestine, offers greater facilities for trade with Damascus than the Beyrout-Rayak line; and the unsettled state of the Lebanon and Syria will drive importers south to Haifa, where a large port is planned. In passing, it is interesting to remember that as far back as 1877 Lord Kitchener (then only a lieutenant of Royal Engineers, surveying for the Palestine Exploration Fund), noted the importance of Haifa, and laid stress on it in his reports (*Quarterly Statement* of P.E.F., 1877, pp. 115, 120). A port here will be easier of construction than at Jaffa, which the reef of sunken rocks makes so dangerous; and its situation midway up the coast gives it a better command of Palestine and Syria than Jaffa. There are, however, dangerous currents which make a big détour necessary in rounding Carmel.

To those who have known Palestine under Turkish rule, the curt statistics of this report reveal the patient and faithful work of the British Administration in the Holy Land. When we add to these the fact that within six months of the liberation of Jerusalem a plentiful supply of fresh water had been introduced into Jerusalem, that roads and railways have been made and repaired, education and agriculture encouraged and assisted, and British justice firmly established, and all this with due regard to the sanctity of this unique land—we may surely feel proud of the work done by Englishmen in Palestine. All the prouder, it may be, that we find its record, not in high-sounding phrases, but in the sober details of a Government report, wherein the name of no single individual appears. For that is England's way.

CAPITAL ISSUES IN BRITISH INDIA.

At the end of June, 1919, the total paid-up share capital of companies registered under the Indian Companies Act (VII. of 1913) in British India amounted to over Rs.109 crores, and the debenture capital of such companies to nearly Rs.13 crores, showing a net increase of over Rs.6 crores in paid-up share capital, and of about Rs.12 lakhs in debenture capital, as compared with the preceding half-year ending December, 1918. In the paid-up share capital Bombay shows a net increase of Rs.3,43,88,000, Bengal of Rs.2,54,11,000, and Madras of Rs.15,99,000, while the Central Provinces and Berar show a net decrease of Rs.7,95,000, and Delhi of Rs.6,51,000. In the debenture capital Bombay shows a net increase of Rs.9,04,000, and Bengal of Rs.7,79,000, while the Punjab shows a net decrease of Rs.2,49,000, and Madras of Rs.2,70,000. Since the outbreak of war there has been a steady increase in the paid-up share capital of companies registered under the Indian Companies Act.

An increasing number of commercial travellers, representing London firms, are being carried to the Continent by aeroplane.

The Minister of Finance of Czecho-Slovakia is credited with the intention of introducing a Bill providing for the appropriation by the State of 75 per cent. of the profits realised on the exportation of all kinds of merchandise from the Republic.

H.M. Acting Consul-General at Paris states that the special train which has been running under the control of the Allied Food Commission from Paris to Vienna and Warsaw, is now available to ordinary travellers. Travellers from Paris should apply for places at the offices of the Compagnie des Wagons-Lits, 5, Boulevard des Capucines, instead of at the French Ministry of War.

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ENGINEERING.

MOTOR TRANSPORT IN THE SUDAN.—II.

By Joseph Rhodes, A.M.I. Mech. E., A.M.I. Auto. E. S.G.S.

The most suitable tractor for a test service is a chain track driven model similar to the "Clayton" or "Holt." The Clayton tractor is a most powerful chain track vehicle of British design and manufacture with an original method of supporting the front. This tractor has undergone severe trials in England, and has been used successfully for handling heavy guns over trackless country impassable to other forms of vehicular traffic. It has been proved to be reliable and amply strong. The best type would only be found after tests, and it is quite possible that the tractor successful in Kordofan and the North would not be at all suitable for work in the marshy Southern Provinces. Even where the ground is so sandy or swampy that no horse or wheeled vehicle could haul a load at all it will present no difficulty to the chain tractor, sometimes called the caterpillar type.

During the dry season in the cotton soil districts, such as the Gezireh, and the Eastern Sudan, the ordinary standard tractor with broad driving wheels would be quite suitable. The tractor and waggons would transport a paying load of several tons. Unless at least a fortnightly service could be reasonably expected it would be inadvisable to inaugurate a service. Statistics are lacking as to the running cost of the mechanical transport service in the Sudan, but information on the subject is probably available from the military authorities who have had experience under similar conditions in Palestine and the Western Egyptian desert.

A short time ago the use of a large chain track tractor or traction engine was considered impracticable on a commercial basis under the onerous conditions which would be met with, but it is not absolutely impracticable in the present stage of development of that class of design. Loads have been hauled across the Sinai Peninsula, and the following records were taken whilst travelling over very bad country in the Sinai desert. The machine was a "Holt" 75 h.p. caterpillar with a ten-ton paying load. On a fifteen mile journey it was found that the following fuel and lubricant was used:—petrol, 30 gallons; best heavy oil, 2 gallons; crude oil for track chains, 3 gallons; grease, 10 lb. The machine hauls 14 tons on reasonably good ground. The waggons are fitted with broad wheels 14 inches wide. The water tank holds 60 gallons, and the loss per day is approximately 3 gallons.

Motor Transport in England.

The Great Western Railway Company amongst many others have gone very thoroughly into the question of motor transport, and have now a fleet of over 200 petrol vehicles and a few steam ones. Some convey passengers, and others freight, all acting as feeders to the railway in rural and urban districts, and in some cases for a considerable distance from the main line. There is no doubt that such companies would be pleased to supply information as to running costs and revenue.

It is easy to make a rough estimate of the revenue from a weekly service of tractors as outlined. The present cost of camel transport is 1s. per ton mile. Even at the same price the merchants would prefer to send goods by tractors rather than camels, as they would be less likely to suffer damage and delay. It is quite a common occurrence for a large camel caravan to wait as long as a fortnight while the camel men all search for one stray camel. They do not put the smallest value on time. As such produce as gum could be sheeted over to keep off the rain it would always be sent by tractors. The risk of damage by rain is so great that the movement of gum by camel is stopped if there is the smallest possibility of a shower.

The trade would increase as a result of better transport. After experience with one service, other districts would be tapped, and as the use of tractors became more general there would be a reduction in the running costs. The development of possible timber trade from the extensive forest in the Southern Sudan is impossible until some such method of transport as the one under discussion is available.

It is not intended to give the impression that the actual time of journeys would be accelerated, as it would be a mistake to use heavy motor tractors for high speed or light work. The speed of such vehicles varies from 1.25 to 3 miles per hour, or very nearly the same speed as camel transport. Motor-car services could be run by the same staff for passenger traffic.

Agricultural Tractors in America.

At the present time the slow-moving haulage tractor is much to the fore in England and America for agricultural work. On one farm of 75,000 acres in Western Canada there are in use three 25 h.p. steam tractors and eight 30 h.p. oil tractors. When used for hauling, each tractor pulls from six to eight waggons containing four tons of grain. A 30 h.p. "caterpillar" tractor is also used on the same farm. Some of the early models of chain tractors still in use have been in use in the U.S.A. since 1904 in the agricultural and mining districts of Arizona to negotiate long stretches of sand and mud, and to work through sage brush and among sand dunes. It is obvious that the machines used in such country would be well worth trying in the Sudan. There is no satisfactory method known at present for estimating the resistance presented by land, sand, or mud so soft that the wheels can sink in to a depth of several inches, and actual tests must be made to discover the capabilities of any particular tractor in bad country.

A Suggested Test Service.

Amongst the most suitable roads for a test service would be from Wad Medani, in the Blue Nile Province, to Kassala and Gallabat, *via* Gedaref. This could be weekly to Gedaref, and alternate weeks forward to Kassala and Gallabat. The types suitable for such a service have already been mentioned. As far as possible, tractors and waggons would require to be of the same pattern to enable the interchange of parts, and to reduce the stock of essential spares necessary at each depot.

Such a transport service has already been tried and found to be a commercial success for transport of mineral products in Eretrea. Running sheds and small repairs shops would be necessary at Wad Medani, Gedaref, Kassala, and Gallabat. European drivers and mechanics would have to be employed at the commencement, but cheaper native labour could be trained and introduced as the service extended.

There is a definite demand for transport in this area. The cotton crop of Kassala district, and the gum crop from Gedaref, would provide sufficient freight for a fortnightly service. Gallabat is a collecting centre for all classes of Abyssinian produce. At the present time there is a steady demand for transport from Gedaref to Kassala for (Durra) maize. The price at Kassala is £E2 higher per ton than at Gedaref, which is entirely due to lack of transport.

The service Kassala-Gedaref would have to be suspended in the Atbara flood season, as the river has to be forded at Fasher. The muddy roads during the rains would not prevent the working of the chain tractors. To build a railway to the above towns would cost from £E1,000,000 to £E1,500,000 at least, and such an expenditure cannot be entertained for the present.

Cost of Fuel.

It is impossible to attempt any accurate estimate of the fuel required by tractors working as suggested. It depends on the type of vehicle used, the waggons, and the condition of the roads. The question need not be considered too seriously, as in normal times the oil fuel used is not very expensive. The usual form of engine fitted is designed to start on petrol and to work on paraffin. The combined use of petrol and paraffin complicates the carburettor and piping, and entails carrying an extra tank, but the ease in starting up is well worth it. Splash lubrication is generally fitted for the engine, though some makers fit a combined splash and forced system. Crude oil is run on to the track chains as lubricant. The power of the engines fitted varies from 25 h.p. to 110 h.p. High tension magneto ignition is usually fitted.

It is hoped that this paper will draw attention to the importance of applying mechanical power to haulage purposes in districts of the Sudan away from the river and railway. The demand for transport is so scattered and intermittent that the use of tractors is the only possible means of dealing with the question. One season there are surplus rains crops in one area, and the year following there may be a failure of the crops, with the result that there is nothing to export. The camels used at present would be employed collecting the produce to the tractor routes. The more thinly populated areas have not sufficient trade to provide traffic for the lightest of railways.

The cost of the service already outlined could be easily estimated. The main items of expense would be:—Capital, tractors, waggons, depots, machinery and spares, yearly depreciation, fuel and oil, spares, staff, and contingencies. In estimating what a trial service would cost it should be assumed that 60 to 70 per cent. of tractors and waggons will always be under repair in the workshops. As the service developed, one could expect the running cost to

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decrease and the districts to develop. The small workshops necessary for repairs would also be of great local utility in each of the towns.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Duralumin Research.

The remarkable properties of duralumin have caused it to be one of the most largely used alloys, and it will be agreed that the time is ripe for an exhaustive investigation into the alloy, its present uses, and the prospect of their development, together with the advantages or disadvantages of adding percentages of other metals, in addition to manganese and magnesium, to this copper-aluminium alloy. Such an investigation is at present being undertaken on as large and exhaustive a scale as possible, and some of the conclusions arrived at may now be made public. So far the investigations have been chiefly into the heat treatment of alloys of the duralumin type, and the effect on the mechanical properties observed of variations in these heat treatment conditions.

One of the first points mentioned is that it has been conclusively proved that when this alloy is cooled by quenching from temperatures ranging from 250 to 500 degrees Cent., and aged thereupon at the temperatures up to 200 degrees Cent., the hardness and ductility both increase, the latter to a more marked degree than the former. The deduction has been drawn that the actual values of hardness and ductility depend upon the temperature at which the alloy is quenched, increasing as does the temperature within certain limits. It does not seem, however, as though research had as yet proceeded sufficiently far to enable such a conclusion to be arrived at. In the Scientific Papers of the U.S. Bureau of Standards it is pointed out that in order to develop the best mechanical properties of this alloy by heat treatment a quenching temperature of about 510 degrees Cent. is the maximum allowable, as the alloy would spoil, for certain metallurgical reasons, if heated much beyond that temperature. It appears that the period of time at which sheet duralumin should be held at the quenching temperature is between 10 and 20 minutes, but heavier sections, as bars, might require more time owing to the greater coarseness of their structure. Research has shown that it is not advisable to quench duralumin in cold water, but that better results are obtained when the quenching water is first heated to boiling point.

Sawdust Briquettes.

Briquettes are now being made from wastewood products, as sawdust and shavings. It is found that under pressure these materials can be briquetted without a large percentage of binding material, but where this is used it is found that waste and spent grain from breweries can be used. The plant required consists of a drying apparatus, a press and baking oven, and about 16 h.p. is all that is required to work the presses. The briquettes are comparatively light, and are of the slow burning type, and their use is principally for keeping furnace fires alight during periods when little or no pressure of steam is required. It is said that about 10,000 kilogrammes of the briquettes are equal in heating power to about 6,000 kilogrammes of steam coal.

Nitrates from the Air.

The Nitrogen Products Committee, which was appointed in 1916 to consider the establishment in this country and other parts of the British Empire of some of the power processes for fixing atmospheric nitrogen, has issued a report, in which it is pointed out, among other things, that the world-demand for nitrogen products doubled during the decade 1903-13, and that practically the whole of it was met by Chile nitrates and the by-product ammonia industries; that the present demand for agricultural nitrogen in the United Kingdom is double what it was before the war; and that the interests of the Empire demand a greater independence of foreign supplies. The Committee recommends the immediate establishment of the synthetic ammonia (Haber) process and its extension as quickly as possible to a scale of 10,000 tons annually, and of the ammonia oxidation process on a scale sufficient to yield an equal weight of strong nitric acid or the equivalent in nitrates, in addition to a plant with a yearly output of 60,000 tons of cyanamide. It is hoped that the recommendations of the Committee will be seriously and promptly considered, for, indeed, few important countries in Europe have not installed plants for the manufacture of nitric acid from the atmosphere and nitrates for the purposes mainly of fertilisers and (of course up to recently) explosives.

Cheap Power Needed.

The industry, as a rule, flourishes on cheap power, and as water power is at present the cheapest, countries which nature has endowed with waterfalls were the first to avail themselves of that power and to develop the industry with success. America, with the Niagara, and Norway, with her unique waterfalls, are prominent in the development of the industry on a large scale; while Switzerland, Italy, Germany, and Austria were prompt in utilising similar resources for the purpose. In Great Britain nothing has been done yet, although the waterfalls in Scotland and in some parts of Wales could easily be utilised for such an important industry. It is often said that if other European countries can boast of such water-power energy, Great Britain is blessed with abundance of coal; but apart from the warnings given by various British scientists regarding the economy with which coal must be used by steam users, and, we may add, the warnings by the "prospects" of the nationalisation of the mines, the difference in the cost of production of nitrates as between water-power and steam-power is worth consideration.

Methods of Production.

Nitric acid is obtained from the atmosphere by means of large and powerful arcs. Taking a general figure, it may be stated that one kilowatt hour yields 63 grams. of the acid. One ton of the 100 per cent. acid thus requires nearly two kilowatt years, or nearly 3 h.p. years. Much discussion has waged around the relative consumption of energy in the direct method, or arcing through air, or the indirect method, viâ calcium carbide, cyanamide, and ammonia. Both methods are in use. In either case energy consumption is large, even if, as in the one case, raw materials are without cost. With steam-generated energy at £8 per h.p. year the energy per ton of acid amounts to about £21, as compared with slightly less than £1 in Norway and £10 at Niagara. Now, £8 per h.p. year represents .29d. per unit, while the Niagara figure is about 0.15d. per unit. This difference ought to encourage prompt action in this country.

Prospects in the Near East.

In many districts in the Balkan Peninsula the industry could be developed with great success, and particularly in Serbia and Montenegro, where there are spots, naturally convenient for the purpose, in which the manufacture of nitrates from the air by the utilisation of water power can be established, with results as regards cost of production very much approaching those in Norway. In Serbia, apart from other secondary water-power sources, the Morava and Vardar rivers can afford immense power for the purpose; whilst Montenegro, with the rivers Boyana and Drin, could be one of the greatest producers of nitrates in Eastern Europe. There was a scheme before the war to divert the River Drin to its original bed, and dredge the Boyana river for the reclamation of the barren marsh lands around Lake Scutari. The Drin, through Turkish negligence, had gradually forced a new course for itself from the sea into Lake Scutari, which is now 36 to 40 ft. higher than the Adriatic. The scheme was, by means of a huge barrage, to lower the level of the lake for about 16 ft., and this would enable the reclamation of the low-lying and once fertile land surrounding the lake to the extent of some 75,000 acres, and in the vicinity of the Boyana to the length and breadth of another 75,000. It was also proposed to dredge the Boyana to make it navigable for coasting vessels right up to Scutari from Palai, a small town at the mouth of the Boyana. In carrying out these works an immense water power could also be secured, which could be utilised for the production of electricity, and consequently for the production of nitrates.

Great waterfalls are also available in Macedonia, Bulgaria, and in Greece.

DELAY IN DELIVERING GOODS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the article on "The Athens Exhibition," which appears in THE NEAR EAST of December 19, your correspondent says: "It is sincerely to be hoped that the orders that were taken will be executed within *a reasonable time*." This is, of course, our only wish, but it seems unfortunately to be not realisable. I ask permission to explain to you my own case. On *September* 22, 1919, I ordered some cloth for winter suits, which order was executed on November 28 (with two months delay, unfortunately!), and the goods sent by post did not reach me till to-day, *January* 23, 1920, that is a time of *four months*!

Ano another very important question, too. Parcels are sent to Greece through France and Italy. A lot of such parcels arrived here the other day *quite empty*, their contents being appropriated on the way through Italy it is supposed.

Are these circumstances favourable for trading with Great Britain? Is it possible to get a remedy?—I remain, Yours, etc.,

MAROPES.

Salonika, January 23.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest desires to point out to British firms the inconvenience caused by them in addressing samples to him personally, or to his office. He therefore requests that samples should be addressed from this country direct to the firms for whom they are intended, by ordinary mail. The Parcels Post Service is not at the present time so irregular as it has been in recent months.

APPOINTMENT WANTED.

ADVERTISER (31), holding Diploma in Agriculture, has occupied responsible position with large agricultural merchants, requires position abroad; has had experience in estate management, all classes of stock and crops, and is considered an expert on wheat; could commence duties immediately.—Reply to "K.B.", 42, Walnut Street, Southport.

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CHROME ORE DEPOSITS IN ASIA MINOR —II.*

Below we give the remainder of the report of the American Consul-General at Constantinople on chrome ore deposits in Asia Minor:—

At one time the working of the chrome-ore deposits of the Smyrna Province was carried on extensively, and proved to be highly remunerative. For a long period this province supplied almost the entire requirements of the world in this mineral. The Smyrna ore contains from 40 to 55 per cent. chromic oxide. The annual production in chrome ore of the Vilayet of Smyrna varied between 7,000 and 15,000 tons. If the mines were properly and economically worked they might be made to produce from 50,000 to 60,000 tons per annum; but under present conditions it would not be possible to transport more than 15,000 or 20,000 tons. The lack of transport facilities within this province also compelled mine owners to put a limit to their activity, as the charges incurred would not allow them to compete with ores of New Caledonia and Rhodesia. Construction of light railways may offer facilities for future development. In this province twenty research permits were issued in 1912. Many holders of permits expect to sell them, but they generally ask exorbitant prices. In spite of the inactivity now reigning, and which may continue to reign in this branch of industry for a certain time in consequence of the high cost of labour and other difficulties, it is almost sure that very important mining operations will be undertaken in this province in the near future.

Kemikli Mine.—This chrome mine is situated in the Kaza of Makri (Sanjak of Menteche), at a distance of nine miles from the sea and twelve miles from the town of Makri. It consists of two distinct deposits—the Kesser-Ali and the Tumbachi. The Kesser-Ali deposit is formed of two pear-shaped masses lying in inverse directions; the grade is 48 to 50 per cent. This deposit is located at the top of a hill; the ores extracted are conveyed to the Kizil-Dere River by shoots and are transported in carts to the washing plant at Imbachi. The other deposit of this mine consists in a vein from 6 to 13 feet thick, of vertical direction, and of a grade of 42 to 45 per cent. The work is carried on by shafts. Ore obtained at this mine is transported by caravans to Ichalish-Iskelessi, a small pier, whence it is taken by sailing boats to Mem-Pacha, on the opposite shore, to be shipped.

Katrandjik Mine.—This mine, situated near the seashore, consists in weak seams containing ore graded 40 to 42 per cent. Thus far it has not proved to be of importance. The owner of the mine is Ragheb Pasha. The present stock available is 700 to 1,000 tons.

Kodjek Ali Pasha Mine.—The mine is situated in the interior of Kodjek, Kaza of Yuksek-Koumou, at a distance of fifty to sixty-two miles from the sea. It consists of seams 9 to 10 feet thick, the grade of the ore being 45 to 50 per cent. and the inclination 45 deg. A great quantity of ore is available from this mine, which has not been worked for 20 years.

The Hadji Nicola Mines.—The grade of the ore is from 40 to 48 per cent., and the work is carried on by quarrying as well as underground systems.

Patterson Mines.—These are from four to twelve miles distant from the sea, and consist of very rich seams graded 40 to 52 per cent.

Hadji Mehmed Mine.—This mine is quite near the locality of Makri, at a small distance from the sea. It consists of seams 6 to 7 feet thick with an inclination of 45 deg., and a grade of 46 to 50 per cent. It is not possible to give an idea of the real production of this mine.

*The first part of this report appeared in "The Near East" of January 29th.

Besides the above-mentioned mines, there are other less important ones belonging to French, Greek, or Turkish firms. No definite opinion can be expressed as to their real value, since they have been worked in the past with very primitive means. The grade of the ore obtained is from 42 to 48 per cent. Research works in these localities can be effected with the proprietors' consent.

In the neighbourhood of Mersia, near the village Elvanli, there are several mines of chrome which contain 50 to 51 per cent. of chromic oxide. As regards transport facilities, these mines are well situated. The ore is taken by mules to Toumouk, near Mersina, where there is a small pier to facilitate direct loading on steamers. The average annual production of these mines can be estimated at 1,000 tons. This ore was exported to France and Germany. The other chrome mines of this province are at present of no importance, as they have been only superficially explored. The lack of a port, of labour, and of roads are the three stumbling blocks to the further development of the chrome deposits in this province. The chrome resources of the province of Konia appear inadequate to allow further development. The average annual output of the chrome mine situated near Adalia is about 1,000 tons.

Mining Methods.

In general, chrome is extracted by the quarrying system; but galleries are resorted to, as well as inclined and vertical shafts, either to follow the eruptive vein or to attack the mass of rock beneath the surface stratum when the latter has been impoverished below the limit of profitable production. The usual method of extracting the mineral is the most primitive; the tools used are limited to the pick and shovel, and when it is necessary to remove hard rock, which may be encountered in the drifts, the work is done with the hand drill and sledge hammer, while the blasting is done with ordinary coarse black gunpowder. There are no mechanical or compressed-air drills in use in any part of Asia Minor.

The only transport available, in general, from the mines to the seashore or the railroad station is that afforded by camels, mules, or donkeys. No properly built roads are maintained which are available for the beasts of burden; they must carry their loads over the footpaths and tracks which meander down the mountain sides, and practically double the distance to be traversed. It would not be a difficult matter to link up all the best mines by a common aerial cableway, like the one at Dagh Ardi. This would very greatly simplify matters and be of enormous advantage from every point of view; it would probably reduce the cost of transport by 70 to 75 per cent. If an aerial ropeway were established it would be an easy matter to extend it later on to other valuable mines, further inland, which have never yet been worked because the cost of transport exceeds the value of the ore.

Makri, from whence most of the ore is shipped, is safe and protected as a port; but the greater part of the water is shallow, and it is only in the south-west part of the bay of Makri that the depth offers a good anchorage. Shipments are, therefore, made on small lighters carrying from 10 to 15 tons, which lighters have to be towed by a steamer from the port of Makri to the place of shipment at Ikinjik, which is only an open roadstead.

Available stocks at Makri in July, 1919, were estimated at 20,000 tons. The ore already extracted, but still at the mines, could not be transported to the shipping point and was therefore not available. At Denizli the ready ore was (same date) estimated at 500 to 800 tons. This ore grades 40 per cent. Although the railroad to Smyrna from the Denizli district is in operation, it would be very difficult and costly to transport the ore from Denizli to Smyrna at present, owing to freight charges, limited car space, and high cost of labour

During the war no chrome mines were worked. The stocks on hand consist of ore extracted before the war. Mine owners say that it is impossible to commence the extraction of new ore before the beginning of the year 1920, owing to high wages, the lack of workmen, poor transportation, and the lack of tools. Most of the tools were commandeered by the Turkish Army. The total of chrome ore in Turkey was estimated in mid-July to amount to about 35,000 tons.

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE.

Direct regular steamship service with about weekly sailings outwards and homewards between

GOTHENBURG and ALGIERS, PIRÆUS, SMYRNA and SALONICA.
„ „ ALEXANDRIA, JAFFA and BEYROUTH.
„ „ CONSTANTINOPLE, ODESSA and other Black Sea Ports.

Also calling at other ports in Scandinavia, Levant and Black Sea (as inducement offers).

For further information apply to the following agents of the Line:

At LONDON: J. E. Hyde & Co., 1, Lime Street Square.
„ SMYRNA: „ PIRÆUS: „ ALEXANDRIA: W. F. van der Zee.
„ SALONICA: Cauchi Brothers.
„ CONSTANTINOPLE: Theo. Reppen.

Or to the Head Office:

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE, GOTHENBURG.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: LEVANT.

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CREDIT NATIONAL OTTOMAN

(Established by Imperial Decree dated January 1, 1917.)

Subscribed Capital - £T. 4,000,000
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REGULAR MAIL, PASSENGER, and FREIGHT SERVICES from PIRÆUS to MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, GREECE, SEA OF MARMORA, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOF, ASIA MINOR, SYRIA, and EGYPT.

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85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

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GENERAL AGENTS for the High Commission of Sea Transports; for all Passenger Steamers requisitioned by the Greek Government.

Cable Address—Navigation Palios.

Codes used—Scott's (1906) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.

MARITIME BANK of GREECE

AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR.10,000,000.

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used:
Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919.

Branches and Agents in the Principal Cities of Greece and the Levant.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.

Advances and Collections of B/Ls., Shipowners' Remittances and Disbursements to and from all parts of the World, by cable or mail. Loans on Vessels and other hulk. Bills of Exchange Negotiated. Letters of Credit and Drafts issued on the Principal Cities of Greece and Foreign Countries. Confirmed Credits at Home and Abroad. Loans on Government and other Securities. Loans on Goods and Warrants of Bonded Stores.

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For the U.S.A.—NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.

— THE —

ANGLO-SYRIAN TRADING

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Suppliers of all Classes of Textile Goods:—
COTTONS, LINENS, WOOLLENS,
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(*Incorporated in the United States of America*),

4, London Wall Buildings,
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GROWERS AND PURVEYORS OF LEAF TOBACCOS OF ALL TYPES FOR CIGARETTES AND PIPE.

The above Corporation can supply large quantities of Virginian, Carolina, and Kentucky Tobaccos; and Oriental (Turkish) Leaf direct from its own buying organisations on the markets abroad. Considerable quantities are now available in U.K. and Continental Ports.

EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS OF RAW AND SEMI-RAW PRODUCTS FROM AND TO THE NEAR EAST.

The above Corporation is prepared to consider and handle propositions for any products from the Near East, and represent firms.

BRANCHES:
America, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, South Russia, Japan, Korea.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.—There is little change in the position as regards either of these commodities. Inquiry is rather firmer, and is unlikely to be satisfied.

Sugar.—A strong demand is in evidence for home refined at controlled rates. The market in raw has been somewhat livelier. Reports from Cuba continue to be most favourable.

Coffee.—The market has been somewhat inactive, though certain qualities have been in fair request. Costa Rica has been done at 145s.-160s., Indian at 146s.-169s., Brazilian at 136s.-143s., and Colombian at 140s.-159s. A steady tone has characterized the futures market. It is noteworthy that American consumption is on the up grade. For the period July to January 31 there was an increase in the deliveries compared with the corresponding period of the previous season of 909,000 bags. Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson state that the effects of prohibition have not yet had time to show results in further demands for coffee, but presumably an expanding inquiry may be expected which will tend to larger calls for the article as the year progresses.

Oilseeds.—A rather quiet tone has obtained. Linseed has been a shade firmer, with La Plata at 47s. 6d. January-February, 46s. February-March, 44s. 9d. March-April, and 44s. 3d. April-May. Rapeseed is a firm spot. Cottonseed has been quiet, with Bombay, Hull, spot, at 24s., and 25s. 6d. for February-April, and Egyptian, spot, Hull, at 32s. 6d. and 32s. February.

Oilcakes, etc.—Linseed cake has been done at 505s., upwards. Cottonseed cake has been easy with English at 355s., Egyptian at 335s., and Brazilian at 330s. Coconut cake is 400s. There is no change as regards arachis cake and soya bean cake.

Oils have been firm, linseed being 114s. 6d. spot, and 114s. March-April. Rape oil deodorised came to business at 135s., and the crude at 15s. less. Turpentine is a firm spot at 202s., and 203s. February-April. Ground nut at 130s. is unchanged.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

There has been more activity in the market during the past week than in any week since the beginning of this year. A stronger feeling has prevailed in all quarters. Prices have hardened, and fresh high records have been established. Owing to there being very little probability of lower values in the near future, buyers of yarn and cloth have been stimulated to place orders on a freer scale, and distinctly more business has been done, especially in piece goods. A feature of importance has been a further rise in Egyptian cotton, the advance since a week ago being about 1s a pound in Liverpool. No special news has come through, and the upward movement seems to be almost entirely due to the persistent demand in Alexandria and the extensive speculative buying which is taking place. Most Lancashire spinners are well bought, but there are users who have been caught short and scarcely know what to do. Business in yarns has been thoroughly disorganised. The high rates are now undoubtedly checking trade. In cloth for Egypt there has been increased activity in sized goods and miscellaneous fabrics. Not very much has been done for the outlets of the Levant. More orders are now being secured for Turkey. A revival of demand has sprung up for India. Extensive operations have occurred in a variety of goods for the several outlets, and many makers have extended their engagements. Substantial buying has also taken place for China and Java. A steady business has been done for South America. Manufacturers as a body are more independent than ever. American yarns for home use have attracted rather increased attention, especially twists. Export bundles have been in active demand for India.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report for the week ended January 31:—The sales this week on our market amount to 59 baskets at Ps. 930—1,000—equivalent to 18s. to 24s. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange for cheque is to-day Ps. 405 per pound sterling, and for dollars 0.88 cents for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are to-day 1,425 cases against 175 at same date last year.

It is reported that a remarkable bed of chalcostilite has been discovered in Morocco in the valley of the Ouad Cherrat at a place called Rar el Anz, about forty miles east of Casablanca. The crystals of the chalcostilite are stated to be remarkable both for their size and for their beauty.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Moss Line s.s. Sitra, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Alexandria, transhipping to Moroccan and Syrian coast ports, will leave Liverpool on January 21.

A Papayanni Line boat for Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, Cyprus, etc.) will leave Liverpool on February 21.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Andalusian, for Malta and Alexandria, taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, Cyprus, etc., will leave Liverpool on February 28.

The Anchor-Brocklebank s.s. Anchoria, for Calcutta direct, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on February 28.

The Harrison Line s.s. Astronomer, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on February 28.

The Bibby Line s.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on February 28.

SHIPPING AT MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, February 4.

The most prominent of the latest arrivals have been s.s. Eden Hall from Novoorossis, Submarine L.33 from Portsmouth, s.s. Orthia from Bombay, Albert Hanet from Constantinople, and the Norman Monarch from Alexandretta; whilst the Haliside for Buenos Aires, the Ulm for Falmouth, the Orthia for Genoa have just left, and this in spite of a more than usually severe sea. A squadron of naval craft has just arrived, and is staying till February 13.

BULGARIAN TRADE REGULATIONS.

Below we give the new Bulgarian regulations regarding imports and exports of commodities sanctioned by the Minister of Finances on January 16:—

Imports.

1. In order that importers of foreign merchandise may be able to utilise their own credit, they are permitted in general to enter into engagements abroad in cash or foreign exchange against the importation of merchandise of which the entry is permitted by law and by the regulations of the Direction de Prevoyance Sociale. In future a special licence from the Central des Devises will not be required for each individual case, the Customs having received instructions to allow merchandise to enter free and without licence, the import of which is not forbidden by law and the regulations of the Direction de Prévoyance Sociale. 2 The merchandise imported will be paid for with available exchange resulting from the export of Bulgarian produce (50 per cent—70 per cent.), or with acceptances, transfers of account, etc. It is strictly forbidden to pay for imported merchandise either with Bulgarian bank notes exported from Bulgaria, or with Bulgarian cheques in leva, or to enter into engagements in leva. 3. The speculative sale of leva on account of Bulgaria abroad, and the purchase of leva in Bulgaria for foreign account, is not permitted in any case.

Exports.

4. By virtue of Articles 4 and 5 in conjunction with Articles 11 of the regulations concerning exchange, and the application of the law of the Central des Devises, the National Bank of Bulgaria will purchase in future only a part of the foreign exchange proceeding from the export of Bulgarian produce, as follows:—30 per cent. on the proceeds of the export of Xanthi tobaccos and attar of roses, 40 per cent. of the proceeds of the export of Bulgarian tobaccos and the quality of tobacco called "Basma," 35 per cent. on the proceeds of the export of tobaccos of Southern Bulgaria and of the quality known as "Bachi Bali," 30 per cent. on the proceeds of the export of tobaccos of Northern Bulgaria and "Bachi Bali," 35-40 per cent. on the proceeds of the export of skins of sheep, lambs, goats, and wild game, 35-40 per cent. on the proceeds of the export of native cord (gaetan), 30-35 per cent. on the proceeds of the export of vegetable seeds, 30-35 per cent. on the proceeds of the export of all other articles of Bulgarian merchandise not coming under the prohibition of the laws and the regulations of the Direction des Prévoyance Sociale.

5. The balance of exchange resulting from exports is to be placed at the disposal of exporters to assist them in all operations that are permitted, chiefly in necessary banking transactions, as well as in payment of merchandise to be imported and of which the entry is permitted by the laws and the aforesaid regulations. 6. Holders of free exchange on foreign countries are obliged to inform the National Bank of Bulgaria—Centrale des Devises—in regard to every transaction whatever in regard to this exchange, giving the name of the purchaser, the amount of the transaction, and the rate at which it will have been carried out. 7. Foreign exchange which must be handed over to the Centrale des Devise following the export of Bulgarian produce will be calculated on the basis of the price of merchandise f.o.b. a Bulgarian port or the Bulgarian frontier c.a.d., including customs duty for export, expenses of transport to the port (frontier), etc. 8. By decree of the Administrative Council of the Centrale des Devises less than 30 per cent. of the proceeds of the exports of certain articles of merchandise and classes of commodities may be demanded; the export may even be authorised to import goods if the first necessity for the total value of the exports which he shall have made.

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The Prospectus is printed upon paper made entirely from residual Cotton-seed Fibre obtained by the Machines referred to herein.

Application will be made to the Stock Exchange for permission to deal in the Shares, and for an official quotation. A Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, from which the following are Extracts:—

THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST will CLOSE on or BEFORE the 24th FEBRUARY, 1920.

BRITISH COTTON-SEED PRODUCTS, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917).

CAPITAL - - - - £250,000

Divided into 250,000 Shares of £1 each.

ISSUE OF 220,000 SHARES,

OF WHICH

150,000 Shares are Offered for Subscription at Par.

THE NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED, 13, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2, and Branches, as Bankers of the Company, will receive subscriptions for the above-mentioned 150,000 Ordinary Shares, payable 2s. 6d. per Share on Application; 7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment; 5s. per Share on June 1st, 1920, and 5s. per Share on September 1st, 1920.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Honourable THE VISCOUNT DONERAILE, 91, Victoria Street, London, S.W.
NELSON BEAUFOY FOSTER, Esq., Twynham, Farnham Common, Bucks (Managing Director, The British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd.).
Major MANUS BASIL HUGH O'DONEL, O.B.E., late R.E., 46, Bassett Road, London, W.10 (Chairman, Cotton By-Products, Ltd.).
JOHN WESTALL PEARSON, Esq., Manor House, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, (Chairman, The British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd.).
WILLIAM HENRY PINNOCK, Esq., Hartwell, Hartfield, Sussex (Senior Partner, Messrs Pinnock Bros.).
EDWARD CARSTENSEN de SEGUNDO, Esq., 17, Queensborough Terrace, London, W.2 (Managing Director, Cotton By-Products, Ltd.).

BANKERS.

The National Bank, Ltd., 13, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.

SOLICITORS.

Cox and Co., 17, Tower Royal, London, E.C.4.

BROKERS.

Vickers, da Costa and Co., Warnford Court, E.C.2, and Stock Exchange, London.
J. W. Nicholson and Son, 2, High Street, and Stock Exchange, Sheffield.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

Percy Fish, Dashwood House, New Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed for the purposes set out in the Memorandum of Association, and in particular for acquiring and working under the patent rights referred to below the "Segundo cottonseed defibrator" and the "Segundo cottonseed hull defibrator."

Those two machines, the result of many years' research and experimental work, effect what has hitherto never been accomplished, viz.:—(a) The removal from the woolly varieties of cottonseed of their residual fibres (to whatever extent desired) without injury either to the seed or to the fibre removed, and (b) the separation of the residual fibre from the decorticated hulls (the empty shells) of cottonseed, free from any pieces of shell or other débris.

It is the purpose of the Company to encourage the increased importation into Great Britain of the "woolly" varieties of cottonseed, and by removing the cotton fibre to make the seed readily crushable and thus to extend greatly the available supplies for the British industry. The treatment of the heavily fibred cottonseeds by the Segundo processes not only largely increases the market value of such seed, but also provides a much needed addition to the supplies of raw material for paper-making and many other industrial purposes. The market value of the fibre so removed is considerably in excess of the cost of removing it from the seed

At the request of the Council of the Textile Institute, the "Segundo" cottonseed defibrating machine was exhibited in operation at Manchester in May, 1919, and at the invitation of the British Science Guild, the machine was exhibited at the British Scientific Products Exhibition held in London in July, 1919, and was shown defibrating cottonseed three times a week.

Attention is drawn to the full Reports printed in the inset enclosed with the prospectus, not only as proof of the claim made for the "Segundo" processes in connection with the additional value thereby given to the seed, but also as indicating the commercially established value of the cotton fibre obtained thereby for the manufacture of artificial silk explosives, paper, etc.

The Company proposes forthwith to erect defibrating plant and accessory apparatus at two seed-crushing mills in England (provisional arrangements having been made for space at a rental and for power at cost) for the treatment in the aggregate of up to 20,000 tons of heavily-fibred cottonseed, or about 50,000 tons of lightly-fibred cottonseed per annum, should the Company so desire. From the figures given in paragraph (12), it will be seen that 50,000 tons is less than one-tenth of the quantity of cottonseed crushed in Great Britain annually before the war.

The cost of construction of the two plants is estimated not to exceed the sum of £25,000.

The Directors are advised that the premium obtainable for the heavily-fibred varieties when defibrated may reasonably be taken at about £3 per ton, and on this basis the following estimate of profits on the treatment of 20,000 tons of heavily-fibred cottonseed per annum can, it is considered, be regarded as reliable:—

Sale of products:—		
About 18,600 tons defibrated cottonseed at, say, £21 per ton		£390,600
About 1,400 tons of lint-products at £45 per ton		63,000
20,000 tons of heavily-fibred cottonseed at, say, £18 per ton	£360,000	£453,600
Cost of treatment, carriage, baling lint products, general working expenses and depreciation of plant and machinery, at, say, 30s. per ton of seed	30,000	
Office and administration expenses, say	10,000	400,000
		£53,600

thus showing a return available for distribution in dividends (subject to the creation of a reserve fund) at the rate of over 20 per cent. on the authorised share capital from the treatment of the relatively small quantity of 20,000 tons of seed per annum.

Trade statistics show that the average import into the United Kingdom of cottonseed during the six years preceding the War was about 600,000 tons per annum.

The British Oil & Cake Mills, Limited, will purchase from the Company up to 50,000 tons of defibrated cottonseed per annum at the market price.

No difficulty is anticipated in disposing of any quantity of defibrated seed at highly remunerative prices. The market for the cotton fibre may also be said to be practically unlimited.

Apart from the defibration of cottonseed the Company confidently expects to earn additional substantial profits from:—

(A) Licenses for the use of "Segundo" machines in other cotton-seed crushing mills in the United Kingdom.

(B) The formation of subsidiary companies for the development and working of the seed-defibrating machine in India and in other countries on the continents of Europe and Africa.

OPTION ON INDIAN RIGHTS FOR SEED-DEFIBRATING MACHINE.—16.—India produces from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 tons of cottonseed per annum There should, therefore, be a wide field for the employment of the seed-defibrating machine in that country. The establishment in India of a cottonseed defibrating industry should, moreover, tend largely to increase the available supplies of suitable cotton-seed for British oil mills.

The Company has secured the option for twelve months from March 25th, 1920, to acquire, from Cotton By-Products, Limited, the Indian rights for the seed-defibrating machine at the price of £25,000.

Letters have been received by Cotton By-Products, Limited, from several well-known firms in India desiring to be associated with the development of the business in India.

An Agreement dated the 10th February, 1920, has been entered into between Vickers, da Costa and Company, of Warnford Court and Stock Exchange, London, E.C., and J. W. Nicholson and Son, of 2, High Street and Stock Exchange, Sheffield, of the one part, and the Company of the other part, whereby Messrs. Vickers, da Costa and Co. and Messrs. J. W. Nicholson and Son jointly and severally agree to underwrite 150,000 shares of the present issue for a commission of 5 per cent. in cash and an overriding commission of 1¼ per cent. in cash, the Company granting them an option on 50,000 shares in the Company's Capital (not forming part of the present issue) at the price of £1 10s. 0d. per share, exercisable within one year from the date of the Company first going to general allotment.

Applications for shares on the terms of the full prospectus dated 12th February, 1920, may be made on the form below or that accompanying the full prospectus and forwarded with a cheque for the amount payable on application to the Bankers or Brokers, or to the Secretary of the Company.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, the originals of the reports and letters and other confirmatory reports, and documentary evidence, and copies of the contracts may be inspected at the office of the Company's Solicitors, Messrs. Cox and Co., 17, Tower Royal, E.C.4, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., on any day while the list remains open.

Copies of the Full Prospectus on the terms of which applications will alone be received and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers, and at the offices of the Company.

THIS APPLICATION FORM MAY BE USED.

No. .....

Issue of 220,000 Shares of £1 each at par. **35**

To the Directors of
BRITISH COTTON-SEED PRODUCTS, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the National Bank, Limited, the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on..... Shares of the Company, applied for by me herewith, I request you to allot me that number of Shares upon the terms of the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Company's Prospectus, dated 12th February, 1920, and I agree to accept the same or any less number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the balance payable in respect of the said Shares as provided by the said Prospectus; and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Shares. I hereby declare that this application is not made by me for the benefit of an enemy subject within the meaning of the "Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Act, 1916."

Ordinary Signature .....

Name in full .....
(State whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss.)

Address .....

.....

Description or Occupation ..... Date.....1920.

All Cheques to be made payable to "THE NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED, or Bearer," and crossed, and when altered from "Order" to "Bearer" the alteration must be initialled by the Drawer. A separate Cheque must accompany each application.

An acknowledgment will be forwarded in due course, either by Allotment Letter, or by return of the deposit.

This Form, when filled up, should be sent with a Cheque for the amount payable upon application, to THE NATIONAL BANK LIMITED, 13, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

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COMPANY MEETING.

British Trade Corporation.

The third ordinary general meeting of the British Trade Corporation was held on February 11 at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, Moorgate Street, the Lord Faringdon (governor of the corporation) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. De B. Brounlie, A.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: It is with pleasure that the directors meet the shareholders and lay before them a review of the work done in 1919. I ought, perhaps, to begin by explaining the reason which weighed with the board in placing before you to-day only a partial statement as far as revenue is concerned. If we had waited until the result of the operations of our various subsidiaries and branches and of the National Bank of Turkey had been ascertained, it would have been many months before we could have submitted accounts, and, in the meantime, the financial position of the corporation might have undergone substantial changes. We thought, therefore, that it was better to follow the usual bank custom and submit our figures so far as ascertained without delay, leaving such credits as may be forthcoming later for inclusion in next year's accounts. I say "credits" because we believe there is nothing on the other side of the account that has to be considered. In future years we shall close the accounts at our branches on September 30 in each year so as to include their figures in our statement at December 31.

The branches I have just mentioned are, in the order of importance, Danzig, Batoum, and Belgrade. At Batoum, business has been difficult owing to the political situation, but we are the only British bank in that part of the world, and some important transactions have passed and are passing through our hands. At Belgrade great difficulty has been experienced in getting suitable premises, the housing trouble seeming to be as great there as it is with us here, and our manager, Mr. J. B. Clarke, has not yet been able to do more than preliminary work. He has, however, been there for so short a time—less than two months—that it is not reasonable to expect much.

In conjunction with the London and Westminster, Lloyds, and the National Provincial Banks, we formed the South Russia Banking Agency, and we have in Mr. A. E. Eayres-Gardner an able manager who will be ready, when present difficulties are removed, to transact such business as may offer, backed, as he will be, with resources provided by the parent institutions. Under contract with the Disposal Board of his Majesty's Government, we have realised large quantities of surplus stores at Salonika and in the Black Sea, setting up for the purpose an extensive organisation. From the balance-sheet presented you will see that our capital remains at £2,000,000, our current, deposit, and other accounts are £1,864,302, and our acceptance on account of customers were at December 31 £1,147,385, against £212,181 at the end of 1918.

On the assets side it will be seen that we have cash in hand and at bankers £63,541, money at call and short notice £510,000, Treasury bills £700,000, and under the heading of investments we hold £350,000 National War Bonds and £175,000 Exchequer Bonds. Other high-class securities and sundries, after writing down to the market price of the day, stand at £854,286. Bills discounted, loans, advances, and sundry debtors amount to £1,201,057, while capital invested in subsidiary companies amounts to £346,993.

At the present time our chief interests are the Levant Company, the Trade Indemnity Company, and the Anglo-Brazilian Commercial and Agency Company. The Levant Company came into existence at the beginning of last year, and is operating principally in the Near East. It has acquired a substantial stake in the business of J. W. Whittall and Co., Limited, of Constantinople, and has opened branches or established subsidiary companies in Batoum, South Russia, Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Baghdad, Greece, Egypt, and the Sudan. The company reports that the profits they are making are quite satisfactory, and we believe we have reason for congratulating ourselves upon the assistance we have given them in opening to British trade parts of the world which in the past have been somewhat neglected. The Trade Indemnity Company, of which Mr. Cuthbert E. Heath is now chairman, has made substantial progress.

The next item in our balance-sheet is our investment in National Bank of Turkey shares, of which we hold 96,810 out of a total of 100,000, costing £243,119. Our able manager, Mr. Bilinski, reports a great growth of business. Offices now exist in both Galata and Stamboul, and as a measure of the growth I have just mentioned I find that the credits and credit balances amounted to £855,000 when we acquired the business a year since, and are now £5,456,000. Accounts have not yet been received to December 31 last, but anticipatory statements point to very substantial profits. For the reasons I have just given—namely, the non-inclusion of any return from the investment of upwards of £600,000 and the fact that we are still in the development stage, which means expenditure without any great net result, I hope that the profit of £88,339 17s. 5d. shown in our accounts will not be deemed unsatisfactory.

We can claim that, while proceeding upon commercial lines, we have endeavoured to do our best to provide facilities for the extension of overseas trade, particularly in places where British interests in the past have been somewhat neglected, and where no British institutions were in existence. I ought, perhaps, to mention one item in our balance-sheet to which I have not so far referred, namely, "Premises, £25,831 10s." We have acquired the leases of the premises we now occupy and the house next door, and we shall shortly proceed with alterations that will provide us with room that is sorely needed. I do not like to conclude my remarks without referring to the excellent work done by our staff. They have worked under many inconveniences with commendable zeal. Our manager, Mr. Dickson, has not yet returned from a visit to Constantinople and other places where our interests lie, and we are greatly indebted to him for what he has done and is doing. The Chairman concluded by moving: "That the directors' report and the statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1919, be and are hereby received and adopted."

Mr. F. Dudley Docker, C.B., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. F. Dudley Docker, a dividend of 8s. per share on the issued capital of the Corporation was declared.

The retiring director (Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I.) and the auditors (Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co.) were re-elected, and after a hearty vote of thanks had been accorded to the directors the meeting terminated.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Crossley Motors.

The report of Crossley Motors, Ltd., for the year ended October 31 states that the profit, after reserving for depreciation on capital expenditure specially incurred for munitions of war, amounted to £147,490, to which must be added the balance brought forward of £161,079, less amount paid and reserved for excess profits duty for three years ended October 31, 1918, amounting to £126,743. The balance available is £121,825, and the directors recommend a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, and a bonus of 1s. per share, leaving a balance, subject to excess profits duty for year ended October 31, 1919, to be carried forward of £61,825. Meeting, Memorial Hall, Manchester, February 23, at 2.30 p.m.

Dunlop Rubber Company, Limited.

The report of the Dunlop Rubber Company, Ltd., for the year ended August 31 states:—The net profit for the year, after providing for interest on income stock, commissions, management expenses, depreciations, and excess profits duty up to August 31, 1918, amounted to £1,368,432 2s. 8d.; add amount carried forward from last year, £122,759 14s. 3d.—total, £1,491,191 16s. 11d. The following payments have been made: Quarterly dividends on the "A," "B" and "C" preference shares to August 31 1919, amounting to £249,849 6s. 2d.; a first interim dividend on 1,500,000 ordinary shares at the rate of 1s. 3d. per share, amounting to £93,750; a second interim dividend on 1,500,000 ordinary shares at the rate of 3s. per share, amounting to £225,000—£568,599 6s. 2d.—£922,592 10s. 9d. The directors propose to pay a final dividend on 1,500,000 ordinary shares at the rate of 2s. per share, amounting to £150,000; to write off the expenses of new capital issues, £120,000; to transfer to income-tax reserve account, £250,000—£520,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty for 1919, of £402,592 10s. 9d. There has been retained in the rubber estates and subsidiary companies, for development and as additional working capital, a further sum of approximately £178,000. Provision has been made out of profits during the year of approximately £325,000 for charges that will not recur in the future and for excess profits duty up to the period ended August 31, 1918. The sales and profits record a further great advance, and are the largest in the company's history. During the year under review the entire shareholdings of the Nile Spinning and Doubling Company, Ltd., and the Ross Spinning Company, Ltd., and also the interests of the outside shareholders of D.R. Cotton Mills, Ltd., were acquired. The large extensions at Fort Dunlop continue in progress, and extensive additions are also being made to the company's capacity for the production of cotton cloth at the Rochdale Mills. The completion of all these works has been much delayed by the reduced working hours and the labour troubles, which have much retarded the supply of machinery. Since the last annual meeting the business of the company in France hitherto carried on as a branch has been transferred to a separate company registered in France. The development of the company's rubber estates continues, the total planted area at the end of December, 1919, being over 38,000 acres. The trading for the first five months of the current financial year shows again substantial increase. The directors have taken steps to procure a report from experts as to the best method of bringing the capitalisation of the company into proper relation to the present value of its assets, but a recommendation will not be made until such report has been received and thoroughly considered. Since the close of the financial year a further issue of 1,000,000 ordinary shares has been successfully made at a premium of £7 per share, which will strengthen the resources of the company and provide funds for its expanding programme of output. The director retiring by rotation is Sir Henry Dalziel, Bart., P.C., M.P., who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. Lord Hindlip, Sir Harry McGowan, K.B.E., Messrs. J. J. C. Craig, and Wilfrid Dawson also retire, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The auditors, Messrs. E. Bishop and Co. and Messrs. Stokes Brothers and Pim, retire and offer themselves for re-election. Dividend warrants will be posted on March 8. Meeting, 14, Regent Street, S.W., February 25, 11.30 a.m.

BANK OF INDUSTRY OF GREECE.

M. Constantin Mezas, joint manager of the Piræus branch of the bank, has retired to enter into business on his own account. M. Leonidas Dascalopoulos, chief accountant, has been appointed sub-manager of the head office. M. Efstathios Paparrodopoulos, chief accountant at the Piræus branch, has been appointed sub-manager.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

ADRIANOPLE, January 28.

Crop Outlook.

Agriculture in our vilayet is progressing favourably, although the area sown up to the end of the month—60,000 hectares—is about half that of previous years at the same time in consequence of the termination of compulsory agriculture for all citizens, which measure was introduced by the Ottoman Government during the war. Nevertheless, the forecasts are excellent for the early sowings, especially as regards maize, for which the cultivators have a special predilection.

No new factor is to be noted in our market since the date of our last report. The uncertainty regarding the future of the town of Adrianople causes stagnation as regards commerce in general, business being restricted for the most part to transactions of small importance.

STAMBOUL, January 24.

The rise in exchange recorded in our last report, caused in part by speculation, has led this week to a marked decline in rates, which stand at about Ps. 410 for cheque on London against 440, 10.60 francs for cheque on Paris against 8.60, and Ps.476 for gold against 540.

Imports.

Prices on the Manchester market are maintained, and deliveries are difficult. Here prices are firmer, and the increase recorded last week (of 10 to 15 per cent.) remains. Actually the level of price at Constantinople is not more than from 10 to 15 per cent. below that of Manchester.

For some days the demand for Roumania has caused a certain activity. Batoum and Anatolia continue their purchases on a small scale. Despite the arrival of several vessels recorded in our last report, there have been relatively few demands for exchanges, the necessary covering having been assured for the most part last week.

Oils.—The high price realised—£17.60 the case—is maintained.

AYAHS' HOME,
26, King Edward Rd., South Hackney, London.
ESTABLISHED 1825.
IN CONNECTION WITH THE LONDON CITY MISSION.
Hindustani spoken. Ayahs boarded and lodged at 18s. per week each until their Return Passage is paid or a Situation secured for them to return. Ayahs met at any Dock or Railway Station in London. Experienced, well-recommended Ayahs taken entirely off Ladies' hands for a certain payment, which differs according to time of year. Ladies proceeding to India or China requiring an Ayah can generally obtain one by applying to Mrs. FLETCHER, Matron.

Société Générale de Credit,
SOFIA (Bulgaria).
Capital, fully paid up: 6,000,000 Levas.
Transacts all kinds of Banking and Commercial operations.
Telegraphic Address: "Kambialbank, Sofia."

GEORGE STEPHANOFF & SONS,
SLIVEN (Bulgaria).
Textile Factory for Woollen Cloths
(Founded 1888).
Branch:
SOFIA, Plochtat Tzar Kaloyan, 5.
Telegraphic Address: "Stephanovi, Sofia."

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.
EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caiffa.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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NEW COMPANIES.

Oil Freighters.

Oil Freighters, Ltd., was registered as a private company on February 5, with a capital of £50.000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business indicated by the title. The subscribers (each with one share) are: A. E. Clutterbuck, 35, Portland Road, N.4, solicitor's clerk; H. Evans, 16a, Ivydale Road, Nunhead, S.E., accountant. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Solicitors: Downings, 22, Great St. Helens, E.C.

Euro-Asiatic.

Euro-Asiatic Coals, Ltd., was registered as a private company on January 21 with a capital of £5.000 in £1 shares. Objects: To acquire options, grants, and concessions in any part of the world, and to carry on the business of miners, dealers in coal, and other minerals, shipping agents, etc The directors are: G. W. S. Lennox, 32, Monmouth Road, W.2; A. G. Blackwell, 14, Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, N.; J. Harrington, 42, Meteor Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea; and E. A. Schneidau, Woodville, Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey. Solicitor: W. G. Hill, 113, Fenchurch Street, E.C. Registered office: 113, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Black Sea Timber.

The Black Sea Timber Company, Limited, was registered as a private company on February 9 with a capital of £100,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of timber preparers, merchants, importers and exporters, sawmill proprietors, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—H. Spagnoletti, 57, Hadleigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, timber importer; W. G. Iveson, Carlton Bank, Prestwich, timber importer; J. B. Messer, 56, London Road, Reading, timber agent; E. A. Ronaasen, 32, Great St. Helens, E.C., timber importer; F. H. Searle, 20-21, Gracechurch Street, E.C., timber agent; H. Goddard, Coopers Buildings, Church Street, Liverpool, timber importer. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Solicitor: F. H. Capron, 156, Leadenhall Street, E.C. Registered office: 20, Copthall Avenue, E.C.

Anglo-Eastern.

The Anglo-Eastern Commercial and Financial Company, Limited, was registered as a private company on February 11 with a capital of £10,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of traders, general merchants, manufacturers, agents, warehousemen, shippers, importers and exporters of manufactured goods, produce and raw materials of all kinds, financiers, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—A. P. Charlas, 10, Montague Street, W.C.1, author and journalist; W. J. Beech, 26, Doughty Street, W.C.1, accountant. A. P. Charlas signs as managing director. Registered office: 6, Broad Street Place, E.C.

COMPANY RESULTS.

National Bank of Greece.—The Bank of Athens announces that coupon No. 14 for the dividend on the shares of the National Bank of Greece for the second half of the year 1920, amounting to 160 dr. per share, will be paid at its London office, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

Nestor Gianaclis.—The Bank of Athens announces that debenture coupon No. 17, due February 1, 1920, will be paid on presentation at London offices, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Southern Punjab Railway.—The directors of the Southern Punjab Railway recommend a final dividend on the ordinary stock of £9 per cent., together with a bonus of £1 per cent. (less English income-tax at 4s. 11.74d. in the £), making £16 per cent. for the year ended September 30, 1919.

Ottoman Railway (Smyrna to Aidin).—The half-yearly general meeting will be held at Winchester House, 50, Old Broad Street, E.C., on March 26, at 12 p.m.

Egyptian Guaranteed Three per Cent. Loan.—Dividend (due March 1) will be paid by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons on that day and on each succeeding day (Saturdays excepted) between 11 and 2.

The directors of the Jorehaut Tea Company have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax (on the increased capital), payable on and after February 24.

The Commercial Company of Salonika, Limited, publish the numbers of share warrants for which they have received application for the issue of duplicate warrants on the ground that the warrants were destroyed in the fire at Salonika in August, 1918.

'ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Our market has been rather irregular and erratic this week; some securities continue to be pressed for sale from the Continent, whilst, on the other hand, some absorption is taking place here locally, and Egypt also is buying here and there.

City of Alexandria Bonds close ½ a point down at 68½; a similar drop has taken place in Egyptian Unifieds at 74½, and the 3½ per Cent. Pref. close 1¾ down on balance at 61¾. Turkish Fours (1891) are exceptionally ½ a point up at 69½, but the 3½ per Cent. 1894 Bonds have dropped 1½ points to 59. Turkish Unifieds are 1½ points up at 37½, probably owing to the decision to allow the Turk to remain at Constantinople.

In Bank shares, Agriculturals, both Ordinary and Preference, are 1-16 lower at 5 7-16 and 6½ respectively. National Banks have been a firm spot, and close ⅛ up at 22⅞. A feature has been the continued rise in Anglo-Egyptian Banks, which, after rising to over 23, close 1¾ higher at 21½.

In Railways, Delta Lights have receded ⅛ to 6⅝.

Amongst Land descriptions, Behéras, after dropping to 22½, finish only ½ down at 24¼. Aboukirs have been persistently bought, also New Egyptians, and both shares close unchanged, the Egyptian buying offsetting the London selling. Consolidated Lands, after weakening to 3s. 3d., close 1d. firmer at 3s. 6d. Delta Lands have been in demand for Egypt, and, after dropping to 20s., close 6d. firmer at 21s. In Egyptian and Foreign Trusts some sustained buying has carried the price up 1s. to 19s. Sidi Salems have improved 1-16 to 3¼, at which some business was done to-day. Sudan Plantations have gone back ⅛ to 8⅜, but, on the other hand, Union Foncières are closing ¼ up at 6¼.

In Miscellaneous shares, Abyssinian Corporations are fractionally quieter at 12s. 6d. and Salts and Sodas are 1-32 firmer at 61s. 10½d. Khedivial Mails continue wanted round the current level, and Morums Stores are quoted at 19s. 6d. x.d. The feature, however, has been the big rise in Associated Cotton Ginners, which have risen 7s. 6d. to 30s., after business as high as 30s. 6d.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptians B are fractionally easier at 4 13-16, Roumanians have dropped 1s. to 22s. 6d., whilst Traians are 9d. higher at 10s.

In Greek securities there has been a fair amount of business doing, but the only changes in prices are a rise of one point to 54½ in the 1890 Loan, of two points to 54 in the Funding Loan, and one point to 92 in the 5 per Cent. "Currant" Loan; whilst the 1902 Loan has dropped 3 points to 54, the 1910 Loan ½ a point to 44, and the 1914 London issue one point to 65.

RAILWAY MATERIAL FOR ROUMANIA.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest states that firms desiring to sell any of the materials required by the Roumanian State Railways should place themselves in touch with La Direction des Ateliers, Chemins de fer Roumaina, Bucharest. It is stated that there is little likelihood of business being done by British firms who merely write on such matters, and it is suggested that capable agents should be sent out or local representatives should be employed for the purpose of putting forward their offers of materials to any Department of the Roumanian Government.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 4:—Rain nearly general in Northern India. Local in Central India and South-Eastern Madras. All-India first wheat forecast, 27,429,000 acres (corresponding forecast last year, 23,472,000 acres). General crop conditions good. Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good Broach, April-May, Rs.548. Piecegoods market quiet but firm. Calcutta jute market inactive owing to uncertainty regarding exchange. Hessians quiet. Heavy goods quiet, with prices unchanged. No change in Bank rates. Mill hands' strike ended.

Mr. Thomas Smith, managing director of the Muir Mills Company, Ltd., Cawnpore, has been elected President of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce for the current year.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, **and will endeavour where necessary to put export advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign** and overseas **business. Moneys received on fixed** deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Feb.9	Price Feb.16
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28½	28½
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	69	68½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	75	74⅝
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	61½	61½
Greek 5%, 1881	54½	54½
Do. 5%, 1884	54½	54½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	48½	48⅝
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	45
Do. 5% 1890	53½	54½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	52	54
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	57	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	44½	44
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	64	63
Do. 5% Currant	91xd	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	76	78
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69	69½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	60½	59
Do. 4% Unified	36	37½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5½	5⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅞	6½
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68½	68½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70½	70½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	19⅜	21½
Bank of Abyssinia	40/-	40/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	5½	5½
British Trade Corporation	10	9¾x
Imperial Ottoman Bank	1⅛	10
Imperial Bank of Persia	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	6½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	6½
London County and Westminster	15⅝	15⅝
National Bank of Egypt	22⅜	22⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	78⅛	78⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	11	11
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	48	49½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	48½	45
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅝	55⅝
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	45/6	45/6
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	20/-	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	24⅜	24½
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	35/-	35/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	3/5	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	20/6	21/-
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	18/-	19/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	4	4
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	36/3	36/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	38/6	38/6
Sidi Salem Co.	3⅛	3½
Sudan Plantations	8½	8⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	6	6½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	12/9	12/6
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅞	10⅞
Associated Cotton Ginners	22/6	30/-
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/-	23/-
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	61/3	61/10½
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	99⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5½	5½
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/9	18/9
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	20/4½	19/6xd
Suez Canal	178	178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	102	102
Chinese 4½% 1898	64	64
Do. 5% 1896	83	83
Argentine 5% 1890	78½	78½
Do. 5% 1907	86	86
OIL.		
Algerian	4/6	4/11
Anglo-Bulgarian	9/6	9/4½
Anglo-Egyptian B	4⅞	4⅞
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/3	23/6x
Do. 5% Debs.	81½	82
Anglo-Roumanian	9/4½	8/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/4½	4/9⅜
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	11/9	10/4½
Roumanian	23/6	22/6
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	8/6	7/1½
Traian (Roumanian)	9/3	10/-

The directors of the Rangoon Para Rubber Estates recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. (actual) in respect of the year 1919, carrying forward £6,012 subject to audit and usual adjustments. The dividend amounts to 2s. per share, and income-tax will be deducted at the rate of 6s. in the £.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Jan. 16.	Dec. 18.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.	Rs.	Rs.
3½% Government Paper	61½	63
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	2170x	2200
Bank of Bombay	2800	2700
Bank of Madras	1800	18 0
Bank of India	123	150
Tata Industrial Bank	57	58½
COAL.		
Baraboni	18	18
Bengal	810	860x
Burrakur	49	49½
East Indian	41x	43½
Equitable	45½	46½
Pench Valley	362½x	370
Raneegunge	65	64½
Standard	69½	69⅝
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	500	350
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2900	2400
Bowreah	955	730
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	203	75
Century	970	820
Central India	4275	3050
Elgin	2137½	1525
Gold Mohur	118	118
Khatau Makanji	1800	1800
Muir	5650	5600
New Ring	210	120
Phœnix	700	540
Svadeshi	990	850
	4100	3100
JUTE.		
Alliance	845	740
Barnagore	192	200
Budge Budge	697½	603
Clive	335	295
Dalhousie	588	505
Delta	600	603
Fort Gloster	1125	1002x
Gourepore	1478	1125x
Howrah	49½	43
Kamarhatty	1108	923
Kankinarrah	890	765
Khardah	581	520
Kinnison	1140	1005
National	455	440
Standard	762	655
Union	955	890
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	84	92
Bengal Timber Trading	700	652x
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	88	98
Cawnpore Sugar	345	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	215	210
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General Steam	161½	55x
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
Marshall Sons and Co.	12½	15½
Titaghur Paper	340	375

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JANUARY 31.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	24
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	83
" " Div.	Frs.	115
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	25
" priv.	£	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	101
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅛
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	6
Société des Immeubles	£	8⅞
Bonded Stores	£	20
Unifiée	£	81
Privilégiée		67½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	12½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅞
" Ord		105/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	23½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	100
" Jouissance	Frs.	160
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		46/3
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	430 x
" Div.	Frs.	400 x
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	305
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	9⅛
Egyptian Salt and Soda		64/9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	713
" Fondateur	Frs.	1020
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	439
" 1903 "	Frs.	301
" 1911 "	Frs.	295
Consolidated Land	P.T.	18
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1⅜
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	391
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2⅞
Urbaines & Rurales		4⅛
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅛
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1⅜

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	58½	—
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%*	67⅜	72½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	98½
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	71	71
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	74½	70
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	84	84
	Eastern	8	7⅞
	Mercantile of India A	43	44
	National of India	60	60½
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	8/9	9/6
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	13/9	13/9
	Burma Corp.	13¼	13⅛
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	13/-	13/9
	Champion Reef Gold	3/9	4/9
	Mysore Gold Mining	1⅛	1⅜
	Nundydroog	15/6	16/6
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	17/6	18/9
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	22/9	24/-
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/-
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	2½	2½
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	41/3	41/3
	Brit. Burmah	3⅞x	3⅞
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	21⅛	21
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	23/6	23/6
	Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10	9½
RAILWAYS.			
	Assam Bengal	53	50½
	Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	139½	137½
	Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	55	52½
	Bengal-Nagpur	117½	117
	Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	105	105½
	Burma Railways	113	111⅛
	Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
	E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13½	13⅜
	East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅝	13½
	Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13	13⅛
	Madras and S. Mahratta	111	111½
	Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	134½	129
	Nizam's Guaranteed State	82½	81
MISCELLANEOUS.			
	Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	38/6	38/6
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	10	10
	P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	84½	84½
	Do. Deferred	645	630
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
	Assam Co.	66	64
	Bengal United Tea Ord.	16½	16
	British Indian Tea Ord.	8½	8⅜
	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	16	15¾
	Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/9	12/-
	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	3⅛	65/-
	Consolidated Estates	7⅜	7⅞xb
	Darjeeling Co.	25/-	24/10½
	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	3¼	60/-
	Dooars Tea Ord.	2½	57/6
	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	19/3	18/3
	Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	68/-	67/-
	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	36/-	34/6
	Hewagam Rubber Co.	25/-	26/-
	Jhanzie Tea Association	11	11
	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	23	22½
	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	19/1½	18/-
	Lanka Plantations Ord.	30/-	29/6
	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	26/6xb	—
	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	48/6	44/4½
	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14½
	P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	33/1½	28/9

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,

WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

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Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

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with which are incorporated
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THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,
AND
THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Head Office - SIMLA.

Authorised Capital -	Rs.	1,00,00,000/-
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital - - -	,,	88,08,800/-
Reserve Fund - - -	,,	40,00,000/-
Reserve for Depreciation of Government Paper	,,	11,00,000/-

BRANCHES.

Abbottabad, Agra, Ajmere, Allahabad, Ambala, Amritsar, Bareilly, Bhopal, Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Dalhousie, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi City, Delhi Civil Lines, Ferozepore, Gwalior, Jullundur, Karachi, Kasauli, Lahore, Lahore (Charing Cross), Lahore Cantts, Lucknow, Meerut, Multan, Murree, Mussoorie, Naini Tal, Nowshera, Peshawar Cantts, Peshawar City, Quetta, Rangoon, Rawalpindi, Sialkote, Simla Simla, (Town Office), Srinagar (Kashmir), Ujjain (Gwalior State).
SUB OFFICES: Baraagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Morana (Gwalior), Nushki (Quetta), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior). Sadar Baza (Delhi).

LONDON BANKERS: Messrs. BOULTON BROS. & CO., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C.
LONDON PROVINCIAL AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, Ltd., 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, Ltd., Bartholomew Lane, E.C.

Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.
Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other branch.
Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected, Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.
Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.
The Bank undertakes **Banking Business** of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.
Rules of Business and any further information can be obtained on application to Head Office or any of the Branches.
HEAD OFFICE, *Simla.*

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £2,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £2,900,000.

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SIR DUNCAN CARMICHAEL.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
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LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
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Sub-Manager.—J. S. BRUCE.

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BATAVIA	HONGKONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BOMBAY	ILOILO	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
CALCUTTA	IPOH	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
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THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY and MIDLAND BANK, Limited.
THE LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER and PARR'S BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general banking business connected with the East.

DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.3.

Authorised Capital, £2,000,000. Called up, £800,000. Reserve Fund, £110,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £1,200,000

Branches:

AMARA. BAGDAD. BASRA. BASRA CITY. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA. HILLAH. MOSUL.

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bt. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
JAMES H. BATTY, Esq. — J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. — SIR JAMES LEIGH WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1, 2 or 3 years at five per cent. per annum and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at two per cent per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

(Sgd.) **F. H. SUTTON,** *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM, PORT SAID, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, TANTAH, MANSURA, HAIFA, JAFFA, JERUSALEM, MALTA, and GIBRALTAR.

Subscribed Capital £1,600,000 | Paid-up Capital - £600,000
Reserve - - - £710,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - £3,000,000 | **RESERVE FUND - £2,000,000**
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

Governor: SIR FREDERICK T. ROWLATT, K.B.E.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., — SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, — COL. THE HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O.,

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. — ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin el K Damanhur Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zaga and in the Sudan at Khartoum. Port Sudan, Suakim, and Wad Medani.

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Bank Line Transport & Trading Co.	**San Francisco.**
Houlder, Weir & Boyd Ineptd. ..	**New York.**
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Oriental African Line.—Carrying passengers and cargo from Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore to Mauritius, Delagoa Bay, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay and Cape Town and *vice versa*. Taking cargo on thro' Bill of Lading from Japan and China.

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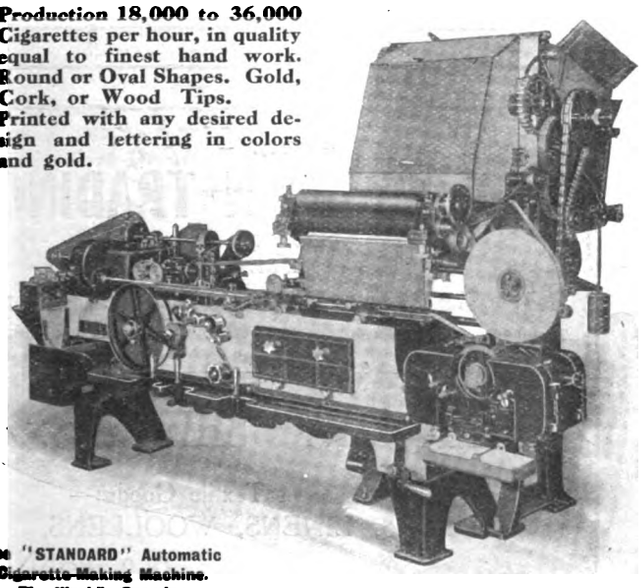

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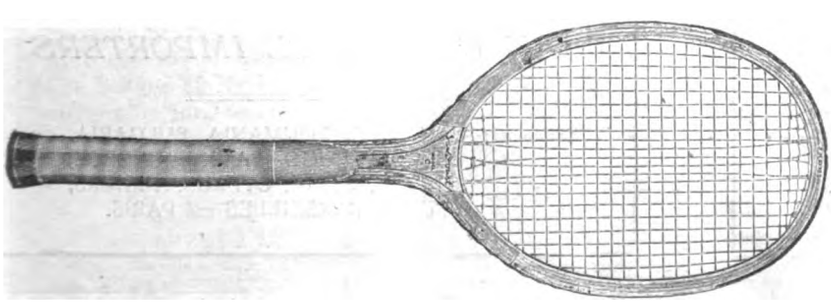

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 460.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The British public is in danger of being stampeded by a catch-cry. There can be only one justification for the removal of the Turkish Administration from Constantinople, and that is the simultaneous fulfilment of two conditions:—

1. That a satisfactory Administration can be set up in its place; and

2. The removal will terminate the unsatisfactory condition of things associated with the Turkish possession of the city.

There is a third consideration which weighs with a number of people, and which, it must be admitted, is calculated at first to make a strong appeal to Western nations. It is that, on the ground of a traditional antagonism between the Crescent and the Cross, the Turk has been weighed in the balance and found wanting, and the opportunity must, therefore, be taken of reversing the Mohammedan victory over Christendom of five centuries ago. If the question of Constantinople could be confined within a politically watertight compartment, and if it could be settled without reference to any state of affairs outside the walls of the city, there might be something to be said for taking up the quarrel where the Turks left it in 1453. It is difficult to believe, however, that in all the existing circumstances any evenly balanced body of opinion in Great Britain would deliberately run the risk of an explosion throughout the Moslem world—the brunt of which would have to be borne almost wholly by British arms—in order to see Constantinople placed under a jurisdiction professing one or more of the three great divisions of Christianity—Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, and Orthodoxy.

A moment's reflection will show that the joint fulfilment of the two conditions mentioned is out of the question. It may be admitted that no administration could be worse than the Ottoman, and that any other must be considerably better. But that is by no means the whole point at issue. Granted that the ideal is unattainable, it can still be claimed that such a momentous step should require the substitution of at least a satisfactory regime. The opponents of the policy of retaining the Turkish administration in Constantinople have no concrete proposals to make on the subject. They have only the vague solution to offer: "Constantinople for the League of Nations." The words convey no practical suggestion for the administration of a city of a million inhabitants, representing a score of different nationalities—a problem which, by common consent, can never be satisfactorily solved by the introduction of any form of international jurisdiction.

We come, then, to the "acid test" of the whole question—that the removal of the Turkish Administration should terminate the unsatisfactory condition of things associated with its presence in Constantinople. What are the facts? The Turk, as we have known him hitherto, is admittedly an incompetent and vicious ruler. He has occupied a certain expanse of territory which has rendered him important geographically and commercially to Europe. Thanks to the moral shortcomings of the Great Powers, all attempts to reform his administration have failed, as he could always rely upon the support of one or more Powers in resisting the pressure of the others, and could even indulge with comparative impunity in the time-honoured policy of solving his own domestic problems by the massacre of subject races who threatened to become troublesome. This state of affairs was entirely independent of the exact locality of the Porte within the limits of the Ottoman Empire, and given the extraneous influences with which the Turks were confronted before the war, would remain unmodified by the transfer of the Turkish capital to Brussa, Konia, or any other town in Asia Minor. On the other hand, it may be taken for granted that the further the Turkish Administration is removed from the physical reach of European influence, the worse it will become. If it is desired to ameliorate the lot of the non-Moslem races under Turkish rule, is it likely that the Turk will be more amenable to reason in the highlands of Asia Minor than under the guns of Allied men-of-war in the Bosphorus?

What is required, and what is being lost sight of in the controversy regarding Constantinople, is the reform of the Turkish administration. The protagonists of ejection from Europe write and talk as if the removal of the Porte across the Sea of Marmora would, *ipso facto*, bring peace to Europe, as well as happiness, good government and prosperity to the unfortunate people still left under Turkish rule. Such a contention is as dangerous as it is untrue. It is dangerous to Europe, it is dangerous to the peace of the world, and it may mean destruction to yet more hundreds of thousands in Asia Minor. Honour, justice, and self-interest combine to compel the Allies to undertake the reform of the Turkish Administration—in earnest this time, with no loophole for failure. This cannot be done by any

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international Commission; it can certainly be done far more easily with the Turkish Government in Constantinople than if it were removed to Asia Minor. It must be the undivided task of a single Power, acting of necessity under the mandate of the League of Nations, but with a free hand to inculcate upon the Turks the art of self-government from the earliest rudiments until they are able to stand alone and to guarantee justice and security of life and property to all non-Turks under their jurisdiction. It would be well if the United States were to take over the work. If they will not, a substitute must be found. In the meantime, the Allies might bear in mind that the reform of Turkey carries with it some reform on their part, for it will require no small measure of self-denial to place the necessary confidence in the Mandatory Power with the inevitable restrictions upon the grant of concessions to other States.

In the face of the agitation now being carried on with a view to reversing the decision of the Supreme Council to leave the Turkish Administration in Constantinople, we need not apologise for labouring the matter. A specious appeal is being advertised in broad columns in the daily Press under the title, "Shall We Leave Constantinople to the Turk?" The wording may do credit to the heart of the authors, but it is not flattering to their intellect. If Mr. Lloyd George's pledges are to decide the point, then surely the latest from 1918 onwards are as valid as those of 1914. *It is not true* that the retention of the Turkish Government in Europe implies the abandonment of persecuted thousands to their fate, or that its ejection will bring them safety. On the contrary, the immediate effect of ejection, as the authors of the document well know, will be to complete the massacres which the Allies' differences and dilatory policy have instigated. *It is not true* that, with Constantinople a free city under the League of Nations, world Peace will necessarily be within reasonable distance of realisation. World Peace can never come so long as the Allied Governments can make of a Peace Conference what General Smuts has described as "a seething cauldron of human greed and passion." *It is not true* that the retention of Constantinople by the Turks need add one penny to the burden of armaments; but it would certainly mean an increase of military expenditure if pressure could only be brought to bear on the Turkish Government by means of a military expedition into the heart of Asia Minor. Any views regarding the unreality of Moslem feeling on the subject of the future of Constantinople have behind them, consciously or unconsciously, the feeling that a trial of strength between Islam and Christianity is, sooner or later, inevitable, and that it may as well come now as hereafter. This view would not be supported by the majority of the British public.

Provided that no agitation is successful in forcing the Supreme Council to reopen questions upon which a decision has already been taken, there is some hope that the terms of the Draft Treaty with Turkey will be known early in March. In the face of the interest attaching to frontier demarcation, we trust that the importance of making strict provision for the future government of Turkey will not be overlooked. No paper stipulations are likely to protect the neighbouring peoples in the existing circumstances, and it would be unfortunate if the Allies came to regard them as an equivalent for troops and equipment. The French experiment of arming Armenians, but without giving them the requisite measure of support, has proved disastrous to these unhappy people in Cilicia. It would seem also as if a more unfortunate moment for withdrawing part of the British garrison at Batoum could hardly have been chosen, as the step is likely to be misunderstood by the Nationalists, who will feel encouraged to give fresh displays of their strength. This tendency may be checked by the arrival of a strong British squadron off Constantinople, but any further withdrawals from Transcaucasia will inevitably undo the good already done, which consists in having set the Georgian and Armenian Republics on their feet and in giving them some confidence in their preparations for withstanding Bolshevism from the north and Turkish aggression from the west and south.

A further stage has been reached in the long parliamentary crisis from which Yugoslavia has been suffering with the formation of a new Cabinet under M. Protitch, head of the Old Radical Party. In view of the ill-success attending the efforts of other politicians to form a Government with any degree of stability owing to the strength of the Radical Opposition, the recall of M. Protitch was, perhaps, inevitable. But the new Ministry is a Coalition one, and indeed so wide was M. Protitch's net originally thrown that two portfolios had to be withdrawn on the ground that one of the recipients was under the cloud of charges connected with his conduct as an Austrian officer during the war, and that the other had recently identified himself with Republican views. Any Yugoslav Government at this time has a very difficult part to play, and interest in Great Britain will centre in the promise afforded by the new Cabinet of the maintenance of a level-headed foreign policy in most trying circumstances. The portfolio of Foreign Affairs has been offered to M. Trumbitch, and his acceptance will be the best augury that Yugoslavia will ultimately win through to a just settlement of the Adriatic question.

Another bomb outrage in Egypt is reported, the intended victim being Shafik Pasha, Minister of Agriculture, who was regarded as a possible successor of Sirry Pasha at the Ministry of Works. Fortunately, the attempt failed to injure Shafik Pasha. The assailant has been arrested, together with an accomplice. Both are of the student class, and they have pleaded that they threw the bomb in order to frighten, not to kill. As the same plea was successfully urged in the case of Wahba Pasha's assailant, who was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude, it will be held in Egypt that the student mentality needs a stronger deterrent than hard labour to disabuse it of the idea that bombs are meant to play an educational rôle in politics.

News from the North-West Frontier of India is still somewhat unsatisfying. On the one hand, we are again asked to believe that the Mahsuds are giving in, and the statement is in accordance with probability, but probability is a treacherous guide in this corner of the world. On the other there are as yet no signs that the Afghans intend to make overtures for the reopening of friendly relations, a matter in which the initiative rests with them, while the reports of military activity in the neighbourhood of Jelahabad may possibly indicate a desire to resume relations of a very different kind. For ourselves, we are quite prepared to see things worse before they are better. The Afghans have the Bolshevists at their backs, and, while that is true, they are likely to adhere to their traditional policy of fishing in troubled waters, not necessarily because Bolshevist principles appeal to them, but because external offers of support are assets which should be realised. The final solution of the Afghan problem lies, as we have previously argued, in the country further north.

As to the internal affairs of India, the most interesting news of the week is the appointment of Lord Meston as arbitrator in the vexed question of the allocation of representation between the Brahmins and non-Brahmins of Madras. The procedure recommended by the Joint Committee is thus being followed: the parties were brought together, but they failed to agree, and the arbitrator has the difficult, and, we fear, thankless, task of finding a way out. In one way Lord Meston's position is similar to that occupied by the Speaker in the Conference, by which the lines of our present electoral system were laid down. The difference is that the members of that Conference were in the mood for compromise, while so far as we see few signs of that mood in Madras. Lord Meston's personal qualifications for such work are exceptionally great, and it is possible that he may succeed in effecting a settlement by consent, but the probabilities are that his decision will evoke heated protests from one side if not both. The one thing certain is that in the end

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the non-Brahmins constituting the great majority of the population, must enjoy preponderant power, but they have a long way to go before that position can be reached, and India is so full of anomalies just now that measures for protecting a majority cannot be refused on merely theoretical grounds.

There are some signs that the Indian States are moving cautiously, as is their way, in the direction of political reform. A recent cablegram informs us that the people of Hyderabad, the premier State, are to enjoy the benefits of direct representation in the Legislature with due protection of minorities, while not long ago the Maharaja of Dewas, an interesting little principality in Central India, announced that he is about to grant his people a substantial voice in the internal administration of the State. Students of the subject are now awaiting a pronouncement from the Maharaja of Gwalior, who has a way of taking a line of his own, and whose remarkable experiments in financial and industrial development justify the expectation that any political schemes will be at once interesting and fruitful. But His Highness is taking his own time, and students must be content to wait for news from Gwalior, and also, we suppose, from the various Rajput States, in which autocracy is likely to survive for some time yet.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have now disposed of the group of appeals arising out of the Punjab disturbances of last year, and, as was expected by most lawyers, have given no comfort to the extremist politicians, who have been counting, or pretending to count, on the result as a snub to the executive authorities. The question raised in the appeals was purely technical, relating to the legality of the Commissions appointed to administer justice under martial law, and the judgment delivered by Lord Cave leaves no room for doubt that the Government of India acted strictly within the powers conferred by Parliament. The decision has, of course, no bearing on the political question of the desirability and the wisdom of the action taken by the authorities; for light on that topic we must await the Report of Lord Hunter's Committee, the publication of which will probably interrupt for a season the present lull in Indian political affairs.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Tobacco and Cotton Increases.

The main topic of the week has been the sudden increase in the prices of tobacco and cotton. The one hits every man and the other every woman, and the public in consequence is irritable and angry. Pipe tobacco is now a shilling an ounce, instead of fivepence before the war; a reel of cotton is tenpence. The rise is explained by high costs of production and the adverse American exchange, but the man in the street and his female counterpart both ascribe it to the wickedness of the trusts. It is the fact that trusts practically control both these indispensable commodities, and although a Committee of Inquiry have reported that neither trust has been profiteering, the newspapers point effectively to the high dividends paid by both, and the monopolistic character of their undertakings—the *Times*, in particular, published an extremely strong leader on the subject, which has been widely quoted and discussed.

The immediate result of the increase has been a further demand for higher wages, and the evil race between wages and prices, in which each accuses the other, has again begun. Labour has again put forward its panacea of nationalisation, but without evoking any enthusiasm outside the regimented Socialist ranks. On the other hand, it must be admitted that the public is becoming distinctly less averse from the doctrine of a limitation of profits in the necessaries of life.

Capital and Labour.

What was practically a Capital and Labour debate in the Commons last week provided an interesting side-light on the present economic discussions. Both sides recognise—at least, theoretically—that production must be increased; but in this debate on the existing unemployment in the country (which is not serious) the Labour members accused the employers of not taking back ex-Service men into their old jobs, while the employers accused the trade unions of refusing to permit partially disabled men to engage in a trade—the accusation particularly referred to engineers and bricklayers. By general admission, even of the newspapers which are friendly to Labour, the Labour members made a miserable show. They had to admit, but they could not justify, their policy; and no serious defence was made against the criticism that limitation of output, time instead of piece work, and refusal of profit-sharing or bonus schemes were general. On the other hand, the verbatim report in *Hansard* shows that the Labour members did not substantiate their accusation against the employers of refusing to employ ex-Service men by one single concrete instance. Since there are bad and mean employers as well as inefficient workmen, such cases must exist, and it should be easy to cite one; but a mere general indictment is both ineffective and absurd.

It is notorious that most employers are only too glad to have their men back; what difficulties there are have arisen largely through incongruity. Two cases I have heard of personally, may be mentioned. An office boy, whose main duty in life in 1914 was to lick stamps and post letters, returns in 1919 as a celebrated air-pilot, with the D.S.O. and other decorations. No post suitable to him existed in the rather small firm which employed him, and it was suggested to him that, although, of course, he could come back to the stamp-box, if he really wished to carry out the old bargain, it would be more fitting if he were to find something else.

The second instance is more extraordinary. A hall-porter in a great block of City offices joined up in 1914 on the usual terms that his employers would make good any deficiency in his Army pay. By 1915 he had won a commission; the deficiency was at an end, but his employers naturally congratulated him and sent him a bonus. By 1917 he was a colonel; in 1918 he had become a brigadier-general. In 1919, on demobilisation, he applied for his old post as hall-porter! His employers demurred a little, on the ground that generals did not generally work lifts, and suggested that they would find something better suited to his new position in time; but to their astonishment he declared that his only wish was to return to his lift and cloak-room. In the end they took him back.

A By-Election.

Government and Opposition alike have been disconcerted by the result of a by-election this week, for the Wrekin constituency rejected both the Coalition and

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the Labour candidate, and elected an independent—a most emphatic way of saying "a plague on both your houses." The blushing victor is Mr. Charles Palmer, sometime editor of the *Globe*—which the Censor suppressed under his régime during the early part of the war; the new member is associated with Mr. Horatio Bottomley, but he has more fire and less humour than his leader. His oratorical record is unknown to me, but if he speaks with the same vigour with which he writes there will soon be breezes in the House of Commons. He knows Parliament well, having served for many years in the Press Gallery, thus adding one more to the rather small list of Parliamentary journalists who have descended from the gods to the pit; the only others I can call to mind are Sir Edward Clarke, Mr. Harold Cox, and Mr. S. L. Hughes, whose death is just announced.

A Labour Lawyer.

The Labour Party have won a curious recruit this week in the person of Mr. E. G. Hemmerde, who has deserted the lean pastures of Liberalism for the more promising fold. He is a distinguished barrister, but better known to the general public as a successful playwright. The *Westminster Gazette*, faithful among the faithless found, has criticised the desertion, or conversion, or whatever one likes to call it, with some acerbity, but Mr. Hemmerde has replied with such vigour that the newspaper has precipitately retreated.

But it is noteworthy that the older ranks of Labour are rather suspicious of these intellectual conversions, in much the same way that the old Roman Catholic families of England were suspicious of the new converts who, in 1845-60, reached Rome by the curiously roundabout route of Oxford. The new conversions to Labour are unkindly stigmatised as more timely than sincere, and there is more than a little fear that those who have borne the burden and heat of the day may yet be deprived of their due share of the fleshpots by more agile hands when the party emerges from the wilderness. Nobody, of course, would accuse Mr. Hemmerde of such sordid considerations, for a man who can command theatre royalties can afford to despise mere political promotion; but there are others in whose case the reproach does not seem altogether unjust.

The New Currency.

The British shilling has fallen from its high estate. Before the war, owing to the low price of silver, its real value was about sevenpence; it is now well over a shilling, owing to the extraordinary rise in silver, and the coining of silver involves the State in heavy loss. Besides that, it conduces to melting down—a crime, no doubt, but a profitable one. Our silver coins are therefore to have more alloy. Mr. Austen Chamberlain had no serious difficulty in defending this decision in Parliament, for his critics, who might have made out a rather good case against the change, only made out a rather bad one.

The chief critic was Professor Oman, of Oxford, a distinguished historian; but some special microbe seems to attack all professors in Parliament and make them ineffective, Lecky, a greater man than Oman, being the standard case in point. The first result of the change will be that the existing silver coinage will speedily disappear; if nickel is eventually introduced the revolution will be complete.

It is perhaps not generally known that in Germany an iron coinage was introduced during the war. I have seen some of these iron coins, and they are excellently executed; we might do worse than imitate them. Incidentally, the carrying of them in the trousers pocket is said to cure rheumatism. They are, at any rate, less cumbersome than the two potatoes which the old farm labourers still believe in as a remedy for that complaint, and perhaps preferable even to the new medical theory that the true cure is to have all one's teeth out.

Summer in Winter.

British weather is proverbially capricious, but this last week has surpassed most previous records for change. On the same day it was snowing at Harrogate, while visitors were sitting coatless in the bright, warm sun at Felixstowe, and in Cornwall there was a sea-fog and rain. Primroses are reported from the Isle of Wight, and one newspaper alleges a butterfly. But all the portents now are for a speedy return of winter—or, rather, so far as the South of England is concerned, the beginning of winter, for hitherto there has been practically no cold weather. Last year it will be remembered that the worst cold snap occurred, ironically enough, in the week when summer-time started.

Prayer-Book Revision.

The revision of the Prayer-Book, which has engaged the attention of the Anglican Church since 1906, is now approaching completion. It is understood that changes have been made in certain collects, various forms of service have been revised, and the Athanasian Creed is differently rendered. The two older creeds are unchanged. Controversy still rages round the proposed alterations in the Communion service; but the full alterations will be brought before the next meetings of Convocation, and after Convocation has discussed the matter the laity will then have their say, and subsequently the Primate will report to the Prime Minister. It is, therefore, not likely that the revised services will be used in churches for some two or three years, and even yet there are many opportunities for those who wish to obstruct. It is believed, however, that the alterations have generally been made on conservative lines.

The Week's Books.

Everybody who likes to know what other people read will find interest in Miss A. Sayle's "Village Libraries" (Grant Richards). She started a village library in Hampshire, and instead of trying to make the villagers read what she thought good for them, she set out to give them "what the public wants"—in other words, encouraged them to choose the kind of books they liked. The results were curious. They did not care for Dickens; Scott they read still less; and Thackeray they read not at all—not one copy of a whole edition of his works being borrowed in four years. But of Miss Ethel M. Dell and other popular writers of to-day they could never have enough. The record helps to explain the amazing popularity of the novelette and the feuilleton and sentimental tale, with colours thick and crude, villains and immaculate heroines and wedding bells. It would be interesting to have similar confessions from librarians in "respectable" suburbs and working-class districts.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

The High Commissioner.

CAIRO, February 8.

The High Commissioner and Lady Allenby are expected back at the end of the week. Their Excellencies have already left Khartoum, but are returning to Cairo by the Nile. From all one hears Lord Allenby's tour has been most successful. He has had an admirable opportunity for seeing the more important parts of the Sudan, and must have gained an insight into the problems, economic, social, and political, which almost daily confront the administrators of that vast territory. At the same time his presence cannot have been without influence over the peoples amongst whom he moved or whose representatives he met, and will undoubtedly conduce to the enhancement of British prestige throughout the country.

The Flight to the Cape.

The great event of the week has been the departure of the first aeroplane attempting the direct flight from Cairo to the Cape. Your readers will already have read in the Home papers that this machine, a Vickers Vimy bombing machine converted to commercial type, has been chartered by *The Times* to convey Dr. Chalmers Mitchell as an ordinary passenger, with a view to proving the commercial possibilities of the air route from Cairo to the Cape. The G-EAAV, as it is called, with its two pilots, Captains Broome and Cokerelle, arrived at Heliopolis on the afternoon of the 3rd instant, having experienced extremely bad weather, as well as difficulty in finding petrol, on its way across from England, via Naples, Malta, Tripoli, and Sollum. The same afternoon Dr. Chalmers Mitchell arrived by the overland route via Trieste, it being considered that it would fit in more with the idea of proving the commercial possibilities of the flight if he picked up, or, more strictly speaking, was picked up by, the aeroplane in Cairo.

Two days were spent in thoroughly overhauling and testing the machine before it started on its 5,000 miles' flight, and it was decided to start at about 10 o'clock on the morning of the 6th instant. The venture had aroused considerable interest, and by the time fixed for the departure there was collected on the aerodrome a very large and representative crowd, including members of the Residency's staff, the members of the Milner Mission, the Ministers for Communications and Agriculture, the Advisers to the Interior and Communications, the Under-Secretary for Agriculture, the higher officials of the State Railways and Telegraphs Administrations, the Sudan Agent, a number of high staff officers, and, of course, the staff of the Mid-East Air Force.

At a little after 9.30 a.m. all was declared in readiness, and the pilots made a final test of the engines. Then, after taking leave of their friends, they got into their places, and Dr. Mitchell, dressed only as any railway passenger might be dressed, in thick suit and travelling cap, got into the cabin in which the two mechanics also took their seats. The G-EAAV is constructed to take eight passengers in addition to the pilots, but on this voyage, especially as it is a pioneer voyage, and all the aerodromes have not sufficient supplies, it is only carrying Dr. Mitchell and the two mechanics, and is filling up the spare weight with petrol and oil.

Punctually at 9.45 the G-EAAV left the ground amid the cheers of the watching crowd, and after circling round the aerodrome it flew off in a south-easterly direction on its long and weary flight to the other end of this continent. The machine passed Assiut (205 miles) at 12.10 p.m., and reached Luxor (345 miles) at 2.10, when it landed to get water. It continued its journey to Aswan, which it reached at about five o'clock, and where it remained for the next day owing to engine trouble. On the 8th it left Aswan (455 miles) at 7.15 a.m., and reached Khartoum (1,172 miles) at about 6 p.m., having had to make a landing at No. 6 station (767 miles) for water. At Khartoum it has been held up owing to leaking water-jackets, but it is hoped that it will be able to resume its journey to-morrow at dawn.

Meanwhile another Vickers Vimy has appeared on the scenes, having arrived at Sollum on the morning of the 7th from London, which it left on the 5th inst. This machine, the "Silver Queen," is piloted by two South-Africans, and is detained at Sollum owing to damage to the tail plane, which it suffered on landing there. The arrival of this other plane in order to fly to the Cape, causes the whole venture to assume the nature of a race, but, whatever may be the intentions of the "Silver Queen" and of the other planes following her, such is not the purpose of the G-EAAV which, whether other planes catch her up or not, will continue her flight at the pace originally laid down, and will stop wherever Dr. Mitchell considers that it will be useful for his mission to stop. Thereby it will fulfil its purpose, viz., to prove not that it is possible to fly from Cairo to the Cape as other competitors who carry no passengers are trying to do, but that the flight from Cairo to the Cape can be made a commercial possibility, and from this point of view the subsequent progress of the G-EAAV in its voyage through Central Africa will be watched with the liveliest interest.

The Bomb Outrage.

So far efforts to find the man who threw the bomb at Sirry Pasha last week have proved fruitless. Several arrests have been made, and the men have been confronted with the "chauffeur" with whom the assailant is said to have collided when he was making good his escape; but he has not been able to identify him, and it looks very much as if the miscreant will not be brought to book.

The Political Situation.

There is no further development in the political situation except that certain extremist papers are abusing each other, and the leading notables whose cause their opponents have espoused, and that in the ensuing controversy, which is by no means edifying, a good deal of muddy water is being stirred up. This is a phase which does not at all surprise students of local psychology, but those participating in these "pen-fights" can only be satisfying their own personal venom, and perhaps that of the particular notables on whose behalf they have taken up the cudgels, and they can by their present activities do little good to the cause of their country which they have sustained so actively during the past year.

Meanwhile, Lord Milner and his secretaries remain on the river south of Cairo, where, rumour has it, he is engaged in writing his report. It is not expected that the Mission will remain in Egypt after the end of the month, unless some decided change takes place in the situation.

The "Tiger" in Egypt.

Monsieur Clemenceau arrived on Sunday in Alexandria, where he was met by the authorities, the French representatives, and Colonel J. K. Watson, Military

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Secretary to the Residency, who had come down from Cairo to welcome him unofficially on behalf of the High Commissioner. M. Clemenceau proceeded by special train to Cairo, where he was met by M. Pontalis Lefevre, the French Diplomatic Agent, and his staff, and by Lieut.-General Sir Walter Congreve, Commanding the British Force in Egypt. The ex-Premier is staying at Shepheard's Hotel, where he will remain for two or three days before going for a trip up the Nile.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 12.

Hungarian Plots.

The court-martial held by the Sixth Army on the Oradea Mare conspirators has resulted in the condemnation to death of six of the accused and a sentence of fifteen years' hard labour on the 7th. The defence of the prisoners was based on the statement that the preparations were intended to supply a civic guard to take over the policing of the town in case the Roumanians should be ordered to evacuate Oradea Mare by the Supreme Council, and that there was never any intention of stirring up trouble during the Roumanian occupation. An appeal from the sentence of the court-martial will be made.

By-Elections.

The Senatorial by-elections have resulted in the election of the Averescan candidates, General Averescu himself being elected for the district of Rimnic Sarat. It is quite probable that the Cabinet will be re-organised after Dr. Vaida-Voevod's return from Paris, as the necessity of negotiating a foreign loan will involve strengthening the Cabinet by the inclusion of one or two leaders of parties of the Old Kingdom. The Transylvanian Nationalists have decided not to put up a candidate in opposition to M. Take Jonescu in case the Democratic leader should decide to stand for one of the vacant Ardeal constituencies.

Cluj University Inauguration.

Scenes of the greatest enthusiasm have marked the celebrations in connection with the inauguration of the Roumanian University at Cluj. The special trains conveying the Royal Family and the Ministers, Deputies, and foreign representatives were met at every station by cheering crowds assembled from the surrounding villages. These, unfortunately for the travellers, had ample opportunity of expressing their enthusiasm; for numerous breakdowns detained the trains at many of the stations. The trains were not heated, and as several feet of snow lay on the ground in the mountain regions, the journey must have been a particularly trying one, and the banquet in the evening peculiarly comforting in the circumstances. In Cluj itself, it has been claimed by one of the professors present that the enthusiasm accompanying the ceremonies outrivalled even that displayed recently at Strassburg. Besides the diplomatic representatives of the Allied and neutral Powers, delegates were present from many of the leading universities of these countries, including those of Paris and Strassburg. The inauguration ceremony took place at 9.30 on February 1, and at 2 p.m. a banquet was given by the Rector of the University (M. Sextile Pushcariu), at which the King, the Queen, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Carol were present. In a few cordial words the King thanked the foreign representatives and the delegates of the Western universities for the sympathy and hearty felicitations they had expressed towards the University of Cluj, and said that, supported in its foundation by the good wishes of so many of the ancient centres of European learning and science, the horoscope of the new Roumanian university was indeed a favourable one.

The Spanish Chargé d'Affaires (M. Basterra) delighted his audience by speaking in Roumanian, and made an interesting allusion to the ancient connection existing between Spain and Roumania; for the Emperor Trajan, the conqueror of Dacia, from whose legions the Roumanians proudly trace their descent, was born in Spain, and, before making his triumphal entry into Rome after his Dacian conquest, awaited the arrival of his mother from his native country, so that she might share in his honour. Thus, through her, said M. Basterra, Spain was in a sense the grandmother of Roumania.

Immediately after the banquet there was a gala performance at the National Theatre, and from there a huge torchlight procession marched to the great square, where stands the Cathedral of St. Michael. The square was decorated with flags and illumined by fireworks; and, when the torches arrived, lighting up the falling snowflakes in iridescent colours, the whole scene was fairy-like. Here a scene of wild patriotic enthusiasm ensued and continued until a late hour of the night, the King and Royal party watching it from the windows of a house looking out on to the square.

January 24.

This has been a week of patriotic celebrations. Friday, February 6 (O.S., January 24), was an official holiday to celebrate the union of the two principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia (1859). In the evening about a thousand troops marched with torches down the Calea Victoriei and assembled round the statue of Michael the Brave, where large crowds joined them, singing the national anthem and dancing the national dance called the "Hora." Fortunately the frost held and the streets were clean.

Roumanian Prisoners.

It is reported that a military commission is proceeding to Cluj to arrange with the Hungarians an exchange of prisoners of war taken during the Hungarian Bolshevist offensive.

A good deal of anxiety is felt as to the fate of 30,000 Roumanian prisoners who have not yet been returned from Germany, and have not been accounted for by the German authorities, in spite of repeated applications from the Roumanian Government.

Prince Carol.

Prince Carol has been promoted from the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel to that of Colonel.

Madame Pia Bratiano.

The newspapers of all parties announce with regret the death of Mme. Bratiano, wife of the Roumanian patriot, Jean Bratiano (one of the leading statesmen at the time of the union of the Principalities) and mother of Mr. Ionel Bratiano, ex-Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Party. She was over eighty years of age, and has seen her country develop in half a century from two small Principalities under Turkish sovereignty to a united nation of over 17 million inhabitants, her husband (and later her sons) taking a prominent part in making the history which has ended in this happy consummation.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, February 12.

Politics Again.

After a lull, domestic politics are coming to the front again. For the past few weeks Radicals have been stumping the country, especially in the new provinces, while the anti-Radical papers have been printing pages of vitriolic abuse of their rivals. During their long reign the Radicals seem to have made plenty of enemies. It is difficult to gauge the strength of the main parties: but certainly the Radicals have lost a great deal of ground in the old kingdom, where their autocratic régime during the Salonika exile has alienated a large proportion of the people. They were at first welcomed in the new provinces owing to their great prestige: for it was while they were in power that the Turks were expelled and Macedonia liberated, and, finally, the great union was achieved. But this prestige gradually diminished when, at closer quarters, it was found that the Radical leaders were just ordinary men. The Democrats, for their part, are a new party, and by their administration of the country without Parliament for so many months they have given their opponents a chance of calling them Democrats in name only. In fact, both parties roundly accuse the other side of being reactionary.

The Democrats are out for a unified centralised king-

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dom, organised on the old Serbian model. The Radicals, by flirting with Dr. Koroshets and his clericals, and with the separatist Croats of the National Club, expose themselves to the criticism that they are coquetting with the Papacy and countenancing the Separatist movement. How far they are prepared to go with a programme of decentralisation remains to be seen. To the foreigner it would seem but a scheme of federation, something like the model of the United States would be most suitable to the conditions, where each province has had so distinct a history; but there is no doubt that a very large and influential proportion of educated Croats are powerful Unionists. One-third of the population of Croatia are Serbs, and this is a strong brake on any separatist movement, which probably the country people would resent and resist vigorously.

Meanwhile, Parliament is due to be summoned or dissolved on February 15, so Dr. Davidovitch is negotiating with the Opposition *bloc* with a view to forming a coalition Cabinet which shall carry out some urgent matters and call together the Constituent Assembly. Negotiations are proceeding as they did in the days of the long-drawn crisis of last summer.

The Radicals now ask for the portfolios of the Interior, and of Foreign Affairs, and for the Presidency. The Radicals demand the immediate summoning of Parliament with the following programme:—Budget, agrarian reform, municipal laws, war pensions, Constituent Assembly, National Bank. The Democrats ask for the elections of the Constituent Assembly to come first, so that that body can deal with these pressing problems, which, they maintain, the present Parliament is incompetent to do. They maintain that the Radicals are afraid to go to the people, and wish to work for a year on pressing questions, so as to have time to prepare the ground; and this appears to be sound reasoning, for if the Radicals were sure of themselves, they would welcome the Constituent Assembly, which would place them firmly in the saddle. But it looks as though they are playing for time.

In Montenegro.

There is reported to be the greatest distress in Montenegro. In peace time there was never abundance in that rocky country, and to-day the people are virtually dependent on foreign charity and such supplies as the Government can send. The chief difficulty is in communications: roads are few and far between, and in a terrible condition; the Italians hold the only railway, the little line from Bar (Antivari) to Vir Pazar, while the Albanians and Zelenashi are blocking ingress by the Boyana. Carts are scarcely to be had, and transport is very dear. With the shortage of food and clothing and the difficulty of importing, the people are in a pitiable condition; there is no work for them to do, and so they are favourable soil for propaganda and political intrigues. Yet the Zelenash movement is dying out, and they are surrendering in bulk. When they made an attack on Tuzi country some time back, helped by Albanians, the Government called upon the Piperi, Kuchi and Bijelopasljchi to help them, and these tribes rose and drove them out, just as did the Tsrmrichani against the Italians at Vir Pazar and on the Sutorman Pass. From the beginning of December up to date, the authorities have taken 471 Zelenash, including Bulalovitch, one of their most vigorous leaders, and it is thought in Serbia that the Nikolite movement in Montenegro has come to an end. Meanwhile, to help the people, conditions of transport should be improved.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, January 25.

The Blessing of the Waters.

Last Monday the Orthodox Epiphany was celebrated with all the traditional observances. The King had gone to Varna to welcome the prisoners of war returning from France. At a very early hour the bells called the worshippers to Mass at the Cathedral. Afterwards the clergy, headed by the Bishop and followed by a great crowd, marched in procession through the main streets to the Alexander I. Square. Here they halted in front of the Royal Palace, where, under a specially erected pavilion, decorated with flowers and flags, the ceremony of the Blessing of the Waters was performed in the presence of the Cabinet Ministers, headed by M. Stambolisky, General Nerezoff (Chief of Staff), the officers of the garrison, and many high civil and military dignitaries, as well as a great crowd of citizens and soldiers. After the Blessing and the sprinkling with the water of all present by the Bishop, the troops marched past in review. They were saluted by M. Stambolisky, as War Minister, and their smart bearing created an excellent impression. They and M. Stambolisky came in for hearty recognition from the crowd.

At Varna, owing to the presence of King Boris, the festival was observed with extra *éclat*. The citizens gathered in great crowds to welcome his Majesty, who, before the arrival of the procession, inspected the troops. Mgr. Simeon, Archbishop of Varna, headed the procession and blessed the water and sprinkled those present, beginning with the King. His Majesty was made the object of an extraordinary demonstration of loyalty and affection by the crowds, for which he thanked them in a short but effective speech; after which he was again loudly cheered, and his motor-car was smothered in flowers.

More False Rumours.

The telegraphic agencies of Bulgaria's neighbours continue to spread alarmist rumours regarding this country, such as revolutions, assassination of the Prime Minister, fall of the Cabinet, the proclamation of a Soviet Republic, and so forth and so on. It is hardly necessary to inform regular readers of THE NEAR EAST that these rumours are absolutely false. As a matter of fact, both King and Government enjoy much popularity, and have the country's support in their effort to crush out the trouble caused by the insignificant minority of Anarchists in the pay of the Bolshevists, and order and peace reign throughout the country. The strike of State officials shows signs of ending in a manner satisfactory for the Cabinet, and both the Akrarian and Bourgeois parties are determined that a small minority of 10,000 Communists must not be allowed to terrorise the 5,000,000 population of the country.

After the declaration of the general strike the peasant supporters of the Communists in the villages renounced their communism, tearing up and burning their red flags, and at once enrolling themselves members of the Agrarian Associations. As typical I quote here a letter forwarded from the district of Doupnitza, which was regarded as a Communist stronghold, to a prominent deputy. It was sent by the notables of the village of Gornya Banya, district of Doupnitza, January, 1920:—"In our name and in the name of our community we send you best wishes and greetings for the New Year. May it bring peace to humanity, progress, and good fortune to all; while to the foes of our country (the Communists and the Broad Socialists) may it bring disaster and dissolution. After the demonstration on December 24 almost all the Communists in our village repented and severed themselves from those parties. They brought to our club their most sacred emblem, the red flag, and tore it up in our presence. We keep the strips."

Sofia's New Municipality.

The newly elected Municipal Council of the capital was summoned on January 22 for the election of a mayor and three vice-mayors. The former mayor, Dr. Kalinkoff, a Democrat, was re-elected, and the vice-mayors chosen were: Dr. Papazoff (a lawyer), M. George Angeloff, and M. Sarafoff. The latter is a Democrat, the two others are Narodniks. The hope of the Communists to hoist the Red flag over the municipal building was thus happily frustrated.

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ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, February 6.

The Turkish forces operating against the Greeks in the Hermus Valley refused to allow the train on the Cassaba (French) line to circulate on the Soma branch unless and until two Turkish women imprisoned in Smyrna should be released. The French company at once applied to the Greek authorities for the release of these two women, and as soon as the Turks had received the word of the French officials that the release had been effected they allowed the train to run as usual. A sequel of this incident is that the French have landed troops at Panderma, evidently to protect their railway more effectively, and this has started rumours in Smyrna that British and French troops have disembarked to attack the Turkish troops in the Hermus Valley.

The villages around Smyrna are now occupied by Greek artillery, and it would seem as if precautions were being taken to protect Smyrna at all costs.

PALESTINE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Jerusalem Water Supply.

Although the water supply of Jerusalem was probably a burning topic from time immemorial for its people, and a matter of proper care for some of its Governments, only now perhaps are hygienic rules being enforced in connection therewith. Before winter set in the public was duly notified that the new water supply, after satisfying Army and railway requirements, was only sufficient to serve public standpipes, hospitals, charitable institutions, schools, and certain trades, and could not supply private houses. All residents were therefore called upon to make full and proper use of cisterns, to conserve water, and to provide for repairing the need of oiling) exist; and these can be obtained at covered, when not in use, with stone and mortar. Every tank and well must have suitable protection from impurity unless a pump is affixed, and their condition must satisfy the Public Health Department. The oiling of all wells and cisterns is obligatory except where suitable pumps (obviating the need of oiling) exist; and these can be obtained at cost price from the municipality. They can be installed under Government supervision. It has been fully explained that water which has been oiled is in no way injurious to health when drunk. Any owner or occupier on whose property a cistern, cesspit, or drain is found in an insanitary state must carry out any remedial work as specified by the health officer. Any defaulter or person on whose property mosquitos are found to be breeding is liable to a fine of £5 or a month's imprisonment; and the Military Governor may have any necessary work carried out at the occupier's expense. The municipality now undertakes the oiling of cisterns, etc., and repairs; and all classes, in this dawning of a new era, are beginning to realise how much of the sickness prevalent in the city is traceable to contaminated drinking water.

Sanitation.

Another good regulation, long needed in the Holy City, provides that all owners and tenants are held responsible for keeping their walls in good order, and clearing thoroughfares adjacent to their premises of stones and rubbish, and maintaining their drains and gutters in proper state. So satisfactory are the results already that the *Jerusalem News* exclaims with enthusiasm that "Jersualem's spruceness—the coats of paint about Jerusalem gladden the hearts of those who love cleanliness," and it adds: "If you let repairs go to-day, to-morrow will cost you more."

General.

Fishing rights in the Sea of Galilee are being put up for sale for a period of from one to three years from next March; also those of the sea coast at Acre, Haifa, Jaffa, and Gaza. A railway line from Afule to Jenin has been opened by the military authorities, and a mixed train runs daily to and from the latter and Haifa. At Beersheba a telegraph office has been opened.

In the third examination in Arabic of officers and officials of O.E.T.A. (South), out of twenty-five candidates ten satisfied the examiners.

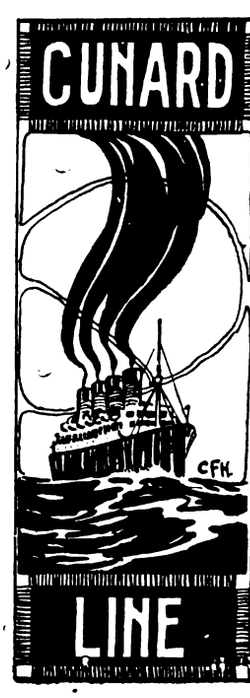
Lieut. A. Lowther, 10th Royal Hussars, is gazetted as aide-de-camp to Major-Gen. Sir Louis Bols, K.C.B., D.S.O.

TURKEY AND THE STRAITS.

Lecture at the National Liberal Club.

Colonel the Hon. Aubrey Herbert presided at the National Liberal Club on Thursday afternoon, February 19, when Mr. H. Charles Woods delivered an interesting illustrated address upon the subject of Turkey and the Straits. After paying a tribute to Sir Edwin Pears, whose death was a loss to this country and to Liberalism, Mr. Woods went on to explain that the present highly critical situation in the Ottoman Empire resulted largely from the delays by the Peace Conference in arriving at any decision as to the future of that Empire. These delays were a direct cause of the strength of the Nationalist forces of Mustapha Kemal and of the renewed Armenian massacres which are now taking place.

Turkey having acted as a tool of Germany and having perpetrated the greatest persecution of Christians of all time, two conditions were necessary of realisation in the Peace Treaty. First, absolute safeguards must be established to prevent the occurrence of a renewed and successful Pan-German policy in the East. Secondly, the Allies were under a direct obligation to put an end to the misgovernment and oppression to which Christians in Turkey have been subjected. Mr. Woods thought that the Peace Conference was right to maintain the Sultan at Constantinople, provided the Straits were open, unfortified, and internationalised. The adoption of this policy was more satisfactory than any other available, because it fulfilled the promise made by Mr. Lloyd George in 1918, because the Moslems were the chief element of the population, and because it avoided the difficulties and dangers (especially to this country) which might result from any interference with the position of the Khalif. Moreover, were the Turkish capital to be established in Asia Minor, the means of controlling the Ottoman Government would not be so easy and effective as would be the case in Constantinople. Mr. Woods considered it would not be sufficient merely to internationalise the waterways of the Straits, and thought that an international zone should be established on each side of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. This zone should be demilitarised and neutralised, and, as is the case with the Suez Canal, no belligerent act should be allowed to take place there except in the event of an attack from without. As America was unwilling to accept a mandate, recourse would have to be had to international control. The lecturer said that it was absolutely necessary to create an Armenia sufficiently strong and large to maintain its independent existence. The two or three Turkish villayets now suggested would not be sufficient, and there would have to be some compromise between this suggestion and the more extreme claims of the Armenians. With regard to the remainder of Asia Minor, Mr. Woods considered there were two alternatives open, either that territory could be split up among the Allies, or Turkey could be left in possession of all Western Anatolia, where the greater proportion of the population is Turkish. The adoption of the first alternative would be contrary to the declared policy of Mr. Lloyd George; it would be unfair, and it would not work. The only hope, therefore, was to leave the Turks all Asia Minor except Armenia, taking adequate precautions to secure the non-Turkish inhabitants against further misrule or injustice.



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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The decision of the Peace Conference to allow the Turks to remain at Constantinople has raised a storm in the British Press, and, judging from the articles in *The Times* of the 21st and 23rd inst., the British public will arise in its wrath and not only drive the Turks from Constantinople, but also Mr. Lloyd George from office. If I read correctly the "Notes of the Week" in your last week's issue, the editor of THE NEAR EAST is taking a saner view of the situation, and, all things considered, has come to the conclusion that the Conference decision is a wise one. There is no question, however, that the Turks have a bad Press, and it behoves those who, like myself, admit their faults but recognise their many good qualities, to do all they can to counteract this Press campaign. With your permission I will endeavour to discuss the question on its merits, and without, I trust, unnecessary heat. First, as regards these massacres, we all know the old saying, "Scratch a Turk and you will find a Tartar." This means that the Turkish soldier has only a veneer of civilisation, like many others of the semi-barbarous States' subjects, and his methods of restoring order are not our Western methods. During the Russian advance in the early part of the war he found himself with enemies in front and enemies in his rear, as the Armenians were certainly not fighting on his side. I do not argue for a moment that the action of the Turkish authorities was justified. But did the Greeks, Bulgarians, and others behave any better during the first Balkan War? If one may judge from the independent testimony of foreign correspondents, rapes and murders of the worst description were by no means confined to the soldiers of Turkish nationality. On the other hand, did not our people bear witness to the "clean fighting" of the Turks when opposing us both in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia? As regards the recently reported massacres, until we have further details we cannot judge; but it seems reasonable to suppose that, the French having armed the Christian population, there was a pitched battle and the murders were really "casualties." Possibly in India it might be described as vigorous but justifiable measures to stamp out rebellion. Let the British public reserve judgment. Again, I am sure that the fact that the St. Sophia Mosque was once a Christian Cathedral has a tremendous influence with our Churchmen's desire to remove the Turks from Constantinople. Fanaticism is, I fear, not confined to Mohammedans; but perhaps, having lived so long in the East, I am too broad-minded. Anyhow, 400 years of Moslem worship should give the Turks some rights, surely.

But perhaps the most extraordinary contention of *The Times* article is that we should not be influenced by the pro-Moslem wishes of our Allies, though we are the greatest Mohammedan Power in the world, and although the removal of the Turks might set the whole East in a blaze.

In conclusion, I can only urge that if the Turks be given another chance, with no more wars, a little financial aid, and possibly advice, we should soon see a marked change. There is no question that the Turkish Government may be bad, but has it ever had a fair chance from Europe?

I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

Rushton, Taunton,
February 23, 1920.

ARE FIUME AND ZARA ITALIAN TOWNS?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Fiume and Zara figure prominently in the Adriatic dispute. The main Italian contention, as to why these two towns cannot be left within the new Yugoslav State, is that they are Italian, or, as Italian Nationalists prefer to say in the superlative, "most Italian." By an intense and lavishly financed propaganda, by D'Annunzio's wild outbursts and a deafening clamour raised in the Italian Press, the true facts of the situation have been obscured and the public at large induced to believe a falsehood.

The town proper of Zara has 13,000 inhabitants. According to Austrian statistics, 7,000 of these are Italians, 6,000 Yugoslavs. Zara, therefore, is Yugoslav almost by half, and very far from being "most Italian." But are these figures reliable? Foreign readers must know that in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire the municipalities were the organs entrusted with the census-taking. The Municipality of Zara was in Italian hands, and consequently it may be supposed that statistical accuracy as to the national character of the population of Zara would be decidedly strained in favour of the Italian element.

The following figures go to prove my contention:—

For the school year of 1919-20—that is to say, under the Italian occupation—there were entered in the town proper of Zara:—

In Yugoslav public schools ..... 627 pupils.
In Italian public schools ..... 591 pupils.

In the public schools of the suburbs of Voshtarnitza and Stani, 233 Yugoslav and no Italian pupils at all. That would give a total attendance of 860 in Yugoslav and 591 in Italian public schools, figures which speak most eloquently for the national sentiments of the parents.

There are two secondary schools at Zara called "Gymnasia," one Yugoslav, the other Italian. There is also one technical school with Italian as the language of instruction. These three schools are attended by 352 Yugoslav and 295 Italian students from the town proper; from the district of Zara and the Province of Dalmatia the attendance is: 134 Yugoslavs and 132 Italians. Thus the normal and secondary schools in Zara have, collectively, 1,346 Yugoslav and 1,018 Italian pupils.

I hope that I may now ask of every impartial reader: Is Zara an Italian town?

At Fiume, according to the census of 1910, there were 24,212 Italians and 15,692 Yugoslavs. In 1880 Yugoslavs were in the majority in Fiume. In 1890 they were almost equal in number to the Italians. In 1900 the Italians numbered 17,300 and the Yugoslavs 16,200. In 1910 the Yugoslavs had "fallen" to 15,692, whereas the Italians had "jumped" to 24,212. Was this by a natural process? Certainly not. First of all, the census was taken by the Municipality, which was hostile to Yugoslavs; secondly, immigrants from Italy flocked to Fiume and were readily admitted as citizens; and, thirdly, Yugoslav new-comers, even after years of residence in the town, were persistently denied its citizenship.

That is the method by which Fiume became the major part "Italian."

But that is not the only way. Between 1880 and 1890 every Yugoslav school was ousted from Fiuman territory. Yugoslavs were not even allowed to keep private schools there at their own expense. Yugoslav children were forced to attend Italian normal and high schools, which served more as instruments of denationalisation than of education. A glance at the surnames of the inhabitants of Fiume will show that four-fifths of them end in "itch," which means that their owners are of pure Yugoslav stock. At Fiume, as well as at Zara, there are innumerable cases in which the parents still cling to their Yugoslav nationality, while the children have become "Italians" through school propaganda. The former "Italian" Mayor of Fiume, Dr. Vio, who retired in November last, has a professedly Yugoslav brother, and his father is the recognised leader of the Yugoslavs of Fiume. Not ten years ago, one of the most rabid adherents of D'Annunzio, Dr. Rubinitch, was a fanatical Croat, who, later on, "became" Italian.

The Yugoslav origin of the population of Fiume is so evident in the names that, since the Armistice, the National Council has undertaken the wholesale Italianisation of Yugoslav names. I have before me an Italian newspaper of Fiume, *La Bilancia*, of April 29, 1919, publishing the decision of the National Council of Fiume of March 27, 1919, No. 2,140, whereby in 48 cases the change of surnames was approved. Just to quote a few examples of the changes, Marashitch became Marassi; Komanditch, Comandini; Radetitch, Radetti; Petritch, Petris; Vukelitch, Visintini; Doreitch, Dorini; Batistitch, Battisti; and so on.

Such "decisions" are being taken constantly by the National Council, especially since D'Annunzio, who is of pure Italian origin, could not live in a "most Italian" city infested with bearers of "barbaric" Yugoslav names.

Among the "Italians" of Zara you will find the same conditions. Here, also, four-fifths of the Italians answer to names such as Krekitch, Rajcevitch, Nakitch, Gilyanovitch, Kristitch—nothing but "itchs" and "vitchs," which prove that the Italianity of Zara, no less than that of Fiume, is only an artificial creation of recent date, built up by propaganda in the past, in order to be exploited for imperialistic aims when the moment should arrive—as it has now arrived.

I have stated the facts; I beg the reader to judge for himself.—I am, etc.,

J. F. L. V.

THE ADRIATIC SETTLEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May we call your attention to the joint meeting of the Balkan Committee, the Serbian Society of Great Britain, and the Anglo-Albanian Committee held at the House of Commons on Thursday, February 19, and largely attended?

The following resolutions were passed:—

That this joint body, representing the Balkan Committee, the Serbian Society of Great Britain, and the Anglo-Albanian Committee, wish to record a solemn protest against the partition schemes on the East Adriatic shores which the Supreme Council is stated to have adopted.

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In what concerns Yugoslavia they regard the proposal, which, while making Fiume and Zara free cities under an international guarantee and giving Italy (besides strategic islands) the frontier of the Isonzo watershed and the Wilson line in Istria, as the utmost limit of concession.

They desire to point out that even this proposal, which included some 400,000 Yugoslavs under Italian dominion, as against a few hundred Italians within Yugoslavia, would be wholly inacceptable, unless accompanied by the same guarantees for those of Slav nationality as those claimed by Italy for her nationals.

They consider that the absence of these guarantees and the proposal to extend still further the Italian boundary beyond its geographical limit and along the head of the Adriatic to the gates of Fiume, thereby placing another considerable Yugoslav population under an alien yoke, as contrary alike to the principles of justice and of expediency.

They are particularly struck with the levity of these proposals when it is remembered that the representatives of France and England, in agreement with those of the United States, had put forward a reasoned condemnation of the latter proposal in a joint memorandum issued on December 9 last.

They regard the proposals for partitioning Albania and for placing large parts of its population under foreign dominion as contrary to the Treaty of 1913 (which they would maintain as a minimum) and as a violation of the pledges given by Allied statesmen during the war, as a wrong to a brave and high-spirited people, and in conflict even with the declared wish of the Italian and Yugoslav Governments that the independence of Albania should be respected.

They also urge that guarantees should be secured to Albanians coming under foreign rule similar to the guarantees assured to minorities in like circumstances.

In conclusion, they wish to point out that the above proposals violate at every turn the principles of national rights to which the Conference had bound itself; that they have already imperilled our friendly understanding with the United States: and that they cut away the foundation of even justice and reciprocal treatment on which the League of Nations must rest.—We are, etc.,

NOEL BUXTON.
(Chairman, Balkan Committee.)
ARTHUR EVANS.
(Chairman, Serbian Society of Great Britain.)

BRITISH RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Speaking before the Central Asian Society at Burlington House on February 18, Capt. Ormsby-Gore said that in order to consolidate our position in the Arabic-speaking world we needed to establish a new British civil service. In Sir Percy Cox and Colonel Wilson, Mesopotamia had had at the head of its administration men of exceptional knowledge and character, but it might be questioned whether the Indian Civil Service could go on producing or could spare a large number of men of this type. The Indian Government and India Office should surrender all existing responsibilities west of the immediate entrance to the Persian Gulf, and a new civil service should be recruited in England on a separate examination and with a clearly defined contract. It should not be a numerous service; a few first-class men would be better than ten times the number of lower quality. Leave should be frequent, pay very good, and it should be well understood that men not up to the required standard would be quickly weeded out. He hoped eventually there would be a separate Ministry formed in London to deal with British interests in Mesopotamia and contiguous countries; until this was done those interests should be in charge of a separate department of the Foreign Office. As far as possible the men on the spot should be given the freest possible hand, only being interfered with for Imperial or international reasons. It would be a service where personality would count. Jews and Arabs were people who would never regard themselves as subject races. The Arabs were anxious to have Englishmen to guide and direct them, but not on terms of subservience, barely of equality; and in Palestine it must be realised that Patriarchs and Chief Rabbis in Jerusalem must be treated in a particular way. So men were needed of very special capacity who had the feeling of the Middle East in their blood, and were not subject to any other tradition. As to the military aspect, the smaller we could keep the garrisons the better; with aeroplanes and light armoured cars we should not need to keep a large army in the country. The development of Palestine should be left to the Jews; the British should make themselves responsible for Mesopotamia. In the case of the latter country, Indian immigration had been suggested, but the Indian, whether Sunni, Mohammedan, or Hindoo, did not mix well with the Shiah Arabs. Further, India had capital now, and would be able to absorb in her own industrial activities any labour surplus she may previously have had. Another suggestion had been for Jewish colonisation, but he did not think it would work; the Jews would not find, as they did in Palestine, the inducement to turn themselves from townsmen and merchants into a peasant population for the sake of an ideal. Somalis had been proposed, but he did not think they were suitable. The first thing in Mesopotamia was drainage and irrigation; the Government should leave it as far as possible to private enterprise.

Colonel Younghusband said with regard to great schemes of drainage and irrigation, in this country we were accustomed to private enterprise, but in the East it was better these great works should be carried out by the State. If you got a firm of contractors coming into a country like Mesopotamia without any experience of dealing with the inhabitants, you would very likely have trouble. In India, canals, railways, and similar works were an important source of revenue.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Severe weather is reported from Egypt and Palestine. Nine inches of snow fell in Jerusalem on February 11.

At the request of the Turkish Government, Switzerland has taken over the care of Turkish interests in Germany.

A Persian delegation has arrived at Erivan with the object of establishing commercial and economic relations between Persia and Armenia.

An unprecedented fall of snow, 39 inches deep, crippled Jerusalem's communications for a week in mid-month, and caused great distress and hunger.

A deputation is to be sent from Ceylon to the Viceroy of India to protest against the high prices charged for the rice supplied from India to Sinhalese labourers.

Fresh negotiations are stated to be taking place between the Transcaucasian Republics of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, with a view to the conclusion of an alliance.

The Malta correspondent of the *Morning Post* announces that his Majesty's ships Queen Elizabeth and Wessex have left harbour, and that nearly all warships are now away.

Mr. Jacob Schiff, of New York, has purchased the Jewish Technical Schools, Haifa, from the Hilfesverein of the German Jews, and has presented them to the Zionist Organisation.

A special Mission is being sent from Warsaw to the Southern Caucasus. Besides political and economic objects, the Mission will be entrusted with the organisation of a Polish Consulate.

Part of the Bombay Institute of Science has been lent by the Government for the convenience of travellers passing through Bombay. Accommodation is thereby provided for 400 travellers a day.

Ten thousand pounds is being distributed among the poor of Cairo, Alexandria, and other towns, and £2,400 to local charities in Cairo, to celebrate the birth of an heir to the Sultan of Egypt.

The Air Ministry state that regulations governing civil flying in India, to be known as Indian Aircraft Rules, 1920, were promulgated on January 31, from which date civil flying in India was permitted.

A telegram from Adalia dated February 18 states that, in spite of unfavourable weather, the 450 h.p. Caproni biplane, piloted by Lieutenants Negrini and Origi, in connection with the Rome-Tokyo flight, had landed there safely. It was starting again on February 19 for Aleppo.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Constantinople and Islam.

The *Manchester Guardian* of February 18 published an article entitled "The Allies' Decision About Constantinople," in which the writer disapproves very strongly of the retention of Constantinople by the Turks. England's decision has presumably been brought about, he says, by fear of the Moslems in India; but he affirms that this decision will not achieve its end of pacifying the Moslems. He describes the Moslem view of it all, and says:—

We must not delude ourselves with the consolations of "Real Politik," or fancy that we have secured, at any rate, one solid advantage: the gratitude of the great Indian Moslem community. A decision obviously dictated by expediency, and not by a belief that it is right, will not arouse their gratitude, because it will not secure their respect. On the contrary, it will confirm the impression made on Moslems by the war that the moral and physical ascendancy of Europe is departing from her, and that another reversal in the relations between West and East may be at hand. One has only to remember that to Moslems, with their distant view (and perhaps truer perspective), the European world is essentially one. It was "the Franks," without distinction, who fell upon Islam in the Crusades and were beaten back by a joint Moslem effort, and it is the Franks again who have repeated the attempt during the last few centuries, and who by 1914 had actually brought under their dominion the greater part of the Moslem world. And then, at the moment when the extinction of Islamic liberty seemed inevitable, Allah sent madness upon the unbelievers and plunged them into a ruinous civil war. They turned their devilish weapons against each other; each faction published through the Moslem world all the evil that the other party did, the Moslems believed both reports, for are not all Franks like one another, and all alike evildoers? When Frank speaks evil of Frank, then he speaks truly. This internecine and unmitigated war has been God's punishment for the wickedness of Frankistan, and see how they continue to lacerate each other after the fighting has ceased. Consider the terms imposed by the victors on Germany, how they have broken up Austria-Hungary and even blockaded their former ally, Russia. Frank has shown no mercy to Frank, and now, how do they deal with the Empire of the Caliph—an empire which, as good Christians, they ought to hate more than they hate each other, and against which, in fact, with characteristic unscrupulousness, they have made blasphemous accusations of atrocities during the war? They dare not lay hands on it. They dare not even apply to it the misguided principles in which they believe. They give way before the solid opposition of the Moslem world, and treat Turkey with a consideration which they have failed to show to any of their Christian opponents. And so they ask our gratitude because they have yielded to our coercion? They will not get our gratitude but our scorn. This may not be the effect of the Constantinople decision on the minds of those educated Moslems who are leading the Turcophil movement in India, but the masses who still think in terms of Islam and Christendom will surely react in this way, if they react at all.

Albania.

In the *Manchester Guardian* of February 13 appeared an article upon "The Future of Albania." After briefly describing the things that make for disunion and union in Albania, the writer says:—

We see, then, that Albania ought to exist as a State, and that it is possible, though in places only provisionally, to trace out her frontiers. But the consolidation and development of the Albanian nation cannot be accomplished in a day, and perhaps not at all without foreign assistance and instruction. What is to be the regime in the interim? It seems a clear case for the application of the "mandate" idea, and Italy is the Power on whom the mandate would naturally be conferred, if only for the cynical reason that her rivalry with Yugoslavia and Greece would incline her to stand up for Albania if she were debarred *a priori* from bargaining Albanian territory away. Yet this solution arouses certain misgivings. The very motives which would make Italy champion Albania in disputes with her two Balkan neighbours might make her less active in promoting good relations between them—relations which are really more important to Albania in the long run than any local advantages in the settlement of her frontier. And the mandate must be so drawn that it cannot transform itself into a protectorate. The League of Nations, by whom the mandate will be conferred, must be an effective party to the relationship, and a time limit must be laid down in the mandate itself, after which the relationship shall come up for reconsideration. And there is one local question of importance. The mandate for a united Albania ought only to be conferred on Italy on condition that she renounces her claim to annex Avlona, the finest Albanian port and one of the chief Albanian towns. If Italy, within the term of years prescribed in the mandate, can make Albania prosperous, united, strong, and capable of governing herself, she will have earned Albania's lasting friendship, and provided far better for her own strategic security in this part of the Adriatic than if she annexes Avlona at the price of Albania's enmity.

Pan-Turanianism.

We give further extracts from Colonel Paraquin's articles in the *Berliner Tageblatt;* the following are from the issue for January 28:—

When in December, 1917, the Mesopotamian front was once more in danger of being completely broken up, Halil Pasha said to me, half bitterly, half jestingly: "Let us leave to the English this accursed desert! Let us go to Turkestan; there will I found the new empire for my little Genghis." He had significantly named his youngest son after the great conqueror and destroyer. And when, in the autumn of 1918, he was speaking in Elisabetpol to his Tartar brothers in the Caucasus, again and again the name "Turkestan" resounded from his lips and elicited hearty applause from the audience.

The Entente threw Halil Pasha into prison at Constantinople, but he escaped, and is continuing his plan for a pan-Turk empire. The success of his plans, says the writer of these articles, will depend on whether Russia or England can or cannot gain a decisive influence in Turkestan.

Turkish policy in the East stood outside all relations to the particular powers of any country. The alliance with powerful Germany alone, which was to overthrow Russia and England, could bring the fulfilment of Turkish schemes for achieving the position of a Great Power. It is an entire misunderstanding of the facts to think that Turkey was adopting a policy friendly to Germany. She only hoped from us support in the execution of her own plans and never thought of reciprocity or thanks. The Russian Colonel Oern asked Halil Pasha at a banquet at Mosul in celebration of the Armistice, whether Turkey were not anxious about her powerful ally. "Why?" asked Halil, smiling. "Rich Germany has lent us a great deal of money with which we are employing the Russians and English in Asia. Germany knows that she will never get the money back. But if Germany should try to get anything back by force, then—his fiery eye flashed—Germany is our enemy!"

He then expatiates on the disregard for Germany which Turkey showed when it suited her interests.

But, moreover, official Turkey did not shrink from open and injurious disregard of German interests. During the well-known strained relations between Turks and Arabs, the German ally had interposed as mediator. As, moreover, the support of the Turkish operations through the Arabs was only a question of hard cash and Germany alone provided the required gold, it was clear that the German rulers reserved to themselves a certain influence on the expenditure of the hard cash. As Germany made great sacrifices, she might also expect that, by this means, she might be able to form connections with the Arabs which might bring economic advantages in time of peace. There appeared in the spring of 1918 a short informal order of the Turkish Government, commanding the immediate suspension of all German-Arab relations. This was the result of jealousy of the German allies. The impression which was made on the Arabs by this humiliating order to Germany meant a further weakening of our prestige in the East, which had already been sufficiently lowered through the loss of Baghdad and the unsuccessful military undertakings in Persia.

Colonel Paraquin refers to the vagueness with which German Eastern policy was pursued, and mentions in particular the "Holy War." Of it he says:—

When in the autumn of 1914 the Holy War was declared for the first time, I happened to have a conversation with a French diplomat, Pierre Guerlet by name, a former attaché at Vienna, who had also been in the Delcasse Ministry. He asked me satirically: "Do you think much of it?" I said I did not, but I nevertheless expressed the hope that the "Holy War" would at least hold back the Entente colonial troops on the spot. Even this did not happen. The "Holy War" was a complete fiasco just because it was not a holy war! The moment Christians fought on the side of Mohammedans, this war lost its fanatical stimulus, its distinctive characteristic. How could one Christian be a deadly enemy of the religion when the other Christian was a friend and ally? The wise Bedouin soon perceived that this was a quite ordinary business war, and with their peculiar aptitude for money-making they offered their services to that Christian who seemed to possess the larger amount of hard cash. Although, if I am correctly informed, we squandered on the Orientals at least 100 millions of coined gold, in the long run, the English had at their disposal larger stores of hard cash.

The article concludes with a plea for clarity of thought in regard to German policy in the East.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

Having once had to persuade an R.T.O. to send a cow a long way up the line "on urgent private business," I know that the military authorities as a rule are inured to shocks of this nature. But I understand that the Indian Army has recently been able to add a particularly precious document to its archives. It was a griffin, a tenderfoot, a greenhorn—or whatever term you prefer—who had reached Busreh and was anxiously checking his kit to see whether he had brought everything that was necessary for the great adventure that lay before him. A fellow-officer was helping him, and called his attention to the absence of one very important item. He seemed to have brought everything else from Bombay, but he had not got an "ayah." Fearful of showing his ignorance, the newcomer asked whether an ayah was absolutely necessary, and on receiving the assurance that in his case one would be indispensable, he was easily persuaded to cable to India for one. History only records that the telegram exists in some military archives somewhere.

***

My remarks a few weeks ago on the follies and inferiority of women have, as I feared, provoked a cutting protest. My first correspondent, whose sex I shall not disclose, pulls my conscience over burning cinders in the following words: "I do not understand how you can seriously suggest that the Western woman should be reduced to the level of that of the unfortunate Turkish slave. Such sentiments as you express are both obnoxious and offensive to the modern woman's sense. Of course, if you *are* a misogynist, I can imagine how your closed-in mind would explode into these fond utterances; but if you are not, for Heaven's sake don't make fun of serious subjects." I must pause to take a fearful breath. Another extract from this letter runs:—"Although I have always read your column, 'Caravanserai,' I must say that I should like to know occasionally what you are driving at. You seem to me always to be writing either with your tongue a long way in your cheek or else a still longer way out of it. More often than not I disagree violently with you, but your attitude towards the modern woman filled me with *so* much disgust that I was forced to write this letter. I hope that, at any rate, it will have the effect of causing you a little to revise your opinions; if it doesn't, my hitherto rigid admiration of the writers for THE NEAR EAST will become elastic, and the first string to snap will be 'Corsair.'" Whew!

***

Another letter, written by one who I think was at Newnham College, is not quite so cutting; but it hurts all the same. Here we are:—"Dear Mr. Corsair, your observations on female education in Mesopotamia are very foolish. The education of woman is the only hope of the world. Just look at what the supremacy of man has brought the world to, and tell me if you are really proud of it. . . . What do you think Oxford and Cambridge would be without their girl colleges? Narrow, unprogressive, unrepresentative places of non-human freaks! . . . When you say that Turkey and Arabia will never be influenced by the progress of women, and that they will never accept the new ideas of emancipation, you are talking about something that I don't think matters at all. . . . Why don't you say something really sensible about the peoples of the Near East? It would be an awfully welcome change, and one might then reach almost to the bottom of your column."

***

On second thoughts (which are always best where women are concerned) I have decided to print without comment the views of my two correspondents. Lest it should be thought, however, that silence means anything, I ought to tell my readers that Corsairs are not converted in a day (and also that they know when to beat a strategic retreat!).

CORSAIR.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

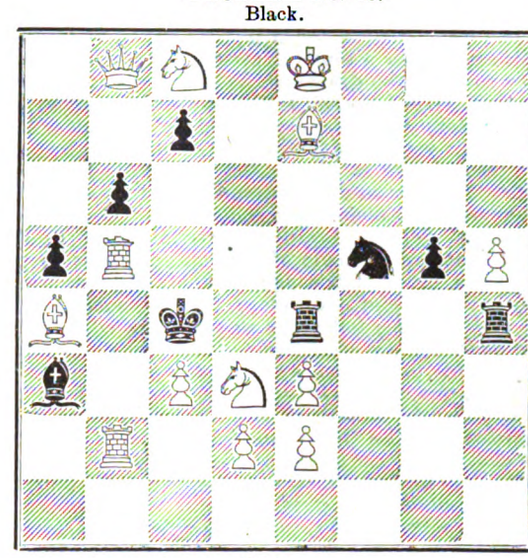
GENERAL TOWNSHEND: Resignation withdrawn.—ARMENIANS (ALLEGED MASSACRE).—INDIA: Volunteer Force (Special Medal).—ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY. (February 17.)

ARMENIAN MASSACRES. MESOPOTAMIA: (Civil and Military Administration). PUNJAB (DISTURBANCES). ALBANIA.

INDIA: North-West Frontier Operations.—Indian Services General Provident Fund.—Chaplains (Outfit Allowance and Service Gratuity).—Hospitals.—Indian Army (Regular Officers). (February 16.)

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 16.
Black.



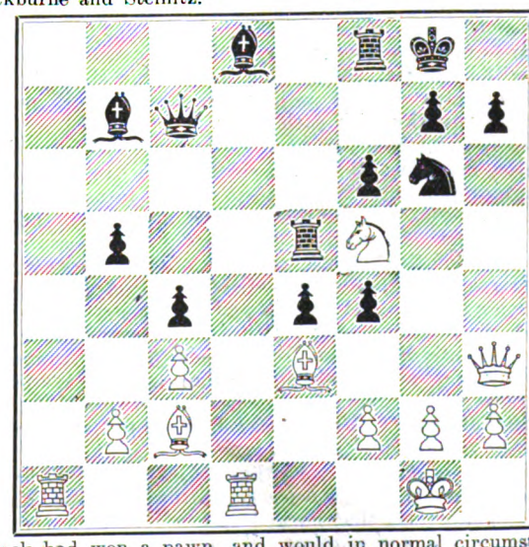
White.
White to mate in two.

Solution to last week's problem:—1, Kt—K2; if Q x Q (ch) 2, Kt x Q mate; if Kt x Kt; 2 B x Kt mate.

The University match is to be played on Friday, March 19, commencing at 2.30 p.m., and adjudication will take place at 10.15. A Friday match is an innovation. Hitherto the match has invariably been played on Mondays, and I presume that the alteration means a much curtailed tour. On the previous Wednesday the combined University teams will meet the City Club.

College Chess at the universities is a very intermittent factor, especially as regards the smaller colleges. An enthusiast comes into residence, starts a club, which for a few years has a most active existence, and as quickly the club ceases to exist on the disappearance of its principal supporters. I am led to make these observations by a paragraph in this week's *Cambridge Review* recording the activities of the chess club of St. Catharine's College. I missed that college from the recently published list of entries for the college competition, and I am unfeignedly glad to see its reappearance, for from time to time it has played no small part in University chess, and as recently as 1910 had two members in the University team.

The following position occurred in one of the games between Blackburne and Steinitz.



Black had won a pawn, and would in normal circumstances have been justified in assuming that it would only be necessary to play steadily to win. But one of those opportunities had arisen which so often confuse all calculations, and Blackburne played R—Q7, to which there is no adequate reply.

NEW YUGOSLAV CABINET.

M. Protitch has succeeded in forming a Cabinet from the Opposition groups. The following is the list of new Ministers:—Minister-President and Minister for the Constituent Assembly, M. Protitch; Vice-President and Minister of Communications, M. Koroshets; Interior, M. Trifkovitch; Foreign Affairs, M. Trumbitch or M. Spalajkovitch; Commerce, M. Ribaratz; Finance, M. Jankowitch; Woods and Mines, M. Kovatchevish; Agrarian Reform, M. Krnitsch; Food, M. Stanischitch; Posts, M. Drinkovitsch; Social Policies, Dr. Schurmin; Education, M. Trifunowitch; Religion, M. Jankovitch; Public Works, M. Jovanovitch; Justice, M. Nintchich; Agriculture, M. Roskar; Health, M. Miletich. In the Cabinet there are four Croats, three Slovenes, one Bosnian, and ten Serbians.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Mr. Hugh Marleyn, whose reputation as an artistic singer is wide, gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall on February 14. An artist he certainly is, but a most unequal one. In songs with a sense of atmosphere, in songs with a tendency towards the dramatic, and in operatic extracts he is very fine. His knowledge of tone-colour in these things he fully exploits, and his vocal resources, though not inexhaustible, are very considerable. His chief success, in my opinion (though not in that of the audience), was in César Franck's "La Procession": as he sang it you could feel the religious atmosphere, you could hear "God traversing the peasants' field." Again in extracts from Verdi, he made all that can be made of this music. It is in purely lyrical songs or in folk-songs that his deficiencies come strongly to the front. In every tone he seeks to find a colour, and he sings folk-songs so sophisticatedly that they cease to be what they are. Some of his own songs which he included in his programme are not noteworthy: his "Bredon Hill" made one doubt whether he knew the contents of the poem, so violently unnatural was his treatment of it. He was assisted by Miss Genevieve Griffiths (solo pianoforte); but as she played such notorious things as McDowell's "Sonata Eroica" and Liszt's "Rhapsodie Hongroise, No. 2," it is unnecessary to pass judgment. No one can make music of these two pieces, and all that can be said is that she failed no more thoroughly than anyone else would have done in the effort. A word of only very slightly qualified praise I give to Mr. Marleyn's accompanist, Mr. George Reeves: Mr. Marleyn is not an easy singer to accompany, but Mr. Reeves contrived admirably to conceal this fact.

During the past week at the Wigmore Hall I attended three concerts by pianists, two of chamber music, and one song recital. On February 16 Miss Olga Carmine, assisted by the New Queen's Hall Orchestra under Sir Henry Wood, gave a performance which was notable for its inclusion of Scriabin's Concerto in F sharp minor (Opus 20). This concerto was written when Scriabin was a young man (about twenty-five), and it is an immature work. The first and third movements are not of great account, being derived too directly from Chopin; but the second (*andante*) is a set of variations upon a most beautiful theme. It was excellently played by Miss Carmine, who has delightful freedom of technique and a well-rounded tone. Later, in works by Mr. York-Bowen, she showed a very strong sense of rhythm and a clear interpretation. Apart from the Scriabin, however, the works she played (including Debussy's "Little Shepherd," which she gave as an encore) called more for clarity than depth of interpretation; so that, before judging her as more than a pianist one must wait until she plays deeper and broader music. It can be said that first impressions are extremely favourable, which, moreover, I do not think will be upset. Miss Carmine and Sir Henry Wood, whose orchestra is very well under his control, showed excellent sympathy with each other.

It was worth hearing Mr. Howard-Jones's pianoforte recital on February 18 for the sake of the Brahms Sonata in F minor (Op. 5). This pianist's style leans towards a heavy sweetness, and in the Brahms atmosphere he was quite at home. Apart from some roughness of scale, his performance of this sonata was good. This, however, was not the case in other pieces—Beethoven's Andante in F and Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue were performed without distinction. A novelty in his programme was Harry Farjeon's Fugue and Bacchanale (first performance), but it was poor stuff, unless one admit that a scampering up and down the chromatic scale shows evidence of the true Bacchanalian spirit. Mr. Howard-Jones is not an inspiring player: he is too soundly orthodox.

Orthodoxy is the last word that could be applied to Mr. William Murdoch, who gave a recital on February 21. To me it seems certain that he will eventually find himself in the very forefront of pianists. His development is remarkable, for he has a waywardness of temperament which, though it will out on occasions, he is striving most successfully to control. His technical ability is immense, and his interpretative faculties are very wide. It is in modern music I think, that he excels—in things so different as Mr. Julius Harrison's "Four Worcestershire Pieces" (which will become most deservedly very popular)—and in Debussy's "Images" he was charming; but he was every note as good in severer stuff by Bach and César Franck. Why Mr. Murdoch should have played as a final encore Chopin's fifteenth Prelude is a mystery, for it is precisely in music of this feminine nature that he is least distinguished. Mr. Murdoch, whose beauty of playing is primarily intellectual, does not successfully indulge in "linked sweetness long drawn out"; and one left the concert remembering his Debussy and trying (though in vain) to forget his Chopin.

The third concert of the London Chamber Concert Society (February 17) was a most interesting one. Of the Borodin Quartet (D Major, No. 2), the Philharmonic String Quartet gave a beautiful rendering, though the glorious melodies in the quartet would have been improved by being made a little more "liquid." Borodin did not know much about orchestration, but he did know how to write a tune. Lady Maud Warrender sang "Chrysilla," from Dr. Ethel Smyth's cycle, but the presence of the triangle in the accompaniment made one welcome the end. The two songs which Mr. Percy Grainger has composed, with accompaniment for strings and harp—"The Willow Song" and "Died for Love"—are most charming, but the performance of them was not. For Lady Maud Warrender's voice, though sufficiently pure, is colourless. The best thing in the evening was Ravel's Septet for harp, flute, clarinet, and string quartet. Here is most delicately beautiful music, and I do not know any composition in which the harp is made more essential or more effective. (It was very worthily played by Miss Gwendolen Mason.) Generally speaking, the romance and beauty which are attached to the harp are a fiction of the most transparent kind: this fact was exemplified in Mr. Julius Harrison's Quintet for two violins, viola, 'cello, and harp, in which some exceedingly fine writing was in great part spoiled by the intrusion of the harp. But in his septet, Ravel has most cunningly overcome his difficulty and has strung together a most gorgeous chain of coloured fancies. His work was played supremely well.

When I remarked in these columns the first appearance of the Modern Trio, I noted their probable popularity. At their second concert, on February 21, they played before a very large audience, but they failed to come up to common expectation. It is true that the pianist (Mr. Krish) is more restrained, and that the 'cellist (M. Mannucci) maintains a beautiful tone; yet the elements of disruption in this trio have not decreased. Their attack was poor, and in the first piece (trio in A minor by Sir Charles Stanford) a faulty sense of rhythm made a dull work appear almost worthless. They were better, however, in Jean Hure's suite, "Sur des Chants Bretons," though here the pianist was guilty of a wrong note or two and the violinist of incorrect intonation. But in the Brahms Trio in C major, they were, after a bad start, really very good, and in the third movement (*Scherzo*) the efficiency and beauty of their playing were most marked. They played Brahms as he should be played, with weight and vividness. Mr. Krish and M. Melzak also played a sonata in G minor for piano and violin, by a modern French composer, Guillaume Lekeu, but it was a dull affair. It avoided the commonplace, but in its anxiety to do this forgot to say anything. This is true at least of its first and last movements; in the second, however (*très lent*), it gave M. Melzak an opportunity that he needed of demonstrating his possession of a rich and full tone.

Miss Iseult Morice, who gave a vocal recital on February 19, has much to eradicate and much to acquire before she becomes a good singer. She is called a soprano, but her low notes are so much better than her high ones that she could easily be called a contralto. Her high notes, when not vibrant, are wrongly produced—there is more breath than voice in them. She has not the breadth of style necessary to the Italian airs which she sang, and she is best in simple melodies that call for delicacy rather than depth in interpretation. Her English songs were of very poor quality; some of them came perilously near the ordinary common ballad. Miss Morice was accompanied by Miss Margaret Tilly—a fact that proves she is a far better judge of an accompanist than of a song.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I. "THE JEWISH PERIL: Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion." (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

II. "KOSSOVO: HEROIC SONGS OF THE SERBS." Translated from the original by Helen Rootham. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell. 4s. 6d. net.)

I.—A NIGHTMARE TO THE NATIONS.

There are people in this world who believe there is a universal explanation to all evil, and probably the most conspicuous among these is the thorough-going anti-Semite who thinks that the potential capacity of the Jew in wrong-doing is unlimited. Ever since this race was dispersed, all nations have known what the presence of the Jew in their midst means; and while some have liked and some have tolerated it, others have always hated it. To these last the existence of the Jew has seemed a peril, and both in word and in act they have demonstrated their belief. But not until we read this book did we ever hear of a Jew himself supplying alleged reasons for such hatred.

This is a most amazing document. It consists of the translation of a book published at Tsarkoye Sielo, in Russia, in 1905. It was presented to the Russian public by Professor Sergyei Nilus, and it contains an introduction and epilogue written by him in 1905, and a series of notes on lectures delivered to Jewish students in Paris in 1901. It is these notes which make the remarkable reading. Upon their authenticity we can offer no opinion, for we have no ground upon which to forward one. This being so, we will merely give a few points from these lectures.

The methods by which the Jews are said to propose to obtain supremacy in the world are described in some detail. No system, whether it be religious, political, social, or financial, exists which will not be bent, or which is not already bent, to the one purpose of obtaining Jewish supremacy. There are some most striking statements in connection with systems which Jews are said already to have allowed deliberately to be perverted from their original use. For instance, this is what is said of Masonry:—

> The Gentiles are like a flock of sheep—we are the wolves. . . For what reason were we induced to invent our policy and to instil the same into the Gentiles? We instilled this policy into them without letting them understand its inner meaning. What prompted us to adopt such a line of action, if it was not because we could not, as a scattered race, attain our object by direct means, but only by circumvention? This was the real cause and origin of our organisation of Masonry, which those swine of Gentiles do not fathom, and the aims of which they do not even suspect. They are decoyed by us into our mass of lodges, which appear to be nothing more than Masonic in order to throw dust in the eyes of their comrades.

In these lectures it is stated that the Jews have control of the gold of the world; that they therefore are able, by withdrawing the gold from circulation, to arrange at will economic crises in any country that has adopted the gold currency. Besides controlling the financial world, it is claimed that the power of Israel is extending and will gradually become complete in matters of religion, the Press, law-making, and so on. On this side of the document the argument is rather technical, and of the possibility of its realisations experts must be left to judge. But besides details there are some extremely interesting generalisations which it is not easy to refute. For instance, here is the explanation of modern interest in Economics and Politics:—

> It was we who, with complete success, turned the brainless heads of the Gentiles by our theories of progress towards Socialism; there is not to be found a brain among the Gentiles which would perceive that in every instance behind the word "progress" is hidden a deviation from the truth, except in such cases where the word refers to material of scientific discoveries. For there is but one true teaching, and in it there is no room for "progress." Progress, like a false idea, serves to conceal the truth in order that nobody should know truth besides ourselves, God's Chosen People, whom he has elected as its guardian.

The main opposition to these Jewish plans will be found, says the lecturer, in the Catholic Church and in Holy Russia. But he is convinced that even these barriers will be broken down, and that the circuit which the Jews are drawing round the world will then be complete—in other words, that the symbolic serpent which started on its course at Jerusalem will have united its head with its tail.

If authentic, this is a most remarkable document. Certainly it should be read, studied, and refuted. Its claim alone that Jews are responsible for Revolution should make it of interest to the modern reader. It cannot be treated (but it surely will by some be treated) as idle nonsense; it is matter for serious discussion and for illumination. Professor Sergyei Nilus, whose epilogue was written twelve years before the Russian Revolution, frankly feared, when "the Protocols of the Elders of Zion" came into his possession, the advent of anti-Christ—"the King born of the blood of Zion—the anti-Christ—is near to the throne of universal power." Whether his opinion was justified we must leave to the readers of this book; but at any rate we hope to see it treated on its merits or demerits.

II.—KOSSOVO.

Everyone who knows the Serbian's soul and its habit of looking backward also knows that Kossovo, the "Field of Blackbirds," upon which Serbian independence was vanquished, is the central point in his retrospect. For it is possible to date from this battle the enslavement of that proud and unforgetful race. Far more easily than to other campaigns upon which epics have been based is it to point to Kossovo as the definite moment before which all was light and after which all was dark. Even in epic poetry such as the Iliad or the Chansons des Gestes, no such sudden climax to a nation's tragedy appears. It may be said in short that to understand Kossovo, its content and aftermath, is to understand the Serbian race.

It is an ineradicable habit of the Serb to compose ballads on the great events in his nation's history. Indeed, as M. Janko Lavrin points out in a short but excellent historical preface to this book, "These ballads, in which the entire history of Serbia has been embodied, far from dying out, are still sung all over the country, playing a very important part in the Serbian national life. Among Serbian masses, poetry is in general so closely connected with life that it is impossible to separate them; they sing while working, they sing when they are joyful, they sing when they suffer." There have been but few attempts to translate these ballads into English, but interest in Slavonic literature is undoubtedly increasing, and we may reasonably suppose that eventually we shall have all the cycles of Serbian ballads in English.

There are four cycles of Serbian ballads: the first mythological, the second dealing with Kossovo, the third concerning the national hero, Marko Kralyevitch, and the fourth modern. It is the second cycle which Miss Rootham has here translated, but happily it is her intention to follow this volume with ballads belonging to the other cycles.

This translation retains both the form and spirit of the original. All these ballads are written in trochaic pentameters, and Miss Rootham has contrived most admirably and without any awkwardness to preserve this metre. As in all epic poetry, the chief qualities in these Serbian songs are clarity, simplicity, and dignity. It is not easy at once to conserve these high qualities and to give a literal translation, but Miss Rootham has been most successful. Compare with the original, for instance (the original is printed on every left-hand page), the tale of Milutin, the servant in "Tsar Lazar and Tsaritsa Militsa"; he comes from Kossovo bearing his sad tale to his lady, the Tsaritsa Militsa:—

> And the Jug Bogdan has fallen also,
> And with him eight Jugovitchi, lady;
> There where no man would desert his brothers,
> Whilst a single one could move his weapon,
> Boshko Jugovitch still fought, oh lady;
> Raged the battle round him on Kossovo
> And he threw the Turks into disorder
> As the falcon strikes the homing pigeons.
> And there perished mighty Ban Strahinya,
> There, too, perished Milosh, oh dear lady,
> By Sinitsa, by the chilly water,
> There where many Turks have fallen.
> Milosh slew the Turkish Sultan, Murad.
> And he also slew of Turks twelve thousand.
> May God bless the woman who has borne him!
> He left glory to the name of Serbia
> While there lives a story and a teller,
> While there lives a people and Kossovo.

That is both splendid translation and fine verse.

To this book there is a frontispiece by M. Rosanditch, for which we do not greatly care, and an introduction by the Hon. Maurice Baring, which is exactly what it should be. But even without these things the book commends itself. Every English student of the Serbian language must get it, and every lover of verse for the sake merely of the translation should get it. It remains to say that the book is most tastefully produced, and is a credit to all those who partook in its publication.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"College Addresses: Delivered to Pupils of the Royal College of Music." By Sir C. Hubert H. Parry, Bart. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. February.	1920. February.		1338. Jumada II.	5680. Adar.
26	13	Thursday	6	7
27	14	Friday	7	8
28	15	Saturday.....	8	9
29	16	Sunday	9	10
March.				
1	17	Monday	10	11
2	18	Tuesday	11	12
3	19	Wednesday	12	13

The Sultan of Egypt's infant son has been named Prince Farouq.

M. Athos Romanos, the Greek Minister in Paris, has returned to London from the Continent.

Dr. Trumbitch, the Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs, left London on February 20 for Paris.

Señor Don José Antonio de Sangroniz, Secretary to the Spanish Embassy, has left London for Tangier.

The Prince of Wales received Sir Solomon Bandaranaike, Maha Mudaliyar of Ceylon, on February 19.

Lord Esher's Army Committee will leave Delhi on March 10 for Poona. It will then proceed home to conclude its report in London.

The Shah of Persia and his suite have left Rome for Cannes. The King of Italy and members of the Cabinet were present to bid his Majesty farewell.

Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair, member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India, had the honour of being received by the King on February 19.

Hussein Kuli Khan Nawab, the Persian Minister at Berlin, and Davood Khan Meftahes-Saltaneh, the Persian Consul-General in India, have arrived in London.

The Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Boresco, visited Mr. Lloyd George on February 20 in connection with the forthcoming visit of the Roumanian Prime Minister.

The *London Gazette* of February 18 contains the announcement that Lieut.-Gen. Sir E. A. Altham relinquishes his appointment as Quartermaster-General in India as from February 18.

Major-General R. A. Cassells, of the Indian Army, has been made an Additional Companion of the Order of the Star of India for services in connection with military operations in Kurdistan.

Brevet Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) M. R. W. Nightingale, 5th Gurkha Rifles, has been appointed an Additional Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire for military services in Kurdistan.

Sir Aurel Stein is in Italy, having taken leave from India to assist the early issue of the record of the archæological and scientific results of the second of his three great expeditions in Central Asia, under the title of "Serinda."

In a supplement to the *Gazette* for February 20, it was announced that Lieut.-General Sir J. A. L. Haldane had been appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, dated February 9.

Viscount and Viscountess Allenby returned to Cairo on February 14 from the Sudan. The Royal Munster Fusiliers, with their colours and band, formed a Guard of Honour. Lord Allenby expressed himself as delighted with his tour.

The managers of the Craven Fund (Cambridge University) have made a grant of £100 to the Managing Committee of the British School at Athens in aid of the proposed excavation at Mycenæ.

Mr. N. M. Joshi, who was appointed by the Government of India to represent the working classes of that country at the International Labour Conference, Washington, is now studying factory conditions in England.

Mr. Lowden, the British representative at Odessa, Reuter's Agency understands, left that city on February 8, and has since arrived at Constantinople. He has with him two British Vice-Consuls, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Dobson.

For services rendered in connection with the military operations in Central and Southern Kurdistan the King has awarded to T./Brig.-Gen. W.H. Wooldridge, I.A., the Order of St. Michael and St. George (Additional Member of the Third Class).

A deputation from the Corporation of London, headed by Mr. A. C. Stone, waited on the Persian Chargé d'Affaires on February 7 and presented the gold casket which it was decided to present to the Shah on the occasion of his visit to the Guildhall a few months ago.

A message from Busreh announces that Lord Inchcape has been empowered to sell the surplus river craft in Mesopotamia on the Government's behalf. It was previously stated that Lord Inchcape was travelling to India, but it now appears that Mesopotamia was the objective of his journey.

Sirry Pasha, the Egyptian Minister of Public Works, who resigned a few days ago, and then withdrew his resignation when the Government conceded his demands for the inclusion of an Egyptian on the Nile Irrigation Projects Commission, has now issued a statement definitely resigning his portfolio.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, Lady Roper Parkington, has just remitted to the Montenegrin Croix Rouge, Paris, 100,000f. for the relief of destitute Montenegrins in that city; and has contributed £400 for the purchase of drugs to be shipped to Montenegro by way of Bari.

According to a message from Cairo, dated February 16, M. Clemenceau had then arrived at Luxor. Later he met Lord Allenby, who was passing through on his return to Cairo, and remained to dinner with the High Commissioner. M. Clemenceau left Luxor the following day for Assuan, Wadi-Halfa, and Khartum.

Rear-Admiral Richard Webb, Assistant High Commissioner at Constantinople, had the honour of being received by the King on February 19, when His Majesty conferred upon him the honour of knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The Shah has conferred on Sir Horace Brooks Marshall, who was Lord Mayor when his Majesty visited the City in November, the Order of the Timsal in diamonds, on Mr. Sheriff Ashdown and Mr. Sheriff Eves the grade of Grand Officer of the Order of the Lion and the Sun, and on Mr. A. C. Stanley Stone, chairman of the Reception Committee, a Knight Commandership of the latter Order.

The Central Asian Society has arranged the following lectures for the remainder of the 1919-20 session:—(1) March 17: Colonel the Hon. Dudley Carleton on "From the Adriatic to the Oxus." (2) April 21: Miss Louise Peralta on "A Mid-Asian Continuity of Influence." (3) May 19: Mr. E. H. Freshfield on "The Old Walls of Constantinople." (4) June 23: Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby, I.C.S., on "The Highways of Central Arabia."

At the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, a Mass of Requiem for Ukrainian troops fallen in the war was celebrated on February 21. The Archimandrite, the Rev. J. Basdecos, was the celebrant, assisted by the Deacon, the Rev. P. Korsunovsky. The musical part of the service was rendered by the Ukrainian National Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. A. Koshitz. Among those present were M. Morgoline, head of the Ukrainian Mission in London, D. Olesnigtsky (Counsellor), M. Bazalevitch and M. Vish-

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nitzer (Secretaries), Dr. N. Stakhovsky, formerly chief of the Ukrainian Mission in London, M. Gennadius, the Honorary Greek Minister, representatives of Georgia, together with many members of the Greek and Ukrainian colonies in London.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Lieutenant-Colonel O'Connor, Resident of Nepal, has been placed on special duty under the Government of India in the Foreign Office. Lieutenant-Colonel Kennion succeeds him in Nepal.

Mr. Sydney A. Armitage-Smith, an Assistant Secretary of his Majesty's Treasury, has been appointed Financial Adviser to the Persian Government, in accordance with the terms of the Anglo-Persian Agreement of August 9 last, and will proceed very shortly to Teheran to take up his duties.

DEATH OF TWO LEADING ANGLO-EGYPTIANS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 1.

Anglo-Egypt has during the past week suffered the loss of two valuable and esteemed members. The first is Lieutenant-Colonel E. M. Sowerby, who died as a result of an operation. Col. Sowerby had seen considerable service in the Near East. He joined the Sudan Government in 1901, and entering the Railways rose to the post of Chief Engineer. When war broke out his services were requisitioned by the Army, and he was engaged for a time on Gallipoli and later at Salonika, at both of which places he did excellent work. When it was decided to push across into Palestine, Col. Sowerby was appointed Deputy Director of Military Railways under Brigadier-General Sir George Macauley. At that time the railway had advanced but a short distance into the desert, and to Col. Sowerby fell the task not only of directing the laying of the line into Palestine, but also of co-ordinating and running the service. It is generally admitted that the success with which the transport behind the lines was handled was to a very great extent due to his energy and ability. When last summer the Ministry of Communications was formed, and General Macauley became its Adviser, it was only natural that he should offer the Under-Secretaryship to his former Deputy Director of Military Railways, and the work of development will undoubtedly suffer very much by the premature death of this gallant and able engineer, who is mourned by his subordinates as much as by the large circle of friends which he possessed here and in the Sudan. In conclusion, it may be mentioned that Col. Sowerby had not been home for a long time, and there is no doubt that his was a case of too long a sojourn in a tropical climate.

The other Anglo-Egyptian whose death we have to mourn this week is Mr. J. P. Foster, who died suddenly at Luxor on Saturday last. Mr. Foster was a member of the leading legal firm in Egypt. He was a perfect French and German scholar, and had deep knowledge and wide experience in legal matter, especially in international and commercial law. He was regarded as one of the most brilliant lawyers at both the British and the Mixed Bar, and never failed to command the attention of any Court in which he pleaded. Of late years he had suffered a great deal in health, and had undergone several serious operations, but this did not lessen his energy or the conscientious manner in which he carried out his duties towards his clients, and it is certain that in his case, again, devotion to duty was one of the main causes of his death. Mr. Foster was keenly interested in the judicial organisation of the Courts, and whilst many did not see eye to eye with him, since in their opinion he wanted to go too far, one and all are agreed on the question of his clearness of vision, his straightforwardness and his sincere desire to make the judicial institutions of the country as up to date and as perfect as possible. It is particularly unfortunate that at the present time such a brilliant and experienced jurist should be lost to us. Mr. Foster, who was but 46 years of age, will be deeply mourned by his colleagues of the Bench and Bar and by the British and foreign and native communities who had had many opportunities to appreciate his sterling qualities and his kind heart.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

"EASTAPROX, LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO

(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.

BRISTOL
GRAND SPA HOTEL.

EXETER
ROYAL CLARENCE HOTEL
(facing beautiful Cathedral).

LONDON
HOTEL CRANBOURN
67a, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.
Self Contained Suites.

MANCHESTER
The Victoria House, 254, Oxford Road.

MATLOCK
SMEDLEY'S HYDRO.

TORQUAY
VICTORIA & ALBERT HOTEL.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS VAN MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL
(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.
American Bar and Restaurant,
Billiards, and Lift.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,
GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.
This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Every Modern Comfort. American Bar, Restaurant,
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LARNACA—Majestic Hotel.
FOR SUMMER SEASON—
TROODOS—Olympus Hotel.
6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.
Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.
Excursions to Mount Troödos.
For Tickets and further Particulars, apply to
NAJEM HOURY & SONS, Limassol, Cyprus.
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All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1920.

THE TURKISH SETTLEMENT.

While we believe that in deciding to retain the Turkish Government in Constantinople the Allies have stumbled upon the only possible solution of the Turkish question, there can be little doubt that the Supreme Council has added to its many mistakes by divorcing the announcement regarding the fate of the Ottoman capital from the details of the whole Turkish settlement. The reason for the step is to be found in the naïve supposition that the decision to leave the Turkish administration in Constantinople will placate Turkish, and particularly Nationalist, opinion, and prompt Mustapha Kemal to put a stop to the massacre of Armenians. In informing the Porte of its intention the Supreme Council conveyed the warning that the continued persecution of the Armenians might cause the Peace Treaty with Turkey to be considerably modified. Mr. Bonar Law had to admit that the attempt to bring pressure upon the Turkish authorities might not be as effective as the Allies would desire; but they considered that it would have some effect, "as there was some connection between the Nationalist movement and the Ottoman Government, and the Allied influence ought to have some effect upon anyone who desired the continuance of Turkish nationality." Not much store, we fear, can be set upon these pious aspirations. Immediately after the Armistice all things were possible in Turkey. The decision to restrict Ottoman jurisdiction to Asia Minor might have been enforced without encountering any serious obstacles; it would have been equally easy to have established effective control over Turkish administration and to have secured order throughout the territory left to the Turks. Whether the existing situation will yield to the blandishments or threats of the Allies we have no means of knowing; but on the general evidence of the recent course of events we should hazard the opinion that, if not more drastic measures, at least a show of force is required, together with a very clear intimation that the Allies, in common parlance, mean business. The men in Turkey with whom the Powers are at issue are not fools. The last thing that they want to do is to make their administration conform to Western standards. They have successfully staved off the danger for the last forty years by the simple device of combining passive resistance with the playing off of one Power against another, and nothing has happened since the Armistice to convince them that this time-honoured method is in the least degree exhausted.

The course of events in Asia Minor during the last twelve months has been the reflex of the Allies' failure to understand the Turkish question. A *sine qua non* in regard to reform in Turkey is that the Great Powers should first reform themselves in the matter of their dealings with the Turks. It has required no profound knowledge of human nature to discover that the delay in the Turkish settlement has been due to acute differences of opinion among the Allies. Individual Turks in Constantinople may have been anxious to take advantage of the opportunity to rehabilitate Turkey; but the Committee of Union and Progress represented the strong man armed in the country, and until the ground has been cut away from under the feet of that organisation there will be no reformed Turkey. Unfortunately the Allies have consistently played into the hands of the Committee and its adherents, and the recrudescence of Armenian massacres has been the measure of the confidence that these have gained as the months passed and the Supreme Council proved itself unable to come to any decision in regard to the Turkish settlement. In these circumstances it is unlikely that the Turkish Nationalists will be much impressed by the mere threat that they stand to lose Constantinople, if the persecution of Armenians does not cease. What is required is that the Allies, having come to an agreement on this vexed question, should now proceed to show themselves at one in regard to all other details of the settlement by an early announcement of the terms of the Treaty to be imposed upon Turkey. No heroic measures are called for; adequate control of Turkish administration should be established, and here again it should preclude all possibility of friction, preferably by leaving the control in the hands of one Power; there should also be as clean a cut as possible in frontier demarcation, so as to leave a minimum of non-Turkish people under Ottoman jurisdiction, and only those who do not avail themselves of the opportunity to migrate voluntarily and free of expense to one or other of the neighbouring States.

The method of announcing the Turkish settlement piecemeal has given the opponents of the retention of the Turkish Administration in Constantinople an opening to agitate for the reversal of the decision. We hope that they will pause to consider the effect of such an agitation on the future of the Near and Middle East. They are concerned over the enormity of keeping the Turk in Europe in the face of his past record; the Porte in Constantinople, they say, must always be a centre of intrigue, and there can be no peace for the Continent so long as he remains there. The Moslem question, it is pointed out, unmistakably requires a war before it can be settled, and the cry of "The Turks out of Constantinople" offers a good rallying signal. The moral consideration, it must be confessed, would make a strong appeal, if the war had evolved a new world in the moral sense; but the Porte's capacity for evil, after the first exhibition of massacre as a definite policy, was entirely proportionate to the moral shortcomings of the Great Powers. It is idle to suppose that, given the Porte and the Powers acting according to their respective moral standards of pre-war days, the transfer of the Turkish capital a few score or a few hundred miles into Asia Minor will modify the effect on the peace of Europe of intrigues similar to those for which Constantinople was famous. If the Allies, now that Germany and Austria-Hungary are eliminated, can so remodel their own diplomatic conduct that there shall be no fruitful soil provided for Turkish intrigue, then the exact locality of the Turkish capital is more or less immaterial. For it has to be remembered that no alternative whatever to the continuance of the Turkish Administration in Constantinople offers itself, which is free from the certainty of intrigue, if the Allied standard of diplomatic morality rests on the same plane as that on which it was before the war. If it can reach a higher plane, then all things are possible—even the regeneration of Turkey with the Porte in Constantinople. When Britons are confronted with the spectacle of two antagonistic schools of thought citing the pledges of a Prime Minister in support of two mutually contradictory policies, it is time to cry halt to any attempt to ride the high horse of morality or to leave unsettled any longer the Turkish question, which will yield to the first application of honesty, common-sense, and strength of character on the part of the Allied Governments.

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THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA

II.—TRANSPORT QUESTIONS.

(Continued.)

Motor Transport.

The motor transport provided for the use of our Mesopotamia force consisted of light vans and heavy lorries. Of their merits and their suitability for the country an officer with much experience reports as follows:—"The vans are the most expensive transport

The Baghdad-Kazimaim Tramway.

of all. They carry about 5 cwt. only, and in drivers, petrol, etc., are, therefore, very expensive. The lorries were kicked out of France because they cut up the *pavé* roads. They were therefore sent out to Mesopotamia, where there are no roads at all, and these lorries are responsible for very heavy expenditure on roads at the present moment." In one district alone, nearly £500,000 was spent on roads in one year. If those roads were going to be of any permanent benefit to the country, this very heavy expenditure might be justified; but they will not be anything of the kind. For every road used by lorry convoys it is necessary to employ Indian labour corps, a corps being required for about every forty miles of road. Indian labour has to be employed because Arab labour is practically unobtainable, and the cost of a corps works out at a lakh of rupees a month. The work to be done consists of digging out holes, covering the track with shingle, backloaded in otherwise empty lorries, etc. In one district in six months the heavy lorries destroyed a strip of country about a hundred yards wide, with the result that all bridges, culverts, etc., had to be shifted, and the destruction of a fresh strip of country then began. The same tale is, of course, repeated over and over again, and not only in one district but up and down the country. There is, thus, no true progress; no good roads are made; labour is employed in merely delaying destruction.

During a state of war such conditions as these were inevitable: certain transport was available for certain routes, and all that could be done was to make the best of what was there. Because a particular type of lorry was cheap to run, cheap on petrol, cheap on drivers, and carried two tons, these lorries were considered inexpensive, and the colossal cost of the roads they used up was not regarded. The cost of a road for light vans over the same ground, once a few bridges and culverts were constructed, was practically *nil*.

But now that peace conditions rule, it is no longer necessary to follow such expensive methods, and the remedy for the evil lies in the introduction of the right type of motor transport. The Fiat (1-ton), with its pneumatic wheels, does little more damage than the lighter car; the Autocar (15 cwt.) has been proved a great success in East Africa; and doubtless there are other suitable cars and lorries. The obvious policy is to substitute them for the solid-tyred lorries that do so much harm to the roads, and for the vans that are so expensive by reason of their limited capacity. Motor transport will then cost much less, while the upkeep of roads will be reduced to next to nothing.

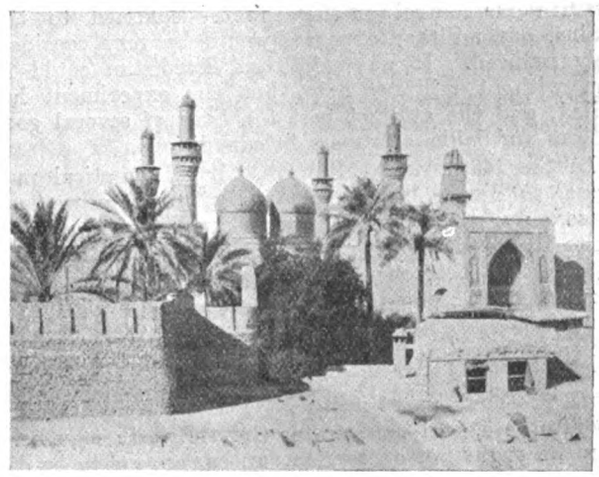
In connection with this subject of motor transport, it may be pointed out that, in the light of the facts set out above, certain criticisms of a road four or five miles long, made of cement concrete at Busreh, are shown to be unjustified. The number of the heavy lorries running daily on this road was very large, and nothing less solidly constructed could have stood the traffic. Thus, although the stone had to be brought from Koweit and the cement from India, the cost of its construction was fully warranted.

III

Having considered some of the physical aspects and material requirements of the country, we may now glance at one or two of the points connected with its government and administration. At the present time no good purpose would be served by any discussion of the form under which the country will be governed; but we may assume that we shall co-operate with the Arabs, and perhaps with the Kurds also, and that for some few years we shall have to keep a strong military force in the country to keep order among the rival tribes and factions, and to deal with frontier raids and other disturbances.

This military force must of necessity be a heavy expense to the country at first. But troops in cantonments are cheap compared with troops on expeditions; hence, if only on the ground of expense, it is clear that the more we can reduce the chances of trouble with the Arabs and Kurds the better it will be. It is to be hoped that the lessons we have had since we first entered the country have been laid to heart. That we have much to learn seems evident from the troubles in Southern Kurdistan.

As far as it is possible to piece the story of those troubles together—for no clear and complete official statement regarding them has ever yet been given to the world—they might have been avoided by a different handling of the Southern Kurds. The latter were told, apparently, while the war was still in progress, that if they helped us against the Turk, Southern Kurdistan should be granted its independence. When we first went to Mosul a political officer was sent to Suleimanieh, where he adopted the attitude of an adviser. Later he was replaced by another officer, who talked about a British protectorate, and, as one correspondent put its, "started collecting the rent." It is hardly surprising that this led to the Kurdish rising, the imprisonment of some British officers in Suleimanieh, the dash to their rescue, which ended in something like disaster, and various unfortunate incidents. Finally, an expensive



The Golden Domes of Kazimaim.

expedition entered the country, after a well-planned flight, released the prisoners, and sent columns out through the region. Troops have had to be left behind in the Bazian Pass to watch the country, thus locking up troops that might otherwise have been set free, and necessitating an expensive road and extra transport for their provisioning. The whole incident is typical of what we must endeavour to avoid in the future.

In Central Kurdistan, *i.e.*, the hills N. and N.E. of Mosul, conditions are similar to those in Armenia: Kurd and Christian cheek by jowl in neighbouring villages. It is necessary to add that they are described as "both equally treacherous" by more than one

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British officer. The conditions hardly tend to make the task of maintaining order in this region a light one.

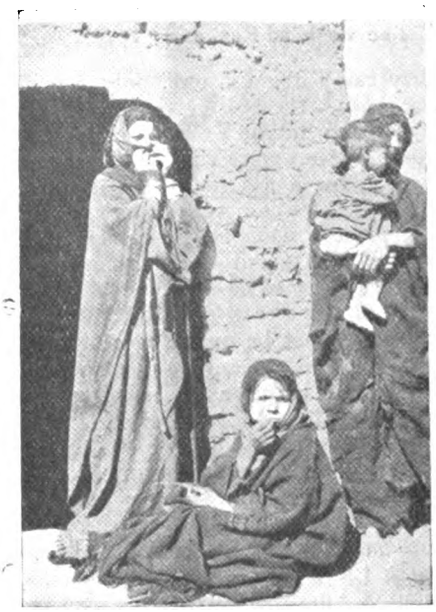
The Turk, of course, has been, and continues to be, so far as it is in his power, very active in stirring up trouble." "Now that the English have come," he says, "they will restore the Christian refugees to their homes —Unfortunately, you and we did not make a clean job of clearing them out!—and unless you Kurds become Christians it will be your turn now, and you will be wiped out." The Christian refugees, it is only fair to add, have certainly lent force to these prophecies by publishing far and wide what they will do to the Kurd when they get back, thanks to British protection; and in the circumstances it is not at all wonderful that the Kurd does not trust us. His mistrust manifests itself in an old-fashioned way: he waits until he finds a British "Political" guarded by local levies and then treacherously murders him. At least six officers have been thus lost to us. In each case we have to collect troops from up and down country, hire transport (at expensive rates), and push straggling columns into a country of terrific hills and ravines, densely wooded, and roadless, after the elusive Kurd. Thus far audacity has carried through, but by degrees the Kurd will learn how to fight us more effectively; and in any case the cost of such expeditions is very heavy, and we cannot always have sufficient troops available to carry them out. Moreover, even if we succeed in pacifying the local Kurd, we shall still have his cousin from across the border raiding the Christians on our side. There would seem to be no end to it until we should occupy Armenia, Kurdistan, West Persia, Azerbaijan, and the Caucasus! It is unlikely that we shall follow that policy, and the alternative would be to leave the Kurds in their hills, and confine our attention to the plains. With aeroplanes and light-armoured cars we could stop any raids, or punish the raiders; but in all probability there would be no raids worth speaking of—the hill folk would wish to trade with us, and to fight one another. The Christian refugees might be given the choice between staying on in Mesopotamia, where they could receive land and settle down, or receiving rifles and being left to look after themselves. There has been some talk about the plains being too hot for them; but they have not proved too hot for British troops or British civilians; and considerable numbers of Assyrians have been settled in Baghdad for many years. Mosul, too, is not really a hot place except for a few weeks in the year.

With our control of the country confined to the plains, our military expenses would be very considerably reduced. It was said that Kurdistan could be run without military help, but the experiment has failed, and the attempt cost the lives of several good officers and lakhs of rupees in expeditions.

In the plains we shall have, for all practical purposes, to deal only with Arabs, with whom we may reasonably hope to work upon friendly terms. It is quite likely that they may at first find some difficulty in choosing their own ruler, or head. That has been recognised all along as the chief stumbling block in the way of Lower Mesopotamia unity; and the problem seems to be no nearer solution to-day than it was five years ago. The subject is an interesting—indeed, a fascinating—one; but it is too big and too complicated to go into here. In this matter Great Britain may help, but she ought not on any account to appear to be dictating, or desirous of dictating, to the Arabs in making their own choice. The temptation to make suggestions is well-nigh irresistible, but, officially, suggestions should only be offered with extreme care.

To sum up, what is wanted, first and foremost, if Mesopotamia is really once more "to flourish as the rose," is a fixed policy, steadily applied by a trained administrator, assisted by men of the Sudan Civil Service type. Possibly some recruits might actually be obtained from the Sudan and Egypt, if they could be spared. Secondly, we should make up our minds either to clear out of the Kurdish hills, or to face very serious trouble and expense in keeping our foothold there. If a binding alliance with the Kurds could be arranged it might solve the difficulty; but in that case we should have to make the Christians understand quite clearly that *they* must make no trouble. For the rest, it would be advisable to have a clear scheme of transport—rail, river, and motor—and especially to see that only really suitable types of motor cars are allowed in the country. Similarly, an irrigation policy is urgently called for. It should be one that would allow of gradual expansion or development, and one that will not put a stop (for practical purposes) to river navigation until the country can entirely dispense with that means of transport. The experiments in the direction of cotton growing should certainly be continued and extended. As readers of THE NEAR EAST are well aware, the world wants cotton badly to-day, and is like to do so for some years to come; and though Mesopotamia will be unable to do much to supply the want at present, it will always find a market for its cotton, if it produces good quality, as it is expected to do. Lastly, the country's oil supplies should be developed without loss of time, thus providing it with cheap fuel and at the same time with much-needed revenue.

In the interests of economy and efficiency a defined railway policy for the country is urgently required. Unless there are strong military reasons against it, one unbroken main line through the length of the country would seem to be the ideal to aim at, although a second



Types of Mohammedan Arab Women.

Mediterranean-Euphrates Valley line would still possess certain advantages and find strong support. Branch lines would be constructed as desired, and where the country is boggy or liable to inundation it is suggested that light railways should connect up with the trunk line.

In regard to motor transport, experience shows that the lorry best suited to the country is one carrying from 15 cwt. to a ton, and doing no damage to the beaten earth roads. Such lorries should be supplied for military use, and lorries for private use might quite easily be controlled with a view to prohibiting types that would injure the roads.

Animal transport (for military purposes) could be reduced to what might be required for an expedition, and could be employed on station duties or hired out to irrigation, works, and other departments. By such means very great savings could be effected. Apart from military transport, pack animals, the mule or camel caravan, are doomed to disappear, though it is probable that they will still hold their own on the byways for a while. With them and their ruffianly but usually hard-working attendants and owners much of the picturesqueness of travel in Mesopotamia is bound to disappear. But these are the days of efficiency and progress, and the world cannot wait upon the gurgling camel or the grumbling *munkari*. It is unlikely that Mesopotamia will be allowed to relapse into the deep slumber that has held it since the Tartar hordes reduced it to a wilderness.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The event of the week has been the opening of the British Industries Fair—or, perhaps, it would be more correct to use the term Fairs, since it is being held this year simultaneously in London, Birmingham, and Glasgow. The Fair, which is described in detail in another place, has developed from small beginnings into an institution of the first importance, and one which I sincerely hope and believe will put the Leipsig affair into the shade. The British business community owes a very deep debt of gratitude to the Department of Overseas Trade for this admirable opportunity for coming into touch with foreign buyers. The present Fair, as was to be expected, is far in advance of last year's, and I think we may confidently anticipate even greater developments in the future. In one respect I must admit to a feeling of disappointment this year, and that is on account of the comparative absence of buyers from the Balkans and other parts of the Near East. I have noticed that considerable attention has been paid to the Fair in local papers and I had hoped that there would have been quite a crowd of Greeks, Roumanians, Serbians, and Bulgarians. However, that will doubtless be the case next year.

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The Report of the Currency Committee met with a mixed reception in India. On the one hand, we heard from Calcutta that it has been received with almost universal approval on the Bengal side, while from Bombay comes the information that the adoption of the measures recommended has been strongly condemned. It may be interesting to inquire why a scheme which apparently finds support on one side of India should be so adversely criticised on the other. The immediate effect of linking the rupee with gold was to raise the Indian exchange from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 9d. The premium which had been established on the price of gold placed the value of the rupee nearer 2s. 10d., and the Indian Government offered most attractive rates to remitters in the shape of Reverse Councils, which were sold as high as 2s. 10$\frac{7}{8}$d. in the second week of February. Since then the Government rate has come down, but a wide divergence has been shown between Reverse Council rates and those obtainable in the market. The sudden and serious jump in exchange upset the calculations of shippers, and exports came to a standstill. It may be assumed that the bulk of the jute crop from Calcutta had already been financed or contracted for, otherwise exporters would have had more to say; but the movement of cotton from Bombay is only just gathering force, and does not reach its maximum until March; therefore the rise in the rupee has imposed a heavy burden on cotton shippers, who have naturally resented it. Therein seems to be the reason for the difference in opinion.

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Cable advices from Bombay indicate that the price of cotton has fallen over fifty rupees per bale, which affords ample evidence that buyers are holding off. Exchange rates quoted by the Banks have come down with a run. I understand that remitters bought freely early in February at 2s. 10d. for telegraphic drafts, but the price has now fallen to 2s. 7d., and forward quotations are weaker, so that the outlook is extremely uncertain. It is no doubt regrettable that exporters of Bombay cotton will be penalised by the unforeseen rise in exchange, but the crop this season promises to be one of the best, and the surplus available for shipment is estimated to be about 2,250,000 bales. Of this amount Japan will probably take one and a-half million bales and the Continent 750,000 bales.

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The policy of the great joint stock banks in obtaining a controlling interest in other banks operating abroad has had its latest development in the provisional agreement entered into by Barclays Bank for the purchase, subject to Treasury consent, of the shares of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, on the basis of the exchange of nine fully-paid "B" shares of £1 each in Barclays Bank for each share in the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The consequences of the delay in settling the Turkish peace terms are emphasised in the latest report of Messrs. Giraud on the fruit crop of the Smyrna district, which will be found elsewhere in these columns. They point out that a year ago, when hopes of a speedy peace existed, there was a marked revival of confidence, resulting in satisfactory progress in agriculture, but that the events of May caused a serious setback, and that to-day "the agricultural outlook cannot be regarded as satisfactory." Of course, as long as uncertainty exists it would be impossible to expect anything else, but the fact that there was such a rapid improvement immediately after the Armistice at any rate provides grounds for hope that as soon as the peace is definitely arranged matters will take a marked turn for the better.

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Of course, the situation in the Smyrna district is much more complicated than in other parts of Turkey for reasons which will be obvious, and until a *via media* is arrived at which will enable the conflicting interests to live together in harmony the outlook must perforce remain obscure. In this connection I think my readers may be interested to read the following extracts from a letter I have received from a valued correspondent on the general position in the district:—"As you are doubtless aware," my correspondent writes, "this province is practically separated into two districts; one part of the province being under the occupation of the Greek military authorities, and the rest—except for a small zone at Scala Nova occupied by the Italians—being under the control of the National Government. The Cassaba Railway Company, which is a French concern, is running its trains without interruption along the whole length of its line. As regards the Ottoman Railway Company, which is British owned, communications beyond the town of Aidin are entirely interrupted. The National Government, although not interfering with the running of trains on the Cassaba line as far as Ushak and Apion Carahissar, exercises a control on the goods coming down to Smyrna, and for some time has prevented cereals, cattle, and all foodstuffs from being sent to Smyrna."

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"Throughout the districts under the direct control of the Greek military authorities," my correspondent adds, "security prevails and agricultural operations are being freely undertaken, but any marked development has been checked by the exodus from these districts of the bulk of the Turkish population. As an example, in the rich grain-growing district extending from Menemen to Pergamos, the area under cultivation is reported this season to be much less than last year, and this is entirely due to the dispersal of the farming population in the whole of that district. The outlook generally for the coming summer as regards all crops is unfortunately somewhat gloomy. All cereal produce will be in smaller supply, and it is more than likely that if the present existing state of affairs continues for another two or three months the returns for the vineyards and fig orchards will be decidedly smaller than last season."

COMMENTATOR.

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Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, February 5.

Finances During September.

The finance returns for September make a little pleasanter reading than did those of the preceding month, for they show that the leeway lost is beginning to be made up. At the end of the half-year, revenue amounted to £E12,269,077, as against £E12,399,958, and expenditure to £E11,409,365, against £E10,255,778. There is, therefore, a falling off of £E130,881 in revenue and an increase of £E1,153,587 in expenditure, leaving a surplus of receipts amounting to £E859,712, as against £E2,144,180 at the end of the corresponding half-year in 1918.

On the revenue side, the main increases were tobacco dues, £E290,372; ghaffir cess, £E190,040, interest on funds, £E102,853, and sale of land, £E115,687; whilst the more important reductions were in Customs, £E400,451, judicial fees, £E125,880; railway receipts, £E371,585, and military exemption fees, £E71,720. On the expenditure side the more important changes were increases, railways, £E716,694; ghaffirs, £E127,326; war gratuities, £E444,099; and claims arising out of the recent disorders, £E116,765; decreases, War Office, £E125,970; extraordinary war expenditure, £E203,504.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 12.

The Exchange Problem.

The rapid fall in the value of the lei is causing great uneasiness in commercial circles; a fortnight ago it was possible to obtain exchange on London upon payment of 140 to 150 lei to the pound, whereas to-day there is difficulty in finding exchange at 210. The importing merchants, who last summer bought goods in France and England on long credits generally subject to payments on account of a certain amount every three or six months, are discovering that they have sold their merchandise to local retail merchants for less (in lei) than they now have to pay for it, and are, therefore, naturally reluctant to part with any more until they have first purchased exchange to cover the transaction.

The retail shopkeeper who bought his goods in lei has nothing to worry about save the annoyance and fatigue of changing price-tags daily. For this he puts the price up with each point the lei loses in value, excusing himself with the statement that if he had to replace his stock it would cost him so much more. The peasant coming to town with three chickens and two pounds of butter to sell discovers that his new shirt is going to cost him more, so he increases the price of his produce, and thus the merry round goes on.

It is difficult to account for this sudden drop in the value of the lei. The general depreciation is undoubtedly due to the enormous fiduciary issue, unguaranteed for all practical purposes save by a paltry three or four million pounds in gold which the Bank of England holds for the Roumanian Banca Nationala, for as yet nothing definite is known about the bulk of the gold reserve which was sent to Moscow in 1916. One of the many rumours current is that the Germans are continuing to print Banca Generala notes by means of the blocks prepared by them for the purpose during the occupation, when 2,000 millions of these Banca Nationala notes were put into circulation by the Germans, the guarantee being certain bonds deposited in Berlin. These blocks the Germans took with them when they left.

The Roumanian Government upon its return to Bucharest, not being in a position to redeem these German notes by Roumanian Banca Nationala notes, stamped them with a rubber stamp which is easily imitated, and forbade the importation of any more. But it is almost impossible to prevent smuggling, and it may well be true that large quantities of these notes have been sent into the country. It is certain that a large number of nice new one-leu notes have made their appearance quite recently, and these bear no stamp, real or imitation.

Amongst the proposals made to improve the finances of the country is that of a forced loan. M. Ilie Beu suggested in the Senate that the Government, when exchanging the roubles, crowns, and Banca Generala notes, should only pay one-half in Banca Nationala notes and the other half in Treasury bonds, thus reducing the fiduciary issue by one-half. The Minister of Finance in his reply stated that the Banca Nationala were prepared to help the Government to the extent of advancing notes to redeem one-third of the non-official currency, the Government to issue bonds for the other two-thirds.

Forthcoming Loan.

A new internal loan is to be floated within the next few weeks in order to cover the budget deficit, and it is to be hoped that the loan will yield a surplus which will be applied to the redemption of the crowns and roubles and the reduction of the fiduciary issue. Otherwise we may look forward to one of those "healthy reactions" they welcome on the Stock Exchange. The terms of the new loan are favourable: issue price 87, interest at 5 per cent., and amortisation by annual drawings. The subscription lists will remain open until the total of 2,000 millions be reached. As a publicity campaign is to be carried out in the villages to point out the advantages of the loan to the rural population, chief of which is the fact that the loan will be received at par in payments of expropriated land, the peasant should respond well.

PALESTINE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The weather has been very varied. Good rains have fallen, and there has been bitter cold, the thermometer falling below 32 deg. F. Rising crops are doing well. Cultivation should be considerably extended this year, owing largely to the money advanced to the fellaheen in large and small loans. The *Official Gazette* continues to give useful advice, and the circulars to Mukhtars, as well as leaflets in Arabic for general distribution, are of importance. Agriculturists are urged to sow as early as possible, and to be careful in selecting seed, avoiding that which is from areas known to have been infected by disease. The dressing of seed with a solution of copper sulphate is fully explained. Farmers are warned that failure to carry out preventive measures will not justify applications for remission or reduction of tithe. Advice is also given in regard to diseases of fruit trees, and agriculturists are directed to submit specimens of animal and vegetable pests to the Government.

Among the British companies registered in accordance with late regulations are the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Lipton Limited, and the Anglo-Palestine Company (Banking). The Imperial Ottoman Bank is, of course, registered.

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BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

(From a Correspondent.)

Some Impressions.

The impressions that can be gained from one day's visit to the Fair at the Crystal Palace are wide rather than deep. It is an immense enterprise, and it is not possible in a few hours to obtain more than a rather vague impression of the whole. There are some things, however, both bad and good, that stand out clearly, and being human, we propose to take first that side of the Fair which could be improved.

First, there is the train journey to the Crystal Palace. The much advertised 15-minute service from Victoria and London Bridge proved to be a fiction. Next, there is the unsuitability of the approach to the Palace; one has to climb literally scores of stairs to see the exhibits. By the time one has completed the painful ascent, one is, therefore, very critical. Thirdly, there is the unnecessary heat with which the building is supplied; huge stoves send out enormous heat waves which almost overcome one's already tired body. And lastly, there is a most wearisome difficulty in obtaining one's lunch. After waiting in a queue and obtaining just a sniff of an oppressive atmosphere inside the restaurants, one learns wisdom and proceeds to a buffet to take in cold comfort a bitter and sandwiches.

It is a fatiguing task to walk round any fair, but it must be admitted that at the Crystal Palace there are certain very real compensations. Looking at the matter from a non-commercial point of view, one is most struck by the artistic way in which both the Department of Overseas Trade have organised the exhibition and the private firms have displayed their goods. For there is nothing tawdry and vulgar in the structure of the stands or in the exhibits themselves. On the contrary, some of them, particularly (and naturally) in the pottery trade, reach a very high artistic standard. The Upchurch Pottery, for instance, which manufactures salt-glaze pottery, exhibited its goods in a most charming setting; and the Burslem Pottery wares showed up exquisitely. For the most part, indeed, the pottery and glass stalls were very attractive, but there were some which were needlessly overloaded. This criticism applies to other goods besides, especially pictures; when standing by them one seemed to be more in a pleasure fair than in a trade exhibition. It was not difficult to imagine the assistants (who actually in every case were most helpful and polite) shouting out invitations to come and throw a ball at something to win one of their handsome prizes! But these cases of the overloading of stands were comparatively few, and it is due to the general excellence of the exhibits that one noticed these things at all. The organisers of this Exhibition have, in fact, proved that there is no insuperable barrier between commerce and art.

As far as one could judge, there is among the exhibits nothing shoddy or cheap (the last word is not used in a financial sense!), but, like everything of British manufacture, each article is either beautiful or useful—some, indeed, are both. It is obvious that Britain has since the war made great strides to supplement some deficiencies that she suffered in pre-war times. In the stands where the toys are, or where the scientific instruments are, it is possible to see that she has made a definite attempt to prevent trade from falling back into rivals' hands. In such things as sporting goods, cricket bats, footballs, golf balls, etc., there is, of course, no touching goods of British manufacture, and one could have wished that this unique side of our country's industry had been given more space in this Exhibition. But these omissions are quite insignificant when the amazing magnitude of the enterprise is taken into consideration. The Department of Overseas Trade deserves great credit for thus collating the energies of private firms, and for producing a show which it is not a misnomer to call representative.

FEATURES OF THE FAIR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

With only the dimmest recollections of a previous visit to the Crystal Palace in what I might almost call the Dark Ages—so long ago does the period seem which began to draw to a rapid close with the Serajevo assassination—I must confess that I was a little doubtful as to the suitability of that huge erection for the purpose of the London section of this year's British Industries Fair. But if I came a sceptic I went away convinced that the Palace is a most acceptable building as a permanent home for this annual event. It has, however, one serious shortcoming, for though the area of its floor-space is seven times that of the building utilised last year at the Docks, it will evidently require extensive additions in future years to meet the demands likely to be made upon it. So much is evident from the number of firms desiring space in the first year in which something approaching normal conditions obtains. Of the position at the Birmingham and Glasgow sections of the Fair I must leave others to write, only remarking that I understand that the applications from firms have exceeded expectations; but as regards the Crystal Palace I may say unhesitatingly that the serried rows of stands which occupy almost all the available space point very plainly to the fact that were no further extensions practicable it would be a question of another home next year or else restricted entries, and the latter course would naturally be unthinkable.

I was very much struck by the new names which confronted me on the stalls all over the building. Famous houses which for one reason or another have hitherto been unrepresented have now come in to take advantage of the priceless opportunity which the Fair affords of coming into touch with foreign buyers. Their presence is one more tribute to the great success of the Fair in years when the conditions were as adverse as they well could be. But I need not refer to what has happened in previous years. The tale of the constantly increasing progress of the Fair has been told annually in these columns, and I will merely state my view that if last year's results—when orders to a vast amount were booked— are reckoned satisfactory, this year's should be a veritable triumph. It is the first time that foreign buyers have really been able to come in their masses, and they have not failed to take advantage of the opportunity. The Near East, I am glad to say, has its representatives, though not nearly so many as would have been the case in more favourable circumstances, and will be on future occasions. The main reason why more have not come this time is, of course, the adverse position of the exchanges, but this, in the case of Near Eastern countries, is happily not incapable of a fairly speedy remedy, and if only production in these countries progresses apace during the coming year, Near Eastern visitors may be a conspicuous element in 1920.

On the previous occasions on which the fair has been held the exhibits have been restricted to what might be termed the smaller manufactures, and the London section, which is, of course, the largest of the three fairs, is confined to goods similar to those that were shown before. The trades covered include stationery and printing, jewellery and cutlery, fancy goods, musical instruments and furniture, pottery and glass, drugs and druggists' sundries, scientific instruments, photographic and cinematograph apparatus, hard haberdashery, and bookbinding and upholstery. The list, it may be remarked, is noteworthy because of the inclusion of not a few trades which played a very small part in the pre-war commercial life of the country. This year's fair shows the enormous progress made since 1914, stall upon stall being crowded with goods which were before the war the special province of other countries. The British manufacturer has once again demonstrated the fact that he is quite capable of rivalling the specialities of his competitors. That is really the keynote of the fair. I hope the Germans present—it is said there were a few—noted the fact, for it is the products which they were almost alone in producing which are now being equalled and surpassed by British firms. Germany may possibly be a stern competitor in foreign markets in the future, but the enterprise emphasised in the fair leaves no room for doubt that never again will the German in every country have practically a monopoly in certain classes of goods.

And now for the actual exhibits. But before commencing to comment on the fair I must take leave to be excused for any omissions, for the fair is far too vast to be viewed in detail at one visit—it is a three and a-half mile walk round the stalls—and I must perforce confine my

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observations, therefore, to a few of the sections. At all the fairs the glass and pottery exhibits have been among the most notable sections, and the present occasion is no exception. Indeed, from some points of view I should be inclined to regard this section as one of the most attractive. Taken as a whole, the quality of the exhibits is remarkably good, and some of the glass and pottery reached a very high standard of excellence. A stand particularly deserving of mention is that of the Worcester Royal Porcelain Company, where are displayed some exquisite examples of china and porcelain; in particular, some finely worked vases in blue with a gold ornamentation, and bearing on them pictures of country and other scenes. Messrs. Doulton and Co. have on view an admirable selection of their well-known wares, including decorative art pottery, while another very interesting stand was that of the British Art Pottery Company.

It need scarcely be added that chinaware of all kinds finds a ready market throughout the Near East, and the manufactures of these firms and others, such as Messrs. Bridgwood Sampson and Sons, manufactures of earthenware and china, and the British Anchor Pottery Company should find that field an excellent outlet. Precisely the same thing applies to glassware, the exhibits of which are one of the features of the exhibition, and merit very high praise. Designs of glasses and other table requisites are shown which are certainly equal to anything of the kind that has hitherto been produced. The cut-glass deserves special eulogy. I was particularly struck by some extremely dainty sets of wine glasses and decanters. The deliciously fragile appearance of some of the glasses would be calculated to make the fairer sex tremble with anxiety, but *pour moi* I must own that I eyed some of the sets of champagne glasses with no little envy. Among the exhibitors, special mention may be made of Messrs. R. Wilkes, who show examples of fancy cut-glass of all descriptions, and Messrs. Webb, Thomas and Corbett, whose specialities include table and fancy flint glass, and crystal glass.

For oleographs and similar art productions there is normally an excellent opening in the Constantinople and other Near Eastern markets, and it is satisfactory to notice that a number of firms are exhibiting these things. An interesting stand was that of the Medici Society, where were displayed examples of the Medici prints and of the publications of the society. Other stands of interest in the Printing and Stationery Section—I use that term for short, for the full title of the section is actually much longer—are those of Messrs. Louis Wolff and Co., whose productions reach a high standard of art; the Cambridge University Press, who show a unique collection of their productions of religious works, including Bibles bound in solid ivory, minute Prayer-books, etc.; and Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, who display some notable examples of their productions, including their reproductions of famous pictures.

I was unimpressed with the section containing musical instruments, which struck me as being somewhat unrepresentative. Noteworthy were the stands of Messrs. J. and J. Hopkinson and the British Pianoforte Manufacturing Company, who both show some extremely interesting exhibits. I think these firms and others should find an excellent market in the Near East for pianos and piano-players. The Scientific Instrument Section is of much greater interest than that I have just noted. This year its ranks are swollen by many firms which have hitherto been unrepresented at the Fair. Among the most interesting stands are those of Messrs. W. Watson and Sons, manufacturers of microscopes, microtomes, cameras, etc.; Messrs. Hall Bros., whose productions include theodolites and prismatic compasses; Messrs. Houghtons, Ltd., who show an excellent selection of their cameras; Messrs. E. R. Watts and Son, manufacturers of surveying and other scientific instruments; Messrs. Barr and Stroud, whose exhibits include range-finders, fire control instruments, and cinematographs; and Messrs. Negretti and Zambra, who show a variety of their meteorological instruments, etc.

Two stands which I noticed with particular interest on my way through the various sections were Messrs. Dunlop's, showing their excellent golf balls, and that exhibiting the Goddard patent hammock bed, which, it is emphasised, is particularly useful for tropical countries. If I had to give a prize for the most artistic stand my choice would fall on Messrs. J. C. Eno, whose "Fruit Salt" exhibits are most tastefully displayed amid a miniature vinery of black and white grapes. I lingered looking for quite a time.

POSSIBLE TUNISIAN CROP SHORTAGE.

H.M. Consul-General at Tunis states that a long-continued drought, or, more exactly, a protracted delay in the arrival of the winter rains, has irremediably compromised the prospects of crops in all the southern area of this Regency. And it has now become a matter of great anxiety whether these rains may still come in time to promote the crops of the north, later sown, and which, throughout the region of Mateur (principally), include large grain areas. However, this may issue, it seems already certain that under no conditions will any surplus be available for export in the coming year—especially wheat, corn, barley, and olive oil. It is possible that sacrifices may have to be made, or that such reserves as still exist may have to be drawn upon in order, as far as possible, to meet official demands from France. Limited supplies may also be granted to Italy (for the sustenance of Tripoli) in probable exchange, however, for an equivalent supply of other foodstuffs—potatoes, rice, or whatever might be available.

AMERICAN BID FOR EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Rumours have been current at Milan to the effect that American agents in Milan are trying to buy options in long-staple Egyptian cotton from certain Italians, and enquiries made by H.M. Commercial Counsellor at Rome suggest that they are correct. The American Commercial Attaché in Rome explains this by quoting the steady decline of the Sea Island cotton crop, in consequence of the devastations of the boll weevil.

ROUMANIAN MARKET FOR GOODS.

There is a large market in Roumania for socks, threads, cotton cloth, and shoes. Roumania was not devastated as were Belgium and France, but the Germans and Austrians carried off everything of value during their occupation. The result is that Roumania must purchase manufactured articles immediately, and there is consequently a good market there for United Kingdom goods of all sorts, especially those mentioned, and clothing, stockings, and textiles, particularly cotton cloth.

COMPANY MEETING NOTICES.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—Notice is Hereby Given that an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be held on Monday, the 29th March, 1920, at 4 p.m., at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo for the purpose of:—Receiving the Directors' Report; Receiving the Auditors' Report; Submitting the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1919; Declaring a Dividend; Re-electing Directors; Electing Auditors for the year 1920 and fixing their remuneration.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be HELD on Monday, the 29th March, 1920, at 4 p.m., at the Head Office of the Bank in CAIRO for the purpose of ALTERATION OF THE STATUTES as follows:—

Article 23.—For the present £150 to two Government Commissioners to substitute £1,000, to be paid by the Bank yearly to the Ministry of Finance for the Commissioners' service.

Article 25.—Last paragraph.—£600 to be increased to £1,000.

Article 50.—Last line.—To substitute the words "Pourra être" for the word "est."

All Shareholders holding a minimum of 20 shares have the right to take part in the General Meetings, provided the shares be deposited under the following conditions at one of the following places, where cards of admission or proxy forms will be delivered:—

In Egypt, at the latest, the 23rd March, 1920: At the Head Office, Cairo; at the Branch at Alexandria; at the Agencies of the Bank at Assiut, Assouan, Benha Beni-Suef, Chebin-el-Kom, Damanhour, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansurah, Minieh, Port Said, Rod-el-Farag (Cairo), Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and Mousky (Cairo); at the Office of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank; Bank of Athens; Banque Belge pour l'Etranger; Imperial Ottoman Bank; Banque d'Orient; Banco di Roma; Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio; Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris; Credit Lyonnais.

In the Soudan, at the latest, the 17th March, 1920: At the Agencies of the National Bank of Egypt at Khartoum, Port Soudan, and Suakim.

In Europe, at the latest, the 10th March, 1920: In Paris, at the Offices of the Société Marseillaise; in Italy, at the Offices of the Banca Commerciale Italiana; in London, at the Agency of the National Bank of Egypt, 6-7, King William Street, E.C.4.

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Cairo, 17th February, 1920.

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ENGINEERING.

EASTERN MARKETS FOR MOTORS.

I.—The General Trade Outlook.

In the dark days of the early part of the war, I remember one of our Generals on active service in Egypt saying: "I do not know how long the war will last, but the peace is going to be worse than the war." Whether this lugubrious forecast was merely inherent pessimism or a thought-out deduction hardly matters, for it clearly expressed with picturesque exaggeration a truth we were naturally all too absorbed to think about. From the present standpoint, however, it is easy to see how inevitable were the sufferings, the difficulties and dangers of the period of transition from war to peace *régime*. There could never at any moment have been a doubt as to the results of a cessation for five years (so far as the bulk of the working world is concerned) of the work of producing the ordinary necessities of life. Never for a moment could there have been any doubt whatever that this was going to leave the entire world desperately short of most of the real necessaries of life, and that in consequence the scramble to get these necessities, the competition to secure a share of what there is, was certain to put up the price of the same not merely in proportion to the scarcity, but much higher.

Equally obvious was it that the only conceivable remedy would be for the whole world to set to work on the termination of hostilities to produce all those necessaries with the utmost speed—to breed cattle, to grow corn, to dig minerals, and to make all the useful industries of the world hum with activity, until there was enough to go round and to spare. Could there ever have been a doubt that this would automatically bring down the prices and relieve distress? Can there now be any doubt that this is the only possible way to prevent the general increase of wages becoming a mere useless illusion to the recipients? The world has been incredibly slow to realise this as the one supreme necessity of the moment. Indeed, one might, until recently, have taken up a newspaper in any part of the world and hardly have gathered that such a necessity existed. Any and every issue was discussed—politics, class questions, international affairs, war settlement, demobilisation, anything but the great paramount economic necessity for the immediate production of food, clothes, and everything the world needs. As in the Press, so in their actions did the nations ignore the course which offered the obvious main road to human happiness and prosperity, to complete recovery from the wreck of the last five years.

This evil phase is also passing, and the race has begun. Industries are beginning to hum—if not satisfactorily, still they have begun—and if (that eternal "if") we can only get all to pull together, we shall hum still better. The race is to the strong, but it is also to the first starter, if the others won't start. The flag has fallen, and the start was disappointingly slow.

So much for our circumstances and the world we find ourselves in—and it is an inestimable advantage to us that that world is crying aloud for all the produce we can turn out. Yes, and as transport in general and motor vehicles in particular is the subject we are dealing with here, we may rest happy in the knowledge that there will be purchasers for all we can produce for years—unless we go out of our way to avoid them.

The Motor Show.

It was impossible to visit Olympia this year without realising that there are plenty of ideas, plenty of originality, plenty of workers on the road of progress. The war has not left us sterile; on the contrary, it has given us a great deal, and much of the progress of the immediate future will owe its origin to aero work during the war, just as aero work owed much to motor experience in the past. But perhaps the leading impression conveyed by a visit to that wonderful show is the change that is coming over the motor world. Heretofore, so far as passenger vehicles are concerned, motoring has been rather the pastime of the rich and the instrument of the prosperous. They have led the van in this item of human progress, as in so many other ways. They had the means, the pleasure and advantages of motoring were obvious, and they have led the industry through the experimental stage and have brought it to a point where the luxury turns into a necessity. The professional and business man found that their range of usefulness was vastly increased by rapid and easy transit, and the recent military operations have been facilitated a hundredfold by the internal combustion engine. The competition of war has demanded the utmost that the industry could give, and what a stride in progress has resulted! Now motoring is no longer a luxury or a mere instrument of successful business; it is becoming the necessity of the smaller man, and he is legion.

A whole generation of young people of both sexes has become mechanically minded, and even more or less expert in motor transport and the use of the motor-car and lorry. It is no longer a rather despised branch of knowledge; it (mechanics) is one of the best reputed and most interesting branches of science, a necessary adjunct of a normal education. In America, it is said, one in twenty of the population owns a car. In England perhaps it is about 1 in 70. Be that as it may, there can be little doubt that the figure for Europe will in time become something like the one in twenty of America.

Let us say that there are half-a-million or more cars in England now; there can be little doubt there will be three times as many a few years hence. And who will be the owners of the additional million cars? Beyond a doubt they will be almost entirely those who have been unable to afford a car heretofore. Think of it—a million cars, cheap light cars, to be demanded from the motor industry in the next few years. It is almost impossible to over-estimate what that will mean to the industrial activity of the country both in regard to the manufacture of the cars themselves, as well as to the reaction on other industries. England should fairly hum with activity—and why not? Why should not many industries have a similar future? Why should not increased productivity and efficiency restore us (every class, that is, from the lowest to the highest, especially the former) to such a degree of prosperity as to throw the burden of this unhappy period to the winds, just as the tragedies of individual life are mellowed by time, and, if not forgotten, well buried in the past? Beyond a doubt it will be our own fault, our inability to see the obvious in the future, our inability to co-operate, if we do not rise again to prosperity, and a prosperity outshadowing the past.

I should have liked to have seen Olympia far fuller than it was of the car of the future—the light, cheap car. Those light cars that were there represent the pioneers, who will undoubtedly reap their well-earned reward. They were the obvious centres of interest throughout the week, and might have booked ten times the number of orders they did if the cars could have been produced. I should have liked to have seen a light car Olympia show from which the car-de-luxe—the £700 and over—was rigorously ex-

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cluded; that will come as soon as our manufacturers and designers enter more thoroughly into the spirit of the future—but there is no time to lose. We are an individualistic nation, and are tackling this new problem of light cars (for in the present stage it is practically a new problem) from all sorts of aspects. This is, of course, an immense advantage, opening up as it does a wider range; but when sufficient experience has been obtained we shall eliminate all but the most promising lines—if we are wise, that is to say, for individualism resists being brought into line. Then mass production on a large scale, after the brilliant example of Henry Ford, is earnestly to be hoped for both in the interests of the industry as well as of the nation.

In the next article we will endeavour to review the leading requirements of over-sea countries and to investigate the type of design that will meet the particular service likely to be required.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Handling Grain.

A large installation of electric power for the driving of grain-handling equipment has recently been completed on the Mersey side. It comprises a telescopic elevator fixed outside the warehouse and extending over the water for convenience in handling the barges, a couple of large capacity elevators inside the warehouse, and two automatic weighing machines. There are also two loading-out shoots—one from the warehouse and the other from the head of the elevator.

Every section of the machinery is electrically operated, with the result that a great deal of time is saved in handling the grain. Not only are the elevator buckets driven by suitably-sized motors, but the raising and lowering gear for the telescopic elevator is also operated electrically. From a description it appears that the elevator is fitted with a telescopic arrangement whereby the delivery buckets can be raised or lowered in accordance with the depth of the barge or vessel to be unloaded. Unloading can thus be carried out at any stage of the tide, and the whole elevator is so supported that further limits of travel up and down are obtainable by the movement of an ingeniously designed supporting arm of the lattice girder type. At its inner end this is pivoted on the wall of the building and at its outer extremity at the elevator head. In its normal state this elevator is 45 ft. in length, but can be extended to any additional length required up to 77 ft. by means of the electric winch provided.

Three motors are provided for the operation of the telescopic elevator. One, of the type usually employed in connection with electric cranes, is of 22 horse-power capacity, and is carried on a frame at the elevator head, where it drives the chain of buckets. A second motor of the same type but of 13 horse-power, is fixed at the warehouse end of the movable girder arm which supports the elevator and drives a small winch which serves to raise or lower the telescopic leg of the elevator. The third motor, which is of 10 horse-power and is also of the crane type, drives a winch, through suitably stepped gearing, for raising or lowering the lattice girder arm: and in order that an even load on the motor may be ensured, a counter-weight system is employed which adjusts the balance weights according to the position in which the telescopic elevator may have to be fixed to suit the depth of the grain-carrying vessel.

Steam Measurement.

In connection with the efficient operation of industrial plants, it is evident that steam measuring has become of primary inportance. The same holds good in equal measure of those industrial operations in which steam is sold, as in both of these it is necessary that the user or buyer should know that he is paying for perfectly dry steam and not for moisture derived from condensation. In just the same way it may be desirable to know the output of boilers in order to measure their efficiency. Water meters, in the latter case, are not conclusive, as, although they register the amount of water passing into the boiler, it does not necessarily follow that all that water is converted into useful steam. It is also frequently necessary that the amount of steam supplied to gas producers or used in heating vats for industrial work should be accurately measured and the instruments for this purpose should not only be correctly designed, but should be made with particular accuracy.

Two principles of operation are available, according to an authority writing recently in *The Times*. There may be a slight constriction on the pipe-line, resulting in a pressure difference on the two sides, varying with the amount of steam passed; or the velocity may be measured by a kind of a Pitot tube by difference of pressure taking effect at an instrument connected by tubes. By suitable mechanism, the instrument may simply show the rate of flow or record the rate on a graph or chart divided into time squares and with a time-recording device. It may merely give the total quantities of steam passing, or, in cases where considered desirable, the instrument can carry out all these various functions. With the constricted pipe the quantity of steam passing per unit time is taken as being proportional to the square root of the pressure difference, if the pressure and superheat are constant.

The Pitot tube device in its simplest form consists of two tubes inserted in the same steam-pipe, one with one end flush with the inside, and the other with its end bent to face the flow of steam. The dynamic effect of velocity in increasing pressure is readily evident, the difference of pressure being in this form the means of gauging flow. The Pitot tube priciple is open to the objection that there is no convenient mode of adjustment for low velocities, and the readings then become somewhat unreliable. It is possible, however, with the restricted tube method to make use of certain devices which will correct or assist in correcting such inaccuracies. But, under commercial conditions, accuracy to within 2 per cent. should be easily forthcoming with any fairly efficient type of steam-meter.

MOTOR TRANSPORT IN TURKEY.

The Constantinople Market.

An interesting report has just been published from the American Consul-General at Constantinople, Mr. G. Bie Ravndal, on the market for motors in Turkey.

It was only in 1912, he points out, that an impetus was given to motor traction, and in July, 1914, the number of automobiles circulating in Constantinople was not less than 400. The outbreak of the war and the requisition of cars which ensued, paralysed this trade, and private cars disappeared completely. During the war approximately 1,000 automobiles were imported by Germans and Austrians. Part of these were shipped back after the armistice, a few were scrapped, quite a number were requisitioned by the Allied military authorities, and some were

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sold at low prices to private parties. The number of such cars is not known.

The progress realised from 1912 to 1914 in the matter of motor cars promises a heavy increase in their importation in the future. Success is assured by the insufficiency of railroad communications throughout the country, and heavy loss in beasts of burden during the war. European manufacturers are perfectly aware of this state of things; they consider the Near East as an important market for their goods. Besides the importation of cars and stocks of equipment, it is of great importance to establish repair shops. The work has to be organised from the very beginning, as the three wars waged by Turkey during the last 10 years have not only prevented progress, but destroyed previously existing order and organisation. The number of private cars in Constantinople to-day does not exceed 50, but this number is certain to increase considerably in the near future, when things political become more settled. Besides expensive touring cars, cheap small cars also should be imported. Wealthy families are not very numerous in this country, and cheap cars would sell more readily and in greater number.

Motor trucks were introduced into this country during the war, and in view of their proved great utility, the demand for them is at present widespread and urgent. A few Italian (Fiat) motor trucks have been imported since the armistice. These were immediately sold at prices varying from $2,640 to $4,800, according to size. One firm intends to establish agencies all over Asia Minor, and push their goods in the interior. French and British firms are also active. The number of motor trucks in Constantinople belonging to private parties does not exceed 12. These are all Benz and Mercedes cars. Those sold to private individuals and held in secret places are not included.

Motor cycles are attracting attention in Turkey because of their commercial utility, their use by the Allied military authorities and by the A.C.R.N.E. having demonstrated that they can be used to advantage for messenger service and for the transport of small parcels. The Ottoman Post Office recently purchased two motor cycles for mail distribution, and the system will probably be adopted by other Government offices and by business houses as well, there being no doubt that they will be found of great value in solving a difficult labour problem. The number of privately owned motor cycles in this city does not exceed five, but they are growing in popularity, notably the type with the side-car attachment, which is recognised as a cheap and durable substitute for the automobile. The question of roads and road houses, particularly, offers an obstacle to a widespread introduction of these vehicles for sporting purposes; but much has been accomplished by the Allied military authorities in the repair of roads, and, undoubtedly, extensive road construction will sooner or later be undertaken. Motor cycles would sell readily in Constantinople to-day, and their sale will increase as soon as the political status of Turkey is settled. The current prices vary from $380 to $630

Smyrna District.

The position in the Smyrna district is reviewed by the American Consul-General at Smyrna, Mr. George Horton, in a recent report. At the present time, he says, probably a dozen or 15 touring cars are in use by civilians. This office has secured from the Greek military authorities a schedule showing the numbers and kinds of motor vehicles used by them in Asia Minor. The list includes 39 small ambulances, 17 small 1½-ton trucks, 30 trucks of 3-tons capacity, and 33 touring cars. Twenty-nine of the touring cars are of American makes; most of the other vehicles scheduled are of British manufacture. The British and French military missions, most of the foreign consuls, and the American Relief Committee for the Near East employ about 20 cars, half of which are American models. The Italian military mission uses the Fiat model exclusively. The only motor cycles in use in Smyrna are some half-dozen belonging to the Greek Army and the Allied Military Missions. Roads suitable for motor use are as yet a rarity in Asia Minor, though during the war the Turkish Government, under German direction, somewhat improved those radiating from Smyrna. There were previously two or three good roads connecting the city and its widely flung suburbs, and these have been improved. The streets of Smyrna are very poorly paved, if at all, and have not been repaired in many years. The constant flow of heavy traffic, both during and since the war, has put them in an extremely bad shape for motors of any kind.

The Aleppo Market.

Before the war there were but half a dozen automobiles and lorries in the Aleppo district, says the American Consul at Aleppo, Mr. J. B. Jackson, in a recent report, but there are now several hundred, all of which have been and still are in the use of the military forces. For the greater part they consist of lorries of 2 to 3 tons capacity, light trucks, and passenger cars—the latter mostly American, with a sprinkling of German cars taken by the British Army upon its occupation of Syria. Prior to 1914 this district and adjacent territory contained some two millions of people, but the population has probably decreased, for obvious reasons. There must be something like one and three-quarter millions still, among whom a great many are financially able to support the expense of an automobile. There is also a tendency toward self-reliance that did not previously exist, and which will eventually induce many to act as their own chauffeurs, whereas formerly it was considered belittling for a person of means to occupy himself with any kind of manual labour similar to that of running his own car. On the other hand, there are many capable chauffeurs and mechanicians among the troops, from whom local inhabitants have learned driving and engineering to the extent that this void will rapidly disappear. Already a number of the inhabitants are contemplating the purchase of passenger cars and roadsters, and several have the idea of bringing in trucks for local freight service.

There being no railway connections between Aleppo, Killis, Aintab, Marash, Ourfa, Antioch, and Alexandretta, there is soon bound to be a demand for motor freight and passenger service. On previous occasions this matter was studied by Aleppo business men, but the difficulties seemed insurmountable and the question was dropped. Conditions have changed since then, and it is likely that the affair will have more serious attention in the future. The only means of passenger conveyance being by horse and carriage, and that of freight transportation by camel and on mule and horseback, it is evident that more modern methods must soon supersede. The entire country is essentially agricultural, which will produce another strong demand for motor power in connection with ploughing, threshing, etc.

The more moderate-priced cars will be in demand, as the public highways and city streets are not in condition to lend themselves to heavy vehicles. There are no Governmental restrictions at present against the operation of such conveyances, and the procuring of city licences is purely formal.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended February 6:—The sales this week on our market amount to 36 cases at prices ranging from 16s. to 19s. per lb. c.i.f. as to quality. The exchange has dropped to piasters 405 per pound sterling for cheque, but dollars are still maintained at 0.87 centimes per one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are now 1,450 cases against 165 at same date last year.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

TURKISH FRUIT REPORT.

Sultanas.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows under date February 1:—

In our preceding report of January 1 we estimated stocks remaining in Smyrna and in the country at about 4,500 tons. An active demand has prevailed throughout the month against orders received from the United States, Canada and Germany. To the United States and Canada about 1,200 tons have so far been shipped, and there are still outstanding orders which, for want of supplies and advancing prices, have not been executed. American buyers have followed the market, and, starting purchases at about 105s. c. and f. New York for good average quality, have continued buying up to 115s. c. and f. There is plenty of tonnage offering for the United States, and freight has varied from 5 to 10 dollars per ton gross, which is considerably under the prevailing rates for U.K. and Continental ports.

The Continent has drawn some fruit, and some speculative buying has also taken place. Total sales for the month reach up to about 1,700 tons. Stock on our market has been reduced to about 500 tons, mainly very inferior qualities, and supplies from the country have continued moderate. It is now estimated that total stocks remaining in Smyrna, Vourla, and the interior included, do not exceed 2,500/3,000 tons. A proportion of this fruit, however, is of very low grade and in deteriorated condition, suitable only for distillery purposes. It is doubtful whether much over 2,000 tons will be available for export until the advent of the new season. Fine qualities are exhausted.

Market closes strong with advancing tendency.

Figs.

No interest attaches to this fruit. Arrivals from the interior have ceased, and the small stock on our market, consisting mainly of inferior quality, will slowly be absorbed. Apart from a speculative purchase of some 150 tons, very little business has been recorded during the month.

According to reports received from the U.K., the figs bought by the Food Ministry have reached too late for timely distribution to the grocery trade, and considerable dissatisfaction has resulted both as regards delay and qualities secured. The Food Ministry does not appear to have taken into proper consideration the requirements of the trade.

Previous to the war, imports of our figs into the United Kingdom averaged the following quantities and description: 2,500 tons in layer and locoum packing, 4,000 tons Genuine Naturals, 500 tons G.A.Q. Naturals, 1,000 tons F.A.Q. Naturals. Quantities varied to some extent according to the size of the crop. Shipments were rushed forward as early as possible in the season to assure distribution for the Christmas demand. Imports of G.A.Q. and F.A.Q. Naturals were mainly utilised for manufacturing purposes.

The Food Ministry, if impartial criticism be permitted, has not shown the same discrimination in its purchases of figs as it did in the case of sultanas. It started buying much too late in the season, and limited its purchases to G.A.Q. grades, of which it secured about 4,000 tons, a quantity which, in view of the grading, it was to be feared might prove in excess of trade requirements. Had purchases been started a month earlier and a suitable proportion of Genuine Naturals been bought at about 70s. to 75s. c.i.f., and a smaller quantity of G.A.Q. at the Ministry's limit of 63s. c.i.f., supplies would have been available in time for distribution for the Christmas trade, and, both in regard to qualities and date of distribution, would have been more in line with the requirements of the consumer.

General Outlook.

Agricultural progress is so closely connected with the political situation in the province that a reference to the developments of the past twelve months can hardly be avoided. A year ago, following on the signature of the Armistice and in the hope that a speedy peace would result, a marked revival of confidence set in. Security increased in the country and agricultural operations on an extended scale were undertaken in all districts. Farmers spared no effort to increase cultivation, and with the high wage offered labour was steadily being attracted to this province. By the month of May agriculture had widely progressed, and prospects pointed to a marked improvement in the returns as compared with the previous year or two. The events of May, unfortunately, caused a serious set-back. Part of the population of the rich valleys of the Hermus and Meander was scattered, many farms were abandoned, and communications with part of the province have been interrupted since that date. Viewed as a whole to-day, the agricultural outlook cannot be considered satisfactory. It is in the opening months of the year that vines and fig orchards require proper tending; but with the insecurity existing in most districts, the scarcity of labour, etc., serious apprehensions are entertained that not only the fruit crops, but cereal and other products of the province will suffer by the existing state. This continued uncertainty and the delay in arriving at a peace with Turkey are checking all enterprise and retarding a return to more normal conditions throughout the country.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Coffee.—The market has been very steady during the week, with a slight upward tendency in evidence, as is only to be expected in view of the prevailing circumstances. Costa Rica has been done at from 162s. to 168s., while Mocha has come to business at from 180s. to 185s. The futures market is very firm, with March at 127s., May at 125s. 9d., July at 125s. 3d., September at 122s., and December at 119s. 6d. Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report that the latest cable advices from America state that the situation may be acute before the next Brazilian crop is available, that interior stocks require replacing, and a stimulating demand is expected from these centres. There is as well the fact, they point out, that Europe has not been able to obtain supplies that she badly needed, owing to financial difficulties. This demand will come gradually and receive impetus as the year progresses; already some progress has been reported in other markets, where financial arrangements have been concluded for the supply of raw materials.

Sugar.—There is little change to report. Free sugar has continued in good demand for manufacturing purposes, while there has been a brisk market in refined at controlled rates. Reports from producing centres are good.

Oilseeds.—Linseed is steady, with La Plata at 48s. 3d. spot, and 46s. 6d. February-March. Rapeseed has been a firm spot, with Toria March-May Hull at 55s., after being up to 56s. in consequence of the strong demand mainly from the Continent. Cottonseed has been quiet, and is quoted 29s. for Egyptian and 22s. 6d. Bombay. Since the commencement of the year the imports of linseed have totalled 540,000 cwts.

Oilcakes, etc.—Linseed cake has been done at 495s., Soya bean cake at 500s., and cottonseed meal cake at 480s. Other transactions have included cottonseed cake at 340s., ground-nut cake at 380s., coconut cake at 320s., rapeseed cake at 360s., and palm kernel cake at 250s. In regard to a number of varieties, prices in the provinces have differed appreciably from those current in London. Oils have generally been firm, with linseed at 117s. 6d. spot and 113s. 9d. May-August. Crude Egyptian cotton has been a strong spot at 120s., while Bombay has been 112s. Turpentine is harder at 202s. There is no change to record as regards other oils.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in January:—

Wheat and Barley.—The weather was favourable. Heavy rains fell towards the middle of the month in the northern Delta and appear to have had a beneficial effect, especially on the early-sown fields. The crop is generally in a very good state of growth and is free from pests, with the exception of minor attacks of rust and cut-worm in certain provinces. In advanced fields the plants are already in ear. The quantities of sodium nitrate applied, although below the demand, have been nearly four times as much as last year.

Beans.—Weather was favourable. The early crop is healthy and in a good state of growth, while in the late-sown fields the plants appear stunted. Flowering is general, and pods have been formed in the early-sown fields. Slight attacks of broom rape have been reported from various localities.

Helba.—Weather has been favourable. The crop is in flower, and pods have been formed in early-sown fields. Cultivators continue to cut part of the crop to be sold green for local consumption.

Onions.—Transplanting was over by the beginning of the month. Weeding is in progress. The crop is growing satisfactorily, although in some parts it has been affected by cold.

Lentils.—The crop is in flower, and pods are formed in early-sown fields.

Sugar-cane.—The crop is in good condition, and has suffered from pest attacks very much less than usual. In the province of Minya the bulk of the crop has already been shipped to the factories, and elsewhere cutting for this purpose is proceeding. The yield in Girga, Qena, and Aswân is reported to be particularly good.

Bersim.—The crop has maintained the improvement reported last month. The first cutting is nearly over, while the second has begun in early fields, and the third in the canalised areas of Upper Egypt. The greater part of the catch crop has already been ploughed up to give place to cotton.

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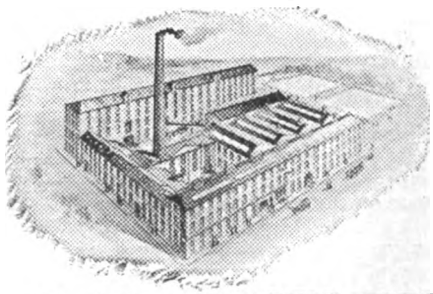
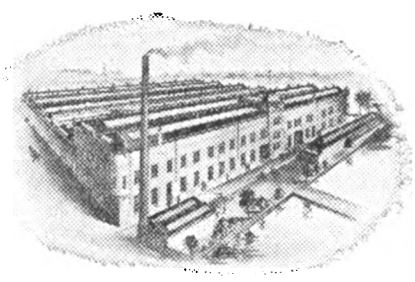
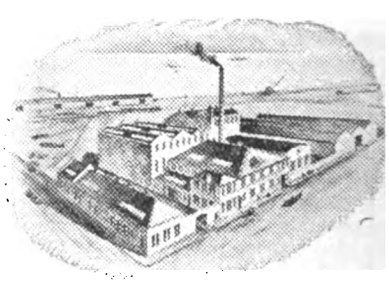

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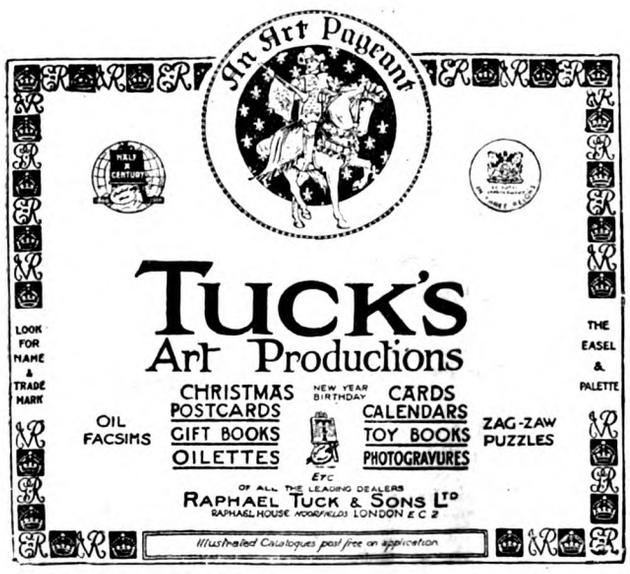

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard s.s. Corby, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Manchester on the 13th and at Liverpool on March 20.

The Moss s.s. Siptah, for Syria, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Beyrout direct, will leave Liverpool on March 20.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.), s.s. Malatian, for Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Jaffa, Cyprus, etc.), will leave Liverpool on March 6.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Belgravian, for Algiers, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on March 13.

The Anchor Line s.s. Varzin, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on March 4.

The Anchor line s.s. Mahratta, for Calcutta direct, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on March 13.

The Power Line s.s. Petworth, for Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador, will leave London early in March.

Notes.

There was launched, on February 19, at Hebburn-on-Tyne, by Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorn Leslie and Co., Ltd., the steel-screw steamer Sirsa, on account of the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., London. This vessel has a carrying capacity of about 8,000 tons on a draft of 25 ft. 3¾ in. Accommodation is arranged for a limited number of first-class passengers, and captain and officers, the crew being berthed in the poop aft. The ship is well equipped with derricks and 13 steam winches for rapid handling of cargo. She has two generating sets and, in addition, an emergency set for dealing with the electric power pump, and wireless. The triple expansion engines, having cylinders 27 in., 47 in., 73 in., by 48 in. stroke, with three single-ended boilers having a working pressure of 180 lbs., are being built by Messrs. Hawthorn Leslie and Co., Ltd.

The s.s. Kidderpore, which has just been handed over by the builders, Messrs. Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., to the owners, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., was intended to be a "standard" ship for the Shipping Controller, but was subsequently acquired by the P. and O. Co. and altered for their Eastern trade. The leading dimensions of the Kidderpore are 400 ft. in length between perpendiculars, 52 ft. in width, with a moulded depth of 51 ft. She has been built to the survey of Lloyd's Register, and is to carry 8,250 tons d.w. on a draught of 25 ft. 3 ins. The triple-expansion engines are of the direct-acting reciprocating type, working a single propeller, and the boilers have been built at the Neptune Engine Works of Messrs. Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, at Walker-on-Tyne. On the bridge deck amidships there are cabins for the officers, engineers, and a number of cadets. The dining-room is planned to seat eighteen persons, and adjoining it are staterooms and the chief officer's cabin. On leaving the River Tyne the ship went to Middlesbrough to load cargo, and during this preliminary trip the Peninsular and Oriental S.N. Co. were represented by Mr. Deane and Mr. R. T. Clarke.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended February 4 were:—Cattle markets, £1,726; general markets, £683; total, £2,409.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

GOVERNESS Companion, desires post abroad. All English subjects, fluent French, El. Italian & German, Music, Drill. £100. M. M. The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, London, W.

A YOUNG LADY, with knowledge of literature, history, art, and occultism, good tempered, well dressed, desires Secretarial Work abroad for few months from end of February in return for expenses. Address Box 151, "THE NEAR EAST," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

LIEUT.-Q.M., retiring end of month, age 45, 26 years Regular Army, continuous service, five years B.E.F., requires Position of Trust as Manager, Secretary, Confidential Agent, or Courier; working knowledge of several European languages; travelled all over the globe and willing to proceed on any mission requiring delicacy and tact. Box 150, "THE NEAR EAST," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

INDIA.—Young Lady (Scotch) would engage with lady going India as Maid or Children's Nurse. Excellent references.—Box 15D, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The market throughout the past week has presented a strong appearance. On the whole, however, business has been rather quieter. The recent upward movement in prices has checked operations in some quarters. The conditions prevailing result in some merchants being compelled to restrict trading. Egyptian cotton, after advancing to fresh high levels, has given way somewhat, but it is understood that certain weak speculators have now liquidated contracts and the tone is steadier. Business in the article has been very difficult to arrange. In Egyptian yards trade has been of small dimensions. Numerous spinners do not want to sell, and buyers realise the danger of purchasing freely at current rates. Producers have plenty of work to go on with, but there is some irregularity in order lists. In cloth for the Near Eastern outlets a fair miscellaneous trade has been put through, but most shippers have been less disposed to place large orders for distant delivery. Goods are said to be in excessive supply in Constantinople, and shipments are being stopped pending better clearances. The conditions in Cairo are said to be encouraging. For India less business has been about than a week ago. Shippers have not been in the mood to anticipate future wants, and most of the offers from the other side have been too low. White shirtings and fancies have been sold in moderate quantities for China and some business has been about for Java. The offtake for South America has been healthy, especially in printed and dyed descriptions. A steady demand has been met with in home trade circles. There is a good deal of irregularity in the engagements of manufacturers, and now and again delivery terms are offered by makers which were scarcely expected. American yarns for home use have been stiff at quotations, but trading has not been on free lines.

BRITISH COTTON-SEED PRODUCTS, LTD

The issue of 150,000 shares by the British Cotton-Seed Products, Limited, was very greatly oversubscribed. The lists were opened on February 19, and the issue was oversubscribed by noon on the following day. The lists were closed that evening, but applications received on the morning of February 21 were entertained.

The prospectus of this company was advertised in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST.

A statement recently appeared in the Press to the effect that the bridge over the Save, between the Semlin and Belgrade, had been condemned as unsafe, and was accordingly closed to traffic. It has been ascertained that this statement gained prevalency owing to the temporary closing of the bridge to traffic for a few days in January because of the abnormally high water of the river. When the river subsided, traffic was resumed, and the information at present available is to the effect that it is still open for communication across the Save.

A meeting of prominent business men connected with the Ligne Variose was held recently in France with a view to the establishment of a line of steamers between Toulon and Algeria. An exchange of views took place, and the view was taken that private initiative should be invited to take the project up. Consequently steps are to be taken immediately (says a Paris contemporary) to obtain from the Minister of Shipping the necessary sanction.

BANQUE D'EXPORTATION PRIV. DU ROYAUME DE SERBIE.

(Royal priv. Serbian Bank for Exportation.)

BELGRADE, SERBIA.

Capital, Paid-up, 5,000,000 Dinars

Reserve - - 1,200,000 Dinars

The Bank transacts all Banking Operations, undertakes all manner of financial, commercial and industrial enterprises and effects Money-Transfers to and from Foreign Countries.

The Commercial Department of the Bank deals mainly in the Export of Native Products on its own account and on commission basis.

Cable Address: Exportbank, Belgrade.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Stamboul, January 24.

Produce.

Sugar.—The market presents a somewhat weaker aspect, after a prolonged period of high prices. No change is reported in countries of production. The price of sugar in the Customs is £T56 100 kilos.

Coffee.—A new rise in Brazil is reflected in the prices here, which are Ps.80-88 in transit, Ps.95-105 in Customs. 1,500 bags of Brazil have arrived.

Exports.

The rise in prices continues, despite the improvement in the exchange, influenced by the demand, as well as by the shortage of various commodities.

Opium.—Sales of the week: 45 cases druggist at Ps.1030-1050 the oke. Fine qualities are quoted at £T11 the oke. The market is firm, and the disposable produce is small.

Mohair.—The arrivals of the week have increased to 200 bales, and the sales to 300. Prices are: Extra, Ps.120-125 the oke; No. 1, Ps. 110-115 the oke.

Wool.—Prices have risen from Ps. 60 to Ps.66 the oke. The demand is strong, but the produce is lacking.

Silk.—A new rise from £T22½ to £T25 the kilo; only four bales have been done at that price. Syrian is quoted nominally at £T15 the kilo.

The market remains quiet for the reasons previously indicated, namely, the dead season as regards Anatolia, and the complete cessation of transactions with Russia. Prices are maintained, despite the stagnation, especially as regards white goods, because of the high level in places of production. There is a demand for gold and a certain uneasiness, but nothing in the nature of a crisis. Even the small merchants are taking steps not to diminish their stocks, anticipating high prices at which they will hope to be able to do business later.

A number of Roumanian merchants who arrived here a week ago to obtain supplies have left without making any purchases, the marked depreciation in the leu having put a stop to business.

GEORGE STEPHANOFF & SONS,

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Textile Factory for Woollen Cloths

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Branch:

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ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

"We cannot speak too highly of it."—LANCET. **SARSAPARILLA**

(The best "Pick-Me-Up")

Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.—"We recommend your Jamaica Sarsaparilla."—MEDICAL REVIEW.

"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.

The late LORD CLYDE said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."

"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.

N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

World-wide Reputation for over Three-Quarters of a Century.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

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Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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NEW COMPANIES.

Oilfields of Egypt.

The Oilfields of Egypt, Ltd., was registered on February 18 with a capital of £750,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To acquire and turn to account oil-bearing lands and mines, minerals and other properties in Egypt and elsewhere. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—C. T. Twort, 87, Holmdene Avenue, Herne Hill, S.E.; B. J. Weaver, 16, Northumberland Road, Linford, near Stanford-le-Hope; and five other clerks. Minimum cash subscription, seven shares. The first directors are not named. Registered office: 5, Bishopsgate, E.C.

British Darjeeling Tea.

The British Darjeeling Tea Company, Ltd., was registered on February 16 with a capital of £80,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of tea planters and merchants, etc., and to enter into an agreement with the British Darjeeling Tea Company, Limited (in liquidation) and Lloyd and Company, Limited, liquidators thereof. The first directors are:—E. J. Wehle, Belgrave House, Preston Road, Brighton; G. G. Gordon, The Elms, 60, Queen's Road, Richmond; S. Thompson, 3, East India Avenue, E.C., solicitor; C. Bold, Selborne, Gaylon Road, Harrow-on-the-Hill. Solicitors: Thompsons, Quarrell and Jones, 3, East India Avenue, E.C.

COMPANY RESULTS.

Madras Railway Annuities.—Registration books will be closed from March 4 to 31, inclusive.

Southern Punjab Railway.—The registers of the ordinary stock will be closed from February 26 to March 10, inclusive.

The directors of the North Anantapur Gold Mines have declared a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. (less tax at 6s. in the £) on the preference shares for the year ending June 30, 1920, payable March 11 next to holders on the books on February 19.

The directors of the Nundydroog Company have declared (subject to audit) a balance dividend for the year 1919 of 1s. per share, less tax at 6s. in £, payable March 16, to holders registered February 18. This with the interim dividend paid in September last will make a total distribution for the year of 1s. 6d. per 10s. share, less tax.

MOROCCAN TRADE WITH NANTES.

The port of Nantes is well placed for trade with Morocco, and as a result of recent conferences between the Chamber of Commerce at Nantes and various commercial interests in Morocco a new company, called La Loire Maroc, has been founded. The object of this company is to organise the import and export business on a large scale. It will also undertake commission agencies, accept consignments of goods, and see to their forwarding. The Loire Maroc will establish a general agency at Casablanca, and other similar agencies will be established in various ports of Morocco. In order to develop trade, an exhibition of Moroccan products is to be formed at Nantes. Connected with this, an exhibition of samples of French goods likely to find a market in Morocco is to be established at Casablanca. The organisers propose to issue a bulletin, in which merchants and manufacturers, importers and exporters, will find all the necessary information as regards current prices of products and goods, freights, etc. On account of the length of the voyage, imports of cattle and sheep via Nantes are not satisfactory, but large cold-storage plants at Casablanca, which are now being built, will in the near future probably overcome this difficulty. In a few years' time it is expected that there will be an abundance of wheat, barley, oats, frozen meat, skins, wool, etc., imported from Morocco.

In the interests of consumers in Bengal the Government has prohibited the export of rice to other countries, except by special permit to countries which are absolutely dependent upon supplies from India, and even then export will only be permitted in minimum quantities and on condition that the requirements of the purchasing country cannot be met from Burma, says a Reuter message from Calcutta dated February 13.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Our market during the past week has again been rather irregular, with business on a more restricted scale than for some time past. In Government stocks City of Alexandria have dropped a further half-point to 68; but, on the other hand, both Egyptian Unified and the 5½ per cent. Pref., after falling back somewhat, have recovered, and close very firm to-night with a rise of ¾, at 75¼ and 62½ respectively. Turkish 4 per cents. of 1891 have dropped ½ to 69, and Turkish 4 per cent. Unified are 1½ down at 36.

In Bank shares Nationals, after receding to 22¼, close 7-16ths down at 22 7-16; and Agriculturals, after being 5⅜, close unchanged at 5 7-16. There has been some demand for Bank of Athens at the current level, but there are no sellers at the moment. Land Banks are ⅛ easier at 6⅛; Ottomans, on the other hand, are ¾ up at 10¾.

In Railways, Delta Light have been persistently supported, and close ¼ up at 6⅞.

In Land shares, Aboukirs are 9d. down at 44s. 9d., and Anglo-Belgians ⅛ easier at 17s. 6d. Béhéras, after dropping at one moment to about 23, finish unchanged at 24¼; the Pref. are nominally ⅛ easier at 3⅞, but there are no sellers. Consolidateds have receded 3d. to 3s. 3d., but Delta Land have gained a like fraction at 21s. 3d. Foreign Trusts, after rising to over 20s., have lost all the improvement, and close 6d. lower at 18s. 6d. Gharbieh Land have dropped ¼ to 3¾. New Egyptians are finishing 9d. lower at 37s. 9d., but there have always been good buyers for the latter share on every small drop in the price. Mortgage Co. of Egypt Pref. have advanced ⅜ to 7. On the other hand, Sidi Salem have dropped 3-16ths to 3 1-16, and Union Foncière have gone off ¼ to 6.

In miscellaneous descriptions, Alexandria Water are ⅛ lower at 10¾; Associated Cotton Ginners, after various fluctuations, close 1s. up at 31s. Salt and Sodas have dropped 3-32nds to 3. Khedivial Mail ordinary have advanced ⅛ to 5⅝; Levants are 9d. better at 19s. 6d.; and Morums Pref. have improved 6d. to 20s.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptian B have dropped 5-16ths to 4½, and Roumanians have dropped 6d. to 22s.

In Greek securities the 1881, 1884, and Monopoly Loans are all half a point up at 55 and 49 respectively. Rentes have jumped one point to 46, but, on the other hand, the 1902 Loan has receded one point to 53. Some business has been done in Currant bonds without change of price.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 11:—General rain in Northern India and Orissa; local in Central Provinces, Madras Coast, Assam, and Upper Burma. General crop conditions good. Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good broach. April-May, Rs. 509. Piece goods market steady. Calcutta jute market quiet but steady, with prices unchanged. Hessians steady. Heavy goods quiet. Bank rate in Madras 8 per cent., Bombay 7 per cent., Bengal 6 per cent.

EXPORT TRADE OF MARRAKESH.

According to figures obtained from local commercial houses and from Customs returns, the value of the export trade of Marrakesh during the last official year was estimated approximately at 12,000,000 francs. The articles exported were caraways, bitter and sweet almonds, goat skins and hair, washed and unwashed wool, gum arabic, dried rose leaves, beeswax, nuts, apricot kernels, iris roots, bones, horns, euphorbium gum, eggs, and honey. Leather slippers (babouches), valued at some tens of thousands of francs, the only native manufacture yet exported, went to Egypt and Western Africa, while vegetables (cabbages, onions, tomatoes, and potatoes) were sent in large quantities to Casablanca for local consumption. While already very prosperous, a great improvement in the trade of Marrakesh is anticipated, and it is probable that in the near future live sheep and pigs will be available for export, and that with the development of local European industries—oil mills, flour mills, rope works, tanneries, preserved fruit and vegetable factories, paste factories—manufactured goods will be added to the agricultural products at present exported.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Feb.16	Price Feb.23
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28½	28
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	68½	68
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	74½	75¼
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	61⅜	62½
Greek 5%, 1881	54½	55
Do. 5%, 1884	54½	55
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	48½	49
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	46
Do. 5% 1890	54½	54½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	54	54
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	54	53
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	44	44
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	63	63
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	78	76
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69½	69
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	59	59
Do. 4% Unified	37½	36
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5 7/16	5 7/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6½	6½
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68¼	68¼
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70½	70½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	21½	21½
Bank of Abyssinia	40/-	40/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7⅛
Bank of Roumania	5½	5¼
British Trade Corporation	9¾x	10x
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10	10
Imperial Bank of Persia	9½	9¼
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	6½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	6⅝
London County and Westminster	15½	15½
National Bank of Egypt	22⅞	22 7/16
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅝	6⅝
Do. 5% Debs.	71	71
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	11	9⅞
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	49½	49½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	45	42
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	45/6	44/9
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	20/-	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	24½	24½
Do. Pref.	4	3⅝
Building Lands of Egypt	35/-	35/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	3/6	3/3
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	21/-	21/3
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	19/-	18/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	4	3¾
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	36/3	36/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅝	7
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	38/6	37/9
Sidi Salem Co.	3½	3 1/16
Sudan Plantations	8⅜	8¾
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	6¼	6
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	12/6	12/6
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅞	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	30/-	31/-
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/-	23/-
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	61/10½	60/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	99⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅞	5⅝
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅝	3⅝
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/9	19/6
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	19/6xd	20/-
Suez Canal	178	178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	102	102
Chinese 4½% 1898	64	65⅛
Do. 5% 1896	83	80
Argentine 5% 1890	78½	79½
Do. 5% 1907	86	83½
OIL.		
Algerian	4/11	4/6
Anglo-Bulgarian	9/4½	10/1½
Anglo-Egyptian B	4 1/16	91/3
Anglo-Persian Pref.	23/6x	23/-x
Do. 5% Debs.	82	81½
Anglo-Roumanian	8/6	8/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/9⅜	5/1½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	10/4½	12/9
Roumanian	22/6	22/-
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	7/1½	6/6
Traian (Roumanian)	10/-	9/9

An address on "Trade Routes for the Empire in Africa" will be delivered before the Royal Society of Arts (Colonial section) on Tuesday, March 2, by Mr. G. F. Scott Elliot, M.A., F.R.G.S.

Messrs Cox and Co., the Army bankers, have acquired the Crown lease of the property on the north-eastern side of Waterloo Place, S.W., for the erection of new premises

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Jan. 16. Rs.	Dec. 18. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	61½	63
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	2170x	2200
Bank of Bombay	2800	2700
Bank of Madras	1800	1800
Bank of India	123	150
Tata Industrial Bank	57	58½
COAL.		
Baraboni	18	18
Bengal	810	860x
Burrakur	49	49¾
East Indian	41x	43¼
Equitable	45½	46¼
Pench Valley	362½x	370
Raneegunge	65	64½
Standard	69½	69½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	500	350
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2900	2400
Bowreah	955	730
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	203	75
Century	970	820
Central India	4275 / 2137½	3050 / 1525
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	1800	1800
Khatau Makanji	5650	5600
Muir	210	120
New Ring	700	540
Phœnix	990	850
Svadeshi	4100	3100
JUTE.		
Alliance	845	740
Barnagore	192	200
Budge Budge	697½	603
Clive	335	295
Dalhousie	588	505
Delta	600	603
Fort Gloster	1125	1002x
Gourepore	1478	1125x
Howrah	49½	43
Kamarhatty	1108	923
Kanknarrah	890	765
Khardah	581	520
Kinnison	1140	1005
National	455	440
Standard	762	655
Union	955	890
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	84	92
Bengal Timber Trading	700	652x
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	88	98
Cawnpore Sugar	345	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	215	210
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General Steam	161½	55x
Indian Iron and Steel	110 / 88¼	110 / 88
Marshall Sons and Co.	12¾	15½
Titaghur Paper	340	375

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON FEBRUARY 6.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	23½
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	78
" " Div.	Frs.	115
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅞
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	24⅝
" priv.	£	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	101
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅞
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 3/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	6 9/32
Société des Immeubles	£	9
Bonded Stores	£	19½
Unifiée	£	77½
Privilégiée		64⅜
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅝
Nungovich Hotels	£	12
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5 3/32
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3¾
" Ord		105/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	23 7/16
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6 1/16
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	100
" Jouissance	Frs.	159
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		42/6x
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	435
" Div.	Frs.	400 x
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	308
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	9½
Egyptian Salt and Soda		62/6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	713
" Fondateur	Frs.	1020
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	445
" 1903 "	Frs.	303
" 1911 "	Frs.	283½
Consolidated Land	P.T.	18
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1 1/16
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	390
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2 1/16
Urbaines & Rurales		4⅜
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅜
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1 1/16

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Feb. 16	Feb. 23
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	—	—
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	72½	72½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		98½	98½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		71	65
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		70	67
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		84	84
Eastern		7⅞	7⅞
Mercantile of India A		44	44¼
National of India		60½	62
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		9/6	8/9
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/9	13/9
Burma Corp.		13⅜	13⅜
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		13/9	12/-
Champion Reef Gold		4/9	4/6½
Mysore Gold Mining		1 3/32	21/9
Nundydroog		16/6	16/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		18/9	17/9
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		24/-	24/3
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/-	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2½	48/9
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		41/3	38/5
Brit. Burmah		3 1/16	3
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		21	19⅜
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅜	9⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		50½	49½
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		137⅜	137⅜
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		52¼	52¼
Bengal-Nagpur		117	114⅜
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		105⅜	105⅜
Burma Railways		111½	112½
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13⅛	13⅛
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13¼	13¼
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		13⅛	13
Madras and S. Mahratta		111⅜	112¼
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		129	128½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		81	82
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		38/6	—
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		84½	84¾
Do. Deferred		630	630
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		64	64¾
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16	16
British Indian Tea Ord.		8⅜	8 3/16
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15⅝	15⅝
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		12/-	12/10½
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		65/-	67/6
Consolidated Estates		7 1/16 xb	7 1/16 xb
Darjeeling Co.		24/10½	23
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		60/-	61/3
Dooars Tea Ord.		57/6	57/6
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		18/3	19/3
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est		67/-	66/3
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		34/6	34/9
Hewagam Rubber Co.		26/-	24/4½
Jhanzie Tea Association		11	11
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		22⅝	22⅜
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		18/-	18/-
Lanka Plantations Ord.		29/6	29/3
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		—	55/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		44/4½	45/7½
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		14⅜	14⅜
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		28/9	31/-

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

RED WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

Société Générale de Credit,

SOFIA (Bulgaria).

Capital, fully paid up: 6,000,000 Levas.

Transacts all kinds of Banking and Commercial operations.

Telegraphic Address: "Kambialbank, Sofia."

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ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA, LTD.,

with which are incorporated
THE PUNJAB BANKING CO., LTD.,
THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,
AND
THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Head Office - SIMLA.

Authorised Capital	-	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital	- - -	,, 88,08,800/-
Reserve Fund	- - -	,, 40,00,000/-
Reserve for Depreciation of Government Paper		,, 11,00,000/-

BRANCHES.

Abbottabad, Agra, Ajmere, Allahabad, Ambala, Amritsar, Bareilly, Bhopal, Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Dalhousie, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi City, Delhi Civil Lines, Ferozepore, Gwalior, Jullundur, Karachi, Kasauli, Lahore, Lahore (Charing Cross), Lahore Cantts, Lucknow, Meerut, Multan, Murree, Mussoorie, Naini Tal, Nowshera, Peshawar Cantts, Peshawar City, Quetta, Rangoon, Rawalpindi, Sialkote, Simla Simla, (Town Office), Srinagar (Kashmir), Ujjain (Gwalior State).
SUB OFFICES: Baraagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Morana (Gwalior), Nushki (Quetta), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior). Sadar Baza (Delhi).

LONDON BANKERS: Messrs. BOULTON BROS. & CO., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C.
LONDON PROVINCIAL AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, Ltd., 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, Ltd., Bartholomew Lane, E.C.

Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.
Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other branch.
Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected, Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.
Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.
The Bank undertakes **Banking Business** of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.
Rules of Business and any further information can be obtained on application to Head Office or any of the Branches.
HEAD OFFICE, *Simla.*

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £2,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £2,900,000.

Court of Directors.

SIR MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, *Chairman.*
SIR DUNCAN CARMICHAEL.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
WM. FOOT MITCHELL, Esq.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.

Managers.—T. H. WHITEHEAD and W. E. PRESTON.

Sub-Manager.—J. S. BRUCE.

Agencies and Branches.

AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	KUALA LUMPUR	SAIGON
BANGKOK	HANKOW	MADRAS	SEREMBAN
BATAVIA	HONGKONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BOMBAY	ILOILO	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
CALCUTTA	IPOH	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
CANTON	KARACHI	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CEBU	KLANG	PENANG	TAVOY
COLOMBO	KOBE	PUKET	TIENTSIN
DELHI		RANGOON	YOKOHAMA

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY and MIDLAND BANK, Limited.
THE LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER and PARR'S BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general banking business connected with the East.

DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.3.

Authorised Capital, £2,000,000. Called up, £800,000. Reserve Fund, £110,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £1,200,000

Branches:

AMARA. BAGDAD. BASRA. BASRA CITY. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA. HILLAH. MOSUL.

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bt. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
JAMES H. BATTY, Esq. — J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. — SIR JAMES LEIGH WOOD, K.B.E., [C.B., C.M.G.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1, 2 or 3 years at five per cent. per annum and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On Current Account's interest is allowed at two per cent per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

(Sgd.) **F. H. SUTTON,** *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM, PORT SAID, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, TANTAH, MANSURA, HAIFA, JAFFA, JERUSALEM, MALTA, and GIBRALTAR.

Subscribed Capital £1,600,000 | Paid-up Capital - £600,000
Reserve - - - £710,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - £3,000,000 | RESERVE FUND - £2,000,000
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

Governor: SIR FREDERICK T. ROWLATT, K.B.E.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., — SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, — COL. THE HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O., M.P.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. — ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim, and Wad Medani.

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ANDREW WEIR & CO.,

SHIPOWNERS.

Tank Steamer Owners, Ship and Insurance Brokers and Merchants.

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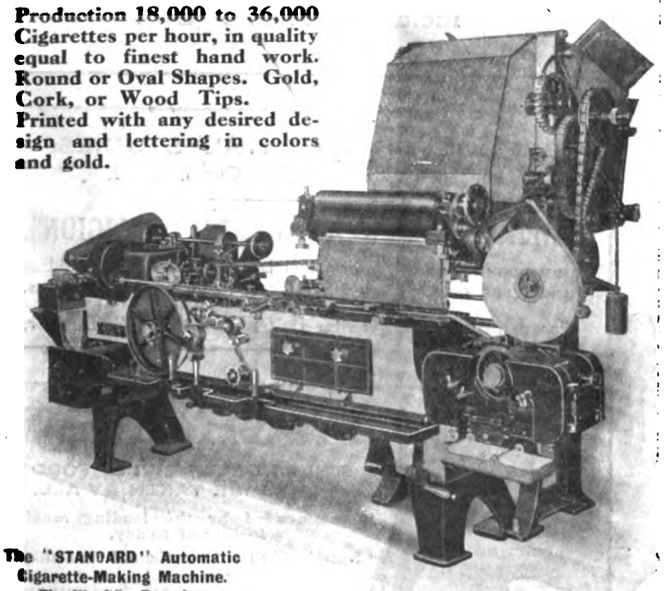

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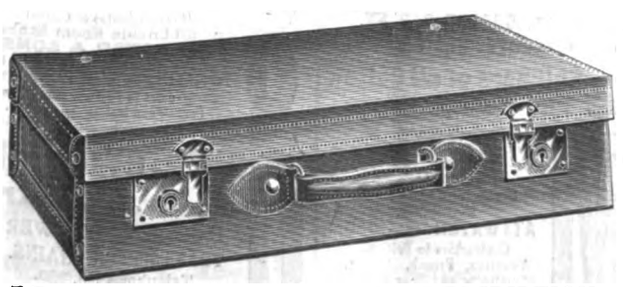

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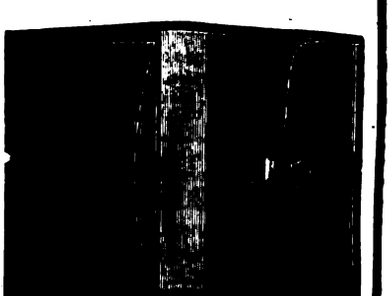

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 461.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The agitation for a reversal of the decision of the Supreme Council of the Allies to leave the Turkish Administration in Constantinople resulted in a debate in the House of Commons on the subject on February 26. It cannot be said that the discussion was a very illuminating one. The adherents of the "bag and baggage" policy refrained from pressing their point to a division, and it was evident that the Prime Minister, speaking early in the debate, had substantiated his case for the retention of Constantinople as the capital of Turkey. But his speech, for the most part, was merely an exhibition of successful parliamentary oratory, and did not reveal any profound appreciation of the gravity still attaching to the Turkish question.

The points made by the Prime Minister may be briefly enumerated. His declaration last December to the effect that the Turks could not be left as gatekeeper of the gates referred to the waterway; the statement of January, 1918, that the Allies were not fighting to deprive the Turks of Constantinople was given after full consultation with all parties, and was a pledge at once to British Labour and to Indian Mohammedans; the only reasons advanced for setting those pledges on one side was the desire to gratify vengeance—"a poor thing for a great country"—and to punish the Turks, who would be found to have been terribly punished. Further, there was no satisfactory alternative to the retention of the Turks in Constantinople. International government would inevitably mean mischievous intriguing, rivalry, and trouble; it would have to be military government, as self-government would be out of the question, and it would be very expensive; there would be a far better chance of protecting minorities, if the Turkish Government remained under the guns of an Allied Fleet in Constantinople than if it were withdrawn to the highlands of Asia Minor.

As the Prime Minister was defending a specific item in the Turkish settlement—the retention of the Ottoman Administration in Constantinople—it may not be quite fair to lay much stress on the parts of his speech which dealt with the whole settlement. But we confess to considerable disappointment in regard to the passage in which Mr. Lloyd George set out "the main purpose of the peace" or "the principal peace aim." He enumerated two points: (1) The freedom of the Straits; and (2) The freeing of the non-Turkish communities from the Ottoman sway, with the preservation for the Turk of self-government in communities which are mainly Turkish, subject to two most important reservations—adequate safeguards for minorities and the elimination of the Turkish power of veto upon the development of the rich lands under his rule. To our mind these are at best negative aims, the prevention of some of the worst aspects of Turkish rule. To what should be the Allies' great positive aim, the betterment or uplifting of the Turks, Mr. Lloyd George made no reference. But surely if the Allies are minded to create a better world, one of the first steps should be the raising of the Turks to Western standards—the more so, if they are to remain in Europe.

Much was made by the Prime Minister of the steps to be taken to curtail the Turk of his capacity for evil; but he ignored entirely the fact that the Turks were not solely to blame for the evil reputation of Constantinople as a hotbed of intrigue. The intriguers were not only Turks; among them were those who owed allegiance to one or other of the Great Powers, and they used the Turk for their own ends as much as he used them for his. The Allies are leaving the Turkish Administration in Constantinople, but Mr. Lloyd George made no reference to any measures that would ensure the good government of Turkey. Indeed, his speech suggested that there was to be no mandate in regard to Turkey, and that the Ottoman Government was to draw its inspiration from the contemplation of the guns of the Allied Fleet. A more fatal decision could not be taken. It would be unfair to the Turks, prejudicial to Europe, and dangerous to the non-Turkish minorities. In this matter the Allies have a grave responsibility placed upon them, and they cannot lightly divest themselves of it by pious regrets over the defection of the United States. Turkey, in her own interests and in the interests of Europe, has to be regenerated. The Allies alone can achieve this. Whether the term applied be a mandate or not, definite provision must be made that for a period of years the principles of sound government shall be inculcated in the Turks until such time as a competent and trustworthy Civil Service has been created.

In this matter we may take a leaf out of the German book. During the war German assessors sat, we believe, in the rooms of practically all the Ministers and were distributed throughout the Departments. If the Ottoman Government tolerated this from an ally, it cannot complain if the practice is continued under the terms of the Peace Treaty about to be imposed on Turkey. In

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the past the Turks of their own accord have expressed the desire to have British advisers, and they would doubtless prefer that the men to help them now in the regeneration of Turkey should be British. We hope that they will be; if not all, at least a large proportion. Care should be taken, however, that the adviserships do not become sinecures, and that the holders of the office are not allowed to lose sight of the fact that they are there solely to train the Turks as rapidly as possible in the art of good government.

After one or two unsuccessful ventures the British Labour Party has recognised its limitations in the realm of foreign affairs by deciding to go outside its own ranks for the compilation of a statement of its policy in regard to Turkish and Moslem matters. The result has been an erudite and carefully reasoned document, which reflects credit upon and, no doubt, the mature judgment of the "Round Table" organisation. But the Labour Party has yet to learn that, when declarations are issued in its name, it is advisable that its leaders should read them, and, if possible, master their contents. The reply to the communication from Indian Moslems stated that the Labour Party "are opposed to the separation of Stamboul from Turkey, unless it is proved that international control of the Straits is impossible without it, but on the evidence available they are not convinced that this is the case. . . . Stamboul itself (including the mosque of St. Sophia) might be left under Turkish sovereignty and remain the capital of the Turkish State, if the Turks desire it." Thus the Labour declaration, as published in the Press on Wednesday. The following day Mr. Adamson, leader of the Labour Party, speaking in the House of Commons, said: "The Labour Party were of opinion that the Turkish power over Constantinople, the Straits, and the hinterland should be ended, and that these places should be handed over to the League of Nations." It is to be hoped that the Labour Party's views on the subject of Constantinople will be brought to the notice of Mr. Winston Churchill as proof positive of the Party's ability to hold its own with any politician of the present day.

Inconsistency, however, is the order of the day, both among politicians and in the attitude of the public towards them. Mr. Adamson himself drew attention to the fact that the Prime Minister's pledge of January, 1918, guaranteed to the Turks the possession of "the rich lands of Thrace" as well as of Constantinople, and he added that he had been informed that these same lands "had been promised to somebody else." In his correspondence with the British and French Governments President Wilson lays stress on many other inconsistencies to which the two Governments have exposed themselves in their unequal trial of strength with the master minds of Italy and the Near East. His allusion to the frontier agreements already reached in Northern Italy "which depart from the Treaty of London line and which were made with the understanding that negotiations were proceeding on quite a new basis," and to some "of the many proposals upon which tentative agreements have long been reached, and which would be upset by an application of the Treaty at this late day" will, it is to be hoped, cause the last to have been heard of that ill-conceived document.

The fresh light thrown on the Adriatic question by the publication in a White Book of correspondence on the subject is dealt with elsewhere in this issue. Here it is right to point out that the case made out for themselves by the British and French Governments is that the keystone of the December agreement, to which President Wilson was a party, had been removed when "they found that nobody desired the constitution of the free state of Fiume." They regard the proposals of the January memorandum as the natural outcome of the policy of the previous agreement, and they emphasize the fact that they had to carry on the negotiations in the absence of any representative of the United States. When all is said, however, on their behalf, the British and French Governments cannot be surprised if public opinion endorses President Wilson's view that the terms of the compromise were altered materially in favour of Italy and to the prejudice of Yugoslavia. The effect of the President's intervention is that the Italian and Yugoslav Governments are to be invited to settle their grievances among themselves by mutual consent. In view of Signor Nitti's statesmanlike utterances there is just a chance that a sane solution will yet be reached by this means. It is, however, impossible to disguise the point that, although the ground dividing the disputants is comparatively narrow, the whole of the distance will have to be traversed by the Italian Government.

The White Book has temporarily raised the veil on Albania to disclose the fact that it was proposed that this unfortunate country should be partitioned, against the vehement protests of the people, among three different alien Powers. No quibble to the effect that the details of the administration of this country by Yugoslavia, Italy, and Greece have yet to be elaborated or that sight will not be lost of the feelings and future interest of the Albanian people could avail to correct this impression. It is, therefore, satisfactory to learn that the British and French Governments have suggested that by a reconsideration of the Albanian question a settlement can be reached which will satisfy the aspirations of the Albanian people for full self-government "while taking into consideration the vital interests of all other parties concerned, together with the necessity of assuring to Yugoslavia an outlet on the Adriatic in the region of Scutari." Little is likely to be heard of the latter point if the just requirements of the Yugoslavs in regard to Fiume are met. If there is to be a general scramble for Albanian territory, Yugoslavia will not wish to be left out in the cold; but there is no desire to expose herself to an Albanian irredentist movement for the sake of an indifferent port on the Boyana River. The Entente Powers must get back to first principles, and remember not only that they are pledged to self-determination for the peoples of Europe, but also that in honour bound they must try to evolve a settlement which has some chance of proving permanent. The partition of Albania will prove no more successful than the Hapsburg régime: there will, however, be this difference, that the Albanians, whether left to themselves or under alien jurisdiction, will make no attempt to solve their national problem by constitutional means, but will have recourse to the time-honoured methods of battle, murder, and sudden death.

A definite stage in the discussion regarding India's capital city is marked by the recent debate in the Legislative Council. Judging by its journals, Calcutta has never accepted the decision to abandon it for Delhi, but the claims of Calcutta seem to be finally ruled out by Mr. Cram's admission that there is now no room for the Government in that city; and if Calcutta is overcrowded the case of Bombay is probably even worse. Accordingly the alternatives lie between making the best of Delhi with its summer branch at Simla, and choosing among a dozen or so other places, the only resemblance between which is the lack of any reasonable accommodation. There might be something to be said for some one of these if Indian opinion showed a marked preponderance in its favour, but opinion is in this matter decidedly parochial, and when nearly every speaker wants to have the Imperial capital in his own back garden, the prospects of a change are obviously slight. Much money has already been spent on Delhi, and its abandonment now would require a far stronger case than has yet been put forward.

For ourselves we question whether Lord Hardinge and his Council were right in looking to the past rather than the future. Granting that a central location was desirable, the choice of Delhi was determined mainly by its historical associations, and the Government thereby accepted all the evil legacies left them by unnumbered pre-

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decessors. Three centuries ago the official chronicler of Akbar's administration recorded that Delhi was noticeable chiefly for its tombs; the city, he said, was in ruins, but the cemeteries were populous, and his observation has symbolic as well as literal significance. Statesmen of a different type might have preferred to follow the American precedent and build their capital on virgin soil, but the opportunity was lost, and it is not likely to recur. Delhi is there, and the most that can be hoped for is that it will be able to sink, though not to forget, its evil past: that the new India will leave the traces of past administrations to that slow decay of which the poet speaks, "that what we are and have been may be known"; and that, "at the coming of the milder day" her monuments may be overgrown by the nobler ideals which it has been our privilege to plant and tend.

The full reports of the proceedings of the Industrial and Commercial Congress at Bombay appear to us to give grounds for a certain amount of anxiety. The most prominent speakers were industrial leaders in Western India, and while the speeches were definitely Indian in form, the impression left by them is that Indian capitalists stand very much where the crudest of the English capitalists stood sixty or eighty years ago; they recognise that much should be done for labour, but they evidently shrink from the idea of labour doing anything important for itself, and the description of trades unionism as "a peril to civilisation and a canker to the trades and industries of Europe and America" reads rather strangely in the England of to-day. The proceedings help us to understand the persistence of industrial unrest on that side of India, but give little hope of an early advance towards a permanent peace: they add point to the Joint Committee's recommendation that the workers should from the outset be directly represented in the new Legislatures; and they will probably strengthen the hands of those critics who have been contending that the wage-earning classes stand to lose heavily under the new régime.

Recent messages from India tell of various projects on foot for memorials to record Mr. Montagu's achievements in constitutional reform. A cynic might suggest that the old Greek warning against premature felicitation is particularly applicable in the field of practical politics, but he would not expect to be listened to in the India of to-day, and it is more pertinent to urge that the inevitable memorials should be appropriate to the occasion. Calcutta, for instance, is reported to be hesitating between a public hall and a university chair of constitutional history, but surely there can be no question as between these alternatives. The face of India is blistered with public halls, of questionable utility and even more questionable beauty; the mind of India is starved for want of sound learning in politics, as in almost every region of thought. Could not the leaders agree on a concerted movement to commemorate the new constitution by establishing chairs of political science in every Indian university? Each institution might fitly choose its own eponymous hero, Montagu or Chelmsford, Meston or Sinha, as the case may be, and the men who have done the work would have the satisfaction of knowing that their names would be associated with continuous effort for its ultimate success.

Apropos educational matters, it gives us particular pleasure to record that the London School of Oriental Studies is making steady progress, and can already claim to have established itself as a necessary organ of sound learning. Some idea of its scholarly activities can be formed from the last issue of its *Bulletin*, a severely scientific publication which contains a mass of valuable work, ranging from China to the Iberian Peninsula, but rather too technical to be recommended to the general reader. The names of such contributors as Sir George Grierson, Dr. Barnett, or M. de la Vallée Poussin will, however, convince the layman of its importance, and as he turns over the pages he will probably be conscious chiefly of his own colossal ignorance. To the Oriental scholar the *Bulletin* is obviously indispensable.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

H. H. Asquith, M.P.

Mr. Asquith's victory at Paisley is generally popular. The Independent Liberals look upon it as their salvation at the eleventh hour; the Government are really not very sorry to have a stronger Opposition; the general public will welcome his gifts in debate—the standard of discussion in the Commons has often been deplorably low since the catastrophe to the Liberals in 1918.

The only politicians who are really disappointed are the Labour Party. Their nominee at Paisley was a strong man with a local following, and all the shining lights among the Labour leaders were brought down to speak for him. The fact that this is the second defeat of Labour in a week has caused many searchings of heart, but it will do the party no harm. Its head was rather swollen by its unbroken successes in 1919, and a period of adversity will probably restore its sense of proportion. As a fact, its successes in the country have been out of all proportion to its success in the Commons, where quantity does not altogether make good deficiency in quality. Its members must learn to speak better, and not merely to speak better, but to say something more worth saying, before they seize the imagination of the general public, who are not all so easily influenced as Lord Haldane.

Ireland.

The new Home Rule Bill is out. It sanctions the partition of Ulster, sets up two single-Chamber Parliaments in Ireland, refuses the right to levy Customs, and grants a subsidy from Britain towards Irish finances. Its other details, which occupy no fewer than twelve columns of *The Times*, can obviously not be discussed here. By general admission, even on the part of those not usually friendly to the Government, it represents a genuine attempt to settle the Irish question. There have been so many already that one can only hope it will succeed, while recalling the pessimistic remark of a mediæval historian that the Irish question would only be really settled shortly before the Day of Judgment.

Home Agriculture

There are all the indications of an approaching political fight over the vexed question of agriculture. Despite the Corn Production Act, which the Radicals, with their curious antipathy to the farmer, opposed, the wheat acreage of the country has gone down since the war; for the simple reason that foreign wheat fetches a higher price in the open market than home wheat, which is controlled. The Government, quite wisely, refuse to allow British agriculture to sink back to its pre-war state, not merely on the ground of national security in the rather remote contingency of another war, but on account of the world-shortage of food, and the fact that every ton of wheat grown at home reduces imports and assists the exchanges; they are therefore about to encourage increased wheat production.

But the Radicals are at once up in arms. The *Westminster Gazette*, which is perceptibly losing ground during Mr. Spender's absence in Egypt, has denounced the development of home agriculture as though it were one of the deadly sins, and the *Daily News*, in the teeth of all the evidence, hardily suggests that there is no shortage of cereals to be feared. Others have argued that any step in aid of home agriculture means a distrust of the League of Nations, although it is not quite clear how much food per head of the United Kingdom that admirable organisation is to produce; nor does Sir Eric Drummond strike one as precisely the beau ideal of an agricultural labourer.

These protests are probably a sign of nervousness; perhaps more forcible arguments will be evolved later. But the proposition that an increase in home-grown

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food will weaken the security and industry of the country does seem a little difficult to prove. With an increasing population and an increased demand there should clearly be an increased supply.

The National Health.

Less comment than might have been expected has been caused by the publication of the physical census of the National Service Medical Boards. Yet the figures are startling. Of two and a-half million men of military age who were examined it is stated that only 36 per cent. could be regarded as up to the normal standard of health and strength for their age, while more than 10 per cent. were judged to be totally and permanently unfit for any form of military service.

It must be remembered, of course, that these figures only apply from November, 1917, by which time the first-class men of every age had largely joined up, so that we were getting near "the bottom of the basket," and also that the standard for military service is necessarily far higher than for many civilian occupations. All the same, the report is a disquieting document, for it throws up in relentless detail all the defects due to bad housing, industrial dangers, and carelessness and ignorance; but in one sense it is hopeful, for it shows that most of these defects are remediable.

It indicates, by the way, that one of the healthiest classes in the community is the miners, so that Mr. Smillie's appeals *ad misericordiam* have evidently been overdone, as many suspected at the time. Apparently the least healthy class is the barbers—probably because they so often work underground in a bad atmosphere.

The Boat Race.

The Oxford and Cambridge crews are now busily engaged in practice for the boat race, the former on the Thames, the latter at Ely. Neither crew is finally settled yet, so that predictions of the result would be absurd; but it seems to be generally agreed by the critics on the towing-path that the standard of oarsmanship is perceptibly below that of pre-war days. When one remembers last year's county cricket, with its frequent surprises and often deplorable exhibitions of batting and bowling, one can hardly be surprised that other sports have suffered in like fashion.

Antiques, Old and New.

Quite apart from the sale of houses, which fills so large a section of the advertising columns just now, are the sales of valuable works of art and other contents of old mansions, which is keeping the auction rooms and the dealers busy. Largely a result of high prices and the war, I am told by a friend in the antique business that he has more requests from prospective sellers than he can tackle, more demands from prospective buyers than he can satisfy. The sales are mostly from old English country-houses, the buyers almost entirely Americans, it appears that the newly-rich and the war profiteers of England do not haunt the art sale-rooms. But Americans will buy anything apparently—genuine, honest imitation, and "semi-genuine"—the latter a delightful term.

New Art Possibilities.

Lovers of the old course deplore this ransacking of our treasures, but at least one artist regards it with cynical pleasure. His reasons are simple. In the past, the rich man would sooner pay twenty thousand pounds for a canvas by a dead master than ten pounds for a painting by a new man; the dealer made the profit, the living artist starved. The argument is that when the dead men are all safely out of the way, in Minnesota museums, the new man will stand a chance not only of living, which is a small matter, but of being more original. At present he is expected to copy his predecessors, a method which is destructive of all true art.

To Curb the Lawyers.

England is still a free country, and anybody has the right to found a society for any lawful purpose. But surely the most hopeless of all the many propagandist bodies which are now appealing for funds is that of the organisation which demands the suppression of the lawyer-politician. It seems to advocate the exclusion of lawyers from the House of Commons, not on the sensible ground that the clergy are excluded—because the spiritual arm is a separate estate of the realm, already represented in the Lords—but for the reason that lawyers are bad men, an organised trade union which regards its own professional and personal interests before those of the Commonwealth. The lawyers are not perturbed by any fear that the society will succeed.

Recent Books.

One of the most useful books published this year is Professor Pollard's "Short History of the Great War" (Methuen). It gives a concise and lucid account of the origin and history of the struggle that is valuable both for reading and reference. With this may perhaps be bracketed a very different work, "Realities of War" (Heinemann), by Philip Gibbs. Mr. Gibbs was a war correspondent on the Western front during the whole period from 1914 to 1918, and he has produced two or three books already on the subject. The present volume paints the horrors of war as he saw them, and it contains the usual condemnation of G.H.Q.—a matter on which there is perhaps more to be said than Mr. Gibbs succeeds in saying. He is a voluble, persuasive, and occasionally rather rhetorical writer.

Extracts have now been published from the official German account of the Battle of Mons, drawn up by the German Great General Staff. It is, of course, claimed as "a victory, even though it brought no decision, even though the trophies and the number of prisoners do not dazzle the eyes of the untrained observer, and the British leader succeeded in escaping by retiring before the attempted envelopment. But his heavy losses in dead, wounded, and missing, and still more his hurried retreat, shook the moral of his troops. He abandoned all hopes of victory when he occupied his position at Mons and submitted his power of initiative to the will of the enemy." Seeing how great was the disparity of numbers, the power of initiative could hardly remain in British hands at that time. But it is clear from this record that the German Staff did not know where the British were until they encountered them, and they are forced to pay tribute to the quality of the Old Contemptibles: "Well entrenched and completely hidden, the enemy opened a murderous fire; then the casualties increased. The rushes became shorter, and finally the whole advance stopped; with bloody losses the attack began to come to an end."

It is announced that Mr. J. L. Garvin has undertaken to write the official life of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. The work will obviously be one of first-rate political importance, and no better choice could have been made for the task—always provided that Mr. Garvin can spare time from editing (and writing most of) the *Observer*. There is one other political biography of which the world still stands in need, and that is the life of the late Lord Salisbury. The ideal biographer would be Lord Robert Cecil, but he does not appear to show any desire to undertake the work.

To the biographical list may also be added "The Letters of Anton Tchehov" (Chatto and Windus), translated by Constance Garnett. Russian writers are like Trichinopoli cheroots; you either prefer them to the products of kindlier soils, despite their formlessness and their rather bitter flavour, or you abjure them altogether as too strong and coarse. I therefore only record the publication, and leave comment to others.

A biography of a very different man, and in very different style, is Mr. Osborne's "Life of Arthur Hugh Clough" (Constable). The vogue for Clough has rather declined of late years, but it is the fact that in "The Bothie of Tober-na-Volich"—what a title to hang round the neck of an epic!—Clough wrote the best hexameters in modern English, and his short poems can still be read with pleasure. A biography of him will therefore be useful, and the present work is rather brilliantly written.

One of the few good novels I have read lately is "The Branding Iron," by Katharine Burt, an American story dealing with primitive passion, which Constables have published. Another which deserves to rank high is "Shepherd's Warning," by Eric Leadbitter (George Allen), a tale of English rural life in the genre of Hardy and Phillpotts.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, February 16.

An Heir to the Sultanate.

Since the evening of Wednesday, the 11th, the succession to the Sultanate of Egypt has been rendered more sure, for on that evening a son and heir was born at Abdin Palace to the Sultan Fuad I. His Highness, it may be remembered, was married last spring to the daughter of Abdel Rehim Pasha Sabri, at that time Minister of Agriculture, and the happy event has been anxiously expected, as by his first marriage, contracted when he was quite a young man, he had only had a daughter. The Sultan announced the news in a Rescript to the Prime Minister, who at once ordered the customary salutes to be fired, and declared the day a Government holiday. His Highness has given his little son the name of "Faruk," the surname of Sultan Omar Ibn El Khattab—meaning "he who distinguishes between right and wrong"—and at the same time gave over £E10,000 to be distributed in alms. In this connection, it may be mentioned that according to the letter from the British Government offering the throne to Prince Fuad, the succession was reserved to his heirs, and not as in the case of Sultain Hussein to the Family of Mohamed Ali, and that, therefore, more than usual importance attaches to the birth of the son to the reigning Sultan.

Return of the High Commissioner.

Lord and Lady Allenby returned to Cairo on Saturday on the conclusion of their five weeks' tour in the Sudan. On his way down from Halfa Lord Allenby met Monsieur Clemenceau at Luxor, and had a long conversation with him. Monsieur Clemenceau, who has been badgered by local correspondents for interviews, stoutly maintains that there is no political object to his present visit, and that he is simply seeking a complete rest and change, for which purpose he hopes to travel well to the south of Khartum, probably as far as El Obeid.

The Milner Mission.

Lord Milner, who has spent the last fortnight on a "Dahabieh" on the Nile, has now returned to the Semiramis, where Sir Rennell Rodd, Mr. Spender, and Mr. Hurst are continuing their inquiries into the administration of the country. Meanwhile, Sir Owen Thomas and Sir John Maxwell have gone for a short visit to the Sudan. It would appear that the Mission will not remain much after the end of the month.

Resignation of Sirry Pasha.

For some little time there have been rumours of a Ministerial crisis, but, taking into consideration the circles where these rumours originated, it has been evident that it was a case of the wish being father to the thought, and little attention has, therefore, been paid to them. This week, however, to everyone's surprise, his Excellency Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha presented his resignation of the post of Minister of Public Works, War, and Marine. The official reason is that the development works on which he, together with his English subordinates, has been occupied for so long have reached a point where they are to be finally examined by an independent Commission, and that he can, therefore, feel himself justified in seeking the rest to which his thirty-three years of service entitle him. The real reason is, however, believed to be that he formulated certain conditions in regard to the Sudan projects, conditions which could not be accepted in their entirety, and that, having been attacked in his public capacity as Minister responsible for these projects, he had come to the conclusion that he no longer enjoyed the confidence of his compatriots, and so considered it best that he should retire. I understand that efforts are being made to get him to reconsider his decision, and that there is every hope that these efforts will meet with success. Failing that, the Cabinet will be reconstructed, and there might after all be a Cabinet crisis.

The local Press continues to indulge in the pleasant occupation of vilifying those of the leading Egyptians of whom the party which each journal represents does not approve, and all the explanations issued by the Pashas in question do not have any effect on the situation. At the same time it is amusing to note how wrath the local Press is with the special correspondents who have been sent here to report on the situation, and who one and all are accused of purposely misrepresenting facts in order to further the Imperial aims of the papers they represent. The correspondents in question are those representing the *Daily Mail*, the *Daily Express*, and the *Daily News*. *Verb. sap.*

The Cape Flight.

Misfortune has certainly dogged the path of those who last week attempted the flight from Cairo to the Cape. In my last letter I reported that the G-EAAV had been held up at Khartum owing to leaking water-jackets. It was able to resume its journey southwards on the morning of the 9th, but trouble with the engine occurred again when it was near Renk, 281 miles south of Khartum, where it had to make a forced landing in the open desert, and whence it managed to hobble back to the aerodrome at Jebelline. At the time of writing news has just come in that the G-EAAV has resumed its southerly flight, and that it has reached Mongalla. [This aeroplane was subsequently wrecked at Tabora on February 27.—ED.]

Meanwhile the "Silver Queen," which arrived at Sollum on the 7th, has also met with a mishap, and in its case the results have been fatal to its venture. The "Silver Queen," which reached Sollum after a twelve-hour sea trip by night from Italy, during which it had terrible experiences, came on to Cairo on the 9th, and after spending a day overhauling, started on its journey to the Cape at 11.30 p.m. on the night of the 10th. The pilots intended to make a non-stop flight to Khartum, and up to Shellal all went well, the machine doing 100 miles an hour. Unfortunately, shortly after that the cock of one of the reservoirs worked lose, and, the water running out, the pilots had no alternative but to land to save the engine, and in the dark they came plump down on some boulders, which broke the back of the machine. The engines are, however, intact, and are being brought back to Cairo, where the pilots hope to be able to get permission to purchase another machine in which they can instal their own engines and resume the flight to the Cape.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, February 18.

The Ministerial Crisis.

The Democratic-Socialist Government, that has been in power since the provisional settlement of the crisis last summer, has been ruling without Parliament for the past several months, thus enabling the Radicals to taunt it with being reactionary and conservative, in spite of its socialistic tendencies, which were pronounced. Parliament was due to be summoned on the 15th, and so negotiations had been carried on for some time, in the hope of finding a common ground for collaboration between the two parties. But both were adamant, and party feeling was running very strongly, when the Radicals persuaded the Regent that they commanded a majority, and could administer the country through the Skupshtina. The consequence was that when Dr. Davidovitch took to the Regent for signature the proclamation dissolving Parliament and summoning the Constituent Assembly as soon as possible, the Prince declined to sign. Dr. Davidovitch then had no alternative but to tender the resignation of the Cabinet, which was accepted. The Prince consulted the Speaker, Dr. Drazhi Pavlovitch, who declined to take any active steps on his own behalf, owing to the cool reception which he had met with in some quarters in the summer, when he had tried to form a Government. He reported to the

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Crown that the two groups of parties were of about equal strength in the Chamber, which is really the cause of the dead lock. On Sunday, the Prince had long conversations with several prominent Radicals, and it is interesting to note that apart from the professional politicians, there took an active part in these conversations two prominent diplomatists who are members of the Radical party. The Prince also received M. Svetozar Pribichevitch.

Finally, on Monday afternoon, the Prince entrusted M. Milenko Vesnitch, late Minister in Paris, with the task of forming a Government representing all parties. M. Vesnitch visited Dr. Davidovitch, but the Democrats declined to associate themselves, or indeed to negotiate, until they were assured that he held a mandate for dissolving Parliament. The Speaker summoned a meeting of the Skupshtina on Monday afternoon, where, to a very feeble attendance, he announced the fall of the Government, for many deputies were away, and the notice was very short. Moreover, the Democrats and Socialists absented themselves, declaring that they could not attend a meeting of a Parliament which they wished to dissolve as incompetent. On Tuesday afternoon M. Vesnitch announced his failure to the Prince, who sent for M. Protitch and entrusted him with the task of forming a Cabinet which could work with the present Parliament. The Radical leader maintains that he can, for he counts on 145 members of his own party, and on the Montenegrins, Socialists, and members from the districts occupied by Italy as well as on the minor groups, including that of Dr. Ribarats, and the Slovene Clericals and the Croat Nationalists, and on the unattached members. A few days will show whether he is an optimist, for well-informed authorities will grant him only the following supporters:—Radicals, 77; Slovene Clericals, 19; Croat Nationalists, 26; Ribarats' group, 6; Medakovitch's group, 5; and Independents, 5, making a total of only 138.

Croats and Serbians.

One of the most interesting features of the crisis is the attitude of the Narodny Club, that is, the Croatian Nationalists, whose leader, Dr. Laginja, has just arrived in Belgrade. It is stated that the conditions under which they will consent to join the Radical Government in coalition are as follow:—First, that the exchange of kronen for dinars at the rate of four to one be immediately stopped, and kronen redeemed at par; secondly, that the commandant of the Fourth Army Area at Zagreb be General Plivelitch, a general of the former Austro-Hungarian army, and that his Chief of Staff be Colonel Kvaternik, who was formerly head of the Political Department of the Austrian Governor of Belgrade during the occupation: and, thirdly, that the Ban, or Governor, of Croatia and the greater part of the Executive for Croatia be selected from the Narodny Club. This programme is too strong even for the Radicals, and they deny its accuracy, but that there is a pact between the two groups is known and admitted, and there is no doubt that the Radicals have lost a decided following on the grounds of their coquetting with separatism. What is the strength of the Separatist party in Croatia is very difficult to judge; it is probably confined to the towns, and even in Zagreb itself the Unionist Croats roundly deny that Dr. Laginja's followers are in any great strength. It is probably with a view to gauging this that the Regent, yesterday, received M. Pribichevitch, leader of the Croat Unionists.

In Parliamentary circles it is affirmed that Parliament will be dissolved as soon as the new electoral law is complete and the final settlement made in Paris: for it is clear that there can be no elections for the Constituent Assembly until the frontiers are finally determined. Meanwhile M. Protitch is busy collecting his Cabinet.

The Theatre in Belgrade.

Like all Slavs, the Serbs are a musical people, and in spite of the great scarcity of accommodation in Belgrade, they have succeeded in converting the old riding-school into a very nice little theatre, which will do at least until the new opera house is built, for the old theatre was battered to bits by shell-fire. And so in the old Manele, all Belgrade attended a few evenings ago to hear "Madame Butterfly." The performance was an acknowledged success; the orchestra, conducted by Major Binitchki, the popular "kapelnik" of the band of the Royal Guards, rose to the occasion, and MM. Turinski and Ertl, and Mlle. Lovshinska surprised even their admirers, in circumstances of considerable difficulty, for in the midst of the love scene the electric light failed, which is a regular occurrence in Belgrade, and the orchestra at once stopped. Not the loving couple, however, who gallantly continued Puccini's wonderful duet quite unconcernedly. Oddly enough, the audience accepted this fine performance of these artists as a matter of course.

The Sokols.

The Sokols, or Falcons, is an organisation somewhat resembling our Boy Scouts, except that its main object is gymnastics and physical drills. In Bohemia and in Poland, as well as throughout Yugoslavia, you will find them, and their exhibition performances are well worth seeing; in the bad old days, they contributed largely to fostering a feeling of comradeship among all branches of the Slav peoples of Austria, and acted as a strong anti-German, anti-Magyar, anti-Italian bond of union. Now that union is an accomplished fact; at the suggestion of the Sokols themselves, they will come under the Ministry of War, and a special official will be detailed to attend to their needs.

Relief Measures.

It is announced that the Serbian Relief Fund will collaborate with the Government in the erection of homes for broken soldiers, of whom there are said to be 200,000 in the kingdom. Orthopædic institutions, sanatoria for consumption, as well as agricultural and technical schools will be founded. It is most gratifying to learn that this fine organisation is continuing its splendid work.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 19.

New Political Crisis.

After two months' tenure of office, the Cabinet is faced with the necessity of another reorganisation. Yesterday four resignations were announced, including the Ministers for War and Industry and the Ministers representing the provinces of the Bukovina and Bessarabia. It has been known for some time that the Cabinet was not working harmoniously together; the radical reforms insisted upon by the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Agriculture were not approved by all their colleagues, and the present crisis is probably due more to internal dissension than to the violent attacks which the Liberal opposition have been making, although the latter are openly jubilant at the turn affairs have taken. The Prime Minister has been informed by telegram that his immediate return is advisable, and it remains to be seen whether an Averescan Cabinet will be rushed through before Dr. Vaida-Voevod's return or whether the present "bloc" Government will be able to carry on until the Prime Minister gets back. The meetings of the Chamber have been stormy in the extreme, the Liberals bringing wholesale accusations of plunging the country into Bolshevism against the Minister of the Interior. Dr. Lupu has defended himself with his usual vigour, and his former position as a trusted agent of the Liberals has supplied him with ample ammunition, which he used with dramatic effect.

Press Lock-out.

Following the method pursued by the Paris newspaper owners last November, fifteen local papers have declared a lock-out against the typographical union, and are issuing an "omnibus paper," in which the lion and the lamb appear on adjoining columns and address one another in language unknown in lands where the freedom of the Press is hedged around by libel laws. The wonder is that the sheet holds together at all, even considering that the paper is supplied by the journal using the best quality of any of the Bucharest papers. Were the *Morning Post* and the

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Daily Herald to publish a joint edition, an equally piquant effect would be obtained, although the style would certainly be less forceful than that of our "Press of the Capital." The newspaper owners declare that the workmen have become so irregular in their attendance, and their demands for increased wages so preposterous, that the publishing of a paper is too difficult a task. So they have shut up their respective shops and refused to re-open until the men are willing to listen to reason.

Fugitives of Denikin's Army.

Large numbers of fugitives belonging to the defeated army of General Denikin who have attempted to take refuge in Roumania have been met at the Bessarabian frontier by gunfire, as the Roumanian Government has decided that no Ukrainian soldiers, except natives of that province, are to be admitted within the Bessarabian frontiers. The dread of Bolshevism may possibly be a factor operating towards this decision (especially as it has recently been stated in the Chamber that Bolshevist propaganda is rife among the barracks of Bessarabia), but the important reason was officially stated yesterday to be the fear of infection from the Pneumonic Plague which is raging in the Ukraine.

Increased Cost of Living and Dread of Bolshevism

There seems to be an increasing dread of Bolshevism getting a hold upon this country, and on all sides rumours are heard of a coming revolutionary rising. These rumours probably arise more from a dread of what might happen under the present hard conditions of life than from any knowledge of the existence or activities of revolutionary organisations. It is true that a great deal of discontent does exist among the poorer classes owing to the exorbitant prices of food and clothing; and this is not surprising, indeed, one wonders how they manage to live at all after reading the following figures published recently in the Bulletin of Statistics:—

Increase, as from October, 1911, to October, 1919, in the retail price of:—

	%		%
Rice	2,018	Maize Meal	837
Cheese	1,471	Firewood	804
Lard	1,321	Cooking Oil	725
White Bread	1,246	Nuts	718
Duck	1,166	Pork	650
Meat	955	Milk	614
Eggs	937	Potatoes	600
Sugar	900	Coffee	566
Chicken	872		

Since the date of the above publication prices have continued to rise from month to month, and there seems little prospect of any improvement until the transport difficulties are removed so as to facilitate an exchange on commodities. Increased wages have been granted to the employees in Government departments, but, needless to say, these do not by any means correspond to the increase in prices.

More Strikes.

The workers in the cloth factories of Ploesti and Buhusi and the Tobacco Monopoly (Regie) workers of the Jassy factory have all come out on strike.

Roumanian Decorations for British Soldiers.

The *Moniteur Officiel* publishes a long list of officers and men on whom Roumanian military Orders have been conferred, including the following:—

FIELD-MARSHAL SIR DOUGLAS HAIG, Order of Michael the Great, 1st Class.

MAJOR H. A. ROBERTS and LT.-COL. J. G. WEST, Order of Michael the Great, 3rd Class.

GENERAL SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, Order of the Star of Roumania.

GENERAL SIR EDMUND ALLENBY and SIR GEORGE F. MILNE, Order of the Crown of Roumania.

The Order of Michael the Great was founded in honour of the same Voevod Michael who is the subject of M. Iorga's play, and who succeeded in the year 1599 in uniting the three Roumanian provinces of Muntanca, Moldavia and Transylvania under one sceptre. It is the highest honour which the King of Roumania can confer upon any man for distinguished services, and is regarded by Roumanians much in the same light as is the Order of the Garter by Englishmen. The moment seems a happy one for publishing this list of distinguished honours conferred upon our soldiers by the King of Roumania, and surely this sign of appreciation will help to cement the good relations established by the visit to London of M. Vaida-Voevod.

New Plays.

A fairy play, entitled "Ilderim," by Queen Marie, was performed for the first time last Monday and repeated last night. It is a charming play, and the costumes and setting are beautiful, but it seems a pity to make a play of that nature so long that the spectators do not reach home till 2.30 a.m. It was nevertheless received with great enthusiasm by a large audience. An historical play, "Michael the Brave," by M. Iorga, President of the Chamber and Historian of Roumania, was performed at the recent anniversary of the Union, and was variously criticised by the party Press, the Opposition reproaching M. Iorga with having made the national hero little more than a brigand. But these are not unbiassed criticisms. The impartial spectator, however, is bound to admit that this play is also of rather fatiguing length.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 9.

The Cabinet and the Chamber.

After postponing the occasion five or six times in one week, the Cabinet has at last appeared before the Chamber with an announcement of its official programme, and has received a vote of confidence. Although the local press has not been allowed to breathe a word about the reasons for the successive postponements, it is commonly known that the Grand Vizier was unable to ensure a vote of confidence until he had satisfied the requirements of Mustafa Kemal Pasha's parliamentary representative, Rauf Bey, ex-Minister of Marine, one of the Turkish delegates who signed the Armistice of Mudros, and the hero of the Turkish navy. The scheme of reforms which the Cabinet had offered to the Powers without consulting the Nationalist Committee shook the latter's confidence in Ali Riza Pasha, and as the Nationalist agent in the Cabinet, Jemal Pasha, had been obliged to retire on account of Allied pressure, before the Nationalists would allow the Chamber to give the Government a vote of confidence, the Cabinet had to be reformed in accordance with Mustafa Kemal's desires. Ali Riza Pasha himself is not all that the Nationalists desire, but the time is not yet ripe for Mustafa Kemal himself, or one of the other members of the Central Committee, to take the reins of office, and it would be difficult to improve upon the present Grand Vizier, from the Nationalist point of view, for the moment. Hence, once the Cabinet had been "re-plastered," to use the term in favour with the local press, according to the Nationalist leader's orders, the Chamber demonstrated its confidence in the Government by 104 votes against 2. The Ministerial declaration was not very favourably commented upon by the Turkish press, the Unionist section of which was dissatisfied on account of its sketchy, non-committal character, while the opposition papers pointed out that the Government programme omitted all reference to the apprehension and punishment of the persons responsible for the disasters which have befallen the Empire. It is indeed noteworthy that there was not even the remotest reference to the authors of the terrible crimes committed in the name of the Turkish nation during the war, and one can therefore hardly accept the reference to projected reforms as anything more than *poudre aux yeux* intended for the Allied Powers. The speeches made in the debate which followed the Ministerial declaration not only tended to confirm this judgment, but were far more interesting than the declaration itself. Jelaleddin Arif Bey, the most prominent jurist in Turkey, referring to the engagement of foreign inspectors to supervise the application of reforms, stated that Turkey had agreed to this long ago, and still agreed to this, provided that the inspectors in question *became Ottoman subjects!* The reports of other speeches were mutilated by the Censor, as well they might be, for they contained open attacks upon England in par-

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ticular. Rauf Bey's remarks were particularly virulent, and he declared that the Turks had been obliged, after having appealed in vain for justice, to take up arms for the defence of their rights. He added that this defence was born of the very soul of the Turkish nation, and that there were no bands in Anatolia. Another singular, perhaps significant, feature of the debate was that, while the English, French, and Hellenes were attacked, not a word was breathed against the Italians.

The French Occupation.

Conflicting and startling accounts are arriving about the events which are taking place at Marash, Aintab, and at other places in the French zone of occupation. From Armenian sources come reports of massacres and deportations, and, unhappily, there is every reason to believe that something of the sort has occurred, although the reports may be exaggerated in certain respects. No doubt the French are accepting Armenian volunteers, and this would be ample justification in the eyes of the Turks, especially in their present state of mind, when they believe that the whole Moslem world is ready to take up arms on their behalf, and that the Allies are afraid of them, to take any measures they may think fit against the unfortunate Christian populations in adjacent parts of the disturbed districts. It is difficult to say exactly how the trouble arose, but the root of the matter is that the French occupation of the district formerly occupied by the British gave rise to friction from the beginning, chiefly because it was supposed that the evacuation by the British was final, and would not be followed by another occupation. Nationalist propaganda did the rest. It is to be hoped that the folly of coquetting with Mustafa Kemal will now be realised, and that the French will give the Nationalists a salutary lesson, of which they are very much in need. One sometimes wonders whether the forbearance of the Allies has any limits. Every wretched rag in the provinces openly flouts us; public speeches are made in the capital, and the British are referred to as that "cowardly nation which was unable, in spite of its army and navy, to force the Straits"; the terms of the Armistice are flagrantly ignored—and all that happens is that a War Minister is forced to resign with his Chief of Staff.

The New Ministers.

Jemal Pasha, who retired in accordance with the demand made by the Allied High Commissioners, was succeeded by Fevzi Pasha, who, a month or two ago, made a tour of inspection in Anatolia in order to enable the Cabinet to assure the public that the elections were being carried out in complete fairness, and that the Nationalists were nothing but high-souled patriots. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior had especially incurred the mistrust of the Nationalist Committee, the former on account of the scheme of reforms which so annoyed Mustafa Kemal, and the latter because he had for long objected to the irregular situation whereby the Government becomes the tool of an irresponsible party of adventurers securely out of reach in the wilds of Anatolia. They therefore had to go. The new Minister of Foreign Affairs is Sefa Bey, ex-Minister at Sofia and *persona grata* with the Unionists. Hazim Bey, hitherto unknown to the general public, emerged from comparative obscurity last year when he became Governor of Brussa in succession to the nominee of Damad Ferid Pasha, the Kurdish notability, Mustafa Pasha, who is now being tried by court-martial for having made statements displeasing to the Nationalists. Hazim Bey's first act when he became Governor of Brussa was to recall the officials who had been dismissed by Damad Ferid Pasha on the grounds of their complicity in the criminal acts of the Unionist Government.

In these persons the Turkish Government offers security for its sincerity in the matter of reforms!

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TANTA, MANSURA, JERUSALEM,

JAFFA.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, February 12.

Anti-Gambling Regulations.

An order has been issued by the Greek authorities suppressing all gambling in Smyrna. The measure, as might be expected, has caused considerable consternation in the clubs and to hotel and café proprietors. It appears that Greek officers have participated too freely in the gambling rife in Smyrna, with results unsatisfactory to the Greek Government. The French and Italian Consuls have secured a permit for gambling for the Hospital St. Antoine ball, but all other permits have been refused. Some fear is expressed that the drastic action may herald further encroachments on the personal liberty of the inhabitants. British subjects have had reason to complain of the excessive zeal of Greek gendarmes, and formal representations on the subject have been made to M. Sterghiades, the Greek High Commissioner, by the representative of the British High Commissioner.

General.

The Senegalese troops which have been used to protect the French Smyrna-Cassaba railway since the Armistice are now being embarked for France. This measure has pleased the Greek troops, who have always suspected the "fezzed" Senegalese of fraternising with their co-religionists, the Turks.

News has reached Symrna from Mr. George Perry, American Y.M.C.A. Secretary at Konia, that his brother, Mr. James Perry, and a Mr. Johnson, have been shot by brigands near Aintab, in Armenia. Mr. James Perry was the General Secretary of the American Y.M.C.A., and was on his way to Aintab, to establish a Y.M.C.A. there. Mr. Johnson intended to proceed to India, via Mesopotamia. He was accompanied by Mrs. Johnson, but there is no news what has become of her.

Not since 1907 has Smyrna experienced such cold weather as now obtains, and, as the "flu" reigns supreme in the city, the death rate has increased considerably.

Among the several members of the British Colony who have succumbed to the prevailing epidemic is Mr. Richard J. Whittall, eldest son of the senior partner of C. Whittall and Co. The deceased Mr. "Dick" Whittall was but fifty years of age, and unmarried, and is much regretted by the Colony. He was one of the promoters of the British Chamber of Commerce, and a willing worker in the interests of British trade and the welfare of the Colony.

BULGARIA.

Our Sofia correspondent, in a telegram dated February 22, states: By Royal Decree the Chamber was dissolved on the 20th inst. The new Parliamentary elections are fixed for March 28, or at the latest April 18. The old Cabinet remains intact. Yesterday the two vacant seats were filled by the appointment of two prominent Agrarians—M. Adoloff, as Minister of Justice, and M. Nidelko Atanasoff, Vice-President of the former Chamber, as Minister of Public Works. The new appointments have been favourably received by public opinion.

The general strike collapsed yesterday, and the majority of the workers resume work to-day. Perfect order has been secured throughout the kingdom.

MOROCCO.

TANGIER, February 20.

Kaid Maclean.

The most important, and the most unfortunate, event recently has been the death of Kaid Maclean, as he was best known in Morocco. Particulars of his life are well known, but a few notes upon his funeral may not be out of place. The funeral was very impressive. The coffin, draped with the British colours, on which were placed the Kaid's turban and sabre, was carried on a French 75 gun-carriage, which was nearly hidden by handsome wreaths, and was

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drawn by native troops. H.B.M. Agent and Consul-General Sir Herbert White, K.C.M.G., representatives from all the Diplomatic Agencies, the representative of the Sultan and other Moorish notables, and the Committee of the British Chamber of Commerce and of the Patriotic League were present at Drimnin House, the Kaid's residence.

The public lined the whole length of the route, and the crowd increased in density as the town was approached. The procession reached St. Andrews, the English church, about 5.15 p.m., and the Rev. Waldo Burnett conducted the service. The Kaid's own servants and soldiers from the British Agency carried the coffin from the church to the grave. The crowd was very large and cosmopolitan, and the churchyard was crowded.

Moulai Hafid.

Ex-Sultan Moulai Hafid has been in Spain since early in the year, and the payment of his pension from France was suspended some time ago. For economy's sake, the Resident-General decided to remove his household from Tangier to Rabat. Some 200 men and women from the Palace were sent by steamer a week ago, and yesterday the remaining twenty ladies of high native families left by the Bland boat for Casablanca. The wives were fearfully upset at being obliged to leave, for, according to Mohammedan law, if a wife quits her husband's domicile in his absence it is considered as desertion and a disgrace to him. As the Moroccan Royal Family claim descent from Mohammed, they are regarded with special veneration by orthodox Mohammedans, and the removal of Moulai Hafid's wives has given rise to great indignation.

The Weather.

After a dry period of glorious weather lasting several weeks, we at last have had rain, which was badly needed, and which is exceedingly welcome to the agriculturists, who were getting anxious. It is true that we have had some ten days of very strong east winds, which were not agreeable. Several days the Spanish mail from Algeciras did not cross, and even the steamer from Gibraltar missed sailing once owing to the gale. But such a long spell of *Levante* is not at all usual here.

SYRIA.

JERUSALEM, February 9.

Emir Faisal.

Emir Faisal has at last arrived in Syria. He was very ceremoniously received, being met by both the French and Arab Governments in the harbour of Beyrout and by many delegations from the interior of Syria. On the first day in Beyrout, he dined with General Gouraud, and left the following day for Damascus. The great demonstration which took place in his honour, in which 12,000 native horsemen paraded through the streets, is almost indescribable. It was certainly the largest and most powerful demonstration that the inhabitants of Damascus ever gave to anyone. The reason for this effusiveness was that the people were extremely anxious to see the Emir, who is their representative in the final settlement of their country. They had heard many rumours, but wanted to hear what the Emir had to say to them officially. Since his arrival he has made several unofficial addresses on the political situation, and they have been partly published in the Press. It would appear from his rather cautious statements that he is still trying to accept nothing short of the total independence of Great Syria.

The Beyrout papers mention the fact that Emir Faisal held a gathering of 500 notables and sheikhs of the Eastern District, when it is stated that he said that "Both America and England refused to help us, while all Europe congratulated us very heartily because France agreed to lend us all possible assistance."

The Hule.

The situation around the Hule (Marjyoun), though better, is not yet settled. It is stated in a Beyrout paper that Kamil Bey Amad, the head of the rebellious tribe, has submitted to the French Governor, through the mediation of one of the notables of Mt. Lebanon, Habib Pasha.

Slight disturbances have also occurred around Aleppo and Marash, in which many tribes gathered to attack French soldiers. Losses on both sides are reported.

On the whole, it may be said that whereas the Southern part of the occupied territory (Palestine) is enjoying safety under the English Administration, the people of the North and East live still in constant fear and uncertainty.

BEYROUT, February 12.

The Gloom of Syria.

The grand ball which was given last week by General Gouraud and attended by a brilliant crowd of French civil officials and military officers, as well as of high functionaries and notables from Beyrout and the Lebanon, with their wives and daughters, and the series of brilliant functions that followed the arrival, soon after, of Cardinal Dubois, who was received with full military honours, have served to relieve the atmosphere of gloom that still enshrouds the war-wrecked town of Beyrout. Few countries in the old world are suffering as Syria is now from the state of political uncertainty which the hanging up of the Peace Treaty with Turkey has been so unduly protracting. Perhaps only in Bolshevist Russia the economic dislocation and the impossible dearness of living are worse; and, as in Russia, the economic tension is exasperating the minds and breeding disorder and brigandage, and reacting in its turn on the body politic. The various political parties that once existed, or, rather, were propped up by foreign agencies, are now united in one common sentiment of disgust and despair.

Administrative Services.

It might seem hardly credible, but it is none the less true, that under the stifling Turkish régime during the war, when Syria was under a strangling blockade, the cost of living was appreciably lower than now, when steamers are arriving in such numbers that some have to lie sometimes for days outside the harbour waiting for a berth inside. The political uncertainty is striking, indeed, the whole administrative body with partial paralysis. At the Custom House the congestion—due more to chaos than lack of space—is such that weeks pass sometimes before packages can be traced and cleared. In the harbour the steamers suffer disastrous detentions, mostly through lack of lighters. The Police seems to be a mere name, like every administrative body that is understaffed and underpaid, and cases of murder and robbery—some of a glaring character—are of such frequency that people are actually refraining from venturing out at night. The tramway service is hopelessly inadequate, and only a few days ago an accident resulted in several fatal casualties through an old brake that failed to operate. The Post Office, which is doing the work of the former Turkish post offices, and all the other foreign post offices combined, is, with a wretchedly paid manager and staff, carrying on as well as can be expected. The Telegraph Office is rather worse off than its sister administration.

Brigandage and Snow.

In the interior—where French armed control has not been allowed to extend—brigandage, which takes occasionally the form of organised incursions and regular fights, is crowning the work of a war that has drained the life of the country to the dregs. Following the Marjyoun disorders, which were characterised by looting and the destruction by fire of some villages, there has been an exodus of destitute refugees to the coast ports, such as Tyre (Sour) and Sidon. Quantities of foodstuffs and 400 garments and as many blankets have been supplied by the French authorities at Beyrout, but this can only be a poor palliative to the acute misery prevailing. The continued absence of any armed force to punish the offenders and maintain order in those regions—due, of course, to the political uncertainty—is said to have led to another outbreak of lawlessness during the last few days. Nemesis would seem to have singled out this hapless country for its insatiable vengeance, for, to crown these accumulated miseries, a snowstorm of unprecedented severity, the like of which has not been known within living memory, has just been sweeping over the country. Beyrout emerged from the snowstorm yesterday shrouded in white, looking, with strange irony, like a fairy city of white marble. Snow lay about a foot deep on the red-tiled roofs. The effect on the various crops is not yet known, but some damage will result to the fruit trees, and to some of the half-dilapidated and ill-cared-for buildings in the higher regions of the Lebanon, where the snow must have fallen several feet deep, since in the coast, where it was only about a foot deep, the boughs of trees broke down. Of course, the railway between Beyrout and Damascus has been blocked. Already grain and other produce from the interior had, owing to the disturbed political situation, ceased coming down to Beyrout, and it is feared that the railway, requisitioned a few days ago entirely for military transport, will remain closed for traffic for some time to come. Expectations for the future are damped by reports concerning the forthcoming grain crops being estimated at about one-quarter of the normal average.

Naturally enough, the French themselves, who are sick enough of the miseries of the aftermath of the war at home, are the first to join in the chorus of loud protests that are to be heard on every side against the perpetuation of this most pitiful of states—the worst that a country has been condemned to endure. Syria is now like a beautiful woman starved, dirty, and in rags.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ADRIATIC PROBLEM.

The Yugoslav Point of View.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The Italo-Yugoslav controversy began in the spring of 1915, when M. Sazonoff, then Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, pressed by the late Yugoslav leader, F. Supilo, admitted the existence of the London Treaty, by which nearly a million Yugoslavs were turned over to Italy in the event of the Entente's victory. During the war the Yugoslav Committee of London, headed by the present Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Trumbitch, did all that was possible to persuade the Allied Governments of the need of a revision of the 1915 Treaty, but in vain. Old diplomacy, in the face even of the great changes in human thought which the long duration of the war brought with it, stuck to its "rights" of bartering peoples, regardless of their will and wishes. The defenders of the London Treaty contend that the Allies were at war with Austria-Hungary, and therefore had the right to reward Italy with parts of Austrian territory. The injustice of the contention lies in the fact that "Austria-Hungary" was only a geographical idea, and the contested parts assigned to Italy belonged then, as they belong now, to the Serbian race. Long before Italy had made her bargain with France, England, and Russia, the Serbian Parliament, sitting in Nish, in the month of December, 1914, solemnly proclaimed as Serbia's war aims the liberation of all Serbs, Croats and Slovenes from the Austro-Hungarian yoke. Austro-Hungarian Yugoslavs showed themselves as faithful friends of the Allies from the beginning to the end of the war. Within Austria-Hungary they paid for their Ententophil sympathies with over 40,000 lives, shot, hanged, or dead in internment camps, and of all oppressed nationalities they were the first to organise the Voluntary Divisions which excited the admiration of the world by their exploits on the Roumanian and Salonika fronts. Over 15,000 Yugoslav volunteers who came from North and South America, Australia, South Africa, and even from New Zealand, to fight on the Allied side for the liberation of their country, hailed mostly from those parts which the London Treaty assigned to Italy. Though consisting, in ninety-five cases out of a hundred, of simple labourers, Yugoslav emigrants contributed nearly ten million francs in money for the common cause. How could such a people be treated as enemies, and be passed from one foreign master to another?

When America threw in her lot on the Allied side, Yugoslav hopes rose; for it was obvious that America would bring about a decision, and she would not recognise any secret treaties. Finally, when the disaster at Caporetto sobered Italian Chauvinism, and Italian patriots sought and obtained an agreement with the leaders of the oppressed Austro-Hungarian nationalities; when the Italian Government officially adhered to the Pact of Rome, and the Allied Cabinets, as well as the American Government, endorsed it, the Yugoslavs thought that the London Treaty was dead and buried, and that Italo-Yugoslav frontiers would be settled in the spirit of the Pact of Rome. That agreement seems to-day to be a neglected and side-tracked document, although in its time it did a great service both to Italy and to the Allied cause. The sudden collapse of Austria-Hungary brought about the end of the war a year earlier than everybody expected; but very few will admit that fact, and still fewer will admit that it was the Pact of Rome which destroyed Austria-Hungary. Italy forgot the Pact of Rome on the day that she signed the Armistice with Austria; and, instead of regulating "amicably the various territorial controversies *on the basis of the principles of nationality and of the right of peoples to decide their own fate*, and in such a way *as not to injure the vital interests* of the two nations," as stipulated in Rome in April, 1918, she stuck to a policy which is to-day menacing Europe with a rupture of relations with America, and Italy herself with economic collapse.

Every conceivable method has been tried to bring about the Adriatic settlement, but, as we all know, without success, because the competent factors, Italy among them, refuse to apply the *only possible* way to a solution as mentioned above, and agreed to in the Pact of Rome.

When the Adriatic question came before the Supreme Council, President Wilson, seeing the difficulty created by the London Treaty on the one side, and the justice of the Yugoslav case on the other, proposed a settlement which would extricate both the Allies and Italy from an impossible situation by meeting Italy's demands half-way beyond the line of her just claims. For it must be remembered that, were the principles of nationality and self-determination applied, Yugoslavs ought to receive almost the whole of Gorizia and Istria, the whole of Dalmatia and all the islands, and the Yugoslav frontier would reach to the very walls of Trieste! President Wilson, who is advertised the world over as a special friend of the Yugoslavs, acted, indeed, as a special friend of Italy in proposing a settlement totally at the expense of the former, giving to Italy Gorizia and almost the whole of Istria, with over 400,000 compact Yugoslav masses. As against 400,000 Yugoslavs left to Italy, his line gave Yugoslavia 44,000 Italians—27,000 in Fiume and the rest scattered over dozens of places in groups of tens or hundreds. It cost the Yugoslavs a superhuman effort to consent to such an arrangement, to sacrifice nearly half a million of their westernmost, and consequently most cultured, brethren; but they consented—they made the enormous sacrifice for the sake of peace, for the sake of President Wilson and the Allies, and in the firm conviction that the Allies and Italy alike would accept President Wilson's proposals as final. But Italy refused to accept the arrangement, whereupon President Wilson published his Note of April of last year.

Until October 29, the date of the United States' last direct Note to Italy, several counter-proposals were made on her behalf, but all were declined by America. Then the joint Note of England, France, and America was presented on December 13 last year, in London, to Signor Scialoja, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, with further concessions to Italy; but these she refused to accept.

Why all these refusals and difficulties? Because neither the Wilson line of April, 1919, nor the joint proposals of December 13, 1920, gave Italy what she is resolved to obtain—*i.e.*, complete mastery over the economic life of Yugoslavia. The Wilson line leaves to the Yugoslavs a strip of Istrian territory and Fiume; the joint proposal denies to Italy Fiume and this strip of Istrian territory—hence the non-acceptance.

Finally, Mr. Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau, at the Conference in Paris last December, hit the nail on the head and brought forward a plan acceptable to Italy. They gave her the Istrian "corridor" and Fiume—although somewhat in disguise—and she immediately abandoned the pretensions guaranteed her in the London Treaty and proclaimed herself to the world as a "warm" and "sincere" friend of Yugoslavs! A campaign was started, first in the Italian and then in the Allied Press, advertising Italy's "good" intentions towards Yugoslavia. Italian journalists travelled to Belgrade, interviewed Ministers, and, in contradistinction to their attitude of a few days previously, wrote in friendly tones about the Yugoslavs and the stability of their State. M. Clemenceau invited the Yugoslav Delegation, and very gently explained to it the great success that he obtained for Yugoslavia, etc. The Yugoslav delegates objected to the "corridor," which literally shuts off Yugoslavs from the Gulf of Quarnero. M. Clemenceau replied that, if we had not yielded the corridor to Italy, we would not have obtained the remainder. The Yugoslav Delegation expressed its surprise that, while the town of Sushak was left within Yugoslavia, its port was given to Italy. Thereupon Mr. Lloyd George said that "no further changes could be made."

The Yugoslav Delegation having declined to accept the proposal, while referring it to Belgrade, a new and different campaign in the Italian and the French Press started. Emphasis was laid on the great differences as to the settlement existing between two chief Yugoslav delegates, M. Pashitch and Dr. Trumbitch; on the differences existing between Croats and Serbs; how that the Serbs were ready to accept, while the Croats were intransigeant, etc. Certain circles in all Allied countries will not believe that in Yugoslavia, as regards the Adriatic problem, there are no differences.

When the Belgrade Government declined the project and made counter-proposals, M. Clemenceau became angry and invited the Yugoslavs on December 20 to answer in four days' time whether they preferred the submitted project or the Treaty of London. The Belgrade Government replied that they preferred neither, because both pills alike contained poison, and they could not be expected to swallow either. Then President Wilson "threw his bombshell," and the world now waits aghast for what may be the outcome.

The Yugoslavs seem resolved to wait—what else can they do? Italy persists in declining both the plebiscite and arbitration; persists in demanding the body and the soul of Yugoslavia. What renders the matter more difficult is a strong suspicion that there must exist a secret arrangement by which Central Europe and Yugoslavia were assigned to Italy for economic exploitation. The Yugoslavs proposed that the Adriatic question should be laid before the League of Nations for decision, but the Allies declined their proposal. So we have the following situation: Yugo-

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slavs do not accept, and America refuses to sanction, either the project of December 20 or the London Treaty. Italy occupies of Yugoslav territory more than the London Treaty assigned to her; D'Annunzio keeps Fiume; Yugoslavia remains—the only country in Europe—blockaded. But, fortunately, she has plenty of food, so that the provisioning of her army costs her little. The krone, from 24 to £1 normal, has sunk to 500 now, and if it sinks even lower it makes no difference. Blockaded, anyway, there can be no trade between Yugoslavia and the outside world. But the position of Italy is infinitely more precarious. In November, 1918, the exchange was 30 liras to one pound sterling; to-day it is 63 liras. Italy owes to England and America one milliard pounds sterling. In other words, since the Armistice, Italy's debt abroad has increased, through the falling of exchange, 33,000,000,000 liras. Her mobilised army costs her one milliard monthly. Coal and bread must be bought abroad and paid in gold, or at a disastrous rate of exchange. Let the Adriatic crisis drag on until Mr. Wilson goes out of office, as some thoughtless "friends" of Italy prefer to suggest, and the lira will fall 100 to a £; Italy's debt to England will rise to 50 milliards, to the United States to 110 milliards, and who will supply her with coal, cotton, iron and bread?

Talk about the application of the Treaty of London! No enemy of Italy could do her a worse disservice. The application of the Treaty of London would mean keeping a large army mobilised in order to preserve the acquired regions by force of arms. But who is to finance such a mad enterprise?—I am, etc.,

J. F. L.-V.

INDIA AND BURMA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The Burmese will appreciate the fairness and impartiality of your article on the relations between their country and India. But it is incorrect to say that for practical purposes they are still dumb. There was already some movement towards self-government before Mr. Montagu's visit to India, and since then this movement has increased by leaps and bounds, until it now embraces all Burma. In the last two years the entire position has been transformed. Everywhere there is hope for the future, a desire to govern themselves, and a confidence in their national destiny. These feelings have found expression in numerous meetings, of which the August one in Rangoon and the November meeting in Bussein have been the most notable, and in the activities of various bodies, such as the Y.M.B.A., throughout the country. The Burma Reform League, of which Maung Pu is President, forms the centre of the movement. Its chief organ in the Press is the *Burma Observer*. The *risorgimento* in Burma is not imported from India especially—though in this matter the Burmese owe to Indian patriots a profound debt of gratitude—but is part of the movement throughout Asia for self-determination, which is one of the fruits of the war.

Again, Burma has little to fear from the Chinese Republic, even if it had not Great Britain at its back. Are not the two countries separated by the Kachin Hills, a broad and rugged mountain system? Are not the Chinese the most peaceful of people, placing ever intellect and trade before arms, unless, indeed, goaded to violence? If only they are treated with justice they wish for nothing better than to live in peace and amity with their neighbours. It is the Western Powers and Japan that, by their acts, preach militarism to the Chinese.

The Burmese people, as a whole, desire to work out their destiny uncontrolled by the Government of India; that is, provided they receive, as Mr. Montagu has promised they shall receive, an adequate measure of self-government. The true difference between the two countries is a difference of culture. The culture of Burma is based on Buddhism; that of India on Hinduism and Islam.—I am, etc.,

BERNARD HOUGHTON.

St. Helens, Hastings,
February 24, 1920.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT

House of Commons.

The subject headings are those given in the official report:—
OPERATIONS AGAINST MULLAH (CASUALTIES). (February 20.)
TURKISH PEACE TREATY: Occupation of Baghdad. MESOPOTAMIA (TRANSPORT). PERSIA (Strategic Railway). INDIA: Royal Indian Marine.—Furlough Pay (Officers).—Fort Sandeman (Attacks on Convoys and Supplies). CEREALS AND FOODSTUFFS (IMPORTS FROM ASIA MINOR). (February 23.)
PEACE TREATY (KURDISH STATE). KUBAN PARLIAMENT (EXPULSIONS BY DENIKIN). BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE: Constantinople (Day for Debate). INDIA: Indentured Labour (Crown Colonies and Surinam). RUSSIA: Daghestan (February 24).

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Syria.

In the *Nineteenth Century* of February, Mr. D. G. Hogarth writes a very illuminating article upon "The Burden of Syria." Upon the new nationalism in Syria, he writes:—

But fanaticism is an endemic disease of Syria, as of all Near Eastern lands, and with general disillusion and disappointment it is only too apt to become epidemic. Such a development, unfortunately, has been evident in Syrian Nationalism during 1919. That it has gone no further than it has to-day is due to Feisal, and his persistent preference of Arabism to Islamism. Fortunately his prestige, especially with the intellectual class, has been enhanced by long sojourns in Paris and London, which are credited with having purged the last traces of Meccan barbarism, and set him in the forefront of European politics and progress. Despite his influence, however, Syrian Nationalism, it cannot be denied, is now distinctly anti-European, and in a majority of the people anti-Christian. At the first moment of national discontent both sentiments found expression most generally and easily in an anti-French agitation, which has kept Syria in ferment for a year, and may be fraught with worse trouble yet. Its inconvenient popularity is due to a combination of causes, first among which stands a Moslem prejudice. France, though a secularist Power at home, is conspicuously Christian abroad—she keeps her religion for export; and in Syria there are particular griefs scored by the Moslems against her militant Christianity for what happened in the Lebanon sixty years ago and for her constant insistence on behalf of the Maronites since. Further, she is credited with pursuing an anti-Islamic policy in North Africa, many of whose notables have long had asylum in the Syrian towns. The anti-French fanatics can count on sympathy from many of the intellectual class (among them not a few Christians), who dread the assimilative process which France applies, with singular success, to her subject races; from others (again often Christians) who fear for their material interests should French finance envelop Syrian affairs; and, finally, from the evil report of some features of French social life which is widespread among the common folk of the Near East. If, however, this spirit found satisfactory vent at first in agitation against one Christian Power, it was not long in including other Christians in the common damnation. We have not wholly escaped. If the chief anti-French griefs of Syria do not apply to us, we have offered a new and serious grievance by our Zionist policy for Palestine; and only our close relations with Feisal, our colonial reputation for pro-Moslem policy, and, perhaps more than these, our recent display of victorious force—the argument of strongest appeal to Eastern minds—have kept anti-British agitation from manifesting itself except by fits and starts. The native Christians, who have no such arguments in their favour, fare much worse. However loudly they have shouted with the Moslem Nationalists, there is no doubt that a gulf widens steadily between the creeds. Experienced observers report it wider now than before the war, and see in Damascus evidence of just that nervous tension which some accident has often surprised into a blind fury of massacre in Moslem lands.

He concludes his article thus:—

Nothing, however, is yet settled irrevocably. It is not too late to ask at the least a free port for Syrian independence, if not a port of its own: it is not too late to secure to it the hope, at least, of being master some day in all its house. Let it be recognised in the Peace settlement with Turkey that, formally and nominally, all Syria is the one undivided domain of an Arab Government, constituted in Damascus whether under monarchical or republican forms. If under the former, let Feisal, or whatever individual a constituent assembly may elect, be acknowledged Emir or Prince of the whole, but on condition precedent

LESSEPS P. LOISIDIS

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that his Palestinian province be leased without term or consideration to us, and his Phœnician province, from Tyre to Alexandretta, be leased on a similar understanding to the French. In the face of our Zionist pledge on the one hand and of popular Christian sentiment on the other, we shall hold Palestine for some generations to come. More cogent, because more widely dominant in the national mind, is the belief of the French that they have the indefeasible right to be the predominant European Power in Syria. As a claim based on history you may tear this French right to tatters; but even so it will remain at least as good as our own right to Egypt and to much else we regard as incontestably ours. We are about the last people that, in the name of self-determination or any formula, can afford to gainsay it. In this transaction, however, let the door be not closed for ever against the honourable sentiment of Syrian unity, and if the Arab State be summoned to accredit representatives to the discussion of it, the self-respect of the nascent nation will be saved, even if, in the end, it must bow rather than consent. So perhaps we may make a little better of what has been, is, and will be for long to come a bad business.

Palestine.

In the *Manchester Guardian* recently, there have appeared some articles upon "The Future of Palestine." In the sixth of these, published on February 27, some important features in the Zionist programme were reviewed. The general attitude of Jews to this programme the writer describes as follows:—

Jews do not rest their claims in respect of Palestine on the relatively small number of Jews at present living there. They make their claim to Palestine as the Jewish national home in the name of the whole Jewish nation, some fourteen or fifteen million strong, scattered throughout the world. True, there is a small minority of Jews who deny that the Jews are a nation or have at best any but a religious interest in Palestine. But the overwhelming majority of Jews are conscious of their reality as a nation, and they feel that the lack of a national centre in which the Jewish genius can create a society and a civilisation in its own image and through which the Jewish nation can take an equal part in the exchange of the nations is the cause of much of their spiritual and social suffering. In this they are at one with the understanding Gentile minds. Jews do not expect that all Jews, or even most Jews, can or will desire to make their home in Palestine, but they know that a sufficiently large body will go to make the Jewish Palestine a real seat of a significant Jewish life and civilisation, and that most Jews, even if they do not make their own home in Palestine, will co-operate in building up the Jewish national home there. The Jew outside Palestine will not be a citizen of Palestine; he will have no political tie with it and owe it no political obligation. His relation with the Jewish Palestine will be purely voluntary and ideal. It will influence him according as he is interested in a society which is the model of what the Jewish genius in its freedom can create. He may send his children to receive part of their education there; he may study its literature, art, and philosophy; he may look to it for guidance in his own religious pilgrimage.

He then shows how the war has laid stress on the tragic aspect of the Jewish question, and says that the mandatory power which succeeds in building up a Jewish Palestine will be rewarded. This fact is thus exemplified:—

Political and material gains here go hand in hand with moral. The sympathy of fourteen million Jews throughout the world is assured to the Power which fulfils faithfully the mandate in Palestine. A Jewish Palestine will be the solidest pillar of British influence in the Near East and a stout bulwark to the Imperial sea road of the Suez Canal. As it grows it will be equal to its own self-defence, and in time of trial will render substantial help to the mandatory. A Jewish Palestine will be the chief gate for the economic penetration of most of Asia. The Palestinian Jews will know the languages and the ways of the East. There are notable commercial settlements of Jews in Baghdad, in Persia, in India, in the Straits, in Hong Kong, in Shanghai. For all these the Jewish Palestine will be the base, and all this tremendous machinery of commercial expansion will be at the service of the industry and the commerce of the mandatory power of Great Britain. A Jewish Palestine under a British mandate is the surest and most powerful support of the British merchant and the British manufacturer in the East. But it must be a Jewish Palestine largely conceived, generously executed.

It concludes by demonstrating a practical way in which a Jewish Palestine may be built up.

On public works the possibility turns on immediately employing a large volume of Jewish labour and permanently occupying a lesser volume. Jewish labour and Jewish professional men have a Western standard of life. By seeking the cheapest labour and the cheapest service it might be possible to exclude Jews almost completely from participation in public works. That would be to make the policy of the Jewish national home something of a mockery. On a small scale it has already happened. The salaries offered to police and many civil servants and railway workers are too low for a Jew to live upon, and the pay offered to roadmakers—almost the only "public work" now being executed—is impossible for Jews. Against such dangers Jews have every right to be safeguarded. This is not unfair to the other elements of the population. As the vast majority of the Palestinian Arabs are peasants there is very little surplus local Arab labour. That is why a notoriously anti-Zionist official proposed to import Maltese to build the projected Haifa harbour, and why others are talking of importing Egyptian labour. For large-scale public works the practical alternatives are between immigrant Jewish labour come to build up a Jewish commonwealth, and imported alien labour—the surplus local Arab labour can readily be absorbed along with Jewish labour. In the same way there is no Palestinian Arab capital available for large undertakings. If they are not to be carried out by the State itself—and under existing conditions the Palestine Government would find it difficult to finance them—the alternatives are between Jewish national enterprise and non-Jewish alien concessionaries with no interest in the country except to extract from it the maximum profit, no matter what social or political evils are created in the process. Jewish national enterprise will not be seeking profits. It will be under the control of the Jewish people and of the Government, which will secure that the general interests are adequately safeguarded. Such in outline would appear to be the minimum which must be granted if, indeed, the Allies and the British Government are to carry out their avowed policy of a Jewish national home. These measures would do no injustice to any other element in Palestine, and the building up of a Jewish national home will be of the greatest advantage to all productive forces in the country.

Articles to Note.

"The Problem of Egypt," by Cyril Goodman, C.B.E., M.B., in the *Contemporary Review* (March).

"Contemporary Greece," by H. T. Montague Bell; and "Magyars and Yugoslavs," by Slavko Tichiritch, in the *New World* (March).

"The British Protectorate of Egypt," by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C.M.G.; "British Interests in the Mediterranean," by H. Charles Woods; and "Constantinople and India," by "Y.," in the *Fortnightly* (March).

"The Peloponnesian War: a Comparison," by N. S. Percival, in the *Cornhill* (March).

"Problems of Europe: The Reconstruction of South-Eastern Europe—The Adriatic—Thrace and Constantinople," and "Tangier: A Study in Internationalisation," in the *Round Table* (March).

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY.

On February 20 Mr. H. Idris Bell gave an intensely interesting lecture on "The Historical Value of Greek Papyri." He pointed out that there is a general tendency to regard history as a succession of great events, a drama of exceptional personalities, and to lose sight of the economic and social conditions of the times and of the ordinary individuals. This is not our attitude towards our own time. For us, the great events and the heroes of the day are regarded from a purely personal standpoint—their importance is largely judged from the degree in which they add to our personal safety and comfort. The study of papyri leads to the understanding of the routine of daily life and shows us the practice rather than the theory of administration of laws and of religion, while history books, law books, and religious treatises are all taken up with the theory only, and theory and practice seldom coincide with any exactitude. The lecturer quoted many interesting instances from papyri to prove his points, and laid stress on the value of the study of these. Further, he stated that this country is doing a great deal in the publication of papyri, but is falling behind other countries in the work of comparison and tabulation of results, and that it behoves the Universities to look to it that we hold our own in this respect also. Sir Frederic Kenyon, K.C.B. (chairman), in thanking the lecturer for his admirable discourse pointed out that the study of papyri was a field in which there was room for many more workers. It had the advantage of offering fresh and untrodden soil and untold possibilities.

BUDDHISM IN LONDON.

Mr. W. A. de Silva, who has recently returned to London from Ceylon, gave a lecture on "Buddhism" at 2, Scarsdale Studios, London, W.8. He pointed out that at a time when India was full of strife, the Buddha came to restore peace. The fundamental tenet of Buddhism was, not the postponing of one's duty on the pretext of inquiring into the life hereafter, but the immediate execution of that duty. Buddhism taught that each human being was like another, and that was part of an organic whole. The lecture was delivered under the auspices of the Western and Eastern London Lecture Society.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

The chief musical event of the last week was, of course, the beginning, on February 24 at Covent-Garden, of a six weeks' season of opera in English. The repertoire consists of four Wagner, three Mozart, two Bizet, one Delius, one De Lara, one Bach, one Leoncavallo, one Gounod, and one Saint-Saëns. It is an excellent list, and by all accounts the operas are being worthily performed; but as I have not yet seen them, comment is impossible.

It is an unusual, because quite superfluous, thing for critics to talk about audiences; but after seeing the people who applauded the Gresham Singers at the Wigmore Hall on February 24, a few words are as inevitable as they are after a foozle of an easy putt at golf. If it were possible to tell artists by the followers they drag about after them, the Gresham Singers would have a very thin claim to the name. Clerks and clerkesses who entrancedly sigh "Top-hole" and "Perfect," and old men who, having outgrown nothing, shout "Bravo!" to the pieces with least music in them—these are they who came to the Wigmore Hall with great jubilation. Of the quartet of singers themselves little need be said. They are exceedingly skilled in avoiding monotony in their singing; that is to say, they rely on "effects" for the applause they get; and though they do this as cleverly as may be, it cannot be said that it is music that they express. Of popular necessity they take liberties which neither the music nor the word justifies. If you can make up your mind that it is pleasant sound alone that you want to hear, it is quite advisable to hear the Gresham Singers. With the exception of the baritone, they all have quite pleasing voices, and their *ensemble* is for the most part certain. They sang especially well Elgar's "After Many a Dusty Mile," and rendered "Bold Turpin," by Sir F. Bridge, excellently. But one can but feel that these singers were best placed in the Albert Hall or the Palladium; there, for democrats who love and understand little more than a tune, they are a very good turn. But it is easier to indulge in one of their performances when one has a pipe with which to blow away some of their superfluous effects, and when there is, as a means of escape from at least two or three of the encores, a bar close by. *Hoc dictu*, it need scarcely be added that the Gresham Singers concluded their programme with Sullivan's "The Long Day Closes." It should, however, be mentioned that, still further to break the monotony of the evening, Mr. William Murdoch played some Bach and Debussy. I do not know who he did this thing, for his audience upset him, and he was forced to play down to them. Once, indeed, to decrease a little the audience's verbal accompaniment to Debussy, he had to look down to them. I felt very sorry for Mr. Murdoch, because I have an immense admiration for him; but I suppose it really served him right.

At the Wigmore Hall on February 25, Mme. Eurydice Draconi, the Greek pianist, gave her second recital. It was not so successful as her first, which was devoted entirely to Scriabin. In works by Debussy and Ravel, Liszt, Roger-Ducasse, and Korngold, the defects which were apparent in her Scriabin were more plainly visible. I mean chiefly the degeneration of warmth with a heady fervour, and a lack of *cantabile* in melodic outline. If only she could eradicate those two faults, she would be a fine pianist indeed. Debussy's "Sarabande," "Soirée dans Grenade," two preludes of Roger-Ducasse, and one waltz of Ravel, she played beautifully. Normally, her technique is clear and very free, and she thoroughly understands the idioms of modern music. But in the "Toccata" of Debussy, her enthusiasm became clouded over, and in pieces like these wrong notes have a way of falling like rain-drops. As a matter of fact she kept the shower at a good distance, though at times, by means of beautiful playing, she had to put up a rainbow to try to persuade us that those wrong notes were all over. From the endurance and courage which Mme. Draconi displayed in her Scriabin recital, one could know that Liszt's Sonata in B minor, a work regarded (and quite rightly) as being the peculiar property of the male pianist, would not frighten her. She commenced it extremely well, and her control endured far longer than is the case with most female performers; but towards the end she grew tired, and really the close was merely the ostentation of a courageous memory. It seemed that all her playing after this Sonata suffered, and one must, while applauding as highly as possible her valour, decry her wisdom. When, at the end of the evening, she was called upon for an encore, her response showed that she was utterly weary. In one sense, this recital was a disappointment. After her Scriabin, which, though certainly not so good as Miss Mackinnon's, was far better than that of many male pianists, I had very high hopes; but it will take longer than I thought to see them fulfilled. However, there is plenty of time for Mme. Draconi to attain excellence, and I think she knows the road well enough.

The concert which the Blagrove Trio gave at the Steinway Hall on February 28 did not arouse great enthusiasm, but it provided much quiet pleasure. All the members of this family play like amateurs, in the good as well as in the bad sense. By this I mean that, while not possessing the polish and the brilliance of the professional, they have no affectation, and they appear to play not to impress others but to enjoy themselves. The Rachmaninoff Trio (Op. 9), with which they started, I found rather dull: the attack of the strings was poor, and the pianist seemed content with mere correctness. But the Ravel Trio in A Minor, with which they finished, was very different. It is a much more original work than the Rachmaninoff (who seemed to borrow both the form and substance of his ideas from Tchaikowsky), and the Blagrove Trio made it wholly delightful. In the third movement particularly, a most beautiful Passacaglia, the strings maintained a splendid fullness of tone; but all through a keen understanding was displayed. The only faults were an exaggerated slurring of notes in both the violin and the 'cello, and an over-indulged fondness for increasing the swell of a note on the strings while that played by the piano was dying away. Miss Ida Blagrove in piano solos by Ravel and Leschetizky showed sensitiveness and a light freedom of technique: there was little else necessary in the pieces she chose. Mr. Stanley Blagrove played violin solos by De Grassi and Kreisler, in which (and also in Beethoven's "Minuet," which he played as an encore) great facility in double-stopping was evident. But in both the piano and violin solos one was startled and held by nothing: one just agreed. It is the Ravel Trio which one remembers the afternoon by; if the Blagrove Trio always achieved the standard to which they attained in that, they would make a wide reputation.

ANDANTE.

THE NEAR EAST IN COLOUR.

A very attractive series of sketches and water-colours, by Lieut.-Col. G. W. R. Jenkins, is being shown at the Royal Colonial Institute. The sketches are of Stamboul, Egypt, and Palestine; they show considerable power in the use of colour in the technical sense, and they succeed in conveying that indefinable something which is called "atmosphere." One picture in particular, of the desert of Sinai, stands out for its delicacy and subtlety of tone, conveying the melancholy and solitude of the waste to everyone who looks at it. "A Street in Stamboul" is also certain to catch the eye; but practically all the sketches, except, perhaps, one or two of landscape and sky, without other detail, in which Colonel Jenkins hardly excels, are worthy of close examination.

THE BALKAN COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Balkan Committee was held in London on February 27, with Mr. Noel Buxton in the chair. Among those present were:—Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., Lady Boyle, Sir Arthur Evans, and Miss M. E. Durham. The question of Thrace was discussed, and the following resolution adopted unanimously:—"In view of (a) the mixed population of Thrace, in which no one race has an absolute majority; (b) the imperative necessity of securing for ever the freedom of the Straits, on which depends the economic welfare of vast territories both in Europe and in Asia, in particular Roumania, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, and Armenia; and (c) the promise of an outlet on the Ægean Sea given to Bulgaria, the Balkan Committee considers that the interests of the inhabitants and of the Powers themselves require that the whole of European Turkey shall be placed under some form of real international control."

THE ANGLO-PERSIAN COMMISSION.

The Anglo-Persian Commission, of which, says the *Times* correspondent in the Middle East, in a message dated February 17, Sir H. Llewellyn Smith is the principal British member, is now sitting at Teheran with the assistance of a Belgian director of Customs, to revise the Persian tariff, as contemplated in the Anglo-Persian agreement. It is anticipated that the work will be carried out rapidly, as there are no great inherent difficulties in altering the existing duties so as to provide Persia with more revenue, with due regard to the interests of foreign trade. No attempt will be made to manipulte the Customs unfairly in the interests of any country, but the existing tariff contains some excessive duties and other anomalies which require correction. It was negotiated secretly in 1913 between the Shah Muzaffer-ed-Din and Russia.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I. "A HISTORY OF THE INDIAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT." By Sir Verney Lovett, K.C.S.I. (London: John Murray, 12s. net.)

II. "THE STORY OF THE FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION." By Captain A. D. Ellis, M.C., 29th Battalion A.I.F. London: Hodder and Stoughton, Limited. 15s. net.)

I. INDIAN NATIONALISM.

Sir Verney Lovett has made a serious contribution to the recent political history of India, and his work may be recommended with confidence to students who want to see the facts of the nationalist movement set forth without adventitious colour. His qualifications for such a task are indisputable. For about 30 years he lived in close touch with the people of the United Provinces, people who weigh and measure the political ideas started in other parts of India, and whose judgments are usually decisive in the long run; more recently, his knowledge and experience have been drawn on by the central government, and he has access to large stores of information which have not yet seen the light. With this equipment, he has set out to trace the history of the nationalist movement and summarise existing political conditions; he writes well and clearly, he is studiously fair, he allows people to speak in their own words, and the result is a balanced and proportioned presentation, which will serve for many years as a standard authority on the period of transition. The only criticism we have to offer is that, to use an appropriate biological metaphor, the book tends to lay stress on the environment as opposed to the organism. The external influences promoting and moulding the growth of nationalism are, in our judgment, admirably traced, but more might have been said of the development of psychological energy among the classes who have begun to think. We do not mean to suggest that this side of the movement is ignored, but merely that it deserves somewhat greater prominence. The central fact of the situation is that during the last half century or so the mind of India has come to life; we are still a long way distant from complete national self-consciousness, but growth is active, and external influences are assimilated and transmuted in the process. We cannot, therefore, estimate their effect as if they were physical forces acting on inert matter. It is no use saying that this factor or that should produce merely so much effect; it that were the position there would be few difficulties, and fewer hopes. An event which we judge to be trivial may serve to generate some formative idea, and thus yield a result out of all apparent proportion to the cause; another may surprise the prophets by producing no result at all; and the attitude of the administration must be the watchfulness of the nurse rather than the confidence of the mechanical engineer. Our author, as we have said, realises this important truth, but he has not given it the prominence which, in our judgment, it deserves, and the result is that his book needs rather more careful reading than would otherwise be required; he can, however, fairly claim that the subject calls in any case for thought, and under his guidance serious students will have little difficulty in reaching a just appreciation of the nationalist movement of the last half century.

II. THE FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

The objects which this large volume sets out to achieve, and succeeds very thoroughly in achieving, are sufficiently indicated by its title. It is the complete story of the 5th Australian Division, from its formation in Egypt in March, 1916, to its dispersal after the final victory to which it so greatly contributed

It is to the Australian public that this book will appeal most, as, of course, there will be so many who will find familiar names as they read; and it gives a little the impression of having been written for readers who were many miles from the battlefields of France and the scenes of their countrymen's heroic fighting. But, indeed, it is a book whose readers should belong to no limited circle. It is a great contribution to the history of the war—this detailed, carefully put together account of the doings of one division.

No one can read of the exploits of this portion of the A.I.F. without being impressed anew—however fully he had realised it before—by the greatness of the Australians' share in the success of the Allied armies, both in the grim, dogged holding on against the enemy for two years in Flanders and on the Somme, and in the victorious advance of 1918. The character of the Australian soldiers is well portrayed, and with great admiration and affection. "Casual and easy-going while there is no apparent need for special exertion, they are never to be found wanting in the pressure of a real emergency." And in the introduction, Lieut.-General Sir J. J. Talbot Hobbs writes:—

They will not only follow; they will lead, through fire and water, to death itself. They can adapt themselves to any situation that arises, cheerfully endure the greatest hardships and privations and, under the most trying and difficult conditions, work and fight all day and all night when the necessity requires it. But they cannot be fooled they must have confidence in their leaders. They are *men*, and can only be led by men.

Captain Ellis tells the following anecdote to show "the marked dislike exhibited by the average Australian towards disciplinary correction at the hands of any but Australian officers":—

An Australian private attached to an English formation was accused of some offence, and was about to be tried by a court consisting entirely of English officers. The President of the court, a major of courteous and polished bearing, followed the prescribed routine, and asked the accused: "Do you object to being tried by myself, as President, or by any other member of this court?" "Certainly, I do!" answered the Australian, promptly. "What is your objection?" the President inquired, politely. "Well, to start off with," said the Australian, "you're all Tommies. In fact," he added, frankly, "I've never clapped eyes on such a pack of duds in my life!"

At present we are too near the war to be able to judge as a whole such a story as this of the experiences of the 5th Australian Division, we think of the details, of occurrences on special dates, still so near in time, and the only effect of the months that have elapsed since the fighting in France ceased, is to give to any account of it a nightmare unreality, an added horror. But the time will come when such a book as this will rank with the great heroic romances—the adventure of the coming of these thousands of young men across "the width of the world" to give all their strength and devotion to the cause of freedom.

Captain Ellis writes with deep feeling of the Division's journey through France, from Marseilles, where they landed, to Flanders—the enthusiasm, eagerness, and wild spirits only a month before their terrible entrance into actual fighting, when they struggled with such desperate courage and perseverance against inevitable defeat in the Battle of Frommelles.

The author dedicates his work "To our Fallen Comrades," the great number of whom is shown by the list which forms one of the appendices to the volume. It is, indeed, a fitting memorial that the world should be told the story of their heroic endurance. Marshal Foch contributes a foreword, in which he sums up the chief achievements of the 5th Australian Division and writes enthusiastically of its magnificent exploits, especially of the fighting at Polygon Wood in 1917, and of the taking of Peronne in September, 1918.

There are appendices showing the honours gained by the Division, and the dates and list of important contemporaneous events at the head of each chapter are a decided help. But we are surprised to find such a detailed, careful work without an index.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Cotton in British West Africa." By N. M. Penzer, B.A., F.R.G.S. F.G.S. (London: The Federation of British Industries. 5s. net.)

"The Jews' Who's Who." (London: The Judaic Publishing Company. 21s. net.)

"Tales Retailed of Celebrities and Others." By Sir Hastings D'Oyly, Bart. (London: John Lane. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Auction of Souls." The story of Aurora Mardiganian. (London: Odhams, Ltd. 2s. net.)

"The Silver Coinage of Crete: A Metrological Note." By George Macdonald, C.B. (London: Humphrey Milford. 4s. net.)

"Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies." London Institution, Vol. 1, Part. III. (London: School of Oriental Studies. 6s. net.)

PERSIAN SELF-TAUGHT
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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. March.	1920. February.		1338. Jumada II.	5680. Adar.
4	20	Thursday	13	14
5	21	Friday	14	15
6	22	Saturday.....	15	16
7	23	Sunday	16	17
8	24	Monday	17	18
9	25	Tuesday	18	19
10	26	Wednesday	19	20

The Gaekwar of Baroda has left London for St. Moritz.

The Shah of Persia left Cannes on February 24 for Lausanne.

Mr. Edwin Freshfield left London on February 29 for Athens and Smyrna.

The Maharaja of Cooch Behar will arrive in London early next month from India.

M. Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, is leaving London this week for Bucharest on leave.

On February 28 the Roumanian Crown Prince arrived at Cairo, where he is staying at the Residency.

Sir Hugh Bell left England on February 27 for Baghdad. He will probably be absent until the end of May.

Sir Victor Warrender and Miss Dorothy Rawson have left London for Algiers, where they will stay with Lady Leconfield.

Mgr. Zaven, the Patriarch of the Armenians of Turkey, is now in France to co-operate with the Armenian Delegation to the Peace Conference.

Since Mr. H. T. Cory, the American expert, has arrived in Cairo, the Nile Irrigation Commission is expected to proceed to the Sudan shortly.

M. Vaïda-Voévod, President of the Roumanian Council of Ministers, had the honour of being invited to luncheon with their Majesties on February 26.

Dr. Trumbitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, M. Pavlovitch, chief of his Cabinet, and M. Radovitch, delegate to the Peace Conference, arrived in London on February 25.

The King of Serbia has conferred upon Capt. (Acting Maj.) C. L. St. John Tudor, O.B.E., M.C., R.A.S.C., the Order of the White Eagle, with Swords, for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign.

At a meeting of the Hellenic Community in London, held on February 27, at the Baltic Exchange, it was decided to appoint a Committee, with Sir Lucas Ralli as Chairman, to arrange, when the time comes, for the reception of M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, Counsellor of the Roumanian Legation, and Princess Bibesco gave a dinner party on February 28, in honour of M. Vaida-Voevod. Among the guests present to meet the Roumanian Premier were Mr. Asquith, M. Albert Thomas, Sir Eric Drummond, and Sir William Tyrrell.

The Admiralty have given instructions for the surveying ship "Endeavour," Commander F. A. Reyne, which has been in dockyard hands at Malta undergoing an overhaul and repair, to be recommissioned at Malta, with a new crew from the Chatham Naval Depot, for surveying service under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Station.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, who arrived from Eton on February 27, honoured Colonel N. Arion with his presence at dinner on February 29. Among the guests to meet his Royal Highness were M. Vaida-Voevod, the Roumanian Premier, M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, the members of the Roumanian Peace Delegation, and the *personnel* of the Legation.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, Governor of Malta, on February 15, unveiled two memorial brass tablets in the Scotch church at Malta—one to perpetuate the memory of Dr. and Mrs. Wisely, and another as a memorial to Lieut. R. M. Morrison, 1st Battalion East Yorks Regiment; Lieut. A. S. Pratt, 7th Battalion, Scottish Rifles, and Sergeant Morrison, 1st Battalion Cameron Highlanders, who were killed in action in France.

The following announcement appears in War orders: The Lords of the Admiralty desire to convey to Commodore David T. Norris, C.B., and to the officers and men of the Caspian Flotilla, an expression of their warm appreciation of the good work performed in the Caspian Sea. The organisation, by which an efficient fighting force was evolved out of material necessarily inadequate, reflects great credit on all concerned, not less than the brilliant manner in which the objects aimed at were achieved, when the Bolshevist Naval forces were destroyed on May 21, 1919, off Alexandrovsk.

Mr. Sydney A. Armitage-Smith, whose appointment as Financial Adviser to the Imperial Persian Government was announced last week, left London on February 27 to take up his duties, and was accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Nation, R.E., whom he selected, with the approval of the Persian Government, to be one of his assistants. The Hon. J. M. Balfour, who has also been selected to act as an Assistant to the Financial Adviser, will follow shortly. Mr. Armitage-Smith has appointed Mr. G. G. Crocker to be his private secretary, and Mr. Crocker is accompanying him to Teheran.

The Indian Caliphate Delegation, consisting of Mohammed Ali, formerly proprietor and editor of *Comrade;* Syed Hussein, formerly editor of the *Independent;* Moulana Syed Suleiman Madivi, a distinguished Oriental scholar and divine and head of the Shibly Academy, and Mr. Hanyat, of Aligarh College, who is secretary to the Delegation, arrived at Victoria on February 26 from India. The Delegation were met by undergraduates of Oxford, Cambridge, and London Universities, the Iman of the Mosque at Woking, and representatives of the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, and Mr. Kedai.

A largely attended Armenian banquet was held on February 28 to celebrate the visit to this country of Mgr. Zaven, the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople; Nubar Pasha, President of the Armenian National Delegation; and Mr. A. Aharonian, who are in London, to lay the Armenian case before the Peace Conference. Mr. D. A. Malcolm, President of the Armenian Association, presided over the gathering, which included the Greek Minister, the Great Archimandrite, Pagonis, the Assyrian Archbishop, the Chaldean Patriarch, representatives of the Archbishop of Canterbury, representatives of the Georgian and Azerbaijan Republics, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., Mr. Brayley Hodgetts, chairman of the British Armenian Chamber of Commerce, Professor Toynbee, Mr. Nahum Sokolow (Zionist Organisation), M. Albert Thomas, M. Mantoux, the Rev. J. A. Douglas, Sir Robert Perles, Mr. Bartley Denniss, M.P., Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., Mr. N. P. Hacobian, Mr. S. P. Stephens, Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., General Sir Frederick Sykes, Mr. Noel Buxton, the Rev. Harold Buxton, the Armenian Prelate of England, Major Glyn, M.P., Colonel Rhea, Colonel Castoldi, Signor Galli, His Excellency Massehian Khan, and General Gorganoff.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The King of Montenegro has appointed Colonel Sir Roper Parkington Minister Plenipotentiary (Hon.) in the United Kingdom.

Sir A. E. Garrod, recently appointed Director of the Clinical Unit at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has been recommended for appointment to the Regius Professorship of Medicine at Oxford University, in succession to the late Sir William Osler. Throughout the war he served in the Mediterranean as Temporary Colonel A.M.S.

OBITUARY.

M. Auguste Marcel Dieulafoy, known for his archæological researches in Syria and Persia and his discovery of the remains of the Temple of Darius, has died in Paris, aged 75.

Mr. Loftus George Evans, late of the Indian Civil Service, of Doonside, Cobham, Surrey, has died in Dublin. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1876. He served in the North-West Provinces and Oudh till 1891, when he was appointed Judge of the Small Cause Court, Allahabad, and District and Sessions Judge, and was afterwards from 1906 till 1911 Judicial Commissioner of Oudh.

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LT.-COLONEL F. M. BAILEY, C.I.E.

Lieut.-Col. A. C. Yate, Hon. Secretary of the Central Asian Society, writes:—

When one looks back upon the record of British life expended on the advancement of British political interests in Central Asia, when one revives the memories and the romance that are interwoven with the names of Burnes, Conolly, Stoddart, Wyburd, and many more, and when one reflects that the Ameer of Bokhara who did Stoddart and Conolly to death and who spared Joseph Wolff was an angel of mercy compared with the Bolshevist, there is indeed cause for thankfulness that Colonel F. M. Bailey has at last succeeded in working his way out of territory subject to Bolshevist sway. It was known at the India Office on January 20 last that Colonel Bailey had reached our Consulate-General at Meshed on the 14th of that month. The telegram announcing his arrival took, seemingly, six days to find its way to London.

The British officer in command at, or near, Meshed appears to be Brigadier-General Wilfrid Malleson, C.B., C.I.E., though what force he has at his disposal and what is the area of his command we are alike uninformed. "Blackwood" for January, 1920, has presented us with Colonel Dudley Carleton's lament over the withdrawal from the Trans-Caspian Railway of the British force which for some time, aided by Turcomans and anti-Bolshevist Russians, held the Bolshevists in check between Merv and Amu-Darya. However, General Malleson, it appears, was in a position to send off promptly as soon as he heard that Colonel Bailey had reached the Persian frontier an escort to bring him into Meshed. The intensity of the relief of those who are his nearest by blood may be left to the imagination. It suffices to add that the intelligence was warmly and thankfully welcomed by the Royal Geographical and Central Asian Societies, of both of which he is a member. Of the distinction of his previous services as an explorer the Gill Memorial and the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society are adequate testimonies.

I do not deem it necessary or desirable to repeat here what either geographical or Central Asian journals or the *Morning Post* of January 29 (the last-named, evidently, an excellent authority) have already made known. I may mention, however, that having been twice wounded in Europe in the first two years of the Great War, he returned to India, and, resuming his "political" functions, was sent up to Kashghar, and from there in the latter half of 1918 found his way with Sir George Macartney to Tashkent. Now that it is known that Colonel Bailey is safe, the Central Asian Society intends to publish the extremely interesting lecture which Sir George Macartney read before it in June, 1919, entitled "Bolshevism as I Saw it in Tashkent in 1918." An epitome of this lecture did find its way into *The Times* of June 12, 1919, but in the later edition or editions of that paper of the same date it does not appear. The Central Asian Society's Council, actuated by its own judgment as well as by Sir George Macartney's wish, at once decided that until Colonel Bailey was known to be safe the less said about him in the Press the better.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Cairo tram strike has come to an end.

A scheme is under consideration for the formation of a hostel at Mecca for Moslems from all parts of India.

On the proposal of M. Venizelos, the Greek Parliament has decided upon the establishment of a Pasteur Institute at Athens.

A law has been promulgated in Cairo forbidding house rents to exceed by more than 50 per cent. the rental on August 1, 1914.

Nothing is known in French official circles of the reported occupation of Alexandretta by Turks and Arabs, as rumoured at Cairo.

It has been officially declared at Bombay that, as rice is being unreasonably withheld from the market, the Director of Civil Supplies is empowered to take over any supplies of rice which may be found in the city.

Two smallpox cases were landed for treatment at Malta on February 26 by the liner Patricia, which is bound for India with 500 first-class passengers and over 2,000 Indian troops. The cases were among the Indian soldiers.

Natives are offering passengers passing through Aden port thirty-seven shillings each for sovereigns. Even thus they are able to make a good profit, for the sovereign fetches over fifteen silver rupees in the bazaar at Bombay, so great is the demand for gold.

It is announced from Delhi that there is a movement afoot in Bengal to subscribe a sum either to establish a chair of Constitutional History in the University of Calcutta, or to erect a public hall in Calcutta, in the name of Mr. Montagu, as a memorial of his work in India.

A sanguinary encounter is reported to have occurred in the region of Balikesri, Asia Minor, between a Nationalist band under the leadership of Hamdi and an anti-Nationalist band under the command of a certain Anzavour, a Circassian. Hamdi's band was defeated and he was killed.

The Postmaster-General announces that, according to a telegram received from the Indian Post Office, the Air Mail Service recently established between Bombay and Karachi will be discontinued after the arrival of the mail which left London on the 19th inst. No further packets should be posted for transmission by this service. The special fee of 1s. per ounce prepaid on packets posted since the 19th inst. will be refunded to the senders on application to the Secretary, General Post Office, London, E.C.1.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1920.

THE ADRIATIC QUESTION.

The Note in which President Wilson cried "Halt" to the British and French Governments in their attempt to force through an unjust and unworkable settlement of the Adriatic question, is calculated to evoke a feeling of humiliation among the thinking section of the British public. Never, we imagine, can so scathing a document have been addressed to a British Government, and the fact that no answer can be given to any one of the counts of the telling indictment must sooner or later affect the nation's estimate of the man or men who exposed it to this rebuff. Whether it be true or not that every country has at the moment the Government that it deserves, there can be no doubt that the whole handling of the Near Eastern question with all its ramifications during and since the war has been at variance with most of the qualities that have built up the prestige of the British race. Courage, fair play, straightforwardness and consistency; all these have been missing in the pitiful story of the attempt to draft the post-war settlement of the Near East. Owing to the general ignorance prevailing in regard to the details of the subject, the inwardness of the negotiations, and of the decisions taken, has been lost hitherto upon the British people as a whole. With the publication of President Wilson's Note, however, it is impossible to mistake the trend of things in the case of the Adriatic question, and it does not require much imagination to infer that kindred matters handled by the same Governments must reveal to the seeing eye the same shortcomings. A hasty settlement conforming to a rough and ready conception of justice would, at least, have had something to commend it. But the Governments concerned have taken a year or more over problems for which a solution ought to have been found while the war was still in progress; they have multiplied experts and inquiries, only to ignore the recommendations presented to them; they have lent their support to the most one-sided verdicts of notoriously prejudiced arbiters, and they have not hesitated to throw over the matured decisions of yesterday, whether any reasonable excuse could be advanced or not.

The story of the attempt to settle the Adriatic question is a long catalogue of ineptitude piled upon ineptitude. It begins with the Pact of London of 1915, the agreement for which Mr. Asquith and Viscount Grey were responsible when Italy's co-operation in the war was accepted. In the circumstances of the moment the Italian Government was not to be blamed for trying to obtain the best terms possible; but we may give them credit for surprise at the amazing ignorance of the problems of the Near East or at the Machiavellian cynicism shown by the British and French Governments in accepting Italian help on such conditions. The efforts of the Yugoslav authorities to secure modifications of some of the clauses of the Treaty remained unavailing until the Caporetto disaster reduced the Italian Government to a more amenable frame of mind. Negotiations with the Yugoslavs led to an undertaking that the settlement of the Adriatic question would be approached in a reasonable spirit by both parties, having regard to the principle of nationality and the wishes of the peoples concerned. At this stage a great opportunity was missed of clinching this *rapprochement* between Italians and Yugoslavs by a cut-and-dried agreement; but it was in keeping with the general ignorance prevailing in regard to the conditions in South-Eastern Europe that this vague arrangement was considered adequate. With the signing of the Armistice and the removal of the Austro-German menace the Italian attitude towards the Yugoslavs underwent a marked change. Not only did the terms of the Pact of London prove more attractive than the spirit of the *rapprochement* formulated at Rome in April, 1918, but Fiume, which had been specifically left to Yugoslavia by a footnote to the Pact of London, was also brought into the Italian claims. It is unnecessary to record here all the different stages in the Adriatic negotiations; we are concerned for the moment with the turn of events that brought about President Wilson's intervention on February 10 last. On December 9 the British, French, and American Governments had drawn up a Memorandum which offered a reasonable settlement of the conflicting claims of Italy and Yugoslavia, and the British and French representatives were apparently expected to have this arrangement carried into effect. As soon as President Wilson's back was turned, Italy would seem to have experienced no difficulty in twisting Great Britain and France round her little finger. The Memorandum of December 9 was to all intents and purposes scrapped; a new settlement was drawn up, and this was presented on January 14 to the Yugoslav Government with a verbal warning that, if this settlement were not accepted, the Peace Conference was resolved to apply the Treaty of London. A week later President Wilson began to inquire as to what was happening in respect of the Adriatic settlement, and, regarding the replies as unsatisfactory, he addressed to the British and French Governments the remarkable Note of February 10. The British and French Premiers had declared that their proposals in the Memorandum of January 14 left untouched practically every important point of the joint Memorandum of the French, British, and American Governments of December 9. They are told in the Note that this statement is untrue, and the measure of its inaccuracy is trenchantly elaborated in detail; in conclusion, President Wilson conveys the definite threat that unless the British and French Governments modify their whole outlook on life and mend their ways in their handling of European problems, the United States will have nothing to do with them.

We have purposely given in ordinary terms the literal meaning of the communication that President Wilson is at no great pains to wrap up in circumlocutory language. Fortunately, its tenour was unmistakable enough to break down the self-complacency of the men who had tried to persuade him that the Memorandum of December 9 had not been superseded. The Prime Ministers of Great Britain and France have now offered to withdraw both the December and the January documents, and they appeal to President Wilson to help them once more to settle the Adriatic question by encouraging the Italian and Yugoslav Governments to settle it between themselves. We are not very hopeful that at this stage Italy and Yugoslavia can of themselves find the *via media* that is so essential to the interests of both. It will certainly expedite a solution if they know that the United States, Great Britain, and France are once more united in a determination to have a speedy settlement. Unfortunately, the events of the past year show that it is not so much the nations and national characteristics that have been represented at the Peace Conference, as that the delegates have been a collection of individuals actuated by personal considerations. The result has been that no State, whether small or big, has shown any disposition to regard advice or threats; for behind that advice or those threats stood not a nation or group of nations, but a single individual or a body of men who could be flattered or flouted, defied or ignored, as occasion required. To this circumstance we owe the unsatisfactory handling of the Near Eastern problem, and we see no hope of improvement until there is a chance of the settlement being radically modified by a body of men better instructed on the points at issue and less susceptible to cajolery and interested argument.

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THROUGH PERSIA IN WAR-TIME.

By Ernest Betts.

III.

At Hamadan, which we reached after a tortoise-crawl up the Asadabad Pass—an ascent of over 12,000 ft.—the critical phase through which the Baku campaign was passing had thrown everything into a disgraceful state of chaos. Hamadan was at that time the headquarters of Norper Force (the abbreviation for Northern Persian Force), and, in addition to the gravity of the position at Baku, operations locally were also approaching calamity.

It appeared that on the Zindjan* front three Turkish divisions were actively engaged in a wide outflanking movement which was intended to envelop Kazvin, gain command of the road, and cut off all communication between our advanced base at Hamadan and our troops on the Caspian. Already, it was said, we were falling back from Mianeh, on the Zindjan road, and preparations were being made for the evacuation of Kazvin. At Bijar, which lies about 70 miles north of Hamadan, a light force of our cavalry was supplying outposts on a front which threatened at any moment to collapse. Lack of transport and consequent difficulty in the distribution of supplies were making the slippery footing they had gained but a degree more precarious.

As if this were not enough, it was hinted that the authorities at Baghdad, who, from the first, apparently, had opposed the idea of a hasty and improvised onslaught on Baku, were not backing up the expedition with the least enthusiasm. In short, the military machine at Hamadan was not only incomplete, but what there was of it was clogged to immobility with rust—the deadly rust of incompetency. This was perfectly evident on the surface of things. Orders for troops to proceed to certain places were issued and cancelled; then issued and cancelled again. There were few enough infantry in any case; but, apart from the futility of sending out reinforcements in twos and threes, it seemed clear that there was no definite plan for their disposition. Men seen departing one day were on their way back the next. The motor transport depot was crowded out with broken-down cars, all of them useless for want of spare parts. The ordnance depot was hopelessly short of essential stores, and when we pushed on it was without many articles of which we stood badly in need.

In common with other reinforcing units, we were detained several days at Hamadan, and we employed this little holiday to the best advantage. We explored the town and its reputed eleven miles of vaulted bazaars. Unlike Kerind—a beautiful village which we had passed through five days earlier—it had not been set ablaze and pitifully ravaged during the Russian advance of 1917, though a Greek merchant who kept what he chose to call a "British Restaurant," and supplied, I gladly own, the most delicious omelettes, stated that the Russians had stolen all his furniture and dispossessed many others of the bulk of their worldly store. But the town, as I have said, had not the appearance of wanton destruction that marked Kerind. Its shops were well stocked, especially those dealing in fruit and confectionery, and their goods were displayed with an almost European care and cunning. There were many artistic bargains in blue glazed pottery and beaten copper ware, but strict orders regarding the weight of personal kit forbade us to become purchasers.

Suddenly an order was issued for every fit man and every round of ammunition to be sent "up the line" with all possible speed. Reports as to the danger to Kazvin, with an additional one that Kermanshah was being threatened, made it imperative that "something should be done." This new instalment to the serial adventure of the British in Baku, with its sensational account of their inextricable position and of the overwhelming superiority of the Turks, was quite the most thrilling we had been given to read. The climax to the narrative was reached with the announcement that we were practically hemmed in at the Russian town, with our backs to the sea. The Armenians on our right flank had broken and fled; the Turks had got in behind us; and our only hope now was to escape by the Caspian or surrender. The enemy, however, was making it impossible for us to escape, and, naturally enough, the Russians, with whom we were fighting, gave no great welcome to the idea.

It was with the conviction that we were to participate in desperate encounters on the Kazvin-Enzeli road that we packed up our 40 lb. of kit and hurried out of Hamadan. The weather was glorious, and the immense spaces of the plains spoke only of peace. Looking back on the city as it became more distant—a city shrouded now in deep forest green and backed by a vast range of mountains—you could not but feel regret at the sheer callousness of war in a country so remarkable for its beauty.

However, these reflections were hardly likely to assist us in repelling a vigorous enemy. But on the day we left we heard, to our astonishment, that the enemy had been outwitted. Baku had been evacuated with complete success, and this, be it observed, a bare three weeks after the announcement in the *Baghdad Times* that we had occupied the city! The completeness of this success, we concluded, must have been dependent on the eighteen hours' severe fighting which had preceded it. Or perhaps that was part of the success! At all events, it was marvellous to think that a situation of such unparalleled gloom had suddenly given way to one of opposite brightness, and splendid to know that our men—or the major portion of them—had rescued themselves from a position of such extreme peril.

The situation in Persia itself, however, was unaffected by this operation, and when we reached Siah Dehan, at the junction of the Zindjan and Kazvin roads, we found a company of Glosters waiting to proceed to the former place as reinforcements. A trifling deficiency in the shape of transport was delaying them.

Notwithstanding our retirement from Baku, it became evident that, unless something occurred to avert our retreat from Zindjan to Hamadan, our withdrawal from Baku could only place us once again in the very position from which we had escaped. That is to say, the Baku force would be cut off, all communication along the Baghdad-Enzeli road ceasing automatically with the arrival of the Turks. Local opinion discussed this situation funereally. "Something might happen," was the remark you heard—implying how impossible it was that anything should happen. "You never know!" came the phrase, clutching at miracles.

But Persia proved to be a country of traditional magic, and the spell acted in a most efficient way. The danger was removed; the calamity of severed communications disappeared. Instead—"something happened." It was observed that Turkish troops were being withdrawn from the Zindjan front, and considered strategically it was clear that the tremendous pressure that General Allenby was exerting behind his advance to Aleppo had made the transfer of every available Turkish soldier to Palestine an immediate necessity. A few months later we ourselves withdrew, leaving only a small force in the whole of Persia to control the situation.

IV.

The dramatic events of the past few days were now followed by anti-climax. When we reached Kazvin—a large, prosperous-looking town with some lurid colour-schemes in architecture—everything was normal. That is to say, nobody knew what was going to happen next, though they were fairly clear over what had happened already.

At Resht, the last big town south of the Caspian, we found that our battalion, instead of keeping up a persistent vigilance in hastily-cut trenches, were enjoyably lunching in the garden of a house they had occupied. Notwithstanding the comfort of a roof and regular meals, officers and men were all terribly depressed and worn out. Their faces expressed the short, sharp ordeal of anxiety and hardship they had endured up at Baku. I remember how bitter was their condemnation of the Armenians, on whose shoulders they placed, without qualification, the entire responsibility for our failure—a judgment not altogether just. Our flight, they said, had been the last word in lightning evacuations—so rapid, in fact, that nobody had had time even to gather together the few necessary articles of kit they had with them in the trenches. They were at present almost destitute. Many of them had no blankets, no tunics, and no overcoats. Luxuries like towels and razors had to be borrowed.

It was in this dispirited and unclothed condition that the battalion began their task of putting Resht into a state of defence. I will not go into details of the tedious pre-

* Zindjan lies roughly on a line drawn from Tabriz to Hamadan at a point about 150 miles south of the former town.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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perations we made to secure the town from invasion. It was not from the Turks that we feared attack, but from a troublesome tribe known as "Jungalis," who were led by a local chieftain euphoniously named Kushi Khan. (Whether he spells his name in this way or prefers one of the fifty variations common to most Oriental names I am unable to say.) This warlike gentleman's influence had spread far and wide, and his tribe, though small, was very well equipped and organised. In the previous July (1917) fifteen hundred of his men had attacked our small garrison at Resht, giving us some anxious moments. However, we had now established "friendly relations" with him (an uncertain phrase), and, incidentally, were putting large sums of money into his pocket by the purchase of local produce. His reported exit from the battle area was a wise policy both as regards ourselves and the Persians, for the latter were beginning to tire of his exploits, though they still believed in his prophetic vision that one day he would become King of Gilan.

Their attitude towards ourselves was more conciliatory. Our presence was, at all events, less oppressive to them than that of the Russians, whose visitation in 1917 had been such a thing of terror. Wherever those armies went they had spread destruction. They shot harmless people in the small outlying villages for no other reason than that they were Persians, and the exorbitance of the levies they had made on the people of the larger towns was an injustice not readily forgotten.

It was not surprising, therefore, that our own occupation of Resht led the townsfolk to expect a repetition of these atrocities. A missionary of seventeen years' experience in Persia told me that the townspeople fully expected us to behave like barbarians towards them. They could not understand why we did not pillage and murder, burn and desolate, as the Russians had done. Possibly they were grateful to us for kindly restraint, but, if so, they were slow to show it. Nor did they seem in the least appreciative of the impulse given to trade by our almost daily excursions into the town, whose bazaars we materially helped to empty. But the Persian is discreetly unemotional to the foreigner.

We spent several weeks at Resht, perfecting our elaborate schemes of defence. These completed, a company of the battalion was ordered to march back again to Kazvin, in conformity with pre-ordained dispositions. It was my misfortune to be with this company, and for a few days we experienced some of the stiffest marching we had undertaken or dreamed of undertaking since we got into khaki. The weather, moreover, was atrocious. We covered the 51 miles to Menjil, viâ Kudum, Jhemshedabad, and Rudbar, slowly and with difficulty, and for many miles followed the magnificent ravine that directs the greasy course of the river Safed Rud. It was a wet but a glorious adventure, and, looking at the river, I was inspired to the following couplet:

"Remote, unfriendly, melancholy mud—
This, I maintain, describes the Safed Rud!"

But I am informed that the last syllable of the second line has a long vowel, which rather upsets the rhyme.

We had scarcely time to admire the lonely and quite amazing beauty of Menjil, with its sad olive groves, before definite news came through of the armistice with Turkey, and we were ordered to return immediately to Resht. After a day's rest, we began the march back again. Considering the precipitous mountain paths we were following, and the escalatorial character of the road generally, the three days in which we completed the return journey were (we all thought) a credit to us.

Overnight we bivouacked in the open fields, not having with us any tents—or, for that matter, any time to put them up had they been available. Very vividly I remember a certain evening when we arrived at a rather bleak spot near Lusiadabad. (I mention the name for its music, not because you will find it on any map). Lusiadabad is a small village enveloped in trees which lies about half-way between Menjil and Resht. We had all turned in after an exhausting march across the country, and just as I was closing my eyes I heard a low, slow rhythm of bells ringing from the distance. Its steady, plodding beat indicated a camel convoy, the peculiar swaying motion of these creatures giving a leisurely chime to the bells they wear. As the convoy reached the road bordering our bivouacs the clang and jangle of the camel bells fell like hammer-strokes on the ear. Yet they were far from being unmusical. There was something extraordinarily thrilling in the sound of these bells, in their deep throbbing tones echoing through the night. Although I could not see the convoy, I knew it was moving along the curved road to Lusiadabad and winding up the hill that marked the beginning of our march next day. In the suggestion of awakening movement which the bells had made from afar, in the crescendo of tones as the convoy drew near, and finally in the dying away of the chimes till they were a far-away murmur of music, there seemed an analogy with the course that local history had taken during the past few weeks. First, the indefinite hints of battle down in Mesopotamia, then a succession of noisy events rising to a climax; lastly, anti-climax and a descent to the normal life of Persia again.

For myself, the country had been far more wonderful than the campaign that had taken place in it, and because of its mystery and splendid colour and wonderful mountains I felt regret at the prospect of departure. Unfortunately personal inclination and military expediency seldom agree, and a day after our arrival at Resht we were marched a further 22 miles to Enzeli, where we waited in the pouring rain for a boat to take us across the Caspian. Our destination was Baku. We were to occupy it a second time—it was hoped—more permanently.

But that, of course, is quite another story.

CHESS.

A Game at Odds.

So far as I can gather, both Universities are likely to have teams considerably below the average this year. This is only to be expected, for chess is not a game which can be dropped for a year or so without untoward results, and it will probably be some little time before University chess reaches the pre-war standard.

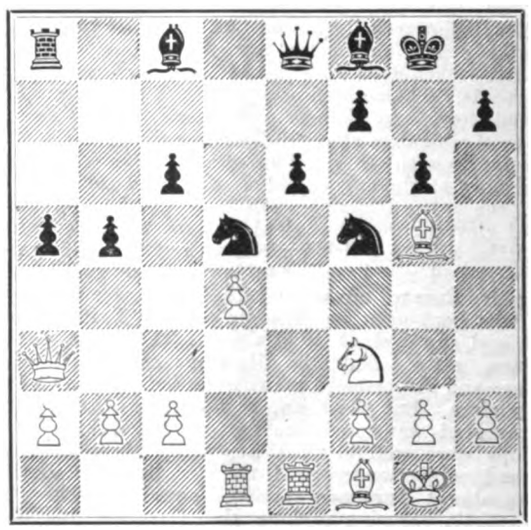
Solution to Problem No. 16:—1. R—B5, etc.

M. Kostitch gave a notable simultaneous display in Paris recently, playing ten games without seeing the board and not losing a single game.

This month Mr. Winter is playing a short match with M. Marchand in Holland.

The following game was played last week in Section C of the Murton Cup Tournament, White receiving the odds of two moves:—1. P—K4; 2. P—Q4, P—Q4, (1); 3. P x P, Q x P; 4. Kt—QB3, Q—Q; 5. Kt—B3, P—KKt 3; 6. B—B4, P—K3; 7. 0—0, B—Kt2; 8. R—K (2), Kt—K2; 9. B—KKt5, P—QB3; 10. Kt—K4, 0—0; 11. Q—Q2, Kt—Q2 (3); 12. Q—Kt4 (4), R—K; 13. Kt—Q6, P—QR4; 14. Q—R3, Kt—B3; 15. Kt x R, Q x Kt; 16. Kt—K5, Kt—B4; 17. QR—Q, P—Kt4; 18. B—B, Kt—Q4; 19. Kt—B3, B—B.

Position after Black's 19th Move. B—KB.



20. Q—Q3, Kt—Kt5; 21. Q—Q2, Kt x P (5); 22. P—B3, B—QKt2; 23. R—R, Kt—Kt5; 24. P x Kt, B x P; 25. Q—B4 (6), B—Q3 (7); 26. Q—K4, Q—Kt; 27. Q—Q3 (8), P—KR3; 28. B—B6. Q—QB; 29. P—KKt4, Kt—K2; 30. B x Kt, B x B; 31. Kt—K5 (9), Q—K; 32. B—Kt2, R—Q; 33. QR—B, R—Q3; 34. Q—R3, B—Kt4; 35. R—B2, Q—Q; 36. B x P, P—Kt5; 37. Q—B3! (10), Q—K2; 38. B x B, and wins.

1. The adoption of the centre counter is scarcely the most satisfactory defence to adopt in view of the handicap. As will be seen, White makes full use of his opportunities.

2. Now White's development is as promising as it well could be. Black has only one piece out, and is in no position to resist an attack.

3. A mistake; but there was no really good move. As it is, White takes a slight advantage on the Queen's side at the expense of the King's side attack, which almost certainly would have succeeded.

4. Something must go now.

5. This manœuvre leads to the exchange of two pieces by Black for a Rook and two pawns, leaving Black's pawns predominant on the Queen's side. But White's threatened attack on the King prevented Black from taking the Rook.

6. Threatening P—Kt4, B—B6, etc.

7. A last attempt to attack.

8. If 27. . . . P—B4; 28. P x P, and if Black plays B x Kt, then 29. P x KB, winning easily

9. Intending Kt x P, which would win at least four pawns for the piece, to say nothing of giving White an irresistible opening by R x P.

10. And White either mates in two or wins another piece.

CARO-KANN.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I learn that the crop prospects in Morocco are very favourable, and that a good season is anticipated. This would solve one of the principal difficulties of the Protectorate Government, which has been endeavouring since the war, by prohibiting the export of wheat, to build up the diminished reserves of this commodity. Wheat was exported to France alone during the war, all available supplies being sent to that destination. The result was that the reserves were largely depleted, and as last season was a bad year for crops, the remarkable position has arisen that Morocco, a wheat-exporting country, has been subsisting since the middle of last month on imported wheat, and must so continue until July.

***

I was only able to refer briefly last week to the important provisional agreement entered into between Barclay's Bank and the Anglo-Egyptian Bank. By the terms of the offer, nine fully-paid B shares of £1 each of Barclay's are to be given in exchange for each Anglo-Egyptian £15 share on which £5 has been paid up. The ratification of the arrangement is dependent on the acceptance of the proposals by the holders of at least fifty per cent. of the issued capital. It may be added that if the project is carried through, as I have little doubt it will be, the Anglo-Egyptian Bank will remain a separate institution with its own board of directors.

***

The Anglo-Egyptian Bank, it is interesting to note, was established in 1864, and from its foundation its history has been one of almost constant progress. It now has eight branches in Egypt and the Sudan, and, in addition, has offices in Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem and Gibraltar. The total assets of the bank stood in last year's balance-sheet at £19,567,200; deposits and other accounts, including contingency account, amounted to £17,113,500, while the reserve fund was then £720,000. The bank paid a dividend of 15 per cent. for a number of years before the war, and the prosperity of Egypt since 1914 has resulted in an improvement on this excellent yield, the last distribution equalling 17½ per cent., free of income tax.

***

The proposal to establish a new bank in India, to be known as the Imperial Bank of India, by the amalgamation of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay, and the Bank of Madras, has now been approved by the shareholders of the three Presidency Banks, opposition being offered to the project at only one of the meetings. How soon the proposal will be carried into effect I am unable to say, but I assume that no time will be lost in the process. The outstanding advantage of the new bank to India will be the provision of much more extensive banking facilities, of which there is an undoubted need in the country, especially in view of the industrial development which is now proceeding apace.

***

A notable example of the neglect of the overseas markets by our manufacturers is forthcoming from India. Some tractor trials have just been held in the Central Provinces, and of the eleven entries ten were American and one British. The fact that India is the most important market in the world for the manufactures of the United Kingdom gives added significance to this incident, which from what I gather is not a unique instance of what is happening with regard to the Indian market. Of course, the trouble is, as I have pointed out before, that the home demand for commodities of all kinds is so great at the moment that manufacturers yield to the temptation to take the easy trade offered to them, overlooking the fact that at no far distant period they will need the markets they are now taking little trouble to cultivate.

***

I have emphasised in these columns often enough the fact that of all Near Eastern markets Egypt ought to be paid special attention by British exporters. Conditions there are greatly in favour of the extension of British trade, since I think we may regard the political uncertainty as being a purely temporary factor. But judging by comments in a contemporary, the market is being neglected to some extent by the British merchant and manufacturer. If this be so it would be more than regrettable, for through the position created by the war British traders have been given a unique opportunity of regaining the ground they lost before the war to Germany and Austria, and these are not times in which a chance of this nature to establish a permanent market can lightly be thrown away.

***

Attention is drawn in a contemporary to the very unsatisfactory state of affairs in regard to the Simplon Express. Robberies on the train, it appears, are of frequent occurrence, and it is stated that it is rather exceptional for travellers to reach their journey's end without losing some of their baggage. It is after leaving Trieste that the passenger's difficulties begin, despite the fact that from that point onwards there is a military guard on the train. From the account referred to it is evident that the guards might as well be off the train for all the good they do, for while despite the utmost vigilance on their part occasional robberies might be carried out, what can be said of their failure to prevent frequent visits to the train of individuals for the purpose of levying illegitimate "taxes" on the travellers? The matter is one which affects all the regions of the Near East served by the line; and it should not be too much to hope that the countries concerned will take steps to remove what cannot fail to be a serious hindrance to free relations with Great Britain and other Western countries.

***

One of the most interesting of recent oil enterprises is the Oilfields of Egypt, Ltd., the prospectus of which has just been issued, offering for public subscription £300,000, in £1 shares, out of a nominal capital of £750,000. The company has acquired three concessions of about seventy square miles in a district, bordering the Red Sea, which has been proved to be highly productive, and it is stated that there is ample evidence that the same series of formations found to be so productive at Hurgada underlies the fields in question. If that is the case, the success of the company should not be in doubt. It is to be noted, however, that the development work carried out in these areas has as yet failed to demonstrate the existence of oil in commercial quantities, as the borings have not gone deep enough so far.

***

In an interesting address at the general meeting of the Dunlop Rubber Company, the chairman, Mr. Ormrod, said that the present need of the company was increased output. Their sales were limited for the moment by this factor, and their power to take advantage of their opportunities had been restricted by labour troubles elsewhere. In the current year their returns showed an increase of over 30 per cent., but the rate of increase had been affected by the difficulty of obtaining plant and machinery.

COMMENTATOR.

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(FOUNDED 1866.)

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A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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THE PORT OF BRAILA.

SURVEY OF FACILITIES.

We are indebted to Messrs. Watson and Youell for the following particulars of the Port of Braila:—

The port of Braila, situated on the left bank of the Danube at a distance of ninety-two miles from the Black Sea and ten miles above Galatz, is the centre of the grain trade and the chief port of export in Roumania and where the chartering of steamers, booking of cargo, and the large business in the transport of grain between the Iron Gates and Sulina is conducted. The lighters are built of iron and steel, and range from 500 tons to 2,500 tons capacity each. Braila is on the main railway line, Galatz-Bucharest.

The area of the Basin is about 20 acres, with wharves about 1,830 ft. in length. The depth varies in accordance with the volume of water in the Danube and dredging operations, and is based upon 5 metres at the zero mark of the river established by the European Commission of the Danube.

The Basin is used by steamers bringing general cargo other than those of the French and Italian Lines, which have their own discharging pontoons and sheds on the river side. The offices of the Dock Administration and Customs and Captain of the Port face the town. On the quay frontage are built the sheds and bonded warehouses, alongside of which are the general cargo berths. Adjoining, townwards, are the engine house and grain elevators (silos) of a total capacity of 25,000 tons, but which at present can only receive 15,000 tons of grain, the remaining silos being in want of repair. Two shoots from the silos, with machinery in full working order, are each capable of loading into steamers alongside about 100 tons of heavy grain per hour. For the landing and manipulation of general cargo the following cranes are available:—Two steam cranes of a lifting capacity of 1½ tons each, two electric cranes of a lifting capacity of 2½ tons each, one electric crane of a lifting capacity of 5 tons, one hand crane of a lifting capacity of 8 tons.

Accommodation for Steamers.

There are twelve berths within the Basin which will accommodate two steamers discharging general cargo, two steamers discharging coal, two steamers loading grain at elevators, one steamer loading grain in the rear of the Administration building, three steamers loading timber near the entrance, and there are two berths for lighters. On the river side there are three berths for loading or discharging. Timber is stacked on the space in front of the three berths near the entrance. Coal, briquettes and coke are stacked on the space between the river and the basin and railway lines, and sidings encircle the dock enclosure, and are connected with the main line. Staging between steamer and quay is required at all berths except when loading is effected from silos, and in the case of the three riverside berths iron pontoons, provided by the port authorities, are placed, on which the staging rests.

The quay, which extends from dock territory up stream, is a sloping revetment, and pontoons and staging are required to connect the steamer with the shore. Only loading operations are permitted outside dock territory, except in the case of river passenger steamers and at berths allotted to mills and factories situated close to the river. In the event of steamers having cargo to load from or discharge into lighters, permission is given when required to effect such operations in the stream. When the port is congested with shipping, steamers have to load two and sometimes three abreast at the respective berths. Railway lines running the whole length of the quay connect the port with the main railway system.

Loading from the shore, except from elevators (silos), is effected by labourers carrying the goods in the case of grain, etc., in bags on their shoulders from cart or truck on the quay over the staging to steamers' hatchways, where it is dumped into the holds. When floating elevators are not used, the loading is done in the same manner ex lighters alongside and over staging up the side of the steamer. In the event of more than one steamer occupying the berth, the goods have to be carried in both instances over the decks of the intervening vessel.

In pre-war times Braila possessed the greatest warehouse accommodation in the kingdom. These warehouses, or stores, belong to private owners, and are nearly all built of masonry with roofs of tile or sheet-iron, and are of one storey, some with a loft. They are situated in the port in proximity to the quay and dock. These at present are in a dilapidated state, owing to the damage done during enemy occupation. Some are roofless, and the flooring of all has been removed, together with some other woodwork. Slight attempts are being made at repairs, but progress is very slow, and probably only about 10 per cent. of the total storage space is at present tenantable.

The port possesses seventeen floating elevators of the "Paternoster" type and one pneumatic, twelve of which are owned by private firms and six by the Dock Administration. Of these, fourteen, including the pneumatic, are at present under repair; their working capacities range from 60 to 120 tons of heavy grain per hour. Beyond the dock enclosure and in the direction of Galatz are situate a pumping station and ten tanks capable of storing 15,810,000 litres of oil, and delivering it on board a vessel lying alongside a small wooden jetty. These oil tanks have not been much used for export purposes since their erection some years ago, as the extra time, expense and risk incurred by "tankers" coming to the Danube caused owners to prefer Constantza as a loading port. Furthermore, the oil had to be brought from the petroleum districts by rail, which was more costly than by pipe-line, and the Roumanian Railways have only a limited number of tank trucks, which are also required for inland distribution purposes.

There is always sufficient depth of water to accommodate the loading and discharging of steamers moored alongside pontoons at riverside quay berths. The soundings made and reported daily by the European Commission of the Danube govern the loaded draft of steamers navigating in the Danube between Sulina and Braila. The present depth of water on Sulina Bar is about 20 ft. Pre-war depth was 24 ft., and this latter depth will again be attained when the dredging plant is put in working order and a sufficiency of coal is available. Plans are under consideration for the provision of increased facilities at all the ports on the Danube and for improving the shipping conditions generally at all the Roumanian ports.

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your article, "The Development of Palestine," in the current issue of your paper, you say: "These figures show that in Palestine there are now really splendid opportunities for British and Colonial firms." As an interested observer, having been through the Palestine campaign as a rifleman, might I ask whether the firms in question are fully aware of it, and are such opportunities properly brought to their notice and *driven home* by the right people? Without doubt, what you say is true, and the great thing is to get some *practical* result from such an article!

In my own opinion, there are great opportunities in many ways in Palestine, and one would have thought that the British Government might have seen its way clear to encourage any efforts made by Britons. Personally, I thought Britain seemed badly represented—compared with other nationalities—in Palestine; one hopes this will before long be greatly improved. After a campaign such as this last, the country should surely be almost ideal for any British undertaking, for one may say without any attempt at conceit that the British were extremely popular generally.

It occurred to one that the Plains of Sharon and Esdrael stood badly in need of developing when seen in 1918—overgrown with thistles and weeds for the most part. The opportunity is there, but it badly needs bringing to the notice of the proper people. One could write at some length (from a personal point of view) on these things.

However, my main point is that, as we cannot afford to lose sight of *any* opportunities at the present time, what is needed is that your article should be brought to the notice of the proper authorities. None would regret the passing of Palestine markets from our hands through apathy more than the men late of the E. E. F.—although it is possible that they would never openly admit it!

One hopes that your paper gets into the proper hands each week—just now it seems vitally important that it should do!

I am, etc.,

"INTERESTED."

Eastleigh, Hants, February 20.

TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

The Editor will be glad to consider photographs of Near Eastern scenery, types, places of interest, etc., etc., suitable for reproduction in THE NEAR EAST. *When desired, payment will be made for the right of producing such photographs. Readers should state, when forwarding pictures, whether payment is desired or not.*

Photographs should be sent either packed between stout cards or rolled in a cardboard tube, and should on no account be folded. Titles and notes should be attached to each photo, and should be very clearly written.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

Further Trade Improvement.

CAIRO, February 16.

According to the Customs' return for November just published, imports during that month amounted to £E5,254,864, and exports to £E11,779,925, as against £E3,468,071 and £E2,269,515 during the corresponding month of the previous year. Imports for the 11 months total £E40,959,398, and exports £E59,495,417, which, compared with the same period in 1918, represents a swing over in the balance of trade of £E24,000,000 in favour of Egypt.

During the month the principal imports were: Coffee, £E66,133; kerosene, £E258,560; paper and printed matter, £E122,007; sawn timber, £E92,634; coal, £E188,585, natural indigo, £E56,586; medicinal preparations, £E37,375; household soap, £E59,690; cotton yarn, £E150,478; cotton piece goods, £E1,673,615; mixed textiles, £E91,828; woollen and worsted cloths, £E150,636; silk cloths, £E101,148. hosiery, £E96,594; and tobacco, £E234,173. Almost the whole of the increase of £E1,786,793, registered during the month was accounted for by yarns and textiles; decreases were registered under wood and coal and meat, whilst slight increases were recorded under cereals, metals, and wines and spirits.

Under exports the principal items during the month were hides and skins, £E166,102; rice, £E30,946; cotton seed, £E485,485; sugar, £E91,647; cotton, £E10,536,433; and cigarettes, £E86,086. Practically the whole of the increase in the value of the month's exports was contributed by cotton, cotton seed, and hides and skins.

As we are so near the end of the year, I am leaving over an analysis of the share taken by the trading nations of the world in the foreign trade of Egypt and of the traffic between that country and the Sudan until next month, when we shall have the complete figures for the whole of 1919.

A Commercial Submarine.

PORT SAID, February 16.

Last week we had a commercial submarine in port. Few people realised the presence of the vessel in harbour, and fewer still saw it. She was flying the Italian flag, and was bound to Massawa, escorted by two tugs. Pearl fishing was given as the reason for its conversion to peaceful use, and it is said to have a full complement of divers, and to be fitted with a means of ingress and egress for them while submerged and lying on the bottom.

Two Japanese cruisers, the Tokiwa and the Adzuma, have been lying in port some days, but have now left for Italy.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 9.

A Probable Crisis.

I have referred in previous letters to the disheartening obstacles to commerce in Constantinople. Unhappily, so far from there having been any improvement, matters have gone from bad to worse, and there is every reason to believe that we are on the verge of a severe commercial crisis, which may become catastrophic unless measures are promptly taken to circumscribe the trouble. Ever since the port has been reopened to commerce, there has been nothing but a multiplication and aggravation of every conceivable kind of obstacle to commerce. The congested condition of the port, the outrageous charges for discharging cargo, and for the storing of goods, combined with the high rate of exchange, all combined to make business transactions one long nightmare of trouble and anxiety. For a short period last autumn, when South Russia was open to commerce, it looked as if there might be some improvement in the situation, and there was a rush of orders and buying for the Russian market. But even that short spell of prosperity was seriously marred by the existing evils. Now that the Russian market has suddenly been closed, the situation has become chaotic. Enormous quantities of goods that were in transit for the Black Sea ports have had to be held up here, while further huge cargoes have been brought back to make matters worse still.

Landing charges have been again increased, and now amount to the respectable sum of £T50 a ton, or £12 10s. sterling, more than the freight from Liverpool. The exchange has jumped in a very short time from 340 to 400 piastres to the £ sterling, and the importer who ordered goods three months ago finds that he has to revise his estimate of his gross cost in drastic fashion. As others who obtained stocks before the present situation arose can base their prices upon a much smaller gross cost, and as no one can foretell what further fluctuations may occur, naturally the importer hesitates about taking up his bills of lading. And when he finds that he has to wait weeks before he can get his goods, which are meanwhile lying in a leaky, unsheltered lighter, and will most probably be pilfered in the meanwhile, as well as damaged, he often decides to forfeit any advance he may have paid, and let the exporter stand the racket. Such a state of affairs cannot endure indefinitely, and sooner or later someone is going to feel the pinch. So far as can be judged at present, that someone is likely to be the manufacturer whose goods will be sold by auction to defray expenses, which are so heavy that the balance will hardly be a source of congratulation. Nevertheless, that seems to be the only way out of the difficulties of the situation—unless the Russian market is suddenly reopened.

Needless to say, under the above conditions it is useless even to attempt to obtain orders for future delivery. Goods that are already here warehoused can be disposed of, but the rate of exchange places the present purchaser at a very great disadvantage, and the general result is stagnation so far as business is concerned. The only people who seem to have plenty of business are the "sarrafs," or money brokers, who serve the purposes of the speculators in foreign currencies and gold. These individuals are often largely responsible for the sudden and unreasonable slumps in values, which do an immense amount of harm, for, of course, the rate quoted by the banks for cheques has to keep pace with the exchange for currency values. Thus, it is no uncommon occurrence for the pound sterling to fluctuate as much as 15 per cent. in a few hours. What is a merchant to do when he finds that he has paid 440 piastres to the £ sterling in order to get his bills of lading, and the following day the rate drops to 410? It hardly encourages him to take up his documents promptly next time.

The remedy is not easily devised, for the habit of speculation in currencies seems to have become an ingrained vice of the Constantinople public, and legal measures have hitherto merely aggravated the evil. Nothing short of a complete abolition of the "sarrafs" will be of the slightest avail, and even that will be useless unless membership of the "Bourse" is not a very much less facile matter than it is at present.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 19.

The position of several financial institutions, including the Bucharest Tramway Society and the Banca Nationala, has come into prominence of late. Both those named are recognised Liberal institutions and the Tramway Company has already figured in several Government crises before the war. Dr. Lupu stated in a recent debate that the exploitation of the trams would be taken over by the municipality in case of need.

As for the Banca Nationala, Dr. Vlad, the Minister of

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DU ROYAUME DE SERBIE.
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Reserve - - 1,200,000 Dinars
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Head Office - ATHENS.

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FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

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RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
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Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

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GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,745,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 31·75 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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Finance, stoutly opposes the demand of the bank for territorial extension of its note-issuing privileges, and, as a Transylvanian, naturally prefers to have a system of regional banks whereby the new provinces will be financially independent of the great Liberal bank. At the present moment even the existing rights of the Banca Nationala in the old territory are being threatened by the energetic Minister of Finance, who states that the Government, having been refused by the Banca Nationala the same facilities which the bank granted to previous Liberal Governments, will issue its own currency. As the Banca Nationala holds the gold reserve (in theory, at least; the gold is in Russia), it is not clear what the State will offer as a guarantee of this currency—outside treasury bonds, of course. A foreign loan might suffice, but would place the entire Roumanian national credit at the mercy of the fluctuations in price of the money of the lending power, as it is difficult to see how, in these days of scanty gold reserves, any nation could see its way to placing gold at the disposal of the Roumanians. Most of us need our gold to bolster up our own sadly depreciated paper.

Exploitation of State Forests.

The Minister for Agriculture, M. Mihalache, has published his decision that henceforward the State forests may only be exploited by the peasant co-operative societies, and to the peasants also shall belong the exclusive right of supplying the towns with firewood. No details appear to have been published as to the methods of supervision to be employed, but no doubt the Ministry will take such measures as are necessary to protect the forests from the unscientific methods usually employed by the peasants. A recent article in a technical journal deplores the fact that large tracts of forest allotted to the peasants for firewood and building purposes are being gradually reduced to waste land, no provision being made for future growth. But the Government is fully alive to the importance to its revenues of the timber industry, and, in allowing the peasants the above monopoly, will no doubt take steps to prevent the waste which took place under former conditions.

MOROCCO.

TANGIER, February 22.

British Trade Outlook.

Notwithstanding that British trade is handicapped by the difficulties of the exchange, the natives are beginning to take a renewed interest in British goods, which is a very good sign. It is also encouraging to see so many representatives of British firms travelling about the country, and especially the fact that quite a number of important firms who have hitherto taken little or no interest in Morocco are sending their travellers here.

The clauses in the new Dahir establishing a Bourse de Commerce which give the monopoly of marine insurance and chartering to sworn brokers is very much criticised, and it is hoped that the Dahir will not be applied to British subjects by Order in Council, at least until its possible effects have been thoroughly studied from every point of view.

French Motor Transport Company.

A company was formed lately in Paris which was guaranteed a subvention by the Government for the motor transport of goods and passengers in the French Protectorate of Morocco. This places all the other motor businesses in the Protectorate at a very great disadvantage, and is resented by all interested. It seems open to question whether such action is strictly in accordance with the international undertakings regarding Morocco.

The conditions under which German goods may be imported into Morocco have been published in the *Bulletin Officiel*. Special conditions are applicable to German goods entering the French Zone viâ the Spanish Zone, which are subject to a higher customs duty than those entering direct.

The port is more animated to-day. There are twelve steamers at anchor, four of which are British (one Royal Mail, one Power Line, and two Blands), which makes one feel quite cheerful!

CYPRUS.

February 15.

Free Export of Carobs

The Government has removed the restriction against the free export of carobs, on condition that a sufficient quantity is kept for the needs of the island. For a long time export has not been allowed except to the United Kingdom, and this has given great dissatisfaction both to growers and merchants, who have not profited from advantages enjoyed by some other classes. Great satisfaction is now expressed. The present price is 34s. to 35s. the kantar (of 180 okes). The island price is two piastres the oke. The general agricultural outlook is regarded as very satisfactory.

THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

SECOND IMPRESSIONS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Of the success of this year's fair, there can be no question. All accounts agree that the business so far transacted promises record results. What has been happening may be gathered from the experiences of the china and pottery manufacturers represented at the Crystal Palace. They have found an immense demand for their wares on the part of overseas buyers and in many cases orders have been booked for long periods ahead. It all goes to show the immense value of systematic advertising, whether by way of fairs or in the Press. Attempted individually, it would have entailed enormous expense on the part of firms seeking the opportunity to bring their wares before buyers that they have through the medium of the Fair. As one observer put it, "The wonder is it was not instituted fifty years ago." Now that they have this invaluable selling medium, firms are placed in a position of unique advantage for the successful entrance of foreign markets, notably those of the Near East, provided, of course, that they realise that the Fair is not the be-all and end-all of enterprise on their part, but merely the channel which will help them to bring to a successful conclusion a campaign judiciously executed by them in the countries with which they are attempting to do business. It is, in short, the shaft of trade enterprise, and it is for the firms themselves to supply the spearhead.

I was very much impressed with the general arrangement of the Fair this year. It has always been a notable exhibition, but the circumscribed space available on previous occasions has detracted from the general effect. No such complaint can be made on the present occasion. The demand on the disposable space, as I have pointed out, has been very great—so much so, indeed, as to make it certain that further accommodation will be subsequently required—but those responsible have not allowed this factor to prevent their giving exhibitors rather more space than before, which, combined with the vastness of the building, helps to give a most pleasing effect. The Palace is crowded with stalls, but one does not notice the denseness.

In my previous article I touched on only a few of the many classes of exhibits on view at the Palace, and I will now attempt to amplify that description by a reference to some of the more notable among the remainder. One of the most interesting sections was that devoted to cutlery, which has not previously been included among the exhibits at the British Industries Fairs. Needless to say, Sheffield is predominant. Features of the section are the display of artisans' knives, pocket knives, razors, rustless and stainless cutlery (which is shown by no less than twenty firms), scissors and table cutlery. Perhaps more than in the case of other exhibits is the quality of British goods in evidence as regards cutlery. Some stands of special interest were those of the Sheffield Steel Products, the Sheffield Silver Plate and Cutlery Company, and Messrs. Lockwood Bros.

One of the most comprehensive sections is that devoted to toys and games. I should imagine that it includes examples of the vast majority of articles that come under that title. Everything is there, from the doll to the billiard table, from constructional mechanism to indoor table games, from scooters to sport goods. It is really a wonderful exhibition of the capabilities of a branch of industry in which this country has always been foremost, but which has been greatly developed since 1914. Among the well-known firms showing billiard tables are Messrs. Thurston and Co., while Messrs. F. H. Ayres, Messrs. John Jaques and Son, Messrs. Lillywhite Frowds and Messrs. Frank Sugg are prominent among the firms showing sports requisites. A feature of the stands in this section is the great number of new firms which have been established in the last few years for the manufacture of toys and dolls. In regard to these goods, British traders were far behind their continental rivals before the war. That they have now caught them up and passed them will be clear from the most cursory inspection of the really notable display of novelties.

Finally, a word is called for with regard to the jewellery, silver, and electro-plate exhibits, all of which are calculated to make a special appeal to overseas buyers, particularly in markets like those of the Near East and India, where there is always a great demand for ornaments of every description. As regards jewellery and silver and electro-plate, one might with propriety write the word Birmingham, since these are typical industries of that great centre, and the Birmingham firms predominate in the list. Very interesting were the stands of Messrs. Adie Bros. and the Wilmot Manufacturing Co., while Messrs. H. Williamson had on view notable examples of their watches.

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ENGINEERING.

EASTERN MARKETS FOR MOTORS.

II.—Flexible Light Cars Essential.*

(From a Correspondent.)

In my last article the future of the motor industry, so far as passenger cars were concerned, was discussed, and I ventured to express the opinion that the openings were truly enormous and the possibilities almost incredible. That if we could but utilise them by the exercise of sound commonsense, adaptability, and the co-operation of all classes, the nation need have no fear of putting the nightmare of the past behind it, and entering upon a period of prosperity which should carry us all (all classes) as far along the road to happiness and contentment as is possible in an imperfect world.

It now behoves us to look a little into the question of where our markets are and what is required for them. It needs no great flight of imagination and foresight to indicate that the demand for cars, as for other manufactures, is not going to be limited to the requirements of these islands, nor will such requirements permanently fill our needs. We must at once look abroad to the colonies, to the countries of the Near, Middle and Far East to discover what they need, and design our productions accordingly as early as possible, and, even at the expense of keeping the home market short, begin now to secure a footing before the opportunity is lost to us and gained by others as the boom comes.

I fear that it is not possible to speak nearly so optimistically about the future of our prospects abroad, unless there is a great change in British adaptability. The importance of these markets, however, is very great. It was not easy to find cars in the Olympia Exhibition that were designed for colonial use or that, in my opinion, were specially suited for the same. The roads of Great Britain are so excellent—yes, grumblers notwithstanding, excellent—that cars designed merely to travel comfortably over them may be, and are, barred entirely for colonial use except in the big towns. Far too many makers, I am afraid, direct their attention almost wholly to the production of cars suitable for these roads. There are notable exceptions, but more than that it is not possible to say.

For the colonies and the great outlying places of the world, what is required of the designer is a car that will cross over tracts where no roads exist without knocking itself to pieces; that can live, in other words, where other cars would simply collapse. We are not concerned with its holding the record at high speeds, nor with the luxurious comfort of the passenger; the sole purpose of such a car is simply *to get there*. Reasonable comfort should be provided, but to get through at all is the main thing. The alternative is probably to ride a camel, and the advantages of a car that can get through safely and unhurt are more than obvious. Such a car will make districts accessible that would otherwise be without communications until financial considerations make a railway possible—if ever.

Let us take the case of the Sudan. A reference to the map will show what immense tracts there are without any means of communication. The rivers are mostly studded with cataracts at various points, which render them useless as main arteries of transport. The soil is fruitful, and where water is available is highly productive. Further railway extension, owing to the enormous distances, involving an expenditure which the finances of the country do not warrant, cannot be hoped for on any large scale. There are oases where cattle are bred in large numbers, but cannot be brought away, for they would die of thirst before they reached civilisation. All these places have to be visited, and the only means of transit are the camel and the motor-car. The provinces of Darfur and Kassala and others are in absolute need of easier access, and the demand for light cars is considerable and will increase.

It must be emphasised that the use of such cars will not be limited to passenger-carrying purposes. They have been used after the manner of tradesmen's vans for light loads throughout the war. Who shall say that an equally flexible light lorry will not make its appearance, and, if it does, will establish connection with those oases by means of watering-places for cattle en route? This would enable the cattle to escape into civilisation, carrying a load of produce with them. Some such development seems indicated to my mind. Without a doubt there is a future for the development of light cars of a flexible type, not only in the Sudan, but in scores of outlying places. Is industrial England to remain somewhat backward in the production of these cars?

The manufacturers must remember that there are no roads, so the cars need not be designed to hold the road at high speed. They should be designed to enable the car to go at moderate speed over "anything on earth" as near as may be, in which characteristics the Ford has certainly led the way. I recollect seeing what was for courtesy called a road starting from Gebet or one of those stations at the head of the ghats above Port Sudan, where the railway leaves the tableland and starts its descent to the Red Sea. This was stated to represent a road to Kassala some hundreds of miles off. It consisted of a mere attempt to clear the stones off the track and to stack them in lines either side. A few miles further on this was done only in a perfunctory sort of way, and further on again the effort ceased altogether.

Just as in the Sudan the light car was invaluable in the operations against the Senussi, so it has been in the western desert of Egypt both for passenger traffic as well as a carrier of light loads. That spectacular dive of the Duke of Westminster's into the desert to rescue the crew of the "Tara" was performed by armoured Rolls-Royce cars. The reason for this is suggestive, and provides a useful hint for designers. The standard light cars are not up to the weight-carrying capacity necessary for an armoured car. Had there been a car identical as to flexibility with the light car—but capable of carrying four times the load—it would have made an excellent armoured car. The flexible light car of the future might reasonably have a heavier brother to do duty as a light lorry—a sort of farm-cart for the colonies.

In our next article we will refer to the needs of a few other countries, and go more particularly into the requirements of car design.

* The first article of this series appeared in The Near East of February 26.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Fuel Saving.

It has been estimated that in this country alone over twenty million tons of coal per annum could be saved were the efficiency of the steam-raising plants increased by 15 per cent. Some time ago a Commission stated that were all our steam plants as efficient as the best in use, quite 50 per cent. of the coal used for steam-raising might be saved. These are striking figures, and every effort should certainly be made to improve combustion wherever possible. All experts are agreed that the criterion of good combustion is a high percentage of carbon dioxide in the flue gases,

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and this, of course, depends on the correct amount of air being burned in the furnace. To ensure this, boiler furnaces are fitted with dampers, but it is obvious that unless some means is provided by which the amount of carbon dioxide can be ascertained, the use of these must be largely a matter of guesswork. Perfect combustion should give about 19 per cent. of this gas in the flue, but it is to be doubted whether more than 5 per cent. is to be found in the gases passing through the flues when this damper regulation is left to the unaided judgment of the stoker. Proper air manipulation in a boiler, just as in an internal combustion engine means a saving of fuel, which in itself means a saving also of labour, as the stoker has so much less coal to shovel on the fire. With a view to eliminating this guesswork and to bringing about a consequent saving of fuel, instruments known as CO_2 recorders have been on the market for some time, some of which have been almost too sensitive and complicated to come into general use. Some types have even given so much trouble that their use has been discontinued, and in a recently-issued report on coal economy, the U.S. Bureau of Mines says: "Furnace control devices, especially of the CO_2 recorder type, are indispensable to modern boiler installations, and their use would become general were they not so complicated." All that appears to be needed, therefore, is a simple instrument which shall be accurate, reliable, and free from complications, and I have just received particulars of one which appears as though it should answer all these requirements. Known as the "W.R." CO_2 Indicator, it appears to be made at Leeds, and the claim is made that it is within 1 per cent. of absolute accuracy. It responds quickly to all changes of the flue gases, and gives a continuous reading of the CO_2 present in the furnace, and so far as I can judge there is no part of the instrument which is liable to get out of order. As regards its economy, it is claimed that an average inefficient plant using 50 tons of coal per week could save by the installation of one of these instruments from £200 to £500 per annum, in which case the instrument would pay for itself in a few weeks.

Coal and Heat.

It has been said that fuel users as a class are not scientific in their method of purchasing coal, but the present price of fuel has a teaching force which was never found in the days of cheap coal, and there is hardly a power user but is anxious to economise where possible. At the same time, it must be admitted that the methods of a past generation are still in fairly general use, in spite of the information available as to the use of pulverised coal, the suitability of certain kinds of briquettes, etc. An authority once said that no other raw material of equal importance to the economic conduct of our industries is purchased with such an absence of effective means for checking the quality of the supplies as coal. The usual method of selecting the coal, so far as such selection is possible, is also open to criticism, while the means taken to ensure that deliveries of the selected coal are up to the standard of the sample are generally insufficient.

In purchasing coal, it is not sufficient to order several sample car loads from different dealers, and to burn these under the boilers and note results. These samples, as has frequently been pointed out, may have been subjected to very different conditions as regards weather. The conditions in the boiler-room may change, and the results thus obtained not be any true indication of the respective value of the different supplies. Everyone who has conducted boiler tests is familiar with the variations which may occur and which will yield different results. Further, as Mr. J. C. Kershaw once said, the methods used for checking the quality of the deliveries under the contract with the dealer are hopelessly inadequate.

The method offered as a substitute for these rough-and-ready methods is simply that used for testing and controlling the supplies of other raw materials—namely, chemical and laboratory tests carried out by chemists who have had experience in this class of work. In these tests it is usual to heat the sample to a certain temperature, about 230 degrees Fahr., so as to dry off the moisture. It is then raised to a red heat in a closed crucible, so as to drive off the hydrogen gases and sulphur. It is then heated with access of air so as to burn the remaining carbon, leaving the ash. This gives the moisture the volatile contents, the fixed carbon, and the ash. It is also desirable, when convenient, to check the results obtained in this way with calorimeter tests. When such tests are made, it is a comparatively simple matter to determine which is the best or cheapest of a number of different classes of fuel and grades of coal, from the cheapest to what is often sold, without good foundation, as being the best obtainable.

Modern Dyeing Machines.

Apart from the native dyers (the ever-busy Oriental *boyatjis*), with their archaic vat equipments and methods for dyeing textile materials, who, nevertheless, do considerable business all the year round, there are several steam and other power cotton and wool factories in the East, which, in spite of their modern plant of textile machinery, still adhere to the old, cumbersome *boyatjis'* methods of dyeing. But there are modern machines of the vat system which could be obtained at a very reasonable outlay, and which give far better results at a much lower scale of working expenses. We may allude to one of these machines, which is especially adapted for vat colours. It is so constructed that the operation of dyeing, washing, diazotising, developing, oxidising, and hydro-extracting can be performed without disturbing the material in any way, once it has been placed in the machine. In this machine the hydro-extractor is self-contained in the dyeing chamber, so that as soon as dyeing is complete, hydro-extracting commences. Dyeing takes place in a partial vacuum, which ensures perfect and even penetration. Air may also be blown through the material for oxidising purposes when necessary. A great saving of labour and dye-stuff, a larger output, improved conditions of the manufactured goods, and economy of power and space are claimed as characteristics of this machine.

Tire Setting Machine.

Agriculturists, and those who use vehicles or implements with wooden wheels, are in a position to know the trouble attached to such wheels in hot weather, and the inconvenience experienced when tires become slack and wheelwrights or blacksmiths are not near at hand. It often means suspension of work and loss of time at an important period of the year. All these can be prevented by a compact little machine which was viewed at a recent show. According to those who were using it, the machine is "a very powerful tool," and is much quicker than the old-fashioned style of putting on tires. In addition, the machine is useful when the tires become slack, as they will do in hot weather especially. Instead of rewelding the tire—a method occupying considerable time—all that the operator has to do is to set the wheel in the tire of the machine and tighten it up, a matter of ten minutes or so, which means that it is effecting a considerable saving in labour. It is claimed that two men can put on about fifteen pairs of tires a day. One of the chief advantages of this machine is that it has a key-adjusting device which forces the grip keys against the tire, making them work evenly, and preventing their slipping on the tire. The keys are made fast in the machine with a movement of the hand in forcing the lever down, and the keys are absolutely obliged to work evenly and cannot slip. It is claimed to be the only machine with draw-heads moving on a circle to conform to the circle of the tire, and, in the writer's opinion, is a most-needed machine in the East, where there are not many skilled wheelwrights, and many vehicles and implements have to remain idle when needed most through the want of capable men to effect repairs.

A Mechanical Ship Scraper.

As is known, the very limited number of dry docks in the Mediterranean is causing considerable inconvenience to the shipping in those waters and the Black Sea. The existing dry docks at Piræus, Malta, or Genoa are either occupied by warships, which in all cases have priority, or are engaged for days or weeks in advance, and a ship in such case will have to wait, if she can afford it, for her turn. But apart from these difficulties, dry docking and scraping is an extremely expensive business; while, on the other hand, a foul bottom slows a ship very seriously and means a great wastage of fuel on a long voyage. The invention, therefore, of a means of cleaning a ship without going into the dry dock will be of much interest to the Mediterranean shipowners and others. A mechanical brush has been invented, which is driven by a submersible electric motor, and which promises to be of great assistance in reducing the expense and time needed to keep a ship's hull clean. With it the ship can be cleaned while lying in port, and even while unloading her cargo. The brush is lowered from a derrick or a special barge, equipped also with a small generating plant, and is held close up to the vessel's side by a propeller driven by the brush motor. The side of a ship is treated in circumferential strips about four feet wide, the brush overlapping slightly the strip just treated. A 5,000-ton vessel can be scoured in about six hours.

Goddard Patent Hammock-Bed.

Among the exhibits at the British Industries Fair at the Crystal Palace to which reference was made in these columns last week is the Goddard Patent Hammock Bed, one of the many invaluable inventions of war time which are equally of use for the purposes of peace. Mr. Goddard's hammock, a most ingenious invention, was used extensively by the British Armies on all fronts and by the Belgian forces in Flanders in the dual capacity of bed and stretcher. The hammock bed when packed is no larger than the size of a golf bag, three feet in length and weighing 18 lb. When in use it is seven feet long and twenty-two inches in width. The hammock, it may be added, is made of green rot-proof canvas, and can be washed when required. Among its most valuable features is the fact that it can be erected or packed almost instantaneously. For camping-out purposes or for use in gardens or balconies, etc., it is most useful, and should prove most popular throughout the Near East and India.

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MOTOR TRANSPORT IN THE SUDAN.

TYPE OF TRACTOR REQUIRED.

Messrs. Ransomes Sims and Jeffries, of Ipswich, write as follows with regard to the articles with the above title by Mr. Joseph Rhodes, A.M.I.Mech.E., A.M.I. Auto E., S.G.S., which appeared in the issues of THE NEAR EAST of February 12 and 19:—

"We notice it is stated that in places deep sand drifts would have to be negotiated. For such conditions the caterpillar tractor would be necessary. But it is also stated that there are hundreds of miles of firm, cleared roads in many parts of the country. For such roads a steam tractor, burning wood fuel, would be the most economical and practical form of motive power, especially as it is mentioned that wood fuel would be cheap, and easy to obtain. Would it not be possible to use the steam tractors for the decent roads and the caterpillar tractors for the districts where the conditions are adverse?

"We should recommend using a steam wood-burning tractor wherever possible, as having considerable advantages in many ways. In the first place, it is the simplest form of tractor which exists, requires the least skilled attention, and is not subject to the tremendous wear necessitating a yearly refitting which is attached to the caterpillar tractor, while it has none of the complicated mechanism and tricks of management associated with petrol tractors. Further than this, of course, if, as stated, wood fuel is available at a low cost, it would give an enormous economy in expense for fuel, and would provide a fuel in regard to which there would be no uncertainty of supply. The only question is that of water. With the standard tanks on the engine a supply would be required about every eight miles, but with additional tanks it would be possible to go for a twelve-mile run with load. Would it be possible to arrange for such supplies? We notice that Mr. Rhodes, in his article, lays stress upon the point that steam tractors would be the most suitable in many ways, for the reasons we have given, but that it would be necessary to arrange these to condense their own steam and travel 100 miles between water supplies. An attempt has been made to produce a practicable working engine for somewhat similar conditions, but the complication is so enormous that we should never recommend the idea. If you can arrange for a suitable water supply every twelve miles, then there is no doubt the steam tractor would be the best; but if this cannot be done, then, as Mr. Rhodes mentions, the only possible tractor is an oil tractor.

"We may mention that we had a call the other day at our works from a military officer who had been in charge of the transport in a large sector on the Western Front, and he told us that he had tractors of all kinds, all sizes, and all classes, but the two most popular of all were two of ours—i.e., our R.C.T. 35 b.h.p., as illustrated at page 21 of Catalogue 6990 E, which we send you herewith. This engine is shown in the illustration with the kind of wheels we should recommend for roads inclined to be soft and sandy—i.e., fitted with waved cleats—and we should recommend extra wide wheels—say, 24 in. wide. The officer referred to told us with regard to our two tractors that when he divided up the work for the day the drivers always begged to have one of the two Ransome tractors. He said that these tractors were strong enough to do all the hauling required, but on account of their lightness and perfect manœuvring capabilities, they never got into difficulties, while the more powerful engines were continually being stranded and having to be dug out. Mr. Rhodes, in his article, mentions that the conditions of the roads on the Western Front were worse than anything likely to be met elsewhere, and as these light R.C.T. steam tractors gave such unqualified satisfaction there, we think that their use in the district mentioned for the purpose specified is worth consideration."

BRITISH EXPORTS TO ROUMANIA.

The attention of the Department of Overseas Trade has been called by His Majesty's Commercial Secretary at Bucharest to the fact that recent shipments of British goods to Roumania have shown much to be desired in the matter of packing. In some instances, bales and packages on arrival from England have not been suitable to withstand the extremely hard usage which they receive, and in consequence quantities of goods have been damaged or lost through robberies, encouraged no doubt by the ease with which goods could be pilfered from broken packages.

In order to facilitate entries through the Customs and the classification of goods contained in bales or packages, exporters are advised where possible to give a specification of the contents of each bale or case showing the kind of goods, weight, both gross and nett, and in the case of cottons and linens, the number of threads to the square centimetre and the weight per square metre in grammes. In the case of woollens or mixtures the exact composition should be clearly stated, *i.e.*, the percentage of silk, cotton, or other textile therein contained. Invoices should, if possible, relate only to the bales in each parcel shipped and not, as has occurred in some cases, to several parcels shipped on different steamers. Exactitude of detail is very necessary in order to enable the entries through the Customs to be carried out expeditiously. Careful attention to such points will well repay shippers of British goods to Roumania.

OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders communicate the following information with regard to the gross receipts of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt on account of the United Debt and Lots Turcs:—Provisional receipts, nine months (March to November), 1919, £T5,214,963 (paper). Definitive receipts nine months (March to November), 1918, £T3,620,724 (paper). For the same period in 1913 the definitive gross receipts were £T3,873,632 gold. The above receipts do not include interest on the reserve fund, Tripoli contribution, Treasury account, etc. In the returns published by the Council on the 6th and 17th ult. these items were included in the case of the receipts for 1913. With the omission of these, the figures should be:—Receipts to end of September, 1913, £T3,123,297. Receipts to end of October, 1913, £T3,491,040.

The taxes collected at the Pirœus Customs House during November, 1919, amounted to 5,453,600.45 drachmæ.

Pig-breeding is a growing source of wealth to Morocco and the French Zone, which six years ago possessed no pigs, but has at the present time 150,000.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the fortnight ended February 8 amounted to 6,790,000 francs, against 4,650,000 francs.

It is officially announced that Mr. H. V. Kaye, late joint manager with Mr. L. D. Anderson of the Overseas Branch of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, has been appointed joint general manager of Messrs. Cox and Co. with Mr. C. S. Clarke.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on March 6.

The Ellerman s.s. Falernian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, Cyprus, etc., will close for cargo at Liverpool on March 20.

The Ellerman s.s. Maromian, for Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on March 24.

The Prince Line s.s. Cyprian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout direct, will close for cargo at Manchester on March 13.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Malatian, for Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Jaffa, Cyprus, etc.), will close for cargo on March 6.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Belgravian, for Algiers, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on March 13.

The Anchor Line s.s. Freinbels, for Bombay will close for cargo at Glasgow on March 13, and at Liverpool on March 23.

The Cunard s.s. Corby, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Manchester on March 13, and at Liverpool on March 20.

The Cunard s.s. Coya, for Piræus, Constantinople, Galatz, and Batoum, will close for cargo at Antwerp on March 6.

The Bibby Line s.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, and Colombo, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on March 24.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The tone throughout the market has continued quieter. Although trading has been less active than a few weeks ago, there is evidence of a good deal of demand not yet satisfied; and if there should be any signs of higher values a larger turnover would undoubtedly be experienced. As matters stand at present, sellers are very indifferent as to booking fresh orders; and if goods are wanted, buyers have to operate on the terms of producers. The further fluctuations in Egyptian cotton prices have again caused uneasiness, and business has been of smaller dimensions. It is feared that the current crop will be less than 6,000,000 kantars. There is no probability of the acreage for next season being limited. In Egyptian yarns users have been afraid to purchase with any freedom. Perhaps, on the whole, spinners are not quite so deeply sold as at the beginning of the year. Quotations are beginning to show a little more irregularity, and fine counts are stronger than coarse numbers. In cloth for Egypt there has been a reduced turnover, and for the Near Eastern outlets generally there has been less activity. This development has been chiefly due to the stiff prices of makers. Very few workable bids have been met with for India, but some encouraging sales have been put through for China in grey and white shirtings and fancies for delivery up to the end of the year. Some useful lines have been negotiated in printed and dyed cloths for South America. In American yarns for home consumption the turnover has not been important, but prices have been very stiffly held, especially in twists. In export yarns India continues to be the best outlet.

Cotton Mills Amalgamation.

Great interest has been taken this week in Lancashire cotton trade circles in the amalgamation of mills under the style of "Crosses and Winkworth Consolidated Mills, Ltd." In addition to the mills of Messrs. Crosses and Winkworth, Bolton, containing 400,000 spindles, the combine will include Messrs. Lord, Hampson and Lord, Bolton, 87,000 spindles; Messrs. Ward and Walker, Bolton, 103,000 spindles; Messrs. Ainsworth Bros. and Co., Great Lever, 98,000 spindles; and Messrs. W. and C. Ainsworth, Ltd., Great Lever, 88,000 spindles; making a total of nearly 800,000 spindles. The capital of the new company is £7,000,000 in 5,000,000 £1 10s. per cent. participating preference shares and 40,000,000 1s. ordinary shares. The leading directors will be Messrs. E. Challinor, of Southport, and H. P. Kearton, of Bury.

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THE ADEN SKIN MARKET.

The year 1919 has been an unprecedented one in the Aden market for goat and sheep skins, says the American Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard, in a recent report. Supplies of good quality have continued to arrive regularly, and there has been a steady upward trend in prices owing largely to the insistent demand from American tanners. The latest quotations are on the average 20 per cent. higher than what was considered the high level reached in June of the present year.

The enhanced exchange value of the rupee is not necessarily considered by the local native who has goat and sheep skins to sell. His rupee is usually expended or invested in this district, and a rupee therefore remains a rupee to him, regardless of its bank exchange value. The increased purchasing power of the rupee in foreign markets has had practically no effect upon local prices, for the reason that the bulk of Aden's imports are from or through India, where the rupee is also the currency unit. The Arab, the Somali, or other Red Sea native who contributes goat and sheep skins to the Aden market does not, therefore, generally benefit from the increased exchange value of the rupee, and neither does he benefit largely from the increased number of rupees received for his skins, as the cotton cloth, kerosene, hardware, and bulk foodstuffs (rice, flour, and dates) which he buys have all arbitrarily gone up in rupee prices as well. Prices for goat and sheep skins in the Aden market are considered to be greater than they should be, owing to the competition of buyers for the American markets.

Good Quality of Skins.

Abyssinian goatskins lead the local market at prices ranging from 55 to 60 rupees per score. Goatskins of this class arriving from Abyssinia since the end of the rainy season in that country in September have been of excellent quality, and have exceeded by from 5 to 10 lb. the average weight of 120 lb. to the hundred skins. For a few weeks considerable shipments of Abyssinian skins stopped in Jibouti owing to the developing there of a demand which sent prices somewhat above the Aden level. Aden prices are again ruling, and not so many skins will stop in Jibouti for the present at least. Skins bought in Abyssinia are usually paid for in Maria Theresa dollars.

Blackhead sheepskins, coming principally from the Somaliland coasts, are arriving in good quantities of good quality. Prices offered are from 50 to 57 rupees per score. Arabian goatskins are also in good supply with prices at from 40 to 45 rupees per score for the better sorts. Last sales of Yemens were at 41 rupees, and of Konfidahs and Ghizans at 47 rupees per score. There is a demand for whitehead and redhead Arabian sheepskins at 25 rupees per score for the first named and at 24 rupees per score for the redheads. Good supplies are available, and some new sources of supply for both goat and sheep skins have been developed owing to the demand and the excellent prices ruling. All prices quoted above are for skins without selection; that is, lots offered are bought at these prices before selecting or grading.

Export Duty on Hides and Skins.

Although Aden is still partially under the jurisdiction of the Bombay Presidency to the extent that Indian laws rule in Aden and its Government is administered by officials of the Indian Government, the local authorities are quite aware that free trade is a decidedly important element in Aden's position as the commercial centre of the Red Sea district, and they do not, therefore, intend, for the present at least, to impose the 15 per cent. export duty on hides and skins which recently went into effect at Indian ports. To impose this duty at Aden would very likely throw more of the Red Sea trade in hides and skins to Jibouti, Massowah, and Jiddah, which places have not the superior shipping connections or accommodations available at Aden, but which would probably be able largely to overcome this handicap if Aden ceased to be a free port as regards either import or export duties. The present export duty at Jiddah is 5 per cent., and at Massowah it is 8 per cent. for goods shipped to places other than Italian territory, in which latter event it is reduced to 1 per cent. There is a small tax on exports from Jibouti. It is also probable that Aden buyers can afford to pay more in the Aden market for goat and sheep skins as compared with buyers in Indian markets, who have to consider the export duty. This has not, however, yet been demonstrated.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Contractor having several large contracts in the NEAR AND FAR EAST which involve excavating canals, river improvement work, excavation for docks and harbour improvements, etc., wishes communicate those having excavating equipment, new or secondhand to offer. For convenience prefer communicate Eastern representative. Write Box 154, "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C. 2.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.—There is little fresh to report. A rather more pronounced demand has been in evidence, and there is no question that the market is, on the whole, increasing. Imports of currants during January amounted to 7,407 tons, as against 3,589¾ tons for the corresponding month of 1919. Home consumption for the month amounted to 4,306 tons, as against 552 tons a year ago.

Sultanas.—The demand for this commodity continues to be very steady. Stocks are reported to be sufficient at the moment, but it cannot be said that supplies in sight are in any way adequate.

Sugar.—A quiet tendency has been in evidence as regards the raw commodity, but prices are well maintained for free sugar. Reports from Cuba continue to be favourable, though the latest returns of stocks are somewhat below those of this time last year.

Coffee.—The market has ruled firm, and a fair amount of business has been transacted. Costa Rica has come to business round about 168s., while East Indian has been done at 167s. Nairobi varieties have been somewhat dearer, while Jamaica qualities have been done at prices ranging between 140s. and 170s. The future market has been a trifle uncertain, and has closed a shade up on balance. Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report that their advices are to the effect that prohibition is making its mark upon coffee in America, and that consumption shows an increase as a result of this measure, that interior stocks are small, but deliveries restricted by transportation delays. They point out that should the dollar exchange maintain its present level and continue without violent fluctuations, it should impart a degree of steadiness to coffee in New York, while an improvement of moment in the value of the £ sterling would cause an advance in prices there.

Oilseeds.—The position remains much the same. There is a fair demand, and prices are firm. Indian linseed has been done at about 55s., while Argentine has come to business at 47s. Rapeseed has been strong, with Toria at 56s. Egyptian cottonseed is quoted at about 31s., and the Indian variety at 24s. 6d.

Oilcakes, etc.—Lack of demand for oilcakes has given a somewhat weak tone to the market. Linseed cake has been done at 24s. per cwt., ground nut cake at 17s. 2d., and soya bean cake at 24s. Oils continue firm. Linseed oil has been quoted about 117s., while rapeseed oil has been a strong spot at 125s.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the C.E.B. report for December :—

Gum.

Exports during December were, via Port Sudan, 797,212 kilos of hashab of the value of £E33,655, 16,955 kilos of bleached of the value of £E848, and 50,673 kilos of talh of the value of £E1,376, and, via Halfa, 128,688 kilos of hashab of the value of £E5,370 and 12,471 kilos of talh of the value of £E310.

Kordofan Province.—Amount of gum sold in El Obeid Market in December was 7,323 kantars, as against 9,349 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E1.451 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 11,304 kantars, as against 4,968 kantars during the same month last year; 2,210 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at £E1.300 per kantar, as against 4,306 kantars last year; 5,206 kantars were sold at Rahad at £1.415 per kantar, as against 4,458 kantars last year.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar: Though there has been little or no rain during the month, climatic conditions have been favourable, and the cotton crop prospects are rosy, and there seems every hope of a crop of some 31,000 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned) at the least.

Berber Province.—On the Gendetto pumping scheme the cotton is again very fine. At Kitiab the cotton is poor, except at the south end of Kitiab Island.

Dura and Dukhn.

Berber Province.—On the Gendetto pumping scheme the per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos) to P.T.378 in November and to P.T.360 in December. Feterita dura rose from P.T.307 to P.T.324 per ardeb in November, but fell to P.T.300 in December. Dura on the Kelli Basin is very fine, and only slightly affected by stemborer.

White Nile Province.—Dura has arrived on the markets in considerable quantities during the month. There was a heavy demand for Omdurman at high prices in the early part of the month. Prices have since fallen, but are still high.

Blue Nile Province.—Large quantities of dura are being brought into the Morades of Medani and Hassaheissa, as the following figures show:—16,481 ardebs of 300 rottles (135 kilos) to Medani, 5,815 ardebs of 300 rottles to H. Heissa. The price has continued to rise. The lowest price for the month was £E1.92 m/ms. per ardeb and the highest £E.607 m/ms. per ardeb.

NEAR EASTERN SAMPLES EXHIBITION.

The Department of Overseas Trade has recently organised an exhibition of samples of various classes of goods (textiles, hardware, etc.), collected from a number of Near Eastern markets. The samples are all of pre-war origin, and have been furnished in most cases in connection with special reports on the markets concerned. The exhibition, which is being held at the Foreign Samples Section of the Department of Overseas Trade, 3, Guildhall Courtyard, London, E.C. 2, is open to United Kingdom manufacturers, and admission to it may be obtained by the presentation of a business card.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended February 13:—The sales this week on our market amount to thirty-three cases Selected druggists' Karahissar, at piastres 920 per oke, which is equivalent to 17s. per lb., c.i.f. The position is easier, and we foresee a drop to 16s. 6d. soon. The exchange to-day is piastres 408 per pound sterling for cheque, and 0.82 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,480 cases, against 165 at same date last year.

OIL OUTPUT.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week ending February 15, nil (last week nil); Hurgada production for week ending February 15, 1,907 tons (last week 2,236 tons).

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Bank of Bombay.

The net profit of the Bank of Bombay for the half-year ended December 31, including Rs.4,33,898 brought forward from the previous half-year, amounted to Rs.18,32,339. The directors recommend a dividend and bonus at the rate of 15 per cent. and 5 per cent. per annum respectively. Rs.4,00,000 is placed to the reserve fund, Rs.50,000 to the pension fund, and the carry forward Rs.3,82,339.

Bank of Madras.

The profit of the Bank of Madras for the half-year just ended, including Rs.3,99,488 carried forward from the last account, is Rs.13,30,435. A dividend of 10 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 2 per cent. per annum are declared, absorbing Rs.4,50,000. Rs.2,00,000 are placed to reserve for depreciation of investments, and the carry forward is Rs.2,80,947.

Alliance Bank of Simla.

The net profit of this bank for the six months ended December 31, including Rs.1,87,000 carried forward from the last half-year, amounted to Rs.6,65,016. The dividends are 14 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares and 6 per cent. per annum on the preference, absorbing Rs.4,05,541, leaving a balance of Rs.2,59,475 to be carried forward.

Bank of Bengal.

The available profits of the Bank of Bengal for the half-year ended December 31, after providing for the payment of a bonus to the bank's staff, including Rs.5,51,065-8-5 brought forward from the previous half-year, amounted approximately to Rs.29,25,442-0-4, which sum was disposed of as follows:—Payment of a dividend of 17 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, Rs.17,00,000; transferred to reserve fund, Rs 6,00,000; transferred to gratuity and pension fund, Rs.1,00,000; leaving Rs.5,25,442 to be carried forward.

Travancore Tea.

The report of the Travancore Tea Estates Company for the year ended September 30 states that the net amount at credit of profit and loss account, including balance brought forward, and after providing for directors' fees, debenture charges, and interest, etc., is £24,275. It is proposed to pay a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, placing to redemption of debentures sinking fund £2,000, and carrying forward £8,576. The tea crop harvested was 2,971,275 lb., against an estimate of 2,944,950 lb., and compared with the previous season's figures of 2,629,843 lb. The estimate for the current year is 3,188,875 lb. The average yield was equivalent to 578 lb. per acre, compared with 511 lb. In July last 28,300 ordinary shares and 22,069 preference shares were issued and allotted to shareholders, the former at a premium of £1 per share and the latter at par. Of the premium £18,771 was received up to the end of the financial year, and the balance of £9,529 has been received since and will appear in the current year's accounts. Meeting, 20, Eastcheap, E.C., March 8, noon.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

The report of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway for the half-year ended September 30 states that the capital expenditure during that period amounted to Rs.1,367. The balance of net earnings, after providing for debenture interest and the estimated payment due to the Government and other items, amounts to Rs.2,74,642, and sum brought forward is Rs.2,29,898, making total net earnings available Rs.504,540. The directors recommend a dividend of Rs.6 per share on ordinary shares, carrying forward Rs.2,87,159.

Southern Punjab.

The net revenue of the Southern Punjab Railway Company for the year ended September 30 was £422,612, of which £150,866 is payable to Secretary for India as share of surplus profits due to Government and £10,000 is transferred to "contingencies" account. This leaves £261,745, to which must be added £116,215 brought forward, making £377,960. Dividend on preference paid in respect of six months to March 31, with dividend and bonus on ordinary for same period, reduce balance to £271,960. Dividend on preference for six months to September 30 was paid on December 1, leaving £225,960. Directors recommend final dividend on ordinary of £9 per cent., and further bonus of £1 per cent. (making total distribution £16 per cent. for year), from which English tax at 4s. 11.74d. will be deducted, leaving £125,960 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty if found due. Meeting, 36, New Broad Street, E.C., March 10, at 2 p.m.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 17: Rain nearly general south-eastern Bengal, local Orissa and Assam. General crop conditions good. Prospects wheat crop Central Provinces unusually good; second forecast is 3,085,631 acres. Bombay cotton market firming up. Fully good Broach April-May was as low as Rs.476 on February 10, but is now Rs.504. Piecegoods market quiet with small demand. Calcutta Jute market quiet but steady. Hessians in poor demand with prices fairly steady. Heavy goods in fair demand, prices steady. Bank rate is Bengal and Bombay 7 per cent., Madras 8 per cent.

According to the Paris *Vie Financière*, a new company has been formed under the style of the Compagnie Tunisienne des Phosphates de Djebel-Mdilla for the working of Tunisian phosphates. The capital of the company is 16 million francs.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

An extraordinary general meeting of Sucrerie et Raffinerie de Roustchouk was held at Brussels on March 3.

Dacia-Romania Assurance.—A meeting is called for March 14 at Bucharest to consider the accounts and dividend for 1919.

Mr. M. Lascaris, manager of the Bank of Athens at Cairo, has been appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the Credit Foncier Egyptien.

It is announced that the British Overseas Bank, Ltd., have completed a scheme for the formation of an Anglo-Polish Bank, in conjunction with the old-established banking house of A. Peretz and Co., of Warsaw.

The directors of the Mysore Gold Mining Company have declared a balance dividend for the year 1919 of 1s. per share, less tax at 6s. in the £, in respect of 610,000 fully-paid shares of 10s. each, payable April 8 to shareholders registered February 26

The directors of the Bengal Doors Railway recommend a final dividend on the ordinary stock of 3½ per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., both subject to tax, payable March 26, 1920, making 9 per cent. for the year ended September 30, 1919.

Compagnie Industrielle du Levant.—At the general meeting held on February 19 it was stated that in the absence of documents it had not been possible to submit the balance-sheets, and that about six or seven months would be needed to prepare the balance-sheets in arrears.

Tramways du Caire.—The necessary number of shareholders not being represented at the general meeting on February 12, a second extraordinary general meeting is to be held at Brussels on March 11.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to December 31, 1919 (New Style January 14, 1919, to January 13, 1920).

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper & Naxos Emery	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmae.	Drachmae.
Gross receipts, December, 1919.....	5,012,399	4,967,575
Do. do. 1918.....	1,968,846	2,241,797
Estimated receipts for 12 months (Law of Control)	28,900,000	10,700,000
Actual do. 1919.....	50,468,063	50,376,884
Do. do. 1918.....	36,264,901	31,185,797
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 12 months 1919	+ 21,568,063	+ 39,676,884
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 12 months 1918	+ 7,364,901	+ 20,485,797

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamped paper, stamps and Naxos Emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos Emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmae at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

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IMPORTER.

The Leading House for Ladies' Materials, Woollen Goods, Cottons, Silks, Linens, etc. Latest Styles and Fashions; Fancy Goods, Table Wear; Lingerie; Bed Linen. The best selection of Muslins.

62, HERMES STREET, ATHENS.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

STAMBOUL, January 31.

There have been few arrivals this week ; it is to be foreseen that there will be very few arrivals until the situation becomes stable.

Coffee.—Despite the high prices in the countries of production, a fall has taken place here owing to the arrival of large supplies intended for Odessa and other parts of Russia, and which the holders are trying to realise.

Oil.—An arrival of 40,000 cases of American has brought about a drop in the price from £T9 to £T7.20-7.47 the case.

Dates.—It is to be noted that this week 5,000 tons of dates arrived from Busreh.

STAMBOUL, February 14.

Imports.

The market is very quiet. Prices of manufactured goods are very weak, despite the high level of the exchange and the high prices of commodities in centres of production, notably in England.

During the week a vessel arrived from England with a consignment of manufactures, but in the smallest quantity. They were the deliveries of the months of October and November. A gradual decrease is anticipated in the deliveries while there is no change in the situation.

The congestion of goods in the port continues, the sales being actually further reduced. But the situation does not give rise to any anxiety, for the reasons which we have previously given.

Produce.

Sugar.—The market is stronger, because of the position in centres of production and by reason of a certain demand from Batoum as well as for the want of arrivals in our market. So prices have risen to £102-103 the ton in transit and £T54-55 for sugar in Customs.

Coffee.—Rice.—The market is quiet ; no change is to be recorded.

Oil.—Arrivals from America and Batoum have resulted in a marked drop in prices. The case of two bidons is sold at £T7.40 against £T7.60 last week.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take

WILKINSON'S (Estd. since 1829)

ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

"We cannot speak too highly of it."—LANCET. **SARSAPARILLA**

(The best "Pick-Me-Up")

Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.—"We recommend your **Jamaica Sarsaparilla.**"—MEDICAL REVIEW.

"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.

The late LORD CLYDE said :—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."

"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.

N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

World-wide Reputation for over Three-Quarters of a Century.

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ESTABLISHED 1825.

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Hindustani spoken. Ayahs boarded and lodged at 18s. per week each until their Return Passage is paid or a Situation secured for them to return. Ayahs met at any Dock or Railway Station in London. Experienced, well-recommended Ayahs taken entirely off Ladies' hands for a certain payment, which differs according to time of year. Ladies proceeding to India or China requiring an Ayah can generally obtain one by applying to MRS. FLETCHER, Matron.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office : 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager : E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary : C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary : R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS :
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER :
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES :
41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caiffa.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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NEW COMPANIES.

Lighters.

Lighters, Ltd, has been registered with a nominal capital of £30,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of lightermen, stevedores, wharfingers, etc., at Constantinople and elsewhere. Under the Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Act, 1914, the Board of Trade authorises the company to acquire parts of the undertakings of J. W. Whittall and Co., Ltd., Gi'christ, Walker, and Co., Ltd., and Walter Seager and Co., Ltd., the books and documents of which undertakings are liable to inspection under the principal Act. The subscribers are:—J. E. La Fontaine, Stamboul, Constantinople, merchant and steamship agent, 4,285 shares; R. La Fontaine Whittall, Galata, shipping agent, 4,285 shares. The first directors are: R. La Fontaine Whittall, W. C. Seager, C. Doras, J. E. La Fontaine, and E. Rizzo. Registered office, 8, Serjeants Inn, E.C.

Orient Company (Roumania).

The Orient Company (Roumania), Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of general merchants and agents, concessionaires, bankers, financiers, miners, metallurgists, builders, engineers, farmers, owners of and dealers in land, stock, stations, cattle, shares, securities, merchandise, and properties in Roumania or elsewhere, etc. First directors:—S. C. Wyatt, 5, Campden Hill Square, W.8, C.A.; A. H. Moreing, Moore Place, Esher, Surrey, C.E. Qualification, £100. Remuneration (except managing directors appointed to act in Roumania), £100 each per annum. Secretary: W. E. Starling Solicitors: Sanderson, Adkin, and Co., 46, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Anglo-Eastern.

The Anglo-Eastern Commercial and Financial Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of traders, general merchants, manufacturers, agents, warehousemen, shippers, importers, and exporters of manufactured goods, produce, and raw materials of all kinds, financiers, etc. A. P. Charlas signs as managing director. 6, Broad Street Place, E.C.

Anglo-Oriental and General.

The Anglo-Oriental and General Investment Trust, Ltd., was registered as a private company on February 19 with a capital of £100,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on business of financiers, holders of stocks, shares, etc. Subscribers (each with one share): Sir W. D. Henry, Kt., C.I.E., 6M, Bickenhall Mansions, W.; L. Hardy, 144, Station Road, Crayford, Kent, accountant. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors.

Mediterranean Merchant Bank.

The Mediterranean Merchant Bank has been registered as a private company with a capital of £100, in £10 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of bankers in London, with branches or agencies in all countries bordering the shores of the Mediterranean and elsewhere. The signatories are to appoint the first directors. Registered office: 60, Wilson Street, Finsbury, E.C.

EGYPT AND GERMAN TRADE.

H.M. Commercial Agent at Cairo states in a recent report that commercial relations between Germany and Egypt seem to progress daily. The commodities which are shortly expected comprise ironmongery, household articles, colours (dyes), and especially glassware. Heavy payments are being effected by the merchants in Alexandria. The despatch of these goods will be made by way of Trieste. It has been noticed that German manufacturers do not seem inclined to supply pharmaceutical products in spite of having received considerable orders for them. Relations with Italy and America are gaining a foothold, but those with France do not seem to have revived. It has also been observed that huge orders have recently been placed with Japan.

THE BIRMINGHAM BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

The British Industries Fair held at Birmingham will be illustrated and described in a Special Supplement of THE NEAR EAST, to be issued in two or three weeks' time.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Monday.

On the whole we have had a quiet week with a dull tendency, and to-night the tone has become distinctly weak, so that it would not be surprising to see prices still lower during the next few days. The weakness is said to be due to some financial trouble in Egypt caused by the heavy fluctuations in cotton, and securities have undoubtedly come out for sale to pay for the losses incurred.

In Government stocks City of Alexandria Bonds have dropped one point to 67, Unified are 1¼ lower at 74, and the 3½ per cent. Preference stock is a like fraction down at 61¼. Turkish 3½'s (1894) have dropped a point to 58, and Turkish Unified, after dropping to 30, close 4½ points down at 31½.

In Bank shares Nationals are 5-16 lower to-night at 22⅛, but Agricultural have been a firm spot all the week, and are closing 1-16 higher at 5½. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are one point lower at 20½, on profit taking after the news became known regarding the arrangement with Barclay's Bank. Land Bank of Egypt have been a firm spot.

In Railways, Delta Light close ¼ down at 6⅝.

Amongst Land shares Aboukir have lost 1s. 9d. at 43s., and Anglo-Belgian are ⅛ down at ⅞. Allotments are firm and unchanged at the ex. div. price of 3¾. Béhéras have had a smart set back to 21, a drop of 3¼ points, and are quite a nominal market at the moment. The Preference shares have dropped ⅛ to 3¾. Building Lands have receded 3s. to 32s. Consolidated Lands (now 4s. 5d. paid) are slightly lower at 3s. 4½d., Delta Lands have come back 1s. 9d. at 19s. 6d., and Foreign Trusts have declined 6d. to 18s. Land and Mortgage shares are about ¼ down at 1 9-16, and Mortgage Company 4½ per cent. debentures have dropped 3 points to 72. New Egyptian, after being comparatively firm, are closing 2s. 9d. lower at 35s., and Sidi Salem have dropped back 3-16 to 2⅞. Both Sudan Plantations and Union Foncière are ¼ down at 8⅛ and 5¾ respectively.

In Miscellaneous shares Abyssinian Corporation have dropped 6d. to 12s., and Salt and Sodas are 3-16 lower at 2 13-16. Morum's Pref. are 6d. down at 19s. 6d. On the other hand Associated Cotton Ginners are closing 1s. 6d. higher at 32s. 6d.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B close ⅛ down at 4 7-16.

Amongst Greek securities the 1881 and 1884 Loans are both half a point lower at 54½, Monopoly have dropped back two points to 47, the 1910 Loan has dropped one point at 43, and the 1914 Loan is about unchanged at 61 x.d. Bank of Athens shares are ¼ lower at £3.

TRACTORS IN MOROCCO.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier states that by an Arrêté Viziriel, dated December 20, 1919, a grant of a bonus is provided for cultivating land by the use of tractors. It is to be for the present season only, and payable only to persons not receiving any other subsidy. The amount of the bonus is 50 frs. per hectare cultivated by tractor in excess of the area formerly cultivated, and 25 frs. per hectare for the rest of the land so cultivated, the object being to encourage farmers to bring new lands under cultivation.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended January 20 amounted to £E14,004, making the total for the year £E308,619.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended February 11 were: Cattle markets, £1,228; general markets, £601; total, £1,829; total for year, £14,300.

The directors of the Chargola Tea Association have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on account of the year ended November 30, 1919, on the ordinary shares.

Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Co.—The Anglo-Egyptian Bank announces that Coupon No. 11 of the ordinary shares and Coupon No. 3 of the founders' shares may now be presented for payment at their office, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., at the following rates: Coupon No. 11 ordinary shares P.T.30, Coupon No. 3 founders' shares P.T.1.5, less income-tax at 6s. in the £.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Feb. 23	Price March 1
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds. 1909	28	28
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	68	67
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	75¼	74
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	62½	61½
Greek 5%, 188	55	54½
Do. 5%, 1884	55	54½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	47
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	46	46
Do. 5% 1890	54½	54½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	54	54
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	53	53
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	44	43
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	63	61xd
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	9⅜	76½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69	69
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	59	58
Do. 4% Unified	36	31½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5 7/16	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68¼	68¼
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70¼	70¼
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	21⅜	20⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	40/-	40.-
Bank of Athens	65/-	60/-
Bank of British West Africa	7⅛	7⅛
Bank of Roumania	5½	5½
British Trade Corporation	10x	9⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	1	10 1/16
Imperial Bank of Persia	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	6⅛
London County and Westminster	15⅜	15⅜
National Bank of Egypt	22 1/16	22⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅞	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	71	71
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅞	9⅞
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	49½	49⅜
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	42	42
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4%	66¼	66¼
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	44/9	43/-
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	20/-	17/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	3¾xd
Béhéra Co.	24¼	21
Do. Pref.	3⅜	3⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	35/-	32/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/5 paid)	3/3	3/4⅛
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	21/3	19.6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	75	75
Do. Land and General Trust	1.6	1,6
Do. and Foreign Trust	18/6	18/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	36/3	31/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	7
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	72
New Egyptian Co.	37/9	35/-
Sidi Salem Co.	3 1/16	2⅝
Sudan Plantations	8⅜	8⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	6	5¾
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	12/6	12/-
Alexandria Water Co.	10¾	10¾
Associated Cotton Ginners	31/-	32/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/-	23/-
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	60/-	56/3
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	99⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Levant Co. (fully paid)	19/6	19/6
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	20/-	19/6
Suez Canal	178	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	102	102
Chinese 4½% 1898	65⅛	69⅜
Do. 5% 1896	80	80
Argentine 5% 1890	79½	79
Do. 5% 1907	83½	83½
OIL.		
Algerian	4/6	4/9
Anglo-Bulgarian	10/1⅛	9/6
Anglo-Egyptian B	9⅛/3	4⅜
Anglo-Persian Pref.	23/-x	23/1⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	81¼	81¼
Anglo-Roumanian	8/6	8/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/1⅛	5/6
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	12/9	13/-
Roumanian	22/-	24/-
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	6/6	7/3
Traian (Roumanian)	9/9	9/6

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,

WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD; 4, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Jan. 16. Rs.	Jan. 23. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	61½	60½
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	2170x	2105
Bank of Bombay	2800	2650
Bank of Madras	1800	1951
Bank of India	125	130
Tata Industrial Bank	57	64
COAL.		
Baraboni	18	18
Bengal	810	805
Burrakur	49	49
East Indian	41x	41x
Equitable	45½	45
Pench Valley	362½x	362½x
Raneegunge	65	64½
Standard	69½	69½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	500	503
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2930	3260
Bowreah	955	955
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	233	204½
Century	970	990
Central India	4275 / 2137½	4110 / 2055
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	1800	1800
Khatau Makanji	5650	5650
Muir	210	286½
New Ring	700	700
Phœnix	990	1085
Svadeshi	4100	3870
JUTE.		
Alliance	845	842
Barnagore	192	191
Budge Budge	697/	685
Clive	335	330
Dalhousie	588	565
Delta	600	709
Fort Gloster	1125	1145
Gourepore	1478	1497½
Howrah	49¼	47½
Kamarhatty	1178	1070
Kanknarrah	890	864
Khardah	581	588
Kinnison	1140	1140
National	455	455
Standard	762	744
Union	955	978
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	84	92
Bengal Timber Trading	700	700
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	88	96
Cawnpore Sugar	345	345
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	215	329
Howrah Oil Mills	40	37¾
India General Steam	161½	161
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
Marshall Sons and Co.	88½	102
Titaghur Paper	122 / 340	122 / 350

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON FEBRUARY 12.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	23⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	76
" " Div.	Frs.	115
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	22⅞
" priv.	£	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	94
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	17
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	6
Société des Immeubles	£	9
Bonded Stores	£	19
Unifiée	£	76
Privilégiée		63⅜
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
Nungovich Hotels	£	12⅛
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅜
" Ord		105/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	2⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6 7/16
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	100
" Jouissance	Frs.	158
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		41/9
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	430
" Div.	Frs.	400
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	302
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	9⅝
Egyptian Salt and Soda		61.6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	699
" Fondateur	Frs.	1010
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	447
" 1903 "	Frs.	305
" 1911 "	Frs.	283
Consolidated Land	P.T.	16
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1⅛
Menza'eh Canal Navigation	P.T.	378
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2⅝
Urbaines & Rurales		4⅜
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅛
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1 7/16

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Feb. 23	March 1
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. Various dates.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931 Do. Rupee Paper 3½% * Redeemable.	— 72½	56⅝ 71⅛
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		98½	98½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		65	65
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		67	67
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		84	84
Eastern		7⅞	8 1/16
Mercantile of India A		44¼	44
National of India		62	62½
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		8/9	8/9
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/9	13/9
Burma Corp.		13 3/16	13 3/16
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		12/-	11/-
Champion Reef Gold		4/6½	4/7½
Mysore Gold Mining		21/9	20/6
Nundydroog		16/6	17/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		17/9	18/3
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		24/3	24/3
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		48/9	47/6
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		38/5	42/6
Brit. Burmah		3	5⅛
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		19⅜	19⅛
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅜	9⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		49½	49
Benga and N.-Western Ord.		137⅛	140
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		52½	51½
Bengal-Nagpur		114⅜	115
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		105⅜	105
Burma Railways		112⅛	112
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13½	13½
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13½	13½
Gt. Indian Pen Ann. "A," 1948		13	13
Madras and S. Mahratta		11 ⅛	112⅛
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		128⅜	127½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		82	82
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		—	
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		84⅜	85½
Do. Deferred		630	615
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		64⅜	64½
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16	16
British Indian Tea Ord.		8 3/16	8 3/16
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15⅜	15⅜
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		12/10½	12/9
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		67/6	62/6
Consolidated Estates		7 7/16 xb	7 7/16 xb
Darjeeling Co.		23	22
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon, Ord.		61/3	60/-
Dooars Tea Ord.		57/6	57/6
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		19/3	18/-
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		66/3	67/6
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		34/9	35/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.		24/4½	24/4½
Jhanzie Tea Association		11	—
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		22½	22
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		18/-	18/6
Lanka Plantations Ord.		29/3	29/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		55/6	55/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		45/7½	45/7½
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		14½	14½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		31/-	29/7½

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SOFIA (Bulgaria).

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The Roumanian Government is said to have had new bank notes printed in the United States for the purpose of substituting these for the notes at present in circulation.

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Authorised Capital	-	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
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Reserve Fund	- - -	,, 40,00,000/-
Reserve for Depreciation of Government Paper		,, 11,00,000/-

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SUB OFFICES: Barnagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Morana (Gwalior), Nushki (Quetta), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior), Sadar Baza (Delhi).

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CALCUTTA	IPOH	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
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*PALERMO	9,060	Mar. 6	—	Australia
*KIDDERPORE ..	5,200	§	—	Straits, China, Japan
NOVARA.....	7,000	Mar 10	—	Straits, China, Japan
MARGHA	8,258	Mar. 12	Mar. 20	Bombay & Karachi
NANKIN.....	7,000	Mar. 19	Mar. 27	Bombay & Calcutta

* Cargo. § From Immingham, March 7.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

BERRIMA.....	11,137	Mar. 6	—	Queensland
GAMARIA	5,200	Mar. 9	—	Madras & Calcutta
MARGHA	8,258	Mar. 12	Mar. 20	Bombay & Karachi
NERBUDDA.....	7,911	Mar. 20	—	Madras & Calcutta
CHAKRATA	5,682	Mar. 20	—	Bombay & Karachi
NARDANA.....	7,951	Mar. 31	—	Madras & Calcutta
‡GANDARA..	5,274	—	—	Madras & Calcutta

† Closing date for Cargo only.
‡ Loading Continent only, closing mid-March.

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CITY OF KARACHI ..	5,568 ..	March 19 ..	Bombay & Karachi
CITY OF LONDON ..	9,000 ..	March 31 ..	Bombay & Karachi
CITY OF MANCHESTER	5,551 ..	April 8 ..	Calcutta
CITY OF CALCUTTA ..	7,636 ..	April 15 ..	Bombay & Karachi
* CITY OF MARSEILLES	8,250 ..	April 22 ..	Colombo & Calcutta

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THE NEAR EAST

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE INDIAMAN"

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

No. 462.—Vol. XVII.
REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.] THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1920. (Annual Subscription, By post, £1 5s. 0d. (Home) and £1 10s. 0d. (Abroad).) Price 6d. Postage, ½d. Foreign, 1½d

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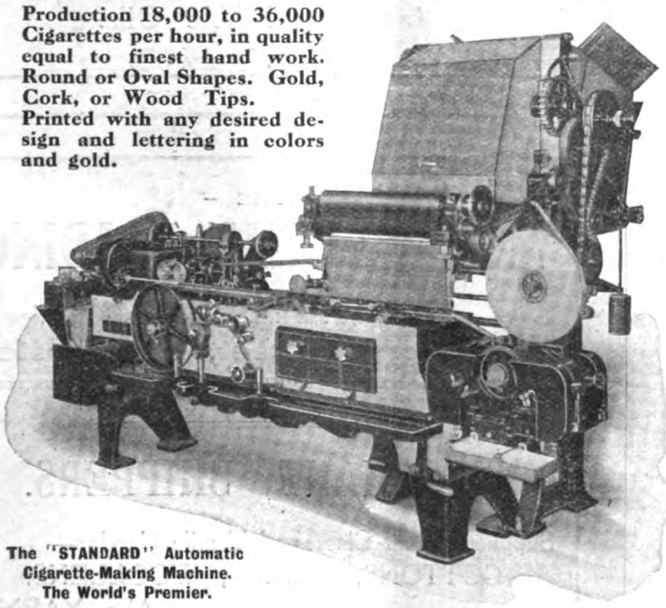

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 462.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Fortune is not smiling upon the Supreme Council in its attempt to solve the Turkish question. As was to be expected, a piecemeal settlement is proving no less disastrous than the original delay, for it has encouraged all the conflicting interests to redouble their efforts to influence the final decision. Above all, the Turks were being led to believe that Mustapha Kemal and his Nationalists are the real masters of the situation, until finally it was resolved to try an avowed Nationalist Cabinet in Constantinople. The position is still obscure, but it may be supposed that the Allies indicated that there were limits to their patience or indifference. According to the last reports the appointment of Izzet Pasha as Grand Vizier has been abandoned in favour of a politician whose personal hostility to the Entente Powers is less pronounced. The worst of all these complications is that they prolong the chaos in Turkey indefinitely, and render any attempt on the part of the Allies to restore order and good government more and more difficult. Inevitably, too, the settlement tends to assume an *ad hoc* character instead of being based broadly on recognised and sound principles.

The recent massacres in Cilicia provide a case in point. It is impossible that the Supreme Council should ignore them, and yet they introduce no new feature. The unhappy Armenians have had to undergo a further martyrdom to complete the Council's education in Turkish history. There seems to be no doubt that the origin of the tragedy was the folly, or worse, of the French Government in employing Armenian troops to garrison districts with a Turkish population in peace time, or at least at a time when it was most desirable that peace should be maintained between antagonistic elements among the people. The same mistake was made by the Allies in employing a Greek army to take over the Aidin district from the Turks. If the decision was that Smyrna must be given to Greece, the least knowledge of Turkish affairs would have prompted the Supreme Council to entrust the formal occupation of the territory to any other troops than the Greek, and then to have handed it over to the latter. However exemplary the conduct of France's Armenian troops may have been during the war or after the armistice, their employment had only to be extended far enough to produce some such incident as that which is reported to have applied the torch to Turkish fanaticism at Marash.

Allied ignorance affords no extenuation of Turkish excesses; but it needs to be emphasised, because it is solely responsible for the disastrous muddle that has been made of the whole Near Eastern settlement. It would have been thought that, if nothing else were known about South-Eastern Europe and beyond, at least the Allies would have been familiar with the bitterness of feeling between the different races, and the methods adopted to give expression to mutual animosities. But this feature is being ignored in Asia Minor, and has been treated as non-existent in the Balkans. No greater mistake could be made than to suppose that the Supreme Council has evolved a peace settlement in the Balkan Peninsula. The most we can hope for is that the existing lull there will be continued until the various peoples concerned have appreciated the wisdom of redrafting the terms, which in many cases have merely created fresh sores.

In quarters opposed to leaving the Turkish Administration in Constantinople a vigorous attempt will be made to use the Cilician massacres as an argument for reversing the decision already taken by the Supreme Council. The sufferings of the Armenians—all the more pathetic and harrowing as they were preventable—have, however, nothing to do with the fate of Constantinople, the determining factor in regard to which is that no satisfactory alternative has been proposed as yet to the retention of the city by its present rulers. No one regards the possession of Constantinople by the Turks as an ideal state of affairs, and it is, no doubt, a great misfortune that the only possible successors are not in a position yet to make good their claim. These facts vitiate all the protests that are being raised against the Supreme Council's decision, whether they come from the Bishop of Western Pennsylvania, who wants it to be known by Great Britain and France that he "will not take hold of their hands while they hold the bloody hand of the Turk," or from those who are prepared to play their part in the betterment of the Eastern world. The Cilician massacres prove what was already known, that only close supervision and the avoidance of provocation, however remote, will save the non-Turkish population of Turkey from similar outrages. It is an axiom that, as far as possible, alien peoples are to be removed from Turkish jurisdiction; but when this principle has been acted upon to the fullest extent feasible, there will still remain a remnant—probably a substantial remnant— of non-Turks in the truncated Ottoman Empire. These will have to be safe-

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guarded, and, until a new spirit actuates Turkish officialdom, the only practical method will be the personal supervision of Turkish officials.

As has been mentioned before in these pages, nothing is more disheartening to those who looked that good might come out of the war than to note in the discussion regarding the future of Turkey the absence of any consideration for the improvement of the Turks. An agitation among the Churches of Christendom to this end could have been understood, but to-day the one cry is "Punish the Turk," and no one gives a thought to the fact that after the punishment he will remain precisely the same danger to the world that he was before, whether his capital city be Constantinople or Konia. If the Allies could plumb the depths of the Nationalist mind they would discover that the only punishment that was actually dreaded was real reform. Deprive every Turkish official of the opportunity of misgovernment, give the country good administration, justice, security and the incentive to material progress, and the old order in Turkey will quickly pass. But such a programme to carry conviction must have conviction behind it, and it remains to be seen whether that word will yet be found in the Supreme Council's vocabulary.

It is to be hoped that the Allies will not overlook the fact that whatever General Denikin's position may be now, it is likely to become far worse when the winter passes and the Bolshevist armies become more mobile. Even if the anti-Bolshevists are to be left to their fate, some attempt ought to be made to protect the Caucasian Republics. Whether the Turkish Nationalists are acting to-day in concert with the "Reds" or not, we may be sure that the latter will not lose the opportunity of urging the Turks to attack the Caucasus from the south when the Bolshevist army moves down from the north. To prevent this eventuality no time should be lost in strengthening the resistance of the Caucasus, and in enabling the new Armenia to keep watch over its own borders. The report that an agreement has been reached between Armenians and Kurds seems to confirm the belief of the former that they would have no difficulty in establishing a *modus vivendi* with the Kurds if the evil genius of the Porte could be eliminated. Unfortunately, however, the Kurds are divided amongst themselves, and some tribes may not accept the foreign policy inaugurated by others. If the Kurds show the least sign of political organization, the greatest care should be exercised in affording them an opportunity of homogeneous development. In this way the more civilized element will have a chance of leavening the whole lump, and Kurd irredentism will not be added to the troubles of a tired world.

It is now generally accepted in Greek circles that the part of Thrace taken by the Allies under the terms of the treaty with Bulgaria is to be handed over to Greece, and that the new Hellenic kingdom will realise the ambitions of M. Venizelos—a compact circular sea and land State, the geographical centre of which will fall in the Western Aegean. In the matter of defence it is held that Thrace as well as the coastlands of Asia Minor can be more rapidly and adequately protected by sea communication than if they were separated by land an equal distance from the capital. The test of this settlement rests with the future. We believe that territorial gains or losses are immaterial in the Balkans compared with the necessity of peace, co-operation and uniform progress. If the settlement now made by the Supreme Council, which notoriously does extreme violence to Bulgarian opinion, does not stand in the way of the three desiderata, then all will be well, Greece will be justified of her statesman, and the Bulgarian wound will have been healed. If, on the other hand, merely an armed peace is maintained in the Balkans by the exercise of *force majeure*, while co-operation and uniform progress for the different States are lacking, then Greece will have won a Pyrrhic victory, and her development, with that of the Peninsula as a whole, will have been retarded. The English observer who wishes to see the world progress must look beyond the quarrels or enmities of the day, and for this reason will want to find both the countries concerned endeavouring to give the new arrangement a fair chance. Thrace will be more valuable to Greece if she can persuade the Bulgarians to acquiesce in her ownership of it. Bulgaria will make far more headway in material prosperity if she accepts what she is not in a position to challenge, and devotes all her energies to her economic advancement.

The Albanians are in danger of being regarded by the Entente Prime Ministers as most inconsiderate people. There was no reason to suppose that the word "self-determination" existed in the Albanian language, and it was a great advantage to the Supreme Council to keep a fairly large piece of cake up its sleeve, in order that bits might be cut off from time to time and thrown to the more obstreperous of the unruly family of which it had been put in charge. Several compromises were to be carried through by this means, but at the eleventh hour the cake has protested with some determination. It is not likely that the outside world will be able to form any very accurate idea of what is happening in Albania, but we may be confident that there would be neither justice nor finality in the Allies' proposal to partition Albania among three or more States. Most people will be amazed at the hardihood of any responsible statesman who has paid lip-homage to the principle of nationality making such a suggestion. A mandate is comprehensible, but it should leave the people over whom it is exercised united. Whatever difficulty there may be in piercing the veil of propaganda by which Albania is now shrouded, it may be taken for granted that the Albanians will never keep the peace under any system of partition.

The Adriatic controversy drags unprofitably on. In Italy the publication of the correspondence on the question that has passed between the Powers appears to have increased the unreasonableness of public opinion, and the prospect of the Italian and Yugoslav Governments coming to an agreement is far from bright. The Italian case, it is not generally recognised, has been entirely prejudiced by the fact that no claim was originally advanced to Fiume. At best, the port would be a sentimental luxury to Italy, whereas to Yugoslavia it is a matter of economic life or death. For this reason there seems to be little chance of the Yugoslavs accepting any compromise that does not provide for access to Fiume that is incapable in any circumstances of being closed to them.

President Wilson has administered a further correction to the British and French Governments over the Adriatic question. He refuses to consent to the withdrawal of the Memorandum of December 9, and insists that compensation for disappointments elsewhere must not be found at the expense of the Albanians. The mistake made by Great Britain and France was in allowing one party to the controversy to alter the agreement arrived at by the three Powers. In this way they took sides with Italy against the Yugoslavs, and now find it difficult to go back on the Italians at the bidding of President Wilson. Whether the change in the French Premiership has made it easier for France to explain her mistake to the Italian Government remains to be seen. If it has, there is a strong reason why Great Britain should fall into line. A solution of the difficulty cannot be long postponed, and as soon as it is clear that Italy and Yugoslavia cannot agree between themselves the solution will have to be imposed from above. As it can only take the line already agreed upon by the United States, Great Britain, and France, the next step should be clear sailing. But it is to be hoped that Italy, in her own interests, will make in time a virtue of necessity.

In spite of the fact that his presence is urgently required in his own country, the Prime Minister of Roumania has felt constrained to remain in London until the

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finishing touches have been put to the treaty with Hungary. Dr. Vaida-Voevod has the satisfaction of knowing that Roumanian claims to Bessarabia have received recognition and it is to be hoped that, if any attempt is to be made by the Bolshevists to challenge the decision, ample support will be given to Roumania by the Allies. On the subject of the Banat it is inevitable that the Roumanians will have to be content with less than the full measure of their aspirations. The more unsatisfactory from an economic point of view the division of the territory with Yugoslavia may be, the greater the need for a wise statesmanship which will evolve hereafter a working agreement between the two countries to the maximum advantage of both.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Gold and the Exchange.

The best news of the week is that the American exchange has shown strong signs of recovery, and the British and French Governments have arranged to repay part of their loans to the United States. "Money talks," and lately it has been talking very loudly about the bankruptcy of Europe; and our good friends across the Atlantic have been perhaps a little too much inclined to believe all the glowing predictions of impending ruin. The present step will perhaps convince them that the patient shows signs of convalescence.

So far as Britain is concerned, our difficulty at the moment is to get enough raw materials and manufactured articles, not to pay for or sell them. Business men who are usually shrewd judges tell me they see no signs of supply catching up demand for four or five years, and they are making their plans accordingly; it may therefore be taken that there will be no fall in prices for that period. But the present activity encourages new industries, for the element of risk is reduced to a minimum; in one Sunday paper this week I counted the prospectuses of fourteen new limited companies, several with share capitals of over a million. (Sunday is now a favourite day for advertising new issues: the old dilemma about serving God and Mammon evidently no longer applies in the new world.)

Political Torpor.

In a Parliamentary sense the week has been dull in the extreme. Mr. Asquith has not yet tried his hand on the new House of Commons, and the second thoughts of politicians on his return are that it will not make much difference for some time. He had a great public welcome from London Liberals in the streets on his reappearance, but an organised rag of the medical students contrived to make the whole thing ridiculous; they damaged the statesman's motor-car, stole his top-hat, and covered him with confetti. Mr. Asquith bore it all with smiling good temper, but his private reflections on the episode are best left to the imagination.

Home Rule.

The new Home Rule Bill has had the usual fate of such measures. England has promptly forgotten it. In Ireland it has become the prey of the leader-writers, who have discovered with startling unanimity that it is the most hopeless measure ever put forward. Destructive criticism is, of course, easy enough, but one of the real tragedies of Ireland to-day is that it seems to have no constructive policy. Her politicians have been asked time and again to put forward their own scheme, but nothing ever comes of the invitation. In these circumstances it cannot be said that the prospects of a settlement are very bright.

Taxation Questions.

The rumours of a radical reform of the income-tax have been steadily growing in volume. The exemption limit may be raised—this is a mere recognition of the decreased purchasing power of money, the earlier stages regraded more lightly, the later stages more heavily; and there has been some talk of the super-tax, which has now become an anomaly, being directly incorporated in the new graduated income-tax.

Meanwhile economists and politicians continue to discuss the subsidies. One school demands the abolition of the present subsidies on bread, sugar and other commodities, on the grounds of sound finance; another school holds that while this is the correct policy in normal times, in the present transition period the decision to raise the loaf, for instance, from ninepence to a shilling would merely result in a demand for increased wages all round. The demand could not be resisted, and there would be an immediate increase in the cost of living in consequence, which would more than counterbalance the advantage of dropping the subsidy. This school contends that the subsidies must be maintained until supply and demand are more nearly attuned; they can then be dropped, to the great advantage of the State without any real disturbance of industry. The latter school appears to have the more convincing arguments.

The West Indies.

A great deal of unfavourable comment has been evoked by the suggestion put forward a few days ago by Mr. McAdoo of the American Government, that Britain should "wipe out part of her large war debt" to the United States by selling the West Indies. There has been no response in Jamaica or the other islands in favour of the transfer, and, at home, the idea has been ridiculed both by the Government officials and by the planter interest, which has a certain quiet influence. These colonies had a difficult time for many years, but their prospects have recently improved; but through all the period of adversity there has been no diminution of loyalty. The matter has been settled by the official announcement that the British Empire is not for sale.

The Third Archbishop.

For twelve centuries there have only been two Archbishops in England and Wales. But the Disestablishment of the Church in Wales has led to many changes. On March 31 the formal separation becomes effective—the Welsh Bishops will no longer sit in the House of Lords, and will cease to be members of Convocation. At the same time that the four Welsh Dioceses are separated and the Welsh Church becomes a self-governing unit, an Archbishop will be elected; it is understood that the choice will fall upon the doyen of Welsh bishops, the Bishop of St. Asaph, who has held his present post for over thirty years.

Owing to the disendowment the Welsh Church is now very poor, although, fortunately, the scheme has been modified to a certain extent. But the national spirit is strong in Wales, as well as religious enthusiasm, and there has been a good rallying of support to the new body now that it is fully autonomous.

It is understood that the movement towards reunion of the Scottish Churches is making some progress; but one hears at the moment rather less about the fraternisation between Anglicans and Nonconformists, and

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the opposition of High Churchmen, who are by far the strongest party in the Church, to any *rapprochement* remains acute.

The African Flight.

In aircraft circles there is keen disappointment at the failure of both the trans-African flights. But the failure has its compensations. It has brought home to flying men the existence of many new climatic and aerial problems, and these will probably be studied from the full reports that are still awaited before the attempt is resumed, as it certainly will be. The Cape-Cairo flight has struck the imagination, and not only the ordinary world but the men of science and the geographers are anxious to see the project revived in due course.

Newspaper Prices.

The steadily increasing cost of paper and printing, which has made every daily except the *Daily Graphic* double its price, and has caused even the *Nineteenth Century* to jump from half a crown to four shillings, is now beginning to affect the weekly press. The *Spectator*, which has been sixpence for more years than anybody can possibly remember, has gone up to ninepence, and it is possible that its numerous competitors will have to follow suit in the long run. *Nature*, which has a world-wide reputation, was forced to double its price not many weeks back.

I hear that the average novel, which is now seven shillings net instead of the old four shillings and sixpence, hardly pays either author or publisher at the new price, and it will probably have to go as high as nine shillings. But at present the publishing houses are experimenting in prices, and the problem is not an easy one.

The Biter Bit.

Obviously those who hold that everybody has the right to strike should admit that the organisers of strikes possess the same rights; but if human beings were not inconsistent, there would be no fun in a sorry world. Recently an old and much respected clerk of the Independent Labour Party was dismissed. His colleagues protested against what they declared to be victimisation; the protest was treated with the "cynical indifference" that the I.L.P. orators regard as the exclusive property of the bloated capitalist and the soulless business man, and the whole office downed pens. Their union took the matter up and fought the cause of labour with the Labour Party, and—the rest of the world smiles. What is sauce for the industrial goose is apparently not sauce for the headquarters of iconoclastic propaganda.

The Bookshelf.

The books of the week are rather a thin lot. Mention should perhaps be made of "A Brazilian Mystic" (Heinemann), being the life of Antonio Maciel, a fanatic who misled thousands of people; but the main interest of the book for me, I confess, is that it is by Mr. Cunninghame Graham.

Anglo-Indians will wish to read "The Life and Letters of George Alfred Lefroy" (Longmans), who was sometime Bishop of Calcutta. The ordinary life of the ordinary bishop is, perhaps, one of the most certain soporifics ever discovered by man—"not poppy nor mandragora" equal it—but I must frankly place this book in another class.

"Fleet Street and Downing Street" (Hutchinson), by Mr. Kennedy Jones, M.P., is rather disappointing. Mr. Jones made a fortune in Fleet Street, and I hoped he would tell us, not exactly how it was done, but about the things he did and the persons he met, but he says that the time has not yet come for those personalia. On the old principle that the only proper Pussyfoot is a reformed drunkard, I suppose there is nobody quite so reticent as a reformed journalist.

A book of pleasant small-talk and social reminiscences is "The Manners of My Time" (Grant Richards), by the late Miss Dempster. It will pass an hour, or even an hour and a-quarter, quite pleasantly.

There seems to be a conspiracy among authors and publishers at the moment to produce only bad novels; but an exception may be made for "The Triumphs of Sara" (Hutchinson), by that old favourite, W. E. Norris.

An interesting experiment in translation has been made by Mr. H. de Vere Stacpoole, whose fame is mainly as a novelist. He has published a version of "Sappho" (Hutchinson) in English verse. One cannot honestly say that it conveys the full beauty of the original, because that would be impossible to preserve in another language, but the rendering is pleasant. In a prefatory note the author raises the difficult question of destiny: "What fate," he asks, "gave us the shipping lists of Homer, yet denied us Sappho, preserved Apollonius, yet cut the song to Anactoria short, and reduced the song of the orchard to three lines?" Mr. Stacpoole does not answer his own question, but it is a dreadful thought that our age, in turn, may suffer a similar fate, that blind chance may destroy Kipling and other masters, while remote generations possess and judge us by the complete works of Hall Caine and Harold Begbie.

Believers in spiritualism may be advised to read "Contact with the Other World," by J. H. Hyslop (Werner Laurie). It is a very large volume, and, so far as I have examined it, it appears to contain most of the evidence that one expects in a book of this kind, with certain new phenomena. Those who do not follow the current fashion, on the other hand, may enjoy "The Menace of Spiritualism," by E. O'Donnell, which is introduced by Father Bernard Vaughan. With fine impartiality, it issues from the same publishers.

Those who have a taste for theology and metaphysics will do well to read Canon Green's "The Problem of Evil" (Longmans). In part this treatment is on familiar lines, but the author holds that if it had not been for the fall of man there would have been no pain; and it is his belief that the fall did not take place in this world at all, but on some other sphere, and its result has been to hurt our nature by making it selfish instead of altruistic, as it was intended to be. The individual has developed at the expense of society, and physical suffering is the inevitable outcome of moral evil; the opportunity for change came with Christ. Possibly few will agree with this theory, but its enunciation makes an extremely original and thoughtful book. OCELLUS.

WAR WORKERS FOR SERBIA.

A reunion of War Workers for Serbia brought some 180 people together at dinner at the Wharncliffe Rooms, Great Central Hotel, on March 1. Colonel William Hunter presided, and among those present were M. Gavrilovitch (Serbian Minister), Colonel Ostoyitch (Military Attaché), Sir Thomas Lipton, Sir Cecil Hertslet, Sir Edward Boyle, the Rev. Dr. Dearmer, Major Spurway, and Miss Marx (the hon. secretary). The Serbian Minister expressed his gratitude to those who had helped his country during the most tragic years of her life. They would never forget, he said, the devotion of those who worked so splendidly in the face of such grave danger. Sir Cecil Hertslet advocated the formation of an Anglo-Serbian Union. Other speakers were Dr. Alice Hutchison (Scottish Women's Hospital), Dr. Christopherson (Berry Unit), and Mr. Crawfurd Price. In the course of his remarks Dr. Christopherson, the chairman of the committee who arranged the dinner, referred to the experiences of the British missions that were interned in Austria. They were liberated after a reasonable time. He continued: "This was due to two reasons: (1) The correct treatment by the British missions of the Austrian prisoners. The Austrian Prisoners in Serbia no doubt had a bad time owing to typhus fever, but their welfare was faithfully guarded by British missions. (2) To the fact that the chief of the Prisoners of War Section of the Austrian Red Cross was Baron Slatin Pasha.

"I should like to take this opportunity to say a word about Slatin. Both the British prisoners in Austria and the interned British missions in Serbia owe him a debt of gratitude. Slatin before the war had for many years been doing valuable work in the Sudan for the British Empire. He had from long association acquired a high opinion of British administration. He had formed many friendships among his British colleagues. At the outbreak of the war he was on his way to the Sudan. He turned back at once. No one can doubt the patriotism of Slatin for his country, but he was also loyal to the friendships which he had made in former years. He was placed at the head of the Prisoners of War section of the Austrian Red Cross, the result being the correct treatment of the British prisoners of war in Austria and the liberation of the interned mission in Serbia."

"THE NEAR EAST" INDEX TO VOL. XVI.

The Index to Volume XVI. of "The Near East" (July 4—December 26, 1919) is now ready, and will be sent to subscribers on application to the Manager, "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, February 23.

Sirri Pasha's Resignation.

What one might call a Ministerial crisis still exists notwithstanding that the Government has conceded the points on which Sir Ismail Sirri Pasha insisted and because of which he had tendered his resignation. On Wednesday a *communiqué* was issued stating that it had been decided to add an Egyptian member to the Nile Projects Commission, that all the details in connection with those projects would be made public, and that it had been agreed that the Sudan would not take from the Nile more water than might be necessary to irrigate 300,000 feddans in the Gezira without previous reference to the Egyptian Government. These points having been conceded, Sirri Pasha withdrew his resignation, and all was believed to be well. Next day, however, he again presented his resignation, giving this time as his reason that whilst he was much gratified at having been able to serve his country by obtaining the concessions in question, he felt that his long services entitled him to a thorough rest, and as ordinary leave would not give him such rest he had decided to retire from public affairs.

Attempt on Life of the Minister of Agriculture.

The Minister of Public Works proved obdurate, and negotiations were in progress for a reshuffling of portfolios, etc., when on Sunday morning an attempt was made on the life of Mohammed Shafik Pasha, who had been mentioned as a possible successor to Sirri Pasha at the Ministry of Public Works, War and Marine. The attempt was made whilst he was driving from his house at Heliopolis to the Ministry of Agriculture, a bomb being thrown at his car just after he had passed the church erected to the memory of Butros Pasha Ghali on the Boulevard Abbas. The bomb exploded without injuring anyone, and merely slightly scratched the door of the car. As soon as he had thrown the bomb the assailant jumped into a carriage in which another man had been waiting near by and drove off at high speed, his companion holding a revolver at the coachman's head. The chauffeur, who had at once stopped the car, leaped out and gave chase, calling upon a cyclist who was passing to assist him. When the carriage reached a certain point the two men jumped out, followed by the coachman, who marked the house they had entered and informed the police when they arrived. The house was a Jewish girls' school, and the two men were found hiding in the lavatory. They were at once taken off to the Governorate, and, meanwhile, an Army chauffeur who was passing came to the assistance of Shafik-Pasha and drove him to the police-station. The two men were confronted with witnesses, who identified them. The man in the carriage declared he knew nothing of the bomb, but was forced by his companion to drive on. The thrower of the bomb has admitted that he threw it, but declares that he had no intention of killing Shafik Pasha, but merely wanted to frighten him. The two men are a student and an ex-student of a private secondary school, and the inquiry is now proceeding.

There is little doubt that whilst this attempt is part of the general plan of intimidating all those who in any way are prepared to assist in the government of the country at the present juncture, it is at the same time the outcome of the Public Works controversy that has been going on for some time now, and of the unprecedented attacks which have been made in the Extremists' Press and outside in this connection. Two of these organs have now been suspended for these attacks on the Government.

It is indeed somewhat significant that on Friday last—*i.e.*, two days before the attempt—a conference was given on the subject at the Printania Theatre by a native engineer, who violently attacked Sirri Pasha, the Nile projects and the Egyptian, Hussein Pasha Wassef, who had been nominated as an Egyptian member of the Nile Projects Commission. The fact that Shafik Pasha was generally believed to be Sirri Pasha's successor naturally marked him out for such an attempt, which, had it been successful, would have been all the more regrettable from the purely Egyptian point of view, seeing that besides being one of the few able engineers Egypt has produced, he has for some time been taking a prominent and most useful part in the solution of the economic and especially the food supply problems with which the country is being faced.

It is thus to the point of putting out of the way just the men who are their most distinguished and useful compatriots, that the tactics of the Extremists in appealing to the baser passions of the people have brought the country, and this will no doubt not be lost on the British Government or on those of the Powers whose subjects may have sympathised with the national aspirations of the Egyptians, but whose consent must be obtained before any radical changes are made in the internal regimé of the country.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, February 22.

The New Cabinet.

The early days of the new Radical Block Government have not been without incident. The Opposition Press came out on Saturday with a list of the new Cabinet, in which there figured several unfamiliar names of Croats and Slovenes nominated by the Narodny Club and the Slovene Clericals. Among these were a Dr. Hanzhek, who became prominent as the result of an article which he wrote in the paper, *Nezavisnost* (Independence), at Djelovar on February 12, in which he declared himself a Republican. As he was appointed a Minister under the Crown, M. Protitch requested him to withdraw this statement, but Dr. Hanzhek declined, and resigned his appointment.

There is at least one other Republican in the Cabinet; the most notable is the veteran, Stoyan Ribarats, who earned notoriety for his merciless suppression of the mutiny and revolt at Zayechar in 1883, when he was Minister of the Interior. In 1893 he was tried for the murder of eighteen persons in this connection, but acquitted, as his enemies allege, thanks to the intervention of King Alexander. As a supporter of the extinct Obrenovitch dynasty, he has shown his hostility to the Karageorgevitches by declaring himself a Republican in his old age, but the modest Republican Party in Belgrade declined to receive him into the fold. He is now Minister of Commerce in the Radical Government. He leads a small party of some half-a-dozen members, the survivors of the old Liberal Party founded by Johan Ristitch in 1860, which was in power so long under King Milan.

But the crowning sensation was the nomination by the Narodny Club of Dr. Halil-Beg Hrasnitsa, a Mahommedan Bosniak. This gentleman had been a reserve officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army, and served as a Judge of Courts-martial at Kragujevats during the occupation. The Opposition Press at once appeared with a howl of rage and indignation, averring that he is on the list of war criminals "wanted" by the Peace Conference for the condemnation to death by hanging of thirty innocent peasants, women, and children, and the Belgrade Municipality at once voted a protest against his appointment by sixteen votes, there being three abstentions on the ground of non-proven. In to-day's *Tribuna*, a Radical organ, appears a formal *dementi* from Hrasnitsa, in which he states that though he did serve as Judge at Kragujevats from February, 1915, to February, 1917, he never condemned anyone to death, and that only afterwards he read of

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the condemnation of seventeen persons by his successor. Whatever are the rights of this piquant incident, he has been obliged to withdraw from office, and the Democratic papers have issued an appeal to the citizens, shopkeepers, and restaurateurs of Belgrade to boycott him.

Consequently, the Narodny Club have nominated others in the place of Dr. Hanzkek and Dr. Hrasnitsa. The four nominees are: Dr. Mata Drinkovitch, a Dalmatian, Minister of Posts; Dr. Djuro Shurmin, Professor of Serbo-Croatian Literature at Zagreb University; Dr. Ivo Krinz, a Croatian lawyer, and prominent member of the old Starchevist Party; and Mr. Ivan Korachevitch, a Croatian judge. These men are not yet well known in Belgrade, and the Opposition Press naturally regards them with suspicion, as the Narodny Club is generally regarded as a separatist body which is a danger to the Union.

The fact is that the exact aspirations of the Narodny Club are not definitely known; they certainly demand a very full autonomy and the maximum of decentralisation, but is is doubtful whether they desire complete independence. The *Tribuna* asserts that Dr. Drinkovitch spent three years in prison for high treason against Austria; that Dr. Laginja, leader of the Narodny Club, defended him; that Dr. Shurmin sturdily opposed the Khuen-Hedervary *régime* in Croatia, and so lost his professorship under Ban Rauch; and that they are all good patriots, not only towards Croatia, but towards Yugoslavia.

It may be that this is true, and that they only seek wide decentralisation, which, to the foreigner, seems the best solution for this country, where each province has so different a history, or it may be that they have modified their opinions. The Democrats look upon them with alarm and hatred, but, at the same time, we can hardly think that the conservative Radical party would, even for the sake of power, ally themselves with a frankly separatist party.

The Slovene Clericals have three portfolios—Dr. Korochets, their leader, himself a priest, is Minister of Communications, and the others are M. Roshkar, a landowner from Maribor, and M. Jaukovitch.

The remainder of the Cabinet are Serbs, whose careers are better known in Belgrade. M. Protitch is a veteran politician and leader of the Radical Party. His enemies accuse him of political cynicism, reactionary and autocratic tendencies, and an extremely arrogant manner, which makes him difficult to work with. It will be remembered that in the early summer the Slovene Dr. Gostinchar resigned on grounds of personal incompatibility with M. Protitch, who was Prime Minister of the then Coalition Government, and his chief grounds for the long crisis was personal antagonism between him and M. Probitchevitch, who is a strong man.

M. Slavko Miletitch is the son of a well-known politician, Svetozar Miletitch; M. Misha Trefunovitch is a rich man with some political experience; M. Momchilo Ninchitch was Minister of Finance in the late Radical and then Coalition Government; it was he who first stamped the krone, and the new banknotes, engraved in Paris, bear his signature. He now receives the portfolio of Justice, while his old department of Finance is taken by Dr. Velizar Jankovitch, one of the energetic younger generation, who owes much of his political success to his connection with M. Pashitch. Dr. Jankovitch was Minister of Commerce in the Radical Cabinet at Salonika, and afterwards member of the Delegation at the Peace Conference.

M. Miroslav Spalajkovitch, formerly Minister at Petrograd, is Minister without portfolio, the idea being that he shall take over foreign affairs when Dr. Trumbitch has done with the Peace Conference and the thorny problems of the Adriatic Question. M. Govan Jovanovitch is an engineer by profession, and he has qualification for his office; he is not to be confused with his namesake, who was Minister at Vienna in 1914. His inclusion is not without personal interest, because he was obliged to leave a former Government under M. Pashitch on account of a personal quarrel with M. Protitch. The two remaining Serbs, Dr. Stanishitch and General Dranko Jovanovitch, are not known in the political arena.

M. Protitch's Difficulties.

The Skupshtina is to assemble at the end of the month or early in March; it will be interesting to watch events, for M. Protitch has his "mandate" from the Crown on the condition that he works with Parliament. It remains to be seen whether he will have a quorum; it is doubtful whether he will; the Democrats and Socialists have announced their intention of abstaining, which is perfectly consistent with their point of view that the present Parliament does not represent the people and is incompetent. The attitude of he Independent Montenegrins is awaited with interest, for every vote counts. and they are ten in number. They supported the recent Cabinet on general grounds, and one was a member of the Government. And it is probable that a number of Radicals will take offence at the concessions to the elements of separation, the more Chauvinistic will dread Papal influence through the Slovenes, and many will dislike the inclusion of M Ribarats. The Hrasnitsa incident will also very likely cost the Government some votes. The attitude of the oddments referred to in previous letters, such as Buevetsi, and the one Wild Man, is quite unknown.

The Cabinet will certainly have a difficult task, and it is doubtful whether so headstrong a man as M. Protitch, in spite of his great political experience, will be able successfully to handle so mixed a team. His difficulties began early. When the opposition Press gleefully commented on his admission of impossible persons, a *communiqué* was issued stating that the Cabinet was complete on Friday, whereas the first list was full on Thursday. They denied that M. Hanzhek and Dr. Hrasnitsa were ever included, but the *Pravda* asserts that the Regent signed the *ukaz* on Thursday evening, and the new list was complete only on Saturday, so that the new Government began with a crisis, as M. Hanzhek submitted his resignation in writing even before taking over.

One effect of the formation of the new Government has been a further slump on the Exchange owing to the published programme of the Narodny Club to stop the recall of kronen at four to one dinar, and to insist on exchanging them with dinars at par. A few days ago the French franc stood at 216 dinars for 100 francs, having been reduced from the neighbourhood of 230 by Government sales on the Exchange. Yesterday the dinar slumped to 260, and it looks as though it would drop still more.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Governments all over the country have sent in their resignations.

BELGRADE, February 26.

The Future of Albania.

The *Politika* publishes a proclamation which it has received from the new Albanian Government formed at a congress held at Lusnia. All the tribes were represented except those from the districts of Skadar, Ljesh, and Krojà, where the Italians prevented the delegates from coming. The National Congress declares the Provisional Government of Durazzo to have forfeited the nation's confidence for acting against the declared wishes of the nation; it protests against the rumoured proposal of a partition of the country and of an uncalled-for Italian protectorate. It also elected new delegates to the Peace Conference, namly, Bishop Bumchi, Mehmed Konitsa, and Dr. M. Turtuli; they have nominated a Supreme Council of Four to rule pending the election of a king; these are H.E. Atzif Pasha, Abdi Toptani, Bishop Bumchi, and Dr. Turtuli. A Provisional Government is elected as follows:—President, Suleiman Bey Delvina; pending his return from Paris Eshref Bey Frasheri will be acting President; the Minister of the Interior is Ahmet Bey Zogli Matia; of Foreign Affairs, Mehmed Konitsa; of Finance, Nots Choba; of Justice, Hodja Kadri; and of Education, Sotir Petsi; Director of Posts and Telegraphs is Ilomenci Kosturi, and Director of Public Works, Eshref Bey Shraperi. A National Council of thirty-seven has been elected as qualified for Parliament.

Their programme is distinctly national, but the names

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suggest at least a majority of Mohammedans. It is to be hoped that the Christians are represented, especially the powerful clan of the Mirdites, and that Albanian unity will prove a practical proposition. The proclamation has been issued officially throughout Albania.

Statistics and Investigators.

The terrible statistics recently published by Sir William Goode, showing the appalling danger of tubercular trouble among Serbian children, due to malnutrition during the time of enemy occupation, are probably correct, but such figures are sometimes misleading. An American mission is now doing splendid work in different parts of the country, and is applying modern methods, and especially investigating the proportion of feeble-mindedness. Unfortunately, they are compelled to do all their oral examinations through interpreters, and it is well known that an interpreter who is at once competent and honest is indeed a rare bird. As the examiners do not realise that during the recent terrible years there has been little or no schooling in the villages, they cannot understand that a large number of young children, growing up in a cabbage sort of way, all ignorant of the names of the neighbouring villages, hardly, indeed, aware of the name of their own, and sometimes do not even know their own names, at least their own surnames; in many parts of Serbia surnames are not yet crystallised out. The results of oral tests are accordingly very untrustworthy unless conducted by an examiner who, apart from other qualifications, has considerable knowledge of local conditions and psychology. The consequence is that for one district they have returned no less than 90 per cent. of the children as mentally defective. Things are bad enough, but not so bad as this. Feeble-minded children are, as a matter of fact, rare in Serbia, owing to the healthy, natural, rather vegetable-like existence of all purely agricultural villagers, and a British doctor, who has worked all over the country for five years and knows the language well, states that mentally defective children are exceedingly rare in Serbia, though the profoundest ignorance is common.

The One-Step in Belgrade.

The British colony in Belgrade, which has by now assumed quite respectable proportions, has resolved not to be dull, and a series of dances, some quite informal, some in fancy dress, and some more solemn, have given plenty of opportunity to introduce modern dances to Belgrade society. Quite a sensation was caused by the one-step, two-step, and fox-trot, to which many Serbs took gladly, rapidly becoming proficient, while there were a smaller number who had already qualified. But Mrs. Grundy is not a peculiarly British character, as we used fondly to imagine; her sister, Madame Grundovitch, lives in Belgrade, for a week or two ago there appeared a letter in the *Politika* condemning these ultra-modern inventions, characterising them as degenerate and assaulting them with many flails, to the discontent of the younger generation, who had been having quite a good time. The old-fashioned, well-meaning folk, however, had their own way, and in purely Serbian society these dances were banned. But now a champion has appeared in the *Pravda*, pointing out that these dances, whose names look very quaint in Cyrillic characters, are exactly what the dancers make them; that in spite of old-fashioned opposition they have made their way through Europe, for the reason that they are easy to learn, though difficult to dance well, and that, properly danced, they are graceful and innocent. Some people will see degeneration in a cow and suggestiveness in an orange.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 16, 1920.

South Russia.

Although it had been announced that refugees from Russia were not to be allowed to come to Constantinople, several thousand arrived in the course of last week, and were accommodated for the most part at Prinkipo. With their arrival, some interesting information with regard to the situation in South Russia became obtainable. It is reported, for instance, that when Odessa was about to fall into the hands of the Bolshevists there were no fewer than 50,000 officers of the Volunteer Army in the city. Not only did they fail to put up a fight, but the majority of them would have sold the city to the enemy had an attempt been made to defend it. As it was, when the Bolshevists entered Odessa the Volunteer Army had already begun indiscriminate plunder, and the entry of the Red Army had no further terrors for the unfortunate citizens. There seems to be a good deal of truth in the reports affirming that a considerable number of Russian officers are decidedly pro-German, and that Denikin's greatest enemies are within his own lines.

Yesterday, one week after the Bolshevist entry into Odessa, a Ukrainian army led, according to all reports, by General Makhno, recaptured the city from the Bolshevists. General Makhno's army is composed to a great extent of Galician Ukrainians, who are not welcomed by the Poles in their native country, and who are therefore trying their luck in that happy hunting-ground for adventurers of all nations—Russia. One cannot help feeling that we are well out of the Russian adventure, and that it is a pity we ever invested lives and money in what has proved, so far, to be little better than a swindle. If the Russians really want to get rid of the Bolshevists, they should be left to do it; but they seem to prefer a quiet life anywhere than at the front. Here, in Constantinople alone, there are thousands of great, strapping fellows swaggering about in uniforms or in civilian clothes, and thronging all the most expensive restaurants and gambling clubs, where they spend money lavishly—as long as they have anything left.

To-day it is confirmed that the British are evacuating Batum, which is being handed over to the Georgians. We thus leave the unfortunate Armenians to shift for themselves. Although it is said that Denikin has recaptured Rostov, there does not seem to be any serious obstacle to a Bolshevist advance through Caucasia, which means that if any Armenians are to survive at all Armenia will also have to bow the knee to the Bolshevists. With the Georgians, the Azerbaijan Tatars, and the Turks all around them, the Armenians stand a poor chance of a free and peaceful existence. Unless present indications are falsified by future developments, all the fine talk about the rights of small nations and international duties is going to amount to nothing more than was expected by so many people—hot air.

The Nationalists.

After distinguishing themselves at Marash against the French, the Nationalists achieved another brilliant *coup* in the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles, where an ammunition depot under a French guard was attacked and plundered. Some hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition and a considerable number of rifles were captured. No doubt the affair will be attributed to irresponsible brigands, but if the Allies are stern enough they will find that the Nationalists will soon be able to produce the missing material.

As time goes on, there is a distinct revival of Turkish hopes of an easy peace. So far as the Arab and Syrian provinces are concerned, it is fully recognised that there can be no possible question of their return to Ottoman rule, but lately there seems to have arisen a strong conviction that the Turkish point of view will prevail with regard to Anatolia. Whether the intentions of the Allies have been modified or not, it is clear that the Turks will get off much more easily than they expected. Doubtless the ultimate solution will be the best that can be devised under the circumstances, but the unfortunate effect of even an apparent and by no means actual modification of the intentions of the Entente will be that all the credit for the result will be claimed by the irresponsible adventurers who, by holding up the economic restoration of Anatolia, have done so much harm during the last twelve months or so. It seems absurd that anyone could be persuaded to believe that the Entente Powers have been cowed into granting concessions by the bandolero forces organised by Mustafa Kemal, yet that is precisely what the Turks will believe, and once the Turk thinks you are afraid of him he can be no end of a nuisance.

The *Alemdar*, one of the only two opposition papers still in existence, recently published an interesting article with regard to the intrigues of the Unionists who fled from Turkey just after the armistice. A central committee is said to have been formed in Switzerland, under the auspices of the old gang, Talaat, Jemal, Javid, Ismail Hakki, etc., and this committee is said to have been negotiating with the Bolshevists. Talaat, who met Trotzky at Brest-Litovsk, was assisted by the Germans to proceed to Moscow, where,

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apparently, he tried to come to some arrangement with Lenin.

Whether this story be true or not, the fact remains that if the Bolshevists get through to Eastern Anatolia the Turks who talked lightly of an alliance with the Bolshevists, in order to oppose the Entente, will find that their prospective allies are not likely to be so easy with them as the Entente has been. It remains to be seen whether the Turkish pashas who own large estates will be willing to give the land to the Anatolian peasants. The Turks may yet find that the Russian menace, which they fondly thought had been destroyed, is still very potent. In the opinion of many thoughtful people, the Bolshevist campaign in the East is in minor details only different from the traditional Russian policy of pressure southward towards warm waters. At all events, it certainly is evident that the Bolshevist policy is working along the same lines, and that is why it seems doubtful whether we are right in abandoning the Caucasus. The near future will soon enlighten us.

The Parliament.

To all intents and purposes, the Chamber may be considered as the reflection of the Central Nationalist Committee, and the following statement made by Sherif Bey, the Adrianople representative, is therefore not uninteresting: "The complete independence of the Ottoman Empire, within its limits at the date of the signature of the armistice; the rejection of all assistance having the character of an intervention in our internal affairs; the acceptance of all decisions freely taken by the Arab peoples; complete independence in those territories inhabited by Moslem peoples, such as Turks and Kurds. Such are the principles upon which reposes the pact of the deputies."

By "complete independence" is meant the abolition of the Capitulations; the term "intervention" means an effective control which would guarantee the execution of reforms; and *Kurds* are grouped together with Turks as Moslems in order to provide a basis for a refusal to agree to any territorial concessions to Armenia.

This may be taken as a very fair summary of the terms for which the Nationalists are supposed to be prepared to hold out. It remains to be seen how far they are really prepared to go. It is commonly rumoured that the Nationalists have prepared a plan of campaign for Constantinople, and that in the event of the peace terms being unsatisfactory there will be a violent outbreak in the capital. While it is quite possible that a certain proportion of the numerous hooligan element would require little excuse for indulging its taste for plunder, there can be no question of anything whatever in the way of a menace to the military security of the Allies, and even if disorders break out they will very soon be repressed.

The Armenians.

Further reports are arriving of massacres of Armenians in the Zeitun district, and there seems very little doubt of these reports being well-founded. At the same time, it must be admitted that the French do not seem to have handled the situation in a brilliant manner. The recruiting of Armenians, whether for gendarmerie purposes or otherwise, was a dangerous experiment, and no doubt was a contributory cause of the unhappy events that have recently occurred in South-Eastern Anatolia.

SYRIA.

Beyrout, February 23.

The Snowstorm.

The prediction made in my last letter about the damage which it was feared that the unusually heavy snowfall would cause to fruit trees was, unfortunately, too well realised. By far the heaviest loss fell on the proprietors of olive plantations, especially the famous ones of Sahret-el-Schweifat, south of Beyrout. In certain parts the loss is estimated at about 50 per cent. Even some of the pine trees cracked and were broken beneath the heavy load of snow. According to some surviving members of the old generation, the inhabitants of Beyrout 60 years ago woke up one morning to see the waves washing over the snow-covered beach, but it is believed that there is no known record of a snowfall having ever approached the recent one in duration and intensity. At the highest point of the railway track the snow fell so thickly that one of the trains caught by the storm lay entirely buried underneath the snow. Thanks to prompt measures of conveyance and provisioning the 50 or more passengers were rescued. The vegetable crop was almost entirely destroyed. Oranges from broken branches, especially in Sidon, were lately selling by the thousands at prices that seemed ridiculously cheap in comparison with the outrageously high prices of almost every other eatable.

The French Administration.

It is expected that the new broom of General Gouraud will start clearing away the rubbish in the various administrations by the beginning of next month. Already it is said that cases of theft in the Customs House are becoming less frequent. But the task of cleaning and reconstructing such an important and rather specialised administration, where many officials cannot be easily replaced, is a laborious one, and requires time. The service that admits of immediate reform is that of supplies. Badly administered as it is now, it vitiates all the economic fabric, and indirectly breeds political ills. Even while foodstuffs from the interior, particularly wheat and flour, continue to come only spasmodically and in driblets owing to political troubles, it should not be at all difficult for the authorities here to import articles of prime necessity and sell them direct to the public at a little over the cost price. The pound of wheaten flour is selling now at a little over 1s., and rice at 2s., and sugar at as much. There is superfluous tonnage between Egypt and Syria, and steamers are frequently arriving from the States.

MALTA.

Valetta, February 24.

The Carnival.

The Carnival has been but a very tame affair—only a shadow of its former self. There was a time when the feast was an hilarious occasion, one in which gorgeous costumes were worn and political movements and politicians were publicly satirised. Then it was of great moment to the rich, who entered into the various events with great zest and vim. Now it is little more than a procession of the rabble. Various reasons are given to account for this great falling off, but undoubtedly one great cause has been the many balls and masked dances which are held at the Theatre Royal and the various clubs. People dance the night away, to sleep the day through.

The Atlantic Squadron.

The presence of this imposing branch of the British Navy has had an effect for the good on the island all round. The trade has been brisk, and there has been the usual round of enjoyments which the visit of a Fleet brings in its train. One drawback has been the weather, which has been unusually cold and boisterous.

The leaving of a portion of the British Fleet, comprising H.M. ships Revenge, Resolution, Royal Sovereign, Royal Oak, Vesper, Venetian, Vidette, and Wescott, created quite a stir, and an enthusiastic send-off was accorded them on their departure.

February 29.

The Profiteering Law.

People called upon to pay up from excess profits are never very enthusiastic to do so, and Malta is no exception. The time limit to send in returns expired yesterday, but practically nothing seems to have been done, and this in face of the heavy penalties which may be put upon defaulters. There seems to be some doubt on the part of the public as to how the machinery is to be set in motion, but one is afraid that in the majority of cases the evasion is not based altogether on ignorance. However, the suggestion of publishing an explanatory pamphlet is a good one, and the marvel is that it has not been done before. Laxity seems to be a chronic disease in Government circles here, and this has accounted for many gross mistakes in the past.

No Maltese for Canada.

The announcement from the Canadian Immigration Committee of further restrictions against Maltese emigrants has caused considerable indignation. In physique and morals the Maltese would be hard to beat as emigrants. The main cause is that their labour is mostly unskilled, and their knowledge of English, if not nil, is of the most rudimentary and useless nature. It is true that attempts are now being made to improve this, but the horse has left the stable. The whole past policy in educational matters has been a bungle, and the poor would-be emigrants are now paying

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dearly for the blunders of past legislators. The Press has taken the matter up, as has been done scores of times in the past, with no result. It is strongly advocated that technical schools be built to equip properly those who desire to emigrate. But here, again, the coffers are empty, and, what is worse still, there is a party even now clamouring against compulsory education!

CYPRUS.

February 15.

Extraordinary Weather.

A heavy snow-fall which began on Sunday, February 8, continued on the 9th and 10th, covering the whole island with a robe of white. Snow very rarely, and only at long intervals, reaches the plains. The spectacle has been thoroughly enjoyed. The youth of Cyprus has everywhere indulged in snowballing and the novel experience of making snow men, and so on. The cold became intense during the week. All communication between Nicosia and the north coast, and in some other directions, was cut off. A motor carrying mails from Nicosia to Kyrenia stuck in the deep snow, and could neither advance nor retreat. The chauffeur and a single passenger made their way back with great difficulty on foot. The snowfalls and cold have been quite phenomenal, beating all records, and it will be long before they are forgotten. The papers describe the various experiences and the beauty of the scenery in glowing terms, and regard the weather as of very good augury for the year's agriculture.

The Deputation.

A meeting recently held to consider whether the members of the Greek deputation should be requested to return to London to resume their advocacy of "union with Greece," decided the question in the affirmative, with the proviso that full instructions as to the aims and course to be pursued should be given. A further meeting, under the chairmanship of the Archbishop, has decided that contributions should be forthwith collected, in order to provide the sinews of war, as the amount to the credit of the fund does not now exceed £1,000. There will probably be another Pan-Cypriot meeting to decide definitely as to the speedy date of departure. M. Theodotou, the member who remains in London, writes that there is much shifting from day to day in the world of politics, and that much is taking place behind the scenes; but that he does not lose heart. Italian policy, he says, is working energetically to persuade England not to abandon Cyprus, in order that Italy may hold Rhodes. Every effort must therefore be made to counteract these efforts. He will continue to do all he can both in London and Paris.

A letter received from America by the Archbishop again invites the Greek Church of Cyprus to elect one or more representatives to attend the Pan-Christian Congress which is to meet at Geneva on August 12 next.

Nineteen years after his death, final bankruptcy proceedings are being taken in liquidation of the estates of King Milan of Serbia, who died in Vienna in 1901. The King had large properties in Switzerland, and the action is taken by the Cantonal Government of Valais, which has summoned Milan's creditors to meet on March 13.

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"BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND."

Supplementary Report.

The work of this fund is now coming to a close, and I feel that some account of our trust is due to the subscribers who very kindly responded to the appeals I had occasion to make at various times during the period of the war.

Before all, I wish, on behalf of the committee of the "British Refugees from Turkey Fund," and on my own behalf, to offer our sincere thanks to those who by their continued sympathy and help have enabled us to bring relief to those British subjects in Turkey who, through the trials of war, were placed in difficult and even desperate straits.

Relief was provided in the shape of loans, advances of money, monthly allowances, school fees, and doctors' bills, finally travelling expenses to those anxious to return to their homes in Turkey after the Armistice.

Nearly all whom we assisted over this trying period were persons of a class where privation and want are peculiarly hard to grapple with.

Under Lady Neave's inspiration the fund was started in the autumn of 1914, and the same committee then formed, with but few changes occasioned by death or absence, has worked until now.

It may be of interest to record that approximately 200 to 250 persons have been helped. Over £16,000 sterling has been collected, and we have sent assistance not only to British refugees from Turkey in Great Britain, but to those stranded in France, Spain, Italy, Egypt, Greece, and Cyprus, and have also aided British subjects living in Turkey through the war whose condition was in every case very sad.

In Constantinople our fund was administered by Miss Eveline Whitaker, now Lady Paul, who, with the help of friends, distributed the funds until Mr. Waugh, the present British Consul-General, was able to undertake it. In Athens, Mr. Wace, of the British Legation, spared neither time nor trouble to help those who had taken refuge in Greece from Turkey. In Alexandria the British Consul was good enough to be our intermediary, as was H.M.'s Consul in Cyprus. We cannot fully express our appreciation of the work of these devoted helpers, undertaken at times under great difficulties.

In London, Mr. Arthur Baker, of Constantinople, acted with admirable energy as hon. treasurer, with Mr. Ch. Charnaud as hon. secretary in the beginning; on his being called away on official work, later on, his brother, Mr. Geo. R. Baker, took his place. Mr. David Forbes and Mr. Ronald Baker acted as hon. secretaries at different times, and at one time Mr. Middleton Edwardes, now British Vice-Consul in Berne, undertook the secretarial work. Mr. Baker and Mr. Edwardes carried us through a difficult period when appeals were many and funds were low. Mr. Tower, of the London Chamber of Commerce, gave generously of his time and opportunity. To the continued hospitality of the columns of the NEAR EAST we tender our heartfelt thanks.

The fund was under Government control, and the statements of account were regularly sent in to the proper authorities for audit and record. Lady Neave was ever anxious to collaborate. Lady Barker's interest and help never flagged, and the fund owes her a deep debt of gratitude.

In reviewing the past, I cannot but feel that the work accomplished was a very needful work, and one that no other organisation could have attempted to give—the help and sympathy of friends. I add the statement of accounts to September 30, 1919 Since that date £220 2s. 2d. has been expended in passage-money, and after providing for similar anticipated sums our treasurer reckons that the fund will come automatically to a close. Any balance remaining after April 30, 1920, will be sent to H.M.'s British Consul-General in Constantinople to be added to the "British Relief Fund" (a Government fund), which he still administers in Turkey.

For the last time, may I offer an expression of true gratitude to those who have trusted us to carry out this work, which I feel certain has not been in vain. I beg to add my own thanks to those who have been the mainstay of our effort and whose unselfish help and faithful interest have contributed so greatly to the success of the "British Refugees from Turkey Fund."

ALICE LOWTHER.

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY IN JERUSALEM.

We are authorised to announce that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has been graciously pleased to become Patron of the British School of Archæology in Jerusalem. The Director (Professor J. Garstang, of the University of Liverpool) is shortly proceeding to Palestine to complete the organisation of the school. As soon as the political destiny of Palestine has been fixed and a mandate formally assigned, it is hoped that a Department of Antiquities will be formed, under which the school looks forward to collaborating with the Palestine Exploration Fund in the excavation of an important site which has already been provisionally selected. Anyone who is interested in the school is invited to communicate with the Secretary at 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, London, W.1.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—General Smuts has likened the Peace Conference to "a seething cauldron of human greed and passion." This was before the peace with Turkey came up for consideration. Some still stronger expression would have to be found if the General was now assisting the Christian Powers in their scramble for what remains of the Turkish Empire. Yet the writer of an article in the *Manchester Guardian* (February 18), quoted by THE NEAR EAST, unctuously insinuates that Turkey is being treated with a consideration they (the Powers) have failed to show to any of their Christian opponents. Could hypocrisy go further? But, unfortunately, there are, I am sure, thousands of good church-going Britons who honestly have persuaded themselves that such is the case, and, what is more, will continue to do so, no matter what proof may be adduced to the contrary!

In a recent letter to *The Times*, Mr. Ameer Ali suggested that if we really wished to follow the "peace and goodwill" of our Saviour's teaching, the precepts of the Sermon on the Mount had better be studied at Jerusalem, which might be selected as the seat of the League of Nations rather than Constantinople. The retort was fair and very pertinent, but we had better try and keep religion out of the controversy and see if there is not some other "acid test" which can be applied to ascertain if the Powers are as disinterested as they would have us believe, and actuated solely by unselfish motives!

Let us reconsider the Eastern problem as a whole and not as the Egyptian, Syrian, Armenian, etc., questions. Of the Great Powers, who are the most interested—France and England? Let these two great Mahommedan Powers agree to pool their interests, buying out Italy from Tripoli with liberal compensation elsewhere in Africa. Let the Turkish Empire be then reconstructed as a Federal State, much on the lines of the United States, with a Senate at Constantinople, with or without a House of Representatives. Let this Federal State look to France and England for advice and financial assistance, but in other respects let the sovereignty of the Turkish Government be interfered with as little as possible. Let the Greeks and Armenians at present scattered throughout Asia Minor be transplanted so as to form homogeneous communities or States, with liberal self-government, but with representatives in the Senate. Those who refused to be moved to be allowed to remain, but to be made clearly to understand that they have no rights other than their Moslem neighbours. Similarly, Moslems might remain in the Christian communities, should they desire to do so, on the same terms. The federation as a whole to be under the ægis of the League of Nations, who would grant France and England a joint mandate for a *fixed* period of years, at the expiration of which Turkey's entire emancipation would be reconsidered.

In the space of a letter all the details of the scheme cannot be gone into, but the rough sketch I have given will, I trust, be sufficient to judge of the merits of such a proposal, which I contend would: (a) ensure peace and good government in what was formerly the Turkish Empire; (b) provide for the protection of the small Armenian and Caucasian States without making too heavy demands on France and England; (c) utilize Turkey's man-power also in Mesopotamia and elsewhere, though each State would have its own police or other armed force; (d) create municipalities at certain centres, such as Constantinople and Smyrna, on the model of the Egyptian mixed institutions; (e) pacify the Moslems in India and Egypt, and assist in solving the question of the Khalifate in Arabia; (f) produce a strong and friendly Moslem Power, to be eventually incorporated in the League of Nations.

If after such a trial Turkey still failed to reach or maintain a standard of civilized government as enjoyed by her European neighbours, a further period of tutelage would be prescribed, but the decision would rest with the League of Nations and not with the Powers holding the mandates.—I am, etc.,

Taunton. COLES PASHA.
March 1, 1920.

ALBANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—On January 30, in spite of difficulties thrown in their way by interested Powers, the Albanians held a National Assembly at Lusnia, and passed resolutions which ought to be more widely known, and have not received from the Press the attention they merit. They are as follow:—"The National Assembly, gathered this day at Lusnia, has decided unanimously to protest against the decision of England, France, and Italy to partition Albania among the Yugoslavs, Greeks, and Italians, thus putting in force the Pact of London of 1915. The same Assembly has to-day voted without opposition the following orders of the day:—(1) A protest against the decision, which condemns Albania (a neutral State, and one of the most ancient of Europe), in order to satisfy the imperialistic aspirations of the neighbour States. The National Assembly appeals to the whole civilised world against this total ignoring of the principles proclaimed by the President of the United States and the representatives of the Entente after a war which has freed a number of nations from a foreign yoke. The Assembly demands complete independence within the ethnographical and natural frontiers of Albania. (2) The Assembly has decided not to accept any foreign mandate or protectorate. (3) Albania desires only to take her place in the Balkan peninsula, thus putting an end to her miseries, in order to enjoy a life of peace and harmony with her neighbours. The Albanians are ready to make all sacrifices, to the last drop of their blood, against any decision which may imperil their territorial integrity and their complete independence."

It is obvious that no partition or occupation of the country can be made without bloodshed, and in the interests of peace it is most earnestly to be hoped that no second Poland may be made of Albania. The numerous Albanians who fought as volunteers in the ranks of the French and the Italians, and the Albanian refugees in America who joined the United States Army and fought along with it in France, believed that they were at the same time fighting for their own freedom. They believed in the honour of England, whose Prime Minister was proclaiming the rights of self-determination; they knew that the Treaty of London of 1913, which gave them independence, was signed by Sir Edward Grey.

Is England now to show to Albania and to the world that her pledged word is valueless?—I am, etc.,

M. E. DURHAM,
Hon. Sec., Anglo-Albanian Society.
71, Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.3.

THE SECURITY OF THE BULGARIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The Bulgarian nation arose, only two generations ago, from the obscurity in which the concentrated Ottoman power in Europe had held it for centuries, and rapidly reached an enviable position to the eyes of its neighbours. Bulgaria acted, was talked of, served, destined for great political combinations as no other country during forty years. Serious men even came to entertain the belief that the problem of the Turkish power in Europe might be solved by Bulgaria, and their belief was all but realised only a few years ago. Events, however, beyond the capacity of the Bulgarian leaders, guided by an unhappy succession of circumstances, have destroyed, as far as can be judged from the present condition of things, the basis of such belief.

"Is the Bulgarian failure for the good of the world's peace?" is a question which some will answer in the affirmative, others in the negative. We will not discuss it here. The Bulgarian, however, is still for his neighbours an object of preoccupation, even of fear. How otherwise are we to explain their daily endeavours to damage him further by deliberately spreading false information regarding what is happening in his country?

The enemies of Bulgaria, aided by happy circumstances, can destroy many things possessed by the Bulgarian, but they cannot destroy his capacity for labour, and they fear it. The Bulgarian has failed in some things: he has never failed in labour. It has ever been the characteristic quality of the Bulgarian. Nobody can deprive him of it. Work has preserved him through centuries; work raised him above his neighbours to lead them to victory over the common enemy; and work will preserve him from the slough of despond in which his enemies would keep him. It is this labour of the Bulgarian that his evil wishers—and they are all around him—fear. The Bulgarian himself does not think much of this, his special characteristic; it is part of him. He does not, will not labour to spite his enemies; he labours because he cannot help it.

This quality of the Bulgarian is centuries old; it is traditional, a gift, as he believes, of God. The following ancient Bulgarian parable will illustrate my assertion: "When God was allotting the destiny to men, the first who came were the Turks, to beg for a present. God settled it Himself, and gave them sovereignty. When the Bulgarians heard that God was making presents they hurried up to get something for themselves. 'Why have you come, you Bulgarians?' said God. 'You are welcome. Thank you for coming.' 'God, we heard you were making presents to people, and we beg you to give us one.' 'What would you like me to give you?' said God. 'We want sovereignty for a present,' answered the Bulgarians. 'I have already given that to the Turks,' He said; 'you must think of something else.' 'O God!' they said, 'what is this *work* of yours; why did you let others have sovereignty? Give it to us if possible.' 'That's settled,' said God; 'take my blessing, you Bulgarians, but I will not take back my word. A present

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I will give you: Work. Now go with God,' said God to them.

"The Jews heard of this and hurried up to God: 'Why have you come, you Jews?' said God. 'We heard that you were making presents to people, and we have come for one.' 'Well, well! what would you like?' said God. 'We want sovereignty,' replied the Jews. 'I have given that away; ask for something else.' 'O God!' they cried, 'what is this *calculation* of yours? We want sovereignty,' said the Jews. 'That's disposed of; take my blessing, you Jews, but I won't take back my word. A present I will give you: Calculation.' The Francs (Europeans) obtained artifice, the gipsies poverty, etc. At last the Greeks came before God. 'Why have you come, you Greeks?' said God. 'We come that you might give us a present—the biggest of all,' said the Greeks. 'What sort of a present would you like me to give you?' said God. 'Sovereignty,' said the Greeks. 'Well, you come too late; I have divided all the presents; there is hardly anything left that I can give you. Sovereignty has gone to the Turks, work to the Bulgarians, calculation to the Jews, artifice to the Francs, poverty to the gipsies. So you see there is nothing I can give you.' 'Whose was this *intrigue*,' they shouted, 'that we heard nothing, and have come so late for a present?' 'Ha! ha!' laughed God; 'don't be angry, you too shall have a present. I won't let you go back with empty hands. You shall have *Intrigue*,' said God." And the Greeks have intrigued, and will intrigue; the Bulgarians have laboured, and will labour. The struggle between these forces has not finished. Sudden soaring heights may yet turn out to have been accomplished on Icarus wings.—I am, etc.,

P. M. MATTHEEFF.

Sofia, Feb. 6, 1920.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

INDIA: Franchise Rules (Non-Brahmans).—Financial Relations (Provincial Contributions).—Officers' Pay and Pensions.—British Officers (Shortage).—Uninsured Officers' Personal Effects (Compensation).—Mrs. Annie Besant (Passage to India).—Military Clerks.—Kabul (Bolshevist Mission).—Death Rate. MASSACRES IN CILICIA: Baltic and Black Sea Forces.—Black Sea (British Fleet).—Turkish Rule in Constintinople. ROYAL DOCKYARDS: S.S. "River Clyde." AMRITSAR INCIDENT. CONSTANTINOPLE. PERSIA (RAILWAY TO CASPIAN SEA). INDIA: British Officers (Resignations).—Officers' Gratuity.—Interpreterships.—Railway Staff. (February 18.)

LAW OF ISLAM (BOLSHEVISM). GERMAN AND TURKISH WARSHIPS (DISPOSAL). OTTOMAN EMPIRE (ALLIED OCCUPATION). PALESTINE (MR. H. SAMUEL'S MISSION). TURKEY AND ARMENIA. INDIA: Police Officers.—Unattached Departmental Warrant Officers (Pay). "AUCTION OF SOULS" FILM. SUDAN CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS. SOMALILAND (OPERATIONS AGAINST THE MULLAH). TURKEY (PEACE TREATY). (February 19.)

INDIA: Strikes at Bombay.—Army Pensions and Pay.—Legal Proceedings against Ministers.—North-West Frontier Operations.—Aeroplanes.—British Soldiers' Papers.—Government Schools (Newspapers).—Government of India (Non-Brahmin Representation).—Purchase of Rice.—Railways (North-West Frontier). ROYAL NAVY: Black Sea Forces. PEACE CONFERENCE: Turkey. SMYRNA (Outrages). Indian Telegraph Department (Officers' Pay). (February 25.)

SMYRNA. ROUMANIA (LOANS). CEYLON RIOTS. PEACE TREATIES: Bulgaria. MONTENEGRO. TURKS AND CONSTANTINOPLE. (February 26.)

TRANSPORT: Persian Gulf (Steamers). PEACE TREATIES: North Caucasia. RUSSIA: Bessarabia. INDIA: Officers' Pensions.—Nepal (War Services). PERSIAN GULF (STEAMERS). SMYRNA (MASSACRES). INDIA: Army Officers (Leave).—Free Transport (Soldier's Fiancee). (March 1.)

SMYRNA (GREEK LANDING). BRITISH ARMY: Troops in Palestine. (March 2.)

INDIA: Military Clerks.—Punjab Disturbances.—Rice.—Strike at Sholapur.—Cotton Mills (Labour Conditions).—Asiatics in South Africa (Commission). PEACE TREATIES: Kuban Republic.—North Caucasus. SMYRNA. SERVICE AT ADEN. MESOPOTAMIA. (March 3.)

RUSSIA: Kuban Armistice.—Small Republics. TURKISH PRISONERS. EGYPT: Cotton Cultivation. PEACE TREATIES: Roumanians in Budapesth.—Turkey. MONTENEGRO. ARMENIA (MASSACRES): Action by Allied Conference. INDIA (CURRENCY) (March 4).

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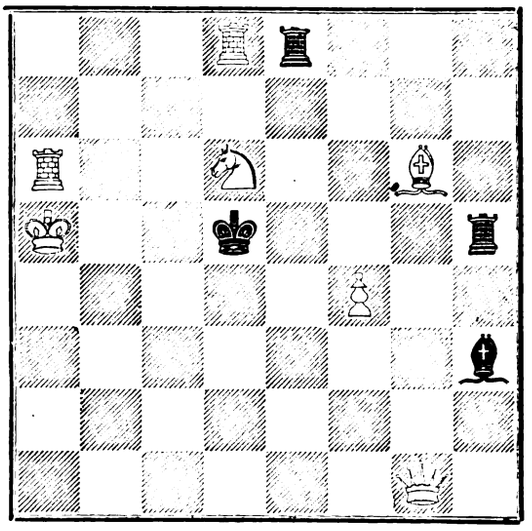
CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 17.

Black.



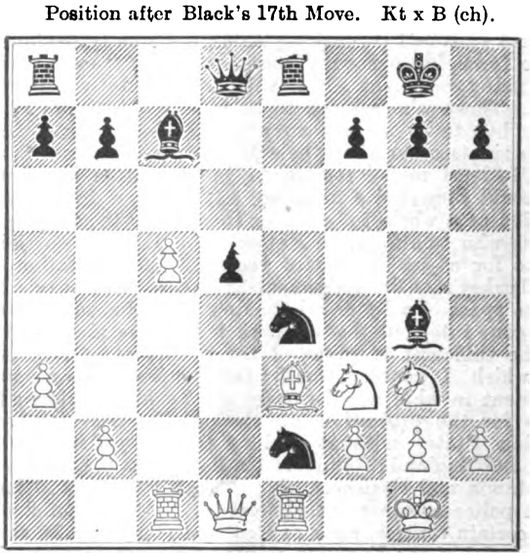
White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem, by H. V. Tuxen, was awarded the first prize in one of the competitions of the Good Companion Chess Problem Club.

Mr. E. E. Colman finished his games in the Metropolitan Championship with the following fine win over Mr. R. H. V. Scott, giving him the excellent score of nine out of eleven, made up of seven wins and four draws:—Opening, Queen's Pawn; White, Mr. Scott; Black, Mr. Colman: 1, P—Q4, P—Q4; 2, Kt—KB3, Kt—KB3; 3, P—QB4, P—K3; 4, P—K3, QKt—Q2; 5, QKt—Q2 (1), P—B4; 6, P—QR3 (2), P x QP; 7, P x P, B—Q3; 8, P—B5 (3), B—B2; 9, B—QKt5, 0—0; 10, 0—0, P—K4 (4); 11, P x P, Kt x P; 12, R—K, Kt—Kt3; 13, Kt—B, Kt—K5; 14, B—K3, B—Kt5 (5); 15, B—K2, Kt—B5; 16, R—B (6), R—K; 17, Kt—Kt3, Kt x B (ch) (7); 18, Kt x Kt, B x Kt;

Position after Black's 17th Move. Kt x B (ch).



19, P x B, Q—R5 (8); 20, Kt—Kt3, Kt x Kt; 21, BP x Kt, B x P (9); 22, P x B, Q x P (ch.); 23, K—B, Q—R6 (ch.); 24, K—K7, P—Q5; 25, Q x P, Q—Kt7 (ch.); 26, K—Q3, QR—Q; 27, K—B4, R x Q (ch); 28, B x R, R x R; 29, R x R, P—B3; 30, R—K3, P—KR4; 31, R—Kt3, Q—B7 (ch); 32, R—B3, Q x P; 33, R—K3, Q—R7 (ch); 34, R—Kt3, P—R5; 35, K—B3, Q—K7; 36, P—B4, P—R6; 37, K—Kt4, P—R7; 38, R—R6, Q—Kt7; 39, resigns (10).

(1) Not nearly so strong as Kt—B3. The text move signifies the adoption of a waiting policy.

(2) Clearly a wasted move.

(3) This move is much favoured by some players, but has little to commend it, almost invariably leading to pronounced weakness in the centre. In the present case Black resolves the position greatly to his advantage.

(4) The logical sequence to White's 8th move. Now Black obtains a passed pawn.

(5) A strong move, placing White completely on the defensive.

(6) B x Kt might have been played here, followed by Kt—Q4, which would have resulted in an exchange of pieces. R—B and Kt—Kt3, which follows, simply enable Black to perfect a neat sacrificial combination.

(7) With which Mr. Colman begins his successful attack.

(8) Obviously the Kt cannot be taken.

(9) A perfectly sound sacrifice.

(10) A well-played game by Mr. Colman.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Arabia.

In the *Fortnightly Review* of February, Mr. Robert Machray takes into review the whole Arab question. Of Arabia, in particular, he says:—

Such of its States as were virtually independent of the Turks before the war will doubtless become independent in fact, but this does not mean that they will draw together to form a Confederation. There is no great driving force in that direction from within, and events tend the other way. The unification of the Arabs which was achieved during the war has not endured. Since the conflict between the King of the Hedjaz and the Emir of Nejd-Hasa, a conflict in which the latter stands with his fanatical followers for the extreme Mahommedanism of the Wahabis, and the former appears as the representative of orthodox Islam, there has been no approach to a settlement of their quarrel, which is concerned with the delimitation of their respective frontiers, and has already led to severe fighting, with a victory for Nejd-Hasa. Perhaps the British, who have been appealed to in the matter, may succeed in composing the dispute as to boundaries, but they can scarcely be expected to succeed in composing the religious differences, for they go very deep. There is no Arab unity in Arabia proper—this is the truth. And it would seem to be unlikely in the last degree that the two leading native States—much the most considerable in Arabia—will ever come into any sort of real political association. Nearly all the tribes are divided by conflicting interests and century-old feuds, and this division still persists throughout Arabia. It will be seen from all that has been set forth in this article that to all intents and purposes the Arab Empire, instead of consisting of Palestine, Syria, and Mesopotamia as a minimum, has been whittled down to the narrow strip of Eastern Syria which contains Damascus, Hama, Homs, and Aleppo. This is the same thing as saying that there is no Arab Empire. And from what leaks out—there is little direct information available—it is to be feared that the erection of the East Syrian territory, under the Emir Feisal, into a State is a rather artificial business, and that the Arab administration leaves much to be desired—which is precisely what was to be expected in the circumstances. What, then, of the official statement of the British and French Governments of November, 1918, to the effect that they aimed at establishing indigenous governments and administrations in the lands freed from the Turks? That was a definite statement of a definite policy, and it must be implemented sooner or later, but the facts suggest that it is advisable to do so later rather than sooner. Long tutelage will be necessary for success in these efforts in setting up Arab States. The Arabs are a congeries of tribes, some settled, and some nomadic; and the desert is in the blood of every one of them. Government in the modern sense is unknown to them. There are those who maintain that the Arab is incapable of governing a modern civilised State as it should be governed. This is a hard saying, but with enough truth in it to indicate what is the real difficulty of the Arab question. At least it may be safely said that the establishment at present of Arab States, without firm and strong guidance from outside, is undesirable, and might be disastrous both to the Arabs themselves and to the general interest.

Algiers.

In the *Evening Standard* recently, Mr. A. MacCallum Scott, M.P., described Algiers. This is how it appears to him:—

Algiers is almost wholly Oriental. The town is like a veiled woman from the harem wearing a pair of high-heeled Parisian shoes. The quarter round the harbour is French, with spacious boulevards, gay Parisian shops, open-air cafés, and electric cars. But the old town, which climbs up the steep hillside, terrace by terrace, to the kasbah, or fortress, is as Oriental as Bagdad. It is a secret land. The women are veiled, and the soul of this people is veiled also. The two races, of Europe and of the Orient, mingle in the street and in the market-place. In fez and turban, in Moorish or Arab dress with curious European adaptations, the native toils contemplatively and traffics philosophically, undisturbed by all the mechanical ingenuity of Western and Northern civilisation. The two streams flow placidly in the same channel, touching each other, but never mingling. The Moorish or Arab soul looks out upon an alien world through narrow loophole windows like the eyes of the woman peering out through the slit between the veil and the haik.

The Arab town is almost incredible to a European. Streets there are none. It is difficult to find a word sufficiently diminutive to express these precipitous passages of communication which burrow between and beneath the houses. "Alley" and "lane" are words of far too spacious an import. These burrows seem hardly human to our Northern eyes. A rabbit warren and the subterranean galleries of an ants' nest are the closest similes that suggest themselves. No wheeled vehicle can penetrate this labyrinth—no horse or even mule. Tiny donkeys with panniers are the beasts of burden, and when one meets them climbing nimbly up the cobbled steps one must stand aside flat to the wall to let them pass in Indian file. A narrow streak of sky is sometimes visible far overhead through a crack in the shell of the human hive. The Moorish house is typical of the secret life of the people. The blank walls which it turns to the street reveal nothing. There is no attempt at decoration. The plain, plastered, whitewashed walls are unrelieved by windows, save perhaps by a narrow slit like a loophole. The doorway is severely simple, save, perhaps, for a narrow band of tiles or a moulded plaster pattern round it. There is no "front," no "facade," no portico, no loggia—none of that ostentation and public display in which Europe delights. But these Moorish houses are like a coat of sackcloth with a rainbow-coloured silken lining. They expose their back to the world, but their real front is turned within. Each house is built round a central courtyard open to the air and to the sun. A fountain trickles dreamily in the midst. Each of the four sides consists of a double row of arcades arched in the Moorish fashion, the upper arcade forming a balcony with a parapet of intricate arabesque pattern. The walls are gay with coloured tiles. Here with the world shut out is decoration, here is colour, here is the domestic life which no outsider may see. Our civilisation beats around these walls like surf upon the barrier reef of a coral island.

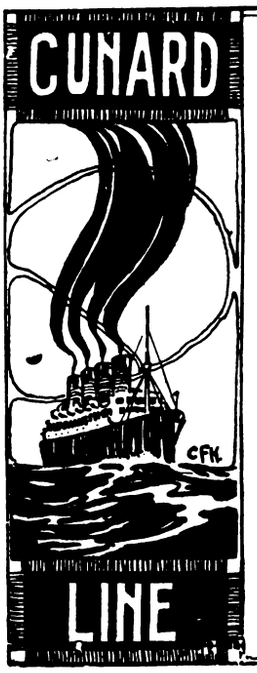
Serbian and Italian.

In the February issue of the *Contemporary Review* Mr. Anthony Dell makes some interesting comments in an article entitled "Italian and Serb: A contrast." Of Serbian character he says:—

The compound of physical energy and Oriental mysticism and lethargy is very marked among the Serbians, and it is very difficult to say how far the Orientalism is a legacy of the Turk and how far it is innate in the Serbian character. One must realise, in the first place, that the typical Serbian, although of sharp intelligence and with an aptitude for acquiring new ideas, is at the bottom moved by sentiment and feeling more than by reason. One may argue successfully with a man inclined to gaming or deeds of violence that such courses are unsound in practice and evil in consequence. He will admit your reason, but add: "What you say is undoubtedly just. You are a wise people. But we Serbians are of no value to anyone. If they hang me the world will be no poorer, and I shall have lived my life as it pleased me to live it." In the face of this, logic is powerless. Such a frame of mind governs a very large part of the daily life of the average Serbian—not, of course, necessarily in the direction of wrong-doing. Whereas the Italian would, if he had time to think, survey a problem of conduct from the point of view of reason, the Serbian would be inclined to act upon impulse, however long a time for reflection he had. Fortunately, his impulses are on the whole hearty, generous, and innocuous.

And his view of the present difficulties existing between Italy and Serbia he summarises as follows:—

Latest indications are to the effect that armed struggle between Latin and Slav will be averted, and that each will realise the sovereign necessity of common friendship. There are only a small minority of Italians who seriously wish to filch Dalmatia from the Slavs; just are there only a small minority of Jugo-Slavs who harbour a grievance that Trieste ought to be theirs. The average Italian is a reasonable being, and the average Serbian is, if not exactly reasonable, a person who does not exaggerate his claim upon his life. Reasonable compromise and the discomfiture of the "Nationalists" would be welcomed by the people as a whole in both camps. But it must be remembered that if the Italians react to the suggestion of under-esteem, the Serbians as quickly react to the suggestion that Europe is no place for the Slavs. The determination that there shall be no successor to Austria on the neck of Serbia is one which is shared by every Southern Slav, and no one who knows the Serbs can fail to be convinced that a solution which leaves them under the impression that they are being throttled will provoke a conflict as bloody and determined as that which expelled Austria from Italy. There is no sensitive repugnance to war in Serbia. It is a land where the din of battle has never yet been hushed.



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MUSICAL NOTES.

There is little doubt, I think, that modern methods of teaching technique in music are far superior to those of former days. This fact applies especially to the piano, and it was exemplified by the recital which pupils of M. J. du Mont gave at the Æolian Hall on March 1. It is not so much improvement in actual playing as the conservation of energy (which is gained from the principle that "that is best done which is done with the least possible effort") that is noticeable in modern methods. Even in very long (and very, very dull) concertos by Beethoven, M. du Mont's pupils showed most marked powers of endurance. In modern more than in classical pieces his pupils also displayed some interpretative skill; in a few of Scriabin's preludes, for instance, Miss Barbara Hawke made more than a guess at what the composer meant, and Miss Violette David knew quite well what Debussy and Albeniz were talking about when they wrote their "Voiles" and "Seguidillas." It is also possible that a name will be made by Mr. Claude de Ville, who showed a sense of colour in Chopin and Arnold Bax.

The other pianoforte recital which I attended during the week was that of Miss Katherine Doubleday, at the Æolian Hall on March 3. Miss Doubleday is a very capable pianist, but she has a style the worst parts of which are all her own. In spite of affectation, however, she achieves some remarkably beautiful playing. Her technique and touch are both good, but it appears that she has not decided yet in which direction her abilities most surely lie. Her field is certainly a wide one, and it seems that she should learn rather what to avoid than what to play. For instance, for the Zarembsky and Rachmaninoff (one study and two preludes) she would have had to go but a very short distance to find better substitutes. However, in César Franck's "Prélude, Choral et Fugue," and in Schumann's "Etudes Symphoniques," she showed that she is a really fine musician. She played Franck's "Prélude" extremely well, though in the "Choral" her affectations let her down. Equally well she commenced her Schumann, but owing to her methods her endurance was exhausted long before the end. It will be very interesting to watch the future of this young musician, for in it lies the perfecting or the marring of a fine artist. Miss Doubleday was assisted by Capt. Herbert Heyner, who sang very well songs by Hamilton Harty and Easthope Martin, and one was grateful to him for including a beautiful little song by Delius, "Have you seen but a white lillie grow?" In other songs by Schubert and Schumann one's gratitude (especially to the accompanist, Mr. Berkely Mason, who in other songs was excellent) did not express itself.

Vocal recitals may be heard almost any day at one or other of the halls in London, but unless you are a hardened frequenter of such you do not know that the majority of them can be unregretfully missed. This being so, I was all the more sorry not to be present at the first half of Miss Anne Thursfield's recital at the Wigmore Hall on March 2. What I did hear, however (some negro spirituals, and French songs by Hahn, Fauré, and Fourdrain), was sufficient to show that here is a very fine artist, whose skill in singing, however, seems greater than her judgment of song. Her inclusion of J. A. Carpenter's setting of some words of Tagore may or may not have been due merely to the indefensible desire to be in fashion, but surely the negro spirituals, which I heard her sing, could have been kept in reserve as encores? Still, for her French songs alone one is profoundly indebted to Miss Thursfield, because she sings them in French, and not in that sorry counterfeit with which most English singers attempt to swindle their audiences.

At the Æolian Hall on March 4, Miss Ursula Greville gave her first song recital. Her programme was unusually interesting: it included operatic excerpts from Mozart and Puccini, and some part-songs for three voices, in which she and two other ladies took part. The first thing noticeable in Miss Greville's singing is the fact that she is always delightfully in tune. Her voice is beautifully clear, although her enunciation is not. Her obvious aspiration to operatic singing I do not think will be fulfilled, but in songs of more natural beauty she should do very well. In a song of movement like Stanford's "Windy Nights," or in a liquid picture like Rutland Boughton's "Immanence" (words by John Rodker), she and her accompanist, Mr. Percival Garratt, gave us the thing complete. Miss Greville is obviously truly musical, with both skill and judgment, but I hope she will not try unduly to develop the operatic side of her singing, for she has not the virtues (except a very keen ear) and certainly not the vices necessary to success in that sphere.

M. Mirsky, who gave a vocal recital at the Æolian Hall on March 4, sang songs in five languages, English, French, Italian, Russian and Hebrew. Fortunately, he did not indulge in that very expensive economy, yet common custom, of having printed only the titles of his songs (this custom is one which only our John Coates' and Gervase Elwes' can afford to observe). Without a programme of words, indeed, one would have been rather lost. As it happened most of the songs were well-known, but as it also happened M. Mirsky did little to prompt one's recollection of the words when one's memory failed. M. Mirsky has developed the emotional side of singing rather at the expense of the other aspects of his art. However, within this narrow sphere of Love, Sleep, the Soul, and so on, he worked with convincing fervour. He was best (or, perhaps, one could not so easily notice faults) in Hebrew and Russian: he sang especially well Borodin's fine song, "The Enchanted Forest." M. Mirsky was assisted by Mlle. Valerie Valenson, who unfortunately chose pieces which demanded nothing more than (but which showed she was the possessor of) an extraordinarily neat technique.

The fifth concert of the London Chamber Concert Society at the Wigmore Hall on March 2 maintained the high standard which this Society has set. With Miss Rhoda Backhouse as violinist, Mr. Harold Samuel as pianist, and Mr. Felix Salmond as 'cellist, Saint-Saëns' Trio in F major (Op. 18) and Mozart's Trio in E major (Op. 15, No. 2) were played. Of the charming yet thin substance of the first they made a very pleasing thing: Miss Backhouse infused a good deal of necessary individuality into her playing, and with Mr. Samuel and Mr. Salmond putting in some superb phrasing, the whole trio was performed with rare verve and finish. In the third movement (*Scherzo Presto*) they excelled themselves. Unfortunately the Mozart was not so well done, for Miss Backhouse was unable entirely to rid herself of faulty intonation. As a pianoforte solo, Mr. Samuel played Bach's Partita in A minor. His hard, precise, and finished style suits Bach as well as anybody, and his performance of the seven pieces was instinct with both colour and clarity. The *Sarabande* and *Scherzo* were particularly charming. If Mr. Samuel were to stick to Bach he would, I think, have a much higher reputation than he has. In a Brahms Sonata for Piano and Violoncello (Op. 38) which he played with Mr. Salmond, many passages were of exquisite beauty, but it was the difficulty of fusing the fanaticism of Mr. Salmond with his own fervour that made all except the first movement imperfect. In the last movement, it may be added, his fervour reached the unhappy pitch of snapping a piano string.

Almost all that can be said of the Kennedy-Frasers, whose recital of the Songs of the Hebrides I attended at the Æolian Hall on March 6, has been said. Every critic of repute has warmly recognised their genius, and the genius of the things which they have discovered and are still discovering. Mrs. Marjory Kennedy-Fraser and her daughter, Miss Patuffa Kennedy-Fraser, bring us, in these songs from Barra, the Lewes, Eigg, and the other islands of the Hebrides, face to face with the elemental things of life. There is something in these priceless songs which staggers the mind. Just as we are passionately shocked by the discovery of Truth, so something is let loose inside us when we listen to the fundamental truths of these island songs. Whether they be (like "Kishmul's Galley") of the sea, or (like "The Sea Tangle") of the island life, they stir both the mind and the blood, for they tell with direct and unescapable simplicity of the primary things in civilisation. There is, of course, artifice in the way in which the Kennedy-Frasers give them to us, but their genius transforms it into the most consummate art. I know of no songs in which beauty is more sheer or melody more deep.

The concert which the Russian Musical Dramatic Art Society gave at the Æolian Hall on March 6 was a very fine one. First Miss Ethel Hobday and Mr. Felix Salmond played Rachmaninoff's Sonata for Piano and Violoncello in G minor (Op. 19). It was a masterly performance, and the playing at times reached great heights. The third movement (*Andante*) was marvellously beautiful, and a better performance of it is scarcely conceivable. Then Miss Olga Haley, who is one of our finest artistes, sang some songs (in English that left everything to be desired) by Medtner, Rachmaninoff, Gretschaninoff, and Rimsky-Korsakoff. To praise her would be superfluous, and to prefer criticism would be almost impudent. Finally, Miss Lilias Mackinnon played some Scriabin. It is a curious fact about Scriabin that the more you know about him the more are you inclined to disagree with other people's interpretations of him, but Miss Mackinnon is never in doubt of his meaning, and plays him most authoritatively. Still, in the Preludes particularly, it was possible for one's enjoyment to be lost in admiration of her interpretations.

ANDANTE.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"TALES RETAILED OF CELEBRITIES AND OTHERS." By Sir Hastings D'Oyly, Bart. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.)
II.—"A KUT PRISONER." By H. C. W. Bishop. (London: John Lane. 6s. 6d. net.)

I.—YARNS OF THE I.C.S.

It is perhaps a pity that Sir Hastings D'Oyly did not "retail his tales of celebrities and others" a year or two sooner, for his book is just of the kind our officers were wont to appreciate most in those intervals of rest from service in the front line which allowed them to indulge in the luxury of reading. During the war years the average Englishman's distaste for literature, either improving or informing, was even more marked than it is under normal conditions, and a happy collection of good sporting yarns such as Sir Hastings D'Oyly has given us would have found a very appreciative audience in the great fighting public of those days. But even in these strenuous days of reconstruction, when, under the pressure of circumstances, we have most of us been sent back to the dreary life of competitive money-hunting, such books are not without their uses. A glance through their cheery pages is the best of available antidotes for the mental poison engendered by the study of our depressing newspapers.

This book is not an autobiography—the author does not even mention the date of his birth, and the times of his goings and comings to and from India after he had joined the Indian Civil Service in 1858 are not always easy to trace. His Indian experiences seem to have been confined to the Bengal Presidency, and his silence on all things political is very noticeable. He limits himself to the telling of tales about the many people he came across in India and at home during the indeterminate period covered by the Consulate of Plancus, when personality was more in evidence both in private and public life than it is in these latter days. Very good tales they are for the most part, and embrace subjects sufficiently varied to leave the determination of their respective merits a matter for the individual taste of the reader to decide, but we confess to an unholy liking for the one about the red-haired man who was described by an American as looking as if he had "run through hell with his hat off." The old Indian Civil Service produced some men versatile as well as great, and of these the late Sir Richard Temple was of all the most versatile. Whether he was the greatest is a matter of opinion, but few will dispute that he ranked high among his brilliant contemporaries as a statesman and administrator. He was an artist among other things, and so sometimes discovered beauty in things positively repulsive to the average practical man, as may be learnt from our author, who tells us the following characteristic story about him:—

While Sir Richard was at Beauleah I used to attend him and his party on their early morning rides. The town was for a Bengali town fairly clean and free from jungle. But when riding one morning we turned suddenly on to a road leading out to the country, I was disgusted to find that the conservancy overseer had neglected this part of the municipality. The jungle had been allowed to grow unchecked, and had spread right up to and behind several native huts. Close to the side of the house was a hollow full of the most disgusting putrid and stinking water of a dark brown colour caused by decomposing leaves falling into it from the surrounding jungle and also by the filth and sweepings from the adjacent huts; a pestiferous spot, a veritable nursery for the germs of cholera, diphtheria and malarious fever. "Now I'm in for it," I thought as Sir Richard pulled up and surveyed the scene. After a good long look he turned to me and said, "How lovely! How exquisite!" Then he turned again to have another look at the spot.

India's backwardness in sanitation is generally ascribed to the manners and customs of her people. Can it be that the artistic bias of some of her great rulers in the past may have had the effect of retarding the march of progress in the department of the most prosaic of sciences? Sir Hastings D'Oyly was a sportsman before he went to India, and he appears to have made the most of his opportunities for getting sport of every kind wherever he was stationed during his sojourn in the "land of regrets." Many of his successors in the Indian Civil Service will envy him these opportunities, and when they read his stories of shikar will regret that they were fated to serve in India in days when administration and office drudgery came to be regarded as synonymous terms by those in high places, when for the District Officer "all work and no play" was the official prescription, with the result that in only too many cases he was denied the chance of getting the best out of life in India, and so in his retirement could only remember it as a dull workshop. Those of us who know the Southals and their country will appreciate the author's all-too-brief description of an interesting tour he made in the Khuruckpore Hills in the Monghyr district, and will endorse his description of the people as "a very simple, straightforward, truthful, and happy race of men." A brightly written chapter dealing with society life in Dorsetshire in the author's youth will be found to have more than local interest, for we are introduced in it to several celebrities and are told some good stories about them. C. S. Calverley was one of them, and although the stories we are told about him are familiar to most of us, the author's suggestion that his translations of Horace were rather an improvement on the original has a refreshing element of novelty about it. We would not be surprised to learn that Horace was regarded as a "back number" by some of our later Georgians, but to hear from a prose writer who owns to a lifetime of over fourscore years that he thinks one of the Odes "rather cumbrous and lacking in rhythm," frankly leaves us in a condition bordering on mental stupor.

There is a good deal about Indian racing in this book which will be of interest to many sportsmen whose experiences of it have been more recent than the author's, and the horse generally looms large in its pages; but the range of subjects touched on is so wide that it is far from being a book of "sporting reminiscences" of the familiar type so plentiful in recent years, of which the public has perhaps had more than enough.

There are some interesting notes on the family history of the D'Oylys at the end of the book, one of which tells an extraordinary story of the adventures of a child of three, one of the children of Capt. D'Oyly, of the Bengal Artillery, who, with a cabin boy named Ireland, were the sole survivors of the passengers and crew of the "Charles Eaton," wrecked in Torres Straits in 1835 on a voyage from Sydney to India; the rest were murdered and devoured by cannibals. The child was eventually rescued and brought back to England, and we are told that a descendant of Captain D'Oyly, the ill-fated father, is now serving in Mesopotamia in command of a regiment.

E. H. B.

II.—KUT, KASTAMUNI, AND FREEDOM.

This book suffers through the date of its publication. For it is impossible not to compare it with other books already written by prisoners of war in Asia Minor—with such fine books, for example, as "450 Miles to Freedom," or "The Road to En-Dor." Mr. Bishop's narrative is exceedingly interesting, but it is neither so arresting nor so well-written as these two other books. Indeed, the book is almost wholly without literary skill, and its vitality derives solely from the facts which it plainly describes or almost as plainly withholds. It briefly relates the experiences, the hopes, and the fate of the Kut garrison, the journey of the captured officers through Baghdad, Mosul (whence news of their fate was first sent to England), Ras-el-Ain, Aleppo, Adana, Bozanti, Konieh, Eski Shehr, Yozgad, and Kastamuni. A few pages are devoted to "Life in Kastamuni," and the second and larger part of the book is taken up with an undecorated but quite vivid account of the escape from Kastamuni to the Black Sea Coast; of the recapture of Mr. Bishop and his comrades, of their subsequent rescue by outlaws, and finally of their three days' uncharted sailing across the sea to Alupka, in the Crimea. As is natural in a book like this, a good deal of space is used in describing the difficulties of (or facilities for) getting food, and there is an instructive appendix giving the details of the rations upon which the Kut garrison subsisted. There are also some excellent photographs of persons and places, and the original maps which were used to effect the escape are reproduced. In short, it may be said that this book pretends to be nothing more than it is—a plain subaltern-like account of sufferings and adventures which are more (we imagine the author would probably say) for experience than for literature. But merely for the sake of its contents the book is very well worth reading.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Life and Letters of George Alfred Lefroy, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan." By H. M. Montgomery. (London: Longmans. 14s. net.)

"Through Deserts and Oases of Central Asia." By Miss Ella Sykes, F.R.G.S., and Brig.-General Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.B., C.M.G. (London: Macmillan and Co. 21s. net.)

"Moses, the Founder of Preventive Medicine." By P. Wood. (London: S.P.C.K. 4s. net.)

"The Spiritual Rebirth of Europe." By the Right Reverend Nicholai Velimirovic. (London: The Faith Press. 1s.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. March.	1920. February.		1338. Jumada II.	5680. Adar.
11	27	Thursday	20	21
12	28	Friday	21	22
13	29	Saturday.....	22	23
14	March. 1	Sunday	23	24
15	2	Monday	24	25
16	3	Tuesday	25	26
17	4	Wednesday	26	27

The Aga Khan has left London for India.

M. Sperenza, Greek Minister in Brussels, has arrived in London.

Lord Inchcape has arrived at Delhi, and will sail for England on March 20 from Bombay.

It is proposed to hold the annual dinner of the Sind Dinner Club at the Café Monico on June 1.

Lord Oranmore and Browne has arrived at the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, on a visit to the Lord Lieutenant.

The Crown Prince of Roumania, who is now in Egypt, has conferred the Order of Michael the Brave of the First Class on Lord Allenby.

Monsieur Venizelos (President of the Council of Greek Ministers) had the honour of being invited to luncheon with Their Majesties on March 2.

M. Athos Romanos, Greek Minister to Paris, who has been visiting London in connection with the Peace Conference, left on March 4 for France.

Lord and Lady Sydenham are holding an "At Home" at the Savoy Hotel to-morrow, at 3 p.m., to meet M. Yovan S. Plamenatz, Prime Minister of Montenegro.

Monsieur Pashitch, President of the Peace Delegation of the Serb, Croat, and Slovene Kingdom, had the honour of being invited on March 5 to luncheon with the King and Queen.

It is stated that Lord Milner arrived at the Ramleh aerodrome on March 6, and left by motor on the same day for Jerusalem, where he will stay with Major-General Sir L. T. Bols.

Sir Thomas Allen, deputy-chairman, Consumers' Council, Ministry of Food, who returned from India last week, is in a private hospital suffering from malaria, and is in a somewhat serious condition.

Brigadier-General Sir Owen Thomas and Mr. C. J. B. Hurst, members of the Milner Commission, and Mr. A. T. Loyd (secretary) left Cairo on March 5, and expect to arrive in London to-morrow.

The King of the Hellenes, who is visiting Salonika, has conferred the Cross of Commander of the Order of the Saviour on Colonel Olive, British Base Commandant, and Colonel Grey, officer in charge of supplies at Salonika.

A division of the British Atlantic Fleet arrived at Algiers on Wednesday, and General Abel, Governor-General of Algeria, and Mme. Abel gave a dinner in the Winter Palace to Admiral Sir Charles Madden and officers of his staff.

While visiting the tombs at Sakkara, near Cairo, on March 4, Mr. J. A. Spender, a member of the Milner Mission, had a fall which, it is believed, resulted in a broken rib. Mr. Spender's return home will therefore probably be delayed.

Dr. Vaida-Voevod, Prime Minister of Roumania, with M. Boeresco, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, entertained at luncheon at the Ritz Hotel on March 7 a number of representatives of the British and foreign Press, and officials of the Publicity Department of the League of Nations.

The Greek Premier, M. Venizelos, entertained at dinner at the Ritz Hotel on March 8, M. Caclamanos, the Greek Minister to the Court of St. James; M. Michalacopulos, Minister without portfolio; M. Sperenza, Minister to Brussels; Sir John and Lady Stavridi, the members of the Greek Peace Delegation, the personnel of the Legation, and several members of the Greek colony.

Mr. Herman Cameron Norman, the newly appointed British Minister to Teheran, was entertained at dinner on March 2 by the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, Mirza Abdol Ghaffar Khan. Among the guests were Nasr el-Mulk, ex-Regent of Persia; Prince Firouz Nosrat ed Dowleh, Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs; Sir Charles Greenway, Colonel Arthur Erskine, and Mr. Lancelot Oliphant.

A correspondent calls attention to the erroneous designation, in a recent issue of THE NEAR EAST, of M. Andre Radovitch as a delegate to the Peace Conference. M. Radovitch, a former Prime Minister of Montenegro, sided against his Government in the Montenegro controversy, and his name was proposed to the Paris Conference by the Serbian Government. It is understood, however, that his selection as a delegate was not acceptable to the Powers.

In honour of M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, who is in London in connection with the Peace Conference, Mme. Gennadius, wife of the Honorary Greek Minister, held a reception on March 5 at 14, De Vere Gardens. There was a large number of guests, those present including Nubar Pasha, Hoohaness Khan, the Greek Minister, the Greek Minister in Brussels, M. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires; the Countess of Limerick, Viscount and Viscountess Bryce, Lord Robert Cecil, the Bishop of London, Lord and Lady Swaythling, Lord Southwark, Lord and Lady Askwith, Amy Lady Coleridge, Dr. Pagonis, the Great Archimandrite, Mme. Zarifi, Mme. Vlasto, Mr. and Mrs. Sevastopoulo, Mme. Schilizzi, Mr. and Mrs. Scaramanga, Miss Rodocanachi, Mr. Pandeli Ralli, Mr. A. P. Ralli, Mr. N. Petrides, Mr. P. N. Paspati, Mme. Metaxas, Mr. A. Mavrogordato, Mr. G. Marchetti, Mr. I. L. Mango, Mr. A. C. Ionides, Mr. and Mrs. Pretyman Newman, and M. and Mme. Argenti.

Our Tangier Correspondent writes:—

The Marquis and Marchioness of Titchfield arrived here in January, and have left for a visit to the French Protectorate. Lord Gleichen, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., and Lady Gleichen have left for Casablanca after passing a couple of weeks as the guests of H.B.M.'s Agent and Lady White. Among the visitors to Tangier are:—Mr. and Mrs. Cunard Gordon and Mr. Victor Cunard; Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Leonard, Colonel P. E. Taylor, O.B.E., and Mrs. Taylor, the Rev. and Mrs. E. D. Lear, Lady Boyle and Sir Edward Boyle, Col. E. V. Newland, Army Pay Corps, and Mrs. Newland, Mr. and Mrs. Wish, and Col. Sir Eric J. E. Swayne, C.B., K.C.M.G. Lady Swayne and Lady Carden have left for Casablanca and Fez. Miss Prendergast has arrived from England, and is staying with her sister, Lady Maclean, Brig.-General Arthur Melland Asquith, D.S.O., and the Hon. Mrs. Asquith made a short visit to Tangier, and have left for Gibraltar. Col. and Mrs. G. F. Cox, Major J. S. Robson, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Linzee are also now at Tangier.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Shafik Pasha will succeed Sirri Pasha as Egyptian Minister of Public Works, War and Marine, and will also temporarily retain the portfolio of Agriculture.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Kadamangudi Srinivasa Kadamangudi to be Advocate-General for the Presidency of Madras, in succession to Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, who has resigned the post.

Farid-es-Saltaneh, Imperial Commissioner and Attaché to the Persian Legation in London, has been appointed Chamberlain to the Shah of Persia.

Mr. Charles Frederick Napier, barrister-at-law, and Diwan Bahadur Calamur Kumaraswami Sastri, Vakil, have been appointed Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Madras.

The King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, High Commissioner for Egypt, Colonel of the 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers, to be Colonel of the 1st Life Guards, in succession to Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Colonel Commandant, King's Royal Rifle Corps, Honorary Colonel, 1st and 2nd Battalions the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia, who has resigned the appointment.

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OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Lady Thomas, the widow of Sir G. S. M. Thomas, with whom for many years she resided at Constantinople. Her son, Sir G. A. Thomas, is the famous athlete and chess player.

Major-General Turner van Straubenzee, C.B., late Royal Artillery, has died at Leyburn, Yorkshire, in his eighty-second year. He entered the Royal Artillery in 1855, and became A.D.C. to Major-General Sir C. T. van Straubenzee, commanding a division in India in 1862, and was A.D.C. to the Governor of Bombay, 1869 to 1872. He commanded the Royal Artillery Indian Contingent in the Egyptian Campaign, being present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. He served in the Royal Horse Artillery in India until 1887, was colonel on the Staff, Royal Artillery, 1888, and commanded the Madras District as Brigadier-General from 1891 to 1895.

Mr. Charles Godolphin William Hastings, C.I.E., late Inspector-General of Police in the Punjab, has died at Half Yoke House, East Farleigh, Kent, in his sixty-sixth year. He entered the Punjab Police in 1873, after leaving Haileybury. He was Political Officer at Kurram, and saw active service on the North-West Frontier, and took part in the Jowaki Expedition, the Afghan War, the Chitral Relief Force Expedition, and the Tirah Campaign, for which in each case he received a medal with clasp. He was appointed Inspector-General of Police in the North-West Province in 1901, and in the Punjab in 1904, and he was also Under Secretary to the Government from 1904 to 1907.

Our Port Said correspondent writes:—

We regret to have to announce the death on February 25 of Dr. Edward Cuffey, M.B., who for the last twenty-two years has been the medical officer in charge of the English hospital in Port Said. Dr. Cuffey had not been feeling well for some time, but was still continuing his duties. However, in his home he was seized with a heart attack, and died half an hour later without recovering consciousness. Dr. Cuffey was surgeon of H.M.S. Halcyon when that vessel was guard-ship in Port Said. On the death of Dr. Foster, who was then in charge of the Lady Strangford Hospital, Dr. Cuffey took his place, a position which he has held ever since. He was fifty-three years old, and leaves a widow and son and daughter, for whom the greatest sympathy is felt.

Rechid Hikmet, the President of the Turkish Chamber, has died from cancer, states an Exchange Telegraph message from Constantinople.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is stated that in Cairo that the preventive Press Censorship was re-established there on March 6 under martial law.

General Kuropatkin is stated to be at the head of the new Bolshevist Administration in Turkestan, with headquarters at Merv.

It is stated that an anti-Zionist demonstration, in which from 7,000 to 8,000 persons took part, was organised at Jerusalem on February 29.

It is announced that the French cruiser Dessaix arrived at Jeddah on March 2. The commander was officially received by the Hejaz authorities, the local notables attending in large numbers.

When the Yugoslav Parliament assembled on March 3, 147 members were present. Only four, a Democrat and three Montenegrins, belonged to the Opposition, the bulk of which did not appear, in order to embarrass the Government, which has to obtain a quorum of 145. With the support of these four the quorum was obtained.

According to a Delhi message dated February 24, Mr. McPherson, the Home Secretary, stated in the Imperial Legislative Council that 1,235 persons had been released in India since the amnesty. He gave remarkable instances of the Viceroy's clemency in releasing large numbers of offenders in the Punjab and Bengal, who were really outside the scope of the King's Proclamation.

The Government of India have decided that all war gratuities and Service gratuities issued by the Indian pay authorities shall be exempt from Indian income-tax, and that any tax already deducted shall be refunded. Applications for refund of tax already deducted should be forwarded to the Collector of Income-tax in India concerned through the Divisional Disbursing Officer, who disbursed the gratuity and deducted the tax.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1920.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

In one respect, at least, the Indian Budget presented last week is likely to mark a definite turning-point in the financial history of the country. The Estimates for 1920-21 are comparable with those of previous years in that they provide for the expenditure not merely of the Central Government, but also of the various provinces; unless unforeseen difficulties should arise, the next Budget will be confined to central expenditure, and provincial finance will be represented only by the contributions to be levied in accordance with the decisions reached by Lord Maston's Committee. The charge is much more than a matter of account. Ever since the British possessions in India were unified under an effective central Government, that Government has maintained an iron grip upon expenditure: the provinces have been little more than disbursing agents, and the cautious and tentative efforts to decentralise authority have been to a great extent nullified by the centralising tendencies inherent in the system. In finance as in other branches of activity, the new constitution involves a definite breach with the past, and a breach in tradition as well as regulation. The provinces will in future have clearly defined financial resources of their own, and it is significant that the Finance Member holds out the prospect that their contributions to the Central Government will be entirely extinguished within a measurable time, an arrangement rendered obviously desirable by the new constitutional position. The fact that the Budget is intended to be the last of its kind may be taken to justify the retention of the conventional ratio of exchange, though we must admit that the ordinary man is likely to be confused when he finds a sterling pound equated to fifteen rupees at a time when it can be purchased in the market for little more than half that sum. Whatever ratio were adopted, there would still remain uncertainty as to the actual burden of future sterling expenditure, and the official warning as to the difficulty of forecasting the gain by exchange serves to remind us that we are back in the old days, when Finance Members could speak of their duties as a gamble in rainfall and a gamble in rupees. Let us hope that the rehabilitation of the sterling pound may progress so quickly that the latter element of uncertainty may soon be eliminated, and that we may shortly be justified in thinking in terms of that ten-rupee pound which was familiar to our ancestors, and which appeals so strongly to the decimalists of to-day.

The other factor of uncertainty, the amount and distribution of the rainfall, must still be reckoned with, but the outstanding fact in the figures now published is that its importance to the financier is rapidly diminishing. The year 1918 was marked by one of the most widespread droughts in recent experience, and according to all precedent its effects should have been apparent in almost every head of the accounts of the year now closing, but as a matter of fact we find very little about it. The large deficit of £14,000,000 is fully accounted for by the unforeseen cost of military operations against Afghanistan and on the Frontier, and there seem to be good grounds for the conclusion that while the direct cost of famine is much less than it was, the ulterior effects are likely to be negligible in the near future. In other words, India has of late years attained to a degree of economic strength which was scarcely dreamed of at the beginning of the present century: the national income is still low, but it is rising above the danger-point; and there is now a reasonable prospect that the spectre of famine may be driven from the Treasury as it has already been driven from the homes of the people. A witness before the recent Currency Committee brought out this last point so clearly that his words may be quoted: conditions, he said, which formerly threw millions on relief, are now affecting only the merest fringe of the population; the improved condition of the people renders it unnecessary to declare the existence of famine, and where formerly work had to be provided for the able-bodied, it now suffices to provide relief for the aged and infirm. The time, in fact, may be near at hand when a Poor Law shall replace the Famine Code, and seasonal fluctuations shall cease to be the nightmare of the administration. However that may be, the immediate prospect is hopeful. The rains of 1919 were favourable; the Budget for next year anticipates a period of prosperity: military complications apart, the growing revenues should suffice to provide for necessary expenditure; and the only changes in taxation, other than the remission of the duty on imported silver, are the removal of the unfortunate excess profits duty, and an adjustment in the levy on companies' profits, a measure on which we must suspend judgment till its details are published in this country.

Thus the figures for current revenue and expenditure show us an India still poor, as she has been poor for so many centuries, but now advancing definitely towards the goal of economic prosperity. It remains to inquire whether adequate provision is being made to facilitate this advance, or, in other words, to examine the proposals for capital expenditure. The result is on the whole satisfactory. We have not found any immediate promise of expenditure on developing the forests, but men must be trained before money can be spent, and the recent announcement of the constitution of a service of forest engineers shows that sight is not being lost of this important subject. The grant for irrigation is small, but it represents the total which the engineers are prepared to spend, and we may reasonably look for an increase when the effects of the depletion of staff have been obliterated. For railways the provision of £18,000,000 in England and 4½ crores in India is far above the standard which prevailed before the war. It will not, of course, suffice by itself to bring the communications of the country abreast of existing requirements, but it is probably as much as can be spent within the year, and as an instalment it may fairly be described as liberal. The financial strength of India is clearly seen in the fact that this expenditure will involve no increase in the burden of debt. A loan of ten millions is indeed to be raised in the country, an operation which would have appalled the financiers of the last decade, but which is now regarded as a matter of routine; against it must be set a reduction of nearly £13,000,000 in the temporary debt, and the result is therefore a small but definite fall in the total of indebtedness, a result which may justly excite the admiration of the greater part of Europe. In truth the new India is heir to a great estate. Future historians will doubtless lay their fingers on defects in our past administration; they will probably insist that development might have been pushed further in the last fifty years, and that the Government might with advantage have led on occasions when it was content to follow; but we think their final verdict will be that the work has been well done. In the eighteenth century the old India was bankrupt; in the twentieth the new India is not merely solvent but prosperous, and the progressive increase in the national income justifies the most sanguine hopes for the future, provided that the management of the national finances shall combine the efficiency of the past with the increased enterprise justified by the conditions of the present.

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CENTRAL ASIA AFTER THE PEACE.

By COLONEL A. C. YATE.

When the trend of thought tempts us, as it occasionally does, to reflection on the issues of the Great War, the very sense of our mental limitations causes us ere long to abandon a vain search for insight into an impenetrable mystery. The practical philosopher has, not inaptly and yet inadequately, sought in the rippling ring created by a stone thrown into water an illustration of the far-reaching effect of any act or incident in life. It is only in the eternity of time that the Central European war cyclone, which burst early in August, 1914, can appear even to lose itself; for æons will not absorb or exhaust its effect upon the world. The Aeolus of that cyclone was the Emperor William II. of Germany, who, as the Dutch Government shields him from molestation on this side of the grave, will presumably suffer on the far side of it. We may leave him to the tender mercies of the Dante of the twentieth century.

In the vast social and political convulsion which has sprung from the colossal and unscrupulous machinations of Berlin and Vienna, the individual writer can but select some one item with which experience may justify him in claiming familiarity or even expert knowledge. Each mind knows its own compass-bearing, its own line of gravitation. The line that I took up forty years ago gravitated towards Central Asia, and for ten years, from 1880 to 1890, when I was not in India I was elsewhere in the Middle East. I saw much in those ten years, and now, after the lapse of another thirty, I see much that I criticised then annulled or reversed. I have read with conflicting thoughts such headlines as "The Afghans at Merv"[1] and "The Fate of the Turcomans." In 1884-5 I saw the Russians occupying Merv; and in 1890 I found Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff teaching the same people how to restore the Murghab irrigation, I saw Turcomans turned into Yeomanry, and I met a Kirghiz Colonel of the Russian Army. In 1880 the Teke was still lord of Merv, known in the Middle Ages as "Shah-i-Jahān" ("Queen of the World"), with its population of 250,000 and a Nestorian Archbishop. Population and Archbishop disappeared long before 1880, but as yet the names of Skobeleff and Komaroff were unknown there, and the Turcoman still raided far and wide alike into Persia and Afghanistan. And the hand of Destiny which cast down a Tsarist autocracy and set up a Bolshevist tyranny drew its magnetic current from Berlin? Not altogether! From Petrograd also and from Moscow. Russia was ripe. It is thirty or forty years since Seton Merriman foretold in "The Sowers" that the young men of that day would in their dotage see "a great upheaval beside which the Terror of France will be tame and uneventful." When the Russian Revolution heralded the doctrine of "No indemnity and no annexation," and pitilessly exposed to the world the "Willy" and "Nicky" correspondence, we, maybe, chuckled inwardly; but long since "Nicky" has won his way into our more solemn and sympathetic thoughts, together with the erring Tsaritsa and the innocent Tsarevitch and Grand Duchesses. There is no such halo round "Willy." If the memory of the death of Nicholas clouds our thoughts, the immunity of William stands out as a satire upon the very name of Justice. We look away to the far-off scene in Siberia, where seven were done shamefully, brutally, to death, and then we glance at the solitary Hohenzollern, sheltering himself amid the dykes of those Dutchmen whom since the days of our Queen Elizabeth England has so often and so warmly befriended, and whose Stadtholder two and a-quarter centuries ago England invited to occupy her throne.

This example of the inequality with which vaunted Justice holds the scales does not come within the scope of this article; but with the future of Constantinople and the Khalifate, which is threatened with a like subversion of all that is right and just, much that will guide the course of events in the Middle East is intimately concerned. India, forsooth—India, with its seventy millions of Mahommedans, who have never till recently had any concern with or experience of Ottoman rule and pretensions—stands forth at this belated hour as the champion of a Government which the Supreme Allied Council pronounced unfit to rule over any Christian race or hold a foot of territory in Europe. What those seventy millions of Moslems in India deserve is to be placed for a year and a day under Ottoman rule. After that their plebiscite on the Khalifate should be taken. The present state of affairs in India and in Egypt appears to me to be a powerful indictment on the principles of enlightened democracy. There appears to be more contentment in the territory of the Turk at this moment than in those historic lands watered by the Indus, the Ganges, the Cauvery, and the Nile, and long administered by the nation which prides itself upon being the Mother of Parliaments and the pioneer of constitutional government. The *pax Britannica* has a screw loose somewhere, and that loose screw perhaps is that of the false sentiment closely associated with Exeter Hall and recently levelled at the head of General Dyer and such-like men of action. That loose screw is the underhand weapon of the politician or bureaucrat to save his own face.

The legendary cradle of the human race is laid now in Mesopotamia, now in Central Asia. Legend seems to weave itself strangely and mysteriously into the woof and warp of life. There is on the title-page of one of Mr. Geoffrey Drage's books, entitled "Russian Affairs," published in 1904, the following quotation from the outpourings of a certain Count Mouravieff:—"I believe that Russia has a civilising mission such as no other people in the world, not only in Asia but also in Europe. . . . We Russians bear upon our shoulders the New Age; we come to relieve the 'tired men.'" When as yet Bolshevism was unforeseen, I characterised this prophecy as the *ne plus ultra* of fatuity and arrogance. Now, if Bolshevism, which is avowedly international, may be regarded as "Russian," then possibly Russia may flatter herself that she has a "civilising mission" both in Asia and in Europe. After all, "civilisation" is a mere conventionalism, and what Western Europe and the Western world have been pleased to call "civilisation" is "civilisation" for them only. Bolshevism has other views of it, and the cradle of Bolshevist propaganda in the East is to be, we understand, in Russian Turkistan. Of the efficacy of this "propaganda" we have the testimony of eye-witnesses returned from Russia, where, as we now realise, even butchery and brutality culminate in method, system, and discipline. That system, without taking into account Eastern Siberia, has pushed back Denikin to the Sea of Azov, the Don, and the Caspian, spread along the railway from Orenburg to Tashkent, and back along the Trans-Caspian Railway to the vicinity of Krasnovodsk; while from Omsk on the Siberian Railway it has spread southward to Semipalatinsk, and ere long will have joined hands with Trans-Caspian Russia and so completed the arc of the circle from Omsk to Orenburg.

The next step is to bolshevise Afghanistan, Persia, and the Caucasus, and, reaching out a hand, which can for the nonce simulate fellowship, to "the unspeakable," seek to undermine that principle of administration by mandate which the original Allied Council proposed to apply to all countries emancipated from Turkish misrule—viz., Armenia, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, and Mesopotamia. If success attends this ambition of Bolshevism,[2] then the whole edifice of the League of Nations crumbles to the ground, and that within eighteen months of the Armistice; and visions of a prolonged peace, which are ever growing fainter and fainter, will make for a renewal of war and a further growth of the intolerable burden of debt. If it is in this sense that Count Mouravieff credits his fellow-countrymen with a "civilising mission," then we must at least admit that he was endowed with unwonted foresight, while the British Empire will not fail to strain every nerve to keep Bolshevism north of a buffer-State barrier extending from "Where Three Empires Meet," near the sources of the Oxus to the Straits, which for centuries have been recognised as severing Europe from Asia.

Information now reaches the outer world which proves that forces not hitherto fully reckoned with have thrown in their lot with the Bolshevist leaders. When we read that the distinguished General Brusiloff, whose record in the field prior to the Tsar's abdication was of the finest, is in command of a portion of the Red Army (his son having been shot as a Bolshevist by Denikin); when we learn that the very soldiers who shot their officers down in 1917 now, under pain of severe penalties, treat their officers with deference and obedience; when we see Bolshevism alone in Siberia preserving a united front and sweeping Koltchak, Seminoff, and Czech before it; and, finally, when we read of the perfect equipment and management of Trotsky's special train, we see that, if not a "New Age," at least the era of a new régime has set in in Russia, and that one which portends no future of ease and peace either for the Allies or for the countries which Bolshevist propaganda and Bolshevist armies can reach. The part played by the United States of America in this war has been adroitly summed up in the words:—"They entered late into the war; they have

[1] I find no record of previous rule at Merv by any Afghan dynasty. It has had a great history upon which there is no need to dwell here. In 1787 Murad Beg, Amir or Khan of Bokhara, took it from the Persians. Of his two sons, Amir Haidar ruled at Bokhara, while Nasir Beg governed Merv, and that with such kudos that Amir Haidar became jealous. He moved the 25,000 inhabitants of Merv *en bloc* into the interior of his dominions, and drove his brother into exile in Persia. This, Baron Georges de Meyandorff, a Russian envoy to Bokhara in 1870-21, tells us. Merv since then has passed through many vicissitudes but is still full of life. If the Afghans are wise, they will keep it.

[2] The Sheikh-ul-Islam of Constantinople and the chief Moslem Prelate of Cairo have both denounced Bolshevism and adjured all Islam to renounce it.

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gone early out of the peace."[3] Even from Eastern Siberia almost all American troops have been or are being withdrawn; and Japan is left alone to make headway against the Bolshevists, who are now swarming into Trans-Baikalia. Had China a static Government and policy, one might see the northern and western frontiers of that vast empire extending from Manchuria through Mongolia and Kuldja into Chinese Turkistan, setting a check upon Bolshevist encroachment. Of the Chinese in the inner life of the revolutionary Russia of the last two years, what we know best is that in them the Bolshevist officials have found the readiest instruments of their atrocities. Japan is strong enough to take care of herself; and China's vast area will probably be its safeguard; but when we come to the Central Asian Khanates, to Afghanistan, Persia, the Turcoman Steppes, and the Caucasus, we are dealing with States which still preserve their familiar status of "buffers," and which the British Empire is intimately concerned to maintain as such.

Since Sir George Macartney, in the latter part of 1918, passed through Tashkent on his way to England, in which journey he was either accompanied or followed at no great interval by Mr. R. C. Tredwell, the United States Consul at Tashkent, personal information regarding events in Russian Turkistan has been beyond our reach. In June, 1919, Sir George Macartney told the Central Asian Society what he had seen and experienced at Tashkent in the autumn of 1918. It was known in certain official quarters and amid a small circle of friends that the accomplished and intrepid explorer, Col. F. M. Bailey, was "in hiding" somewhere round about Tashkent, and great anxiety was felt for him. In the *Morning Post* of October 31, 1919, appeared a telegram from Stockholm announcing that at Tashkent a Swedish engineer named Kleberg, eighteen schoolgirls, and a brother of Kerensky had been brutally done to death, and that hundreds of prisoners had been murdered. Such intelligence might well give rise to the gravest misgiving regarding Colonel Bailey. That misgiving was dispelled on January 20, 1920, when the India Office informed his nearest relative that some ten days previously he had reached the Persian frontier, and that on January 14 he had safely reached the British Consulate-General at Meshed. It is known that General Malleson is in N.E. Khorasan in command of a body of troops which is styled a "brigade," but of the strength of which we have very imperfect knowledge. When Colonel Dudley Carleton was sent from the Caspian to Samarcand by General Milne[4] he found that British troops had been withdrawn from Merv and the Trans-Caspian Railway, and he gave it as his opinion that such withdrawal had had the worst results. We know that in 1918 a nucleus of British (Indian) troops, associated with Anti-Bolshevist Russians and Turcomans, were holding the Bolshevist forces in check at a point on the Trans-Caspian Railway between Merv and Amu-Darya.[5] When the powers that be, presumably Simla, ordered that British nucleus to withdraw, the Anti-Bolshevist Russians and Turcomans went to pieces, and of late we have heard that nearly the whole of the Trans-Caspian Railway has fallen into Bolshevist hands. Krasnovodsk, it is thought, may be still occupied by forces which are friendly to the Allies. Reports of the end of January state that the Bolshevists then held Kora Tengir station, 31 miles east of Krasnovodsk. It is, at least, a satisfaction to feel that, as far as is known, there is now no Englishman in Central Asia whose life is in imminent danger. Our representatives at Kashgar are presumably safe, and such British forces as are maintained at and near Meshed are securely based on India through the Nushki-Seistan Railway. Information has reached me of officers of our Royal Engineers being employed at Káin, about 200 miles south of Meshed, but whether employed on road or railway I have no knowledge. For one thing let us be thankful, and that is that that railway was constructed in 1915-17. For the story of it I must refer to Sir Hugh Barnes' contributions to *The Indiaman*[6] in 1915 or 1916; to Colonel Webb Ware's lecture before the Central Asian Society on February 12, 1919; and to an article in the *Spectator* (by a member of the Council of the Central Asian Society) of March 22, 1919. The absorption of those three papers from the pens of experts is an education in itself, and may enable the man in the street to realise how, if we have to meet Bolshevism in Central Asia, that railway will strengthen our hands.

No one who went up to Herat with the Afghan Boundary Commission in September, 1884—and I was one of the thirty British officers who so went up—could have imagined that the vagaries of the wheel of Fortune would bring about the issue which we see before us to-day, viz., our Empire in India and the Middle East threatened, not by the armies of a despotic Tsar, but by those of a Karl Marxian tyranny. For well nigh a century now British India has been expectant of a Russian attack, until in 1917 the complete collapse of Russia seemed to promise that dependency of our Empire immunity from invasion for half a century to come! Delusive promise! In less than three years Tsarist Russia was completely bolshevised, and it is Bolshevist Russia that is now steadily pushing forward, seeking in its onward course to roll up with it the Uzbeg, Sart and Turcoman, the Afghan and the Persian, the Kurd, and the Turk, the Georgian, Arménian, and Tartar, and the multifarious tribes of the Caucasus; and as Italy, absorbed in the Adriatic, would or could do nothing at Batoum and Tiflis; and as the United States, in their callous selfishness, have also backed out of their President's doctrine of "mandate"; and as France has grave responsibilities on the Rhine and in Syria, and Japan in Manchuria, Korea, and Eastern Siberia, Great Britain is left alone to champion the Allied cause from the sources of the Oxus to the Aegeo-Euxine Straits. What interests us here is to pass in review the resources which the British Empire has at its disposal for checking and repulsing this wave of Bolshevism which is expected to roll on southward from Omsk through Semipalatinsk, from Orenburg through Tashkent, and from the Don and Volga through Petrovik and Derbent or Vladikarkas and Tiflis. There is no doubt that, as soon as the ice breaks up in the Northern Caspian and the Volga that a Bolshevist squadron will come from Astrakhan, and, unless opposed, dominate the Caspian. This would be fatal to lateral communication along the anti-Bolshevist front, and therefore our Black Sea Fleet must once more place gunboats on the Caspian and sweep that sea clear of Bolshevist naval craft.

(To be continued.)

[3] *Musings Without Method*. Blackwood, Jan., 1920. p. 144. It has occurred to me, when I see how the United States, day-by-day, more and more, holds the financial world in the hollow of its hand, that Europe should form a Commercial League of her own Nations in self-defence. Possibly this may commend itself to the Finance Conference. The United States, the one great allied profiteer in this war, having coolly told Europe to work out her own salvation.

[4] *Vide* "The Fate of the Turcomans." *Blackwood*, Jan., 1920.

[5] The articles appeared at intervals in *The Times*, graphic and at times, humorous. That Anglo-Menshevo-Turcoman camp must have been a quaint experience—not to be forgotten.

[6] The Nushki Trade Route, a much needed Railway.

ARMENIA.

Presiding at a meeting held in Caxton Hall, Westminster, on March 4, Lord Bryce said that when the Turks were hopelessly defeated they were treated with extravagant indulgence by the Allies, and their country had not been occupied as it should have been in order to secure the disarmament of the Turkish troops and to protect the native Christians. As a result, the soldiers left with arms in their hands began to wander over the country robbing and murdering. The Committee of Union and Progress was continuing the work begun by Abdul Hamid of entirely destroying the Christian population so as to have a Turkish Empire peopled exclusively by Mohammedans. It was alleged on behalf of the Turks that massacres of Armenians were only in the nature of reprisals, the Armenians having previously attacked the Turks; but a British Blue-book published in 1916 conclusively proved that in every case it was the Turks who first attacked the Armenians, and that these only fought in self-defence. There was also the fact that the Turks had attacked the Chaldeans and Nestorians, and it had never been suggested in this case that the Turks were attacked first. The Chaldeans and Nestorians were attacked simply because they were Christians and it was desired to blot out the Christian religion in all those countries. So far as he knew, there had never been any single word of condemnation of the massacres of 1915 from any Mohammedan source. There had been no word of repentance from the Turkish Government or any leading Turks, and no word of protest from Indian Moslems—he could only hope these did not know what was happening. It was our immediate duty to see that the present massacres in Cilicia were stopped; if we could not send Allied troops to protect the Armenians, we should send arms so that the Armenians might protect themselves.

Mr. Harold Buxton, who followed, said that he had been in Cilicia until the second week in February. As agent for the Lord Mayor's Fund for the Relief of Refugees, he had been in that country since September last. At the present time in Asia Minor it was not only the native Christians who were being attacked; the life of no single European or American was safe there. It had seemed to him, from the first days of his arrival in Adana, that the attitude of the Allied authorities towards the Turks was too timid, perhaps because there were not enough Allied troops in the country to preserve order and give the people adequate protection. Overt acts of hostility had been begun by the Turks within a week of his arrival, and at present war was being carried on in Cilicia between the French and the Turks on a large scale. With regard to the allegations of Armenian violence as provoking massacre, it was said by the Nationalist agents that when the Armenian troops entered the town of Marash they took vengeance upon the people and committed outrages. He had made inquiries and had found that a few such acts had been committed, but they were all in the nature of settling old personal quarrels.

Mr. Buxton told some horrible stories of massacre, and said he had himself seen at the Adana railway station some of the victims—old men with their eyes burned out and mothers without their children. There were now at least 8,000 or 10,000 refugees encamped around that city, and there were 30,000 more scattered in the villages within a radius of twenty miles.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

It is with extreme satisfaction that I am able to record the fact that the British Industries Fair—or Fairs, if terminological exactitude is desired—has been a wonderful success. The orders booked exceeded expectations, and would have been very much greater if only firms had felt themselves in a position to guarantee delivery. A particularly pleasing feature has been the extent of the business done with buyers from the Near Eastern countries, despite the hindrance of adverse exchanges. Thus I understand that a considerable business was done for Roumania and Syria and other regions. Buyers from Greece were prominent, and substantial orders were booked; while it is also reported that the sales for Egypt and Burma were most encouraging.

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Some of my readers may have noted the remarkable rise that has recently taken place in the shares of a prominent concern in a leading industrial centre of the United Provinces. These movements are usually not without significance, and I should infer that some interesting developments are pending in the nature of an amalgamation. I hope my readers will bear in mind what I say, for if my conjecture should prove correct I shall not hesitate to say, "I told you so."

***

The neglect of the Indian market by British manufacturers is very apparent in the case of motor cars. During January 1,264 cars were imported into India, of which 1,140 were American and only 100 British. But this proportion, small though it is, represents a considerable improvement compared with the figures for the past ten months, during which the imports of cars totalled 6,081, of which only 302 came from this country, no fewer than 5,704 being of American origin. This position is extremely deplorable, because the Indian market for cars is becoming very important, and the demand is likely to increase very considerably in the near future. As things are, America alone stands to benefit, unless our manufacturers speedily change their attitude and take pains to cultivate the market.

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Elsewhere in these columns will be found the particulars of an important banking development in connection with British trade and the Near East. It is announced that, in view of the increasing trade between the United Kingdom and the countries in which the Bank of Athens is established, the directors of that bank have decided to form a London Committee for the purpose of developing this trade. Mr. O. V. G. Hoare, who is a director of Barclays Bank and the Colonial Bank, a partner of Cox and Co., the Army bankers, and chairman of Cox and Co. (France), and Mr. W. R. Hillis, general manager of the British Bank of South America, and a director of Cox and Co. (France), have consented to become members of the Committee, and will act in conjunction with Mr. E. M. Rodocanachi, a director of the Bank of Athens and of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, and senior partner in the firm of Rodocanachi, Sons and Co., and Mr. P. N. Caridia, London manager of the Bank of Athens, and a director of Cox and Co. (France). The Committee is thus a thoroughly representative one, and well calculated to achieve the results aimed at by the directors of the Bank of Athens.

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Cable and postal services between this country and the East seem alternately to undergo a slight improvement and then rapidly to deteriorate again. Just now the reverse process is in operation, particularly with regard to the cable services, which seem to go from bad to worse. I understand that it sometimes takes about twelve days for a cable to reach Egypt, and the position with regard to other countries is, I believe, even more deplorable. Needless to say, under these conditions the cable is practically useless as an accessory to business; indeed, it is sometimes not merely a negative, but even a positive, hindrance. Thus at a recent meeting of the Council of the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce, reference was made by the chairman to the loss of a contract for £280,000, owing to cable delays making an adverse difference of about £14,000 in the quotation as a result of a difference in the value of the rupee.

But complaints are not confined to the score of delay. Serious inaccuracies in transmission are also alleged. "Unhappily, the letters which are reaching me," says the President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in a further letter to the Postmaster-General, "show that there exists not only delay, but also a general inefficiency, which results in inexcusable inaccuracies in delivered telegrams. As an instance of this, I have before me two telegrams despatched from Manchester on January 28 and 29 to Athens, and paid for at the urgent rate. The senders later received a notification from the Eastern Telegraph Company stating that the telegrams had not been delivered on account of the telegraphic address being insufficient. This statement was entirely incorrect, as the addressees received the telegrams the following day, but when received the telegrams were mutilated to a degree which rendered them quite incomprehensible."

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The feature of chief interest to the commercial community in the Indian financial statement is the modification of the excess profits duty. Companies are henceforth to pay a flat rate of one anna in the rupee of total income in excess of Rs. 50,000. Thus is superseded a measure which it cannot be said was anything but very unpopular, though how far there will be greater approval of its successor remains to be seen. At the moment there is a tendency in business circles to suspend judgment, as the wording of the reference to the tax is more than a little ambiguous. Naturally it is to be assumed that for the word income "profits" should be read, but it might apply equally to turnover, which, of course, would be an iniquitous and impossible imposition.

***

It will have been noticed that the Greek exchange after remaining firm at or above the parity of 25 drachmæ for the £ sterling until about a fortnight ago, has since fallen considerably, and now stands at about 32.20 drachmæ. This results from the notification of the Greek Ministry of Finance that in future Government funds abroad will only be used for Government purchases, and for private purchases of petroleum, coal, sugar, flour, cereals, rice, vegetables, frozen meat, and cattle for which official sanction has been received, and that all other imports may be financed by the banks at any rate of exchange. Purchasers of goods other than those mentioned must now remit through the Greek banks at whatever rate the banks can give. It seems possible that the instability in the exchange which has thus developed may lead to a further decline, and in the circumstances it behoves British exporters to exercise due caution in regard to terms of settlement.

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The report of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway for the half-year ended September last shows an increase in gross earnings of Rs. 7,500 at Rs. 7,33.200, this being due to an increase in receipts from goods traffic of Rs. 24.200, which more than counterbalanced the decline in coaching receipts. Working expenses were slightly less at 61.20 per cent., and there was an increase in net earnings of Rs. 14,900, the total being Rs. 2.04.500. The available total was Rs. 5.04,500, and out of this Rs. 2,14,400 was absorbed by the dividends of Rs. 6 on the ordinary shares and Rs. 2 annas 8 on the preference, Rs. 2,87.200 being carried forward, as against Rs. 15,500.

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Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅓ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, February 23.

Further Improvement in Finances.

The State accounts for October, just published, show an improvement in the financial position. Revenue during October amounted to £E4,367,726, and expenditure to £E3,328,542. There is, as a result of this, an excess of receipts over expenditure for the seven months of £E1,898,896, as compared with a surplus of £E859,712 at the end of September.

The principal items of receipts during the month were:—Land tax, £E1,624,292; customs, £E501,594; tobacco dues, £E320,460; railways, £E726,369; domains receipts, £E212,187; whilst the chief items of expenditure were: irrigation, £E128,113; railways, £E856,384; Public Debt, £E689,457; and war gratuities, £E286,117.

The Economic Situation.

Reference to the economic problems before the country leads me to mention that whilst the Government is studying the measures which must be taken to relieve the food supply situation, it has just promulgated a decree limiting rents. Some such measure has been rendered necessary by the fact that it has been quite impossible to erect the houses necessary to meet the normal expansion of population in the towns, and that unscrupulous landlords have taken advantage of the situation in order to raise rents in an exorbitant manner. Indeed, whilst some landlords have increased rents by amounts varying up to 60 per cent., a great many have raised them by more than 100 per cent. above what they were in 1914. The decree fixes the legal maximum of rents in the urban districts at 50 per cent. above what they were on August 1, 1914. In addition, house proprietors will not be able to eject tenants except for reasons approved of by the Courts. An Order from Lord Allenby as Commander-in-Chief notifies that this decree is to have the same effect as a military order, and therefore applies to foreigners as well as local subjects.

The food supply question is indeed becoming a very serious one. Beans are now at P.T. 800 per ardeb (as compared with a maximum of P.T. 110 before the war; maize, the staple food of the people, is at P.T. 500 per ardeb, as against P.T. 90; lentils are at P.T. 900, as against P.T. 150; while wheat is at P.T. 650 per ardeb, as against P.T. 180. It is becoming a material impossibility for the lower classes to meet the cost of their daily bread, and already in certain districts the women have paraded clamouring for bread. To aggravate the situation, the price of cotton has proved so attractive that cultivators have pulled up their wheat crop in order to sow cotton. The Government is understood to be importing maize from South Africa and wheat from Australia, which it will sell at below cost price, but it looks very much as if legislation will have to be introduced to force cultivators not only to keep to the ordinary cereal rotation, but to alter it so as to increase the cereal area as opposed to that under cotton.

MALTA.

MALTA, February 24.

Food Shortage and Finances.

With a view to economising the bread supply of the Island the Control Board have issued regulations fixing two qualities of bread, known as "Maltese" bread and "Fancy" bread. The former is manufactured from flour milled locally, and the latter from flour imported from abroad. As the Government pays a subsidy on the Maltese bread it is hoped that the cheaper price will reduce the strain which is being felt keenly by the poorer classes of the population.

The gross amount required to meet the increase of pay recently granted to Government employees from October 1, 1919, to March 31, 1920, amounts to £35,300, which sum, with the estimate for war bonuses and the bread rebate, amounting to £14,300, deducted, leaves £21,000 to be provided for.

Motor Transport.

An interesting development is the forthcoming establishment by the Coffonera Motor Car Company, Ltd., of a regular motor car service in the Island. Current opinion is that the scheme will be a success, although it must not be overlooked that our small island boasts of a multitude of cabs and boats, to say nothing of a tramway and railway, whilst there are many privately-owned cars.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, February 26.

Communications.

As the railway strike in Greece is at an end goods traffic is resumed on the line to Ghevgeli and through to Greece.

Owing to the great congestion of traffic on the Zagreb and Belgrade line, where it takes nearly three months for a truckload of goods to reach its destination, arrangements have been made for the transfer of heavy merchandise from rail to barges at Tsaprug, near Sisak, whence they will be conveyed more expeditiously by water to Belgrade.

GREEK LOAN OF 1832.

A White Paper has just been issued giving an account of moneys paid out of the Consolidated Fund for interest and sinking fund on that part of the Greek Loan of 1832 which was guaranteed by this country, and of the amount repaid by the Greek Government on account of the same up to December 31, 1919.

The account of the loan until it was discharged in 1871 is as follows:—Advanced by British Government in 1843 to 1871, £1,351,071 8s. (1) Received from Greek Government to December 31, 1871, £98,397 4s.; (2) amount relinquished in favour of the late King George I. of the Hellenes under Act 27 of 28 Vict. c. 40 (£4,000 per annum) from 1864 to 1871 (both inclusive), £32,000—£130,397 4s. Amount outstanding on December 31, 1871, £1,220,674 4s.—£1,351,071 8s.

The account of the subsequent receipts from the Greek Government is as follows:—Outstanding on December 31, 1871 (as above), £1,220,674 4s. (1) Received from Greek Government, January 1, 1872, to December 31, 1918 (200,000 francs per annum, up to March 18, 1913, and 300,000 francs per annum thereafter) £399,762 11s. 9d.; (2) amount received from Greek Government in 1919, £11,857 14s. 2d.; (3) amount relinquished in favour of the late King George I. of the Hellenes (£4,000 per annum) from January 1, 1872, to March 18, 1913 (both inclusive), £164,866 13s. 4d.—£576,486 19s. 3d.; amount due from Greek Government on December 31, 1919, £644,187 4s. 9d.—£1,220,674 4s.

CANADIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE BALKANS.

Mr. L. D. Wilgress, the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Vladivostok, has been assigned to duty as Canadian Commissioner in Southern Russia, Roumania, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia. While for the present Mr. Wilgress has been assigned to a somewhat large territory, it is not intended that he shall continue permanently as the Canadian Trade Representative in such an extended area. He will travel in the above countries in order that he may study general trade conditions with a view to establishing permanent headquarters later on with a more limited jurisdiction.

Letters of allotment and regret were posted on February 28 in respect of British Cotton-seed Products, Ltd. Applicants for 200 shares and less received allotment in full.

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Every possible facility is offered to British Travellers and Merchants at the Bank's Offices in Serbia (*i.e.*, the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes). British parties travelling to these parts should see that their letters of credit are made payable at the Bank's Branches, where every assistance will be rendered to them.

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OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

Special Report of Sir Adam Block.

The report on the Ottoman Public Debt issued last year by Sir Adam Block, for the period 1914-17, is now supplemented by a report (dated November, 1919) for the year ended February 28, 1918, together with a translation of the report of the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration for that period. Sir Adam points out that when he returned to Constantinople in November, 1918, he found that the reports for 1915-16 and 1916-17 were still in abeyance, and that it is only recently that the Council has had access to all the information required for a complete account of the year 1917-18.

The gross receipts for 1917-18 amounted to £T6,087,495 as against £T3,632,691 for 1916-17, but this increase, it is remarked, as explained in the introduction to the Council's report, is mainly to be attributed to the increase in the price and value of the article on which the taxes are levied. Further, the taxes are now paid in a depreciated paper currency. "Instead of a pre-war circulation of about forty-eight millions of metallic currency," the report continues, "with about three millions of paper notes of the Ottoman Bank, Turkey now possesses a paper currency guaranteed solely by the credit of a foreign Government. To-day, in a reduced area, there are in circulation about £T160,000,000 of paper currency only. The issue is evidently excessive. The guarantee is defective, since it consists solely in external resources not within the control of the Turkish Government. There is a constant fluctuation in its ratio to gold, and the exchange value is at a very low figure."

Many proposals have been made for the stabilisation of the value of the paper currency, but Sir Adam states that there does not appear to be any prospect of an early settlement of this most complicated question. The difficulty now is that Unified Debt coupons have to be paid in sterling or francs in London or Paris, while the collections are made in a depreciated paper currency. Hence, of course, the amount of revenue required is enormously greater than before the war. Sir Adam's view is that the sums set aside during the last five years for Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary Sinking Fund should be applied, if necessary, for the payment of the coupons in arrear, the Sinking Fund being suspended until the Bondholders receive their coupons in full up to date.

The Reserve Fund, it is emphasised, cannot be of much assistance in view of the depreciation in the value of the investments, and the bondholders are therefore more than ever interested in the increase of the revenues. As long as the requirements for the coupon, including loss on exchange, are not met, the bondholders are entitled to the whole of the revenues assigned to the service of the Debt, and there can, it is pointed out, be no question of a "surplus" over and above the fixed annuity of £T2,157,375, which no longer represents the gold equivalent of the sum required.

The coupons unpaid of the Unified Converted Debt to September, 1919, amount to £6,320,361, and at current rates of exchange the funds at the disposal of the Council in Constantinople, Berlin, Vienna, Paris and London would produce £1,968,944. Against the deficit of £4,351,417 the sums earmarked for Sinking Fund would produce £633,431, reducing the insufficiency to £3,717,986. Sir Adam has not taken into account the possibility of drawing on the Reserve Fund, or various sums collected by the British and French armies of occupation in Mesopotamia, Syria and elsewhere. "The calculation made above," it is continued, "is, however, purely hypothetical, since all will depend on the ruling rates of exchange at the moment the coupons have to be paid and the funds remitted to London. No payment can, at any rate, be made until Peace is signed and ratified, and the Council, after consultation with the bondholders, will then decide on the line of action to be followed." It is very satisfactory to learn that the revenues ceded to the bondholders are still coming in with regularity. The provisional receipts for 1918-19 are £T5,906,664 as against £T6,087,495, and according to the telegraphic receipts the first six months of the current year have provided £T3,195,704.

Reviewing the general position, Sir Adam expresses the view that in the circumstances it is remarkable that the Debt Administration is able to show such comparatively favourable results. "The general, political, and economic situation," he adds, "is, however, by no means improving. Political agitation is rife, the uncertainty as to the decisions of the Peace Congress and the prolongation of the Armistice render the task of the Government exceedingly difficult. The most efficient Government would have been hard put to it to maintain order under the conditions prevailing in Turkey, and it will not be surprising if things get worse before they get better. There must be widespread suffering throughout the length and breadth of the land during the coming winter. Owing to party strife, and to a state of despair and depression engendered by the war, by insufficient pay and by the high cost of living, the local authorities are without initiative and careless of orders received from their superiors. In fact, the Government are in danger of losing control, the more so as the revenues are insufficient for the administrative requirements of the country. It cannot be a matter of surprise if under such conditions the political and economic situation becomes worse. Fortunately, the majority of the people are submissive and docile, sober and industrious, and, unless led astray by political agitators, ask for nothing more than to be allowed to carry on their normal occupations. In two words, the country requires peace at home and peace abroad."

NATIONAL BANK OF YUGOSLAVIA.

A translation of an agreement under which the National Bank of Serbia is transformed into the National Bank of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has been received by the Department of Overseas Trade from H.M. Minister at Belgrade.

One of the principal objects of the National Bank is to regulate and strengthen the currency system of the country. The capital of the bank is to be fifty million dinars in gold, divided into a hundred thousand shares of five hundred dinars each. The existing twenty thousand fully-paid bearer shares of the National Bank of Serbia, amounting to ten million dinars in gold, will be considered as fully paid-up shares of the new bank. Forty thousand shares of the nominal amount of twenty million dinars in gold are to be issued in instalments as soon as the law creating the bank comes into force. The new shares will be inscribed shares, and they may not be held by foreign subjects. The hitherto existing shares to bearer of the old bank will be transformed into inscribed shares, irrespective of the nationality of the holders. Apparently no foreign subject will have the right to vote at the meetings of the bank.

The National Bank will have the sole right of issuing bank notes, which are declared legal tender for the whole country, and may put into circulation notes up to the value of three times the metal stock of the bank. Their convertibility is suspended by one of the provisional regulations. The National Bank will also put into circulation the new bank notes which are to replace the kronen notes of the Austro-Hungarian Bank, as well as those replacing the silver notes of the old National Bank. It will take over from the Ministry of Finance the temporary bank notes which are now being issued by the State for the purpose of replacing the kronen notes, and will exchange them within a period of three years for their own permanent bank notes.

Amongst the facilities given by the bank to the State are: (a) The discounting of State Treasury Bonds up to the amount of one hundred and fifty million dinars at the rate of interest of 2 per cent. per annum; (b) the State may borrow from the bank a sum in bank notes not exceeding six hundred million dinars without paying any remuneration to the bank, but against certain securities; (c) for the purpose of reconstruction of the new Kingdom the National Bank will open an extraordinary credit in favour of the Ministry of Finance to the extent of five hundred million dinars against Treasury Bonds. No interest is to be paid to the bank for this credit.

Bank notes issued in the execution of these facilities will not be counted amongst the notes which the bank is entitled to issue on its own account. The same exception applies to the notes issued in exchange for the kronen notes. Of the net profits of the bank, half is to belong to the State and the other half is to be utilised for the payment of dividends These dividends may not be more than 10 per cent. of the value of the net assets of the bank, but if they fail to pay 6 per cent. on the paid-up capital the deficit up to 6 per cent. is to be completed from the half of the profits reverting to the State.

The dividends of the bank are to be paid in gold, but during the period of suspension of specie payment the dividends will be paid in bank notes of the National Bank with a premium calculated on the rate of exchange of American dollars, limited to twenty dinars equal one dollar (present exchange is thirty-three dinars to the dollar). It may be noted that the bearer shares of the old National Bank must be presented for amortisation (*sic*) within five years and one month. Paragraph 1 of the agreement specifies that it is to come into force on February 1, 1920. Whether practical effect will be given to it before the law has been laid before Parliament as provided for in paragraph 3 is not clear, especially as a new Ministry has just come into office.

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ENGINEERING.

EASTERN MARKETS FOR MOTORS.

III.—Requirements of Car Design.*

(From a Correspondent.)

In the last article we endeavoured to bring out the essential point that the chief desideratum in cars for the colonies and protectorates, apart from the big towns, is great flexibility, such as will enable them to cross country anywhere in places where roads do not exist. The case of the Sudan was discussed, also the operations against the Senussi, in the western desert of Egypt, in which a light car performed extraordinary and invaluable services.

These two cases do not stand alone. Palestine, Mesopotamia, British East Africa, Cape Colony, all are in just the same need of flexible cars. Indeed, the same may be said of all the undeveloped parts of the world, all the wide expanses where roads do not exist or are scarce, where man needs to go.

As regards British East Africa I may perhaps quote the remark made to me recently by a man who may be regarded as one of the greatest authorities on that country, and who has more interests there than any other man. We had just left the club after lunch, and he was about to step into his light car, when, on the subject of simplicity of life in B.E.A., he said: Only three articles of foreign manufacture are necessary for one's personal use there. One of the three was a British-made helmet, and another was a light car.

In Egypt the conditions are not the same, nevertheless the light car is in great demand. The alluvial tracts of the Nile Delta are entirely covered with cultivation and irrigation channels and drains, and so far as the Delta is concerned there is no question of going across country; one is forced to stick to the roads. But the roads are mere unmetalled roads—strips of land marked off for the passage of vehicles, and supplied with bridges or culverts over the canals and drains. Outside the big cities there are no metalled roads. Even the main road between Alexandria and Cairo is unmetalled except for a mile or two at each end. The policy of Government is greatly to extend the road mileage, but they will not be metalled roads. At the present time the traffic of the Delta is carried by railways and beasts of burden—the main trunk lines and a large network of light lines on narrow gauges. Many of these latter run actually on the agricultural roads. Inasmuch as the average distance a consignment is carried by these light lines is only some ten or eleven miles, it is easy to see that with the extension of the road system much of the transport will probably be transferred to the roads, and be dealt with by motor traffic. But the cars employed will have to be flexible and cheap, both those for passengers and those for goods; these will be available not only for the Delta but for the desert beyond. They will be a sort of general utility car, and the demand for them will be considerable, both for riding cars and goods cars—the latter a sort of light lorry. The light railways will then be merely a system of tramways for the fellaheen. There can, therefore, be no possible doubt as to the demand for cars of the right sort in large numbers in the near future.

Design of Car.

I will now turn to the question of the design of the car so far as this can be suitably discussed in a non-technical journal. In the first place, and it cannot be too often repeated, we need extraordinary flexibility to enable the vehicle to go across country anywhere. We have heard a good deal about the "three point suspension" principle as applied to the mounting of the engine and the transmission in the frame of the car. The principle is well understood, as it should be, but its application to the vehicle as a whole resting on the ground is not equally well grasped by any means.

For the benefit of the uninitiated it may appropriately be expanded a little. We all know that a three-legged chair will stand firmly on any floor however uneven. Add a fourth leg and the chair will rock annoyingly unless the floor is level and the legs the same length, and when it does rock any one of the legs may at any moment be carrying nearly all the load or none at all, and stresses of unknown magnitude and changing rapidly will be set up throughout the structure of the chair. The fourth leg is redundant. This is what we mean when we talk (oblivious of science) about the *fifth* wheel of a coach.

Now were it not for the fact that the three-legged chair is rather too prone to capsize owing to the restriction of the size of its base, we should always use three-legged chairs. As it is, and as our floors are laid reasonably true, we add a fourth leg and experience no practical difficulty, and forget the science of the thing if we ever knew it.

The position with regard to a wheeled vehicle resting on the ground is exactly the same, but complicated by the fact that the ground is almost always uneven. Exactly as in the case of the chair, a three-wheeled vehicle will rest perfectly steadily on any road however uneven, but will be prone to capsize if tilted over, owing to the construction of the base. We are thus forced to add a fourth wheel and to trust to the springs compensating for the unevenness of the road. But again, just as in the case of the chair, experiencing no difficulty with the arrangement, we are apt to forget the science of the same. This is evident by the provision of four separate springs to transmit the load to the four wheels from four separate points of the chassis instead of from three points only.

What is wanted is that the rear of the car should rest firmly on the two rear wheels through the two rear springs, but the forward end of the car should be carried only at one point instead of two, as at present in cars of European manufacture. That one point should be in the centre over the middle of the front axle, and from this point the load should be transmitted by a transverse spring to points to the left and right on that axle towards the two wheels.

With this arrangement we have a three-point suspension, the load on the third point being carried over the centre of the front axle and divided between the two wheels. The front axle may be tilted over either way, when a wheel passes over an obstruction, by nearly 45 degrees without damage and without straining the car.

I invite anyone in London who doubts the superiority of one well-known make of light car in this respect to go to the Albert Hall to one of Mr. Lowell Thomas's lectures, and to see the cinema record of a light car in Palestine negotiating a washout on a road which is being filled up by labourers with large blocks of stone. It is instructive to watch the extraordinary tilting up of the front axle in that case. This is possible only because of the suspension of the front end of the car from a single point over the centre of the axle. It would be impossible with the usual four-spring arrangement, and what is more important, the latter would induce terrible stresses in the frame of the chassis which the former arrangement eliminates.

I consider that this one point in the design of the car in question is more than any other single thing (bar the price) responsible for its success in out-of-the-way parts.

* The previous articles of this series appeared in The Near East on February 26 and March 4.

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There is nothing special about the springs themselves; it is their application. It was just the same in the case of railway carriages. For twenty years the Americans had adopted the flexible bogey scheme, whilst British engineers were still clinging to the old stiff four-wheel and six-wheel design. Still, the bogey did come into standard railway practice in England, and I hope the transverse front spring will similarly come into the English motor world. Certainly until it does the colonial market, the market of the remoter and less developed tracts, will remain closed to us. I saw little at Olympia to lead me to think that British engineers have begun to follow the American lead yet.

For the rest, the epicyclic gear of the car is an excellent and almost fool-proof arrangement, but it is not at all a decisive factor, and could be improved upon. The two speeds may be enough, but three would not be objectionable. The holding down of a foot pedal all the time the low-speed gear is in action is fatiguing, and though it avoids the present change speed difficulties, it could well be improved upon. The engine is by no means special or exceptional; indeed, when the air-cooled engine has established more universal confidence, as it will within a year or two, there is no doubt that for colonial service it will commend itself—it avoids the complication of the water jacket, pumps, and connections, and will dispense with the necessity of procuring water.

The differential gear is by no means an unmixed blessing, and some quite simple arrangement to allow the outer wheel to overrun the inner on turning corners will be more appropriate for such a car as we contemplate. This problem is being tackled by some of the British manufacturers, and will no doubt result in some acceptable device. The carburettor and petrol pipes must be simple and accessible, and some sound device must be applied to keep grit and dirt from getting into the same, via the petrol tank or otherwise.

Ignition must be by magneto—there are no garages out in the wilds for recharging a run-down battery, and for the same reasons spares for petty fittings which are apt to wear or get lost must be carried, as also must a reasonable supply of tools and a spare tyre and tube, in addition to the complete fifth wheel, when the car is really going out into the wilds. As an extra a small wireless installation may be required on a small number of such cars hereafter, though not, perhaps, at once.

There is no need for a self-starter, and speed need not be great, but the lowest speed should have a greater speed ratio than usual, to enable the car to take short stretches of steep hills and rough track. Lastly, the car must always be a five-seater, and all possible space under the seat and elsewhere should be made available for the necessities of the road. If British manufacturers can build a car on these lines and can turn it out at the same price as the Ford, there are markets enough and to spare. Similarly, if a weight-carrying lorry on the same general principles as to flexibility, etc., be produced, it will never lack a market.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Shipbuilding in Yugoslavia.

The reports that Yugoslavia, in spite of the present unsettled position, has made considerable progress in shipbuilding, on the Danube as well as the Adriatic, reminds the writer of an address delivered by M. Marcel Duboi, the well-known professor of Colonial Geography at the Sorbonne. It was after the Balkan war when Serbia's claims for an outlet to the Adriatic were strongly opposed by Austria and other Powers under the absurd pretext, among others, that Serbians, like the other Balkan peoples, were by nature unsuitable for a seafaring life. M. Duboi said that those times when a nation required centuries of fishing and seafaring experience in order to be nautical, had gone. Given courage, capital, studies, a wide outlet to the sea and the miracle of transformation from landsmen into able seamen and a midland country into a nautical nation could be completed in ten years. Yugoslavia is evidently losing no time; for according to authentic shipping reports the country is rapidly making a name for itself as a naval shipbuilding country. The River Navigation Syndicate at Belgrade is building a yard for the construction of river boats; and vessels destined for long routes are being built at the naval construction yards recently established at Kraljevitch, on the Gulf of Fiume.

Agricultural and General Engineers, Ltd.

The firms now or about to be associated under the title Agricultural and General Engineers, Ltd., continue to increase in number. According to the latest news, the following firms are concerned:—Aveling and Porter, Ltd., Barford and Perkins, Ltd., E. H. Bentall and Co., Ltd., Blackstone and Co., Ltd., Chas. Barrell and Sons, Ltd., Clarke's Crank and Forge Company, Ltd., Richard Garrett and Sons, Ltd., J. and F. Howard, Ltd., and E. R. and F. Turner, Ltd. Important negotiations are now pending in regard to three other firms well known in the agricultural engineering world joining the combine. The scope of the association may be summarised from the speech of the chairman at its statutory meeting early last month. Many of the most prominent British agricultural engineers, being exercised in their minds about the competition they would have to face in the future, decided to come to some equitable arrangement which would enable them not only to meet the competition abroad, but also the competition at home, and to put themselves in such a position that the farmer, both at home and abroad, would not have to pay whatever price foreign manufacturers liked to charge. They felt that if they went in for the most modern methods of standardisation and mass production they need not fear any competition from any quarter. The directors' idea is within the next year or two to increase the output of each of the works not twofold or fourfold but about sevenfold. It is a sound and solid attempt to place the British agricultural engineering industry on a plane which would make it unassailable. The capital of the Agricultural and General Engineers, Ltd., is £3,500,000. The formation of the association will be of great interest to landowners, farmers, and engineers throughout the East, especially the Near East, where the names of the above-mentioned firms are well known and their machinery and implements thoroughly trusted, although in recent years, owing to the systematic competition on the part of German, Austrian, and American firms, the sales of British agricultural machinery have been much curtailed.

Marine Oil Engines for Greece.

The fact, pointed out previously in these columns, that there is a considerable demand for marine oil-engines and motors in Greece to be fitted in new ships, and in old sailing vessels for coasting service, is corroborated by the recent report of the United States Trade Commissioner, who states that there is a large demand in Greece for marine engines of from 50-h.p. to 200-h.p. In the past much of the inter-island trade was carried on by small trading vessels which were not equipped with auxiliary motors. The demand for new ships in Greece, as elsewhere, is very great, and the few that can be built in Greek shipping centres, if not exclusively steam-propelled, are being equipped with engines of some kind. The object is principally to take advantage of the high shipping rates now prevailing, and in order to do this, not only the new ships but also the old sailing vessels are being supplied with auxiliary motors, in order to decrease the delay due to light winds or calms, and the time required for coming into port. In this way they can carry more cargoes and secure to their owners the maximum immediate profit from the abnormal shipping rates. The kind of engines most in demand are oil motors of the Diesel or semi-Diesel type. It is advisable that British manufacturers on receiving inquiries should take a little extra, but necessary, trouble to ask, before quoting, for particulars as to available space for engines, dimensions and construction of vessel, etc., as it often happens that orders are given vaguely and are based on horse-power.

Agricultural Machinery for Armenia.

At a meeting of the Council of the British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce last week Nubar Pasha said that as soon as the Armenian State was set up, one of their first cares and duties would be to establish commercial relations with the European countries. They could not but view with lively gratitude the fact that Great Britain was taking the lead in that direction. Their first efforts, he added, would be directed towards the restoration of their agriculture in order to assure immediately the subsistence of the people on the product of the country itself. As soon as that was done they would be able to export their produce. But to attain that double object they would need, above all, agricultural machinery and implements, which they could only get from abroad. And it was in that vast field open to activity that an institution such as the British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce would be of the greatest value. Next to agriculture, and perhaps concurrently, they would have to develop their subsoil, which possessed immense unexploited riches.

Car Locking Device.

It has been noticeable in recent motor-car exhibitions that accessories and new ideas in car equipment have been receiving considerable attention. It would be difficult to describe all, but amongst a variety of practical devices some are very interesting indeed. One particularly will interest every car owner—viz., a locking device, a recent invention. It is well known that valuable motor-cars are often used by chauffeurs or other persons without the knowledge of the owner, and sometimes cars are stolen when standing alone on busy thoroughfares. The new locking device prevents such incidents, for once it is connected to the battery or magneto it enables the owner effectively to "lock" the spark. Anyone who then attempts to tamper with the starting mechanism is not only unable to start the motor, but causes the ringing of a bell signal, which, once started, cannot be stopped except by the rightful owner, who has set the combination.

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NEGLECTED TRADE OPENINGS.

Apathy of British Merchants.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have been greatly interested in the numerous articles and notes published in your valuable paper drawing attention to the excellent opportunities for trade in the Near East, which are being wasted by English manufacturers and merchants. I have travelled all over Palestine and Syria and have received ample proof of the exceptional opportunities offered to British traders. I have interviewed numerous merchants in Cairo, Alexandria, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Haifa, Beyrout, etc., and, without exception, they have shown the greatest anxiety to deal in British goods in preference to German and Austrian goods.

My personal experience is that English manufacturers and merchants show the greatest reluctance—in fact, in many cases therein a downright refusal—to look at any market outside the home market. I am in possession of orders from Palestine for English goods; the money for the payment of these goods is lying at a bank in London. I have expressed my willingness to proceed to the Near East to develop English trade (I am well known to a large number of merchants in the Near East), but I have failed to gain the support of English firms, who all reply, they are so full up with orders for the home market that they have no desire to supply or develop the Near East trade. Thus excellent opportunities are going begging, opportunities which, as you correctly forecast, will be eagerly sought after in the future, when the development of the Near Eastern markets will be a matter of considerable difficulty owing to the fact that other countries are availing themselves of the opportunity which the Briton, in his shortsightedness, is neglecting.

I sincerely hope that your efforts to arouse the Briton to a realisation of his shortsighted and fatal policy will be successful. Your excellent campaign should receive the entire support of all true Englishmen who have the advancement of our country at heart.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

London, March 8. EX-CAPTAIN.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Manchester, March 8.

The market during the past week has presented a more nervous tone than for some time back, and business has been of reduced dimensions. There is increased uneasiness as to what may happen in the near future. Producers have not wanted to sell, and buyers have been of opinion that a waiting policy is the best course to adopt at the moment. Important events have occurred in connection with Egyptian cotton. There has been a panic in Alexandria, and the authorities have found it necessary to impose special trading rules upon operators, the daily downward fluctuations in prices being limited. Some failures have been mentioned, the liabilities in two cases being fairly heavy. The latest news, however, is more satisfactory, and the worst seems to be over. There appears to be no probability of a crop of 6,000,000 kantars. Most people are now expecting only about 5,700,000 kantars. The demand in Liverpool has fallen off, and prices are distinctly lower on the week. In Egyptian yarns, business has been thoroughly disorganised by the uncertain outlook. It is now possible to purchase certain counts and qualities at distinctly lower prices than a fortnight ago. Users have acted with considerable caution. Speaking generally, however, there is not much fear of any further slump in values just at present. A moderate business has been done in cloth for Egypt, but buying recently has not been very extensive. Constantinople remains over-stocked, and some Manchester merchants have resold goods bought for that outlet. Only sorting up lines have been mentioned for India, the general demand being disappointing. Steady buying has taken place for China in greys and whites. There has been less activity for South America. Cloth prices continue very firmly held. American yarns have moved off slowly at rather irregular rates, and twists remain much firmer than wefts. Export bundles have moved off fairly well for India, and some producers are sold into next year.

Fund for Cotton Projects.

It is reported that the surplus funds of the Lancashire Cotton Control Board amount to about £1,500,000. The members of the Reconstruction Board, which is the successor to the Control Board, have recently had under consideration how this large sum of money should be disposed of. Certain proposals have been made to the Board of Trade, and it is understood the funds will be handed over to an organisation under the style of the "Cotton Trade War Memorial Fund." It is proposed to appoint five trustees—two representing employers' organisations, two representing trade unions, and one representative of the Board of Trade. The money will be invested, and the income devoted to expenditure in the way of benefactions to the operatives in the cotton trade and to the general welfare of the cotton trade as a whole. Grants will be made to men permanently disabled in the war, to the families and dependents of those who have fallen in the war, for educational schemes, and pensions for long service records, or for those permanently disabled by accidents. It is also proposed to make grants for the purpose of carrying out scientific and educational research in connection with the cotton trade, the development of Empire grown cotton, and towards the investigation of labour or trade conditions in the textile trade in foreign countries. It is understood that one of the first grants of the Board will be towards the expenses of the proposed trade mission to the Far East. For this object the Government has offered to contribute £3,000, and it is understood that about £9,000 will be found out of the Cotton Control Board funds. It is expected that the members of the mission will be appointed during the next month or two, and the party will leave for China about October. It is intended to visit Japan and India, with the possibility of a return journey through the United States.

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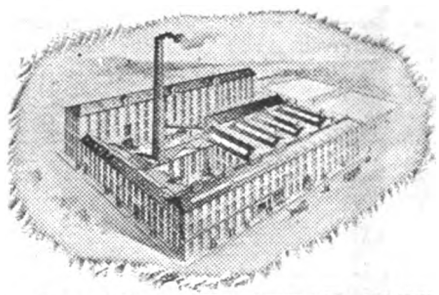
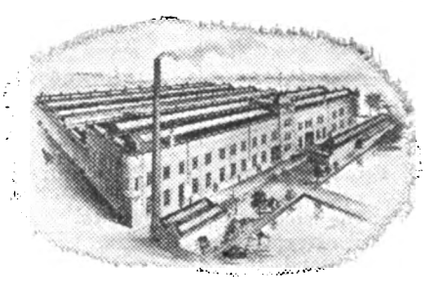
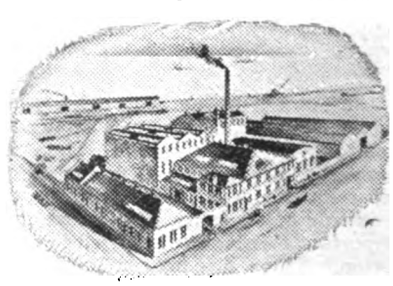

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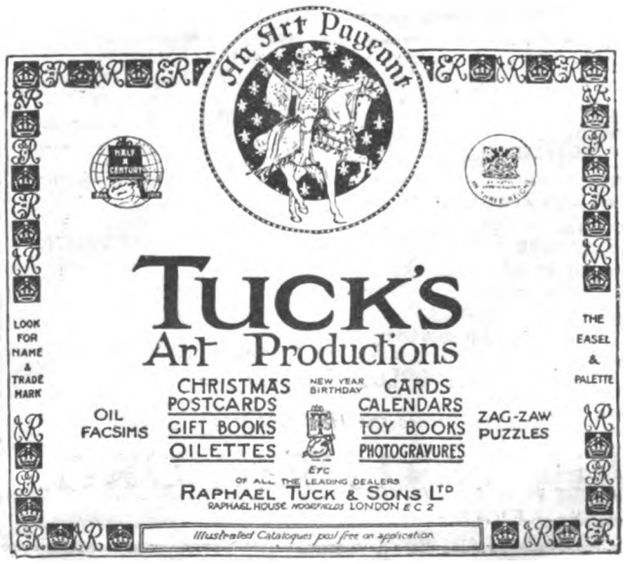

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.—There is little of interest to report, the position being practically unchanged. Indications point to a shortage of stocks in certain directions, and the development of a brisk demand is not improbable in the near future.

Sugar.—The market in raw has been rather quiet, manufacturers holding aloof for the time being. The supplies of free sugar are now very limited, and the position is not likely to improve. There is no fresh news from producing centres as regards crops. It is to be noted, however, that a harder tone is now in evidence in the American markets, and that quotations for Cuban have advanced.

Coffee.—The firm tone of the market is maintained, although the amount of business passing has not been great. East Indian extra bold greenish has been done at 179s., medium at 174s., and small at 170s. Mocha bold greenish has come to business at 191s., while Uganda Peaberry has been done at 147s. 6d. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are:—March, 127s.; May, 126s.; July, 125s. 9d.; September, 123s. 3d.; December, 120s. 6d.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their weekly report, state that the New York market on balance shows an advance of 18 to 24 points as the result of the week's trading. The agitation in America to lessen the cost of living still continues to be prominently carried on, and no doubt the difficulty of shippers in exporting commodities tends to help the movement forward by throwing more foodstuffs on to their own market for consumption. This has a natural reaction on coffee, although it can only be purely sentimental, as America must import the raw article. The coffee market has gone through such a period of depression, from liquidation and "Bear" pressure, that it has lost sight of the strength of the statistical position temporarily. A recovery from this exhaustion may reasonably be expected, and anything of a favourable nature, politically or financially, would quickly bring about a complete change.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following further extracts are taken from the C.E.B. report for December:—

Wheat.

Berber Province.—A November and December report states: The only considerable area of wheat on pump lands is at Bouga, where about 500 feddans have been sown. Forty-five tons of wheat seed have been distributed to sakia owners, mostly in Abu Hamad.

Maize.

Berber Province.—November and December. On the Gendetto pumping scheme there is a lot of promising maize. At Kitab, a large area has been planted with maize. The price of maize remained at P.T.360 per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos) in November, but fell to P.T.300 in December.

Sesame.

Kordofan Province.—December.—360 ardebs of 330 rottles (148 kilos) of sesame were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of £E5.500 m/ms. per ardeb.

Kassala Province.—November.—The market price at Gedaref was £E3.937 m/ms. per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

Dates.

Halfa Province.—A December report states: The date market has been most active, a number of merchants who are unusually late arrived to purchase dates during the month. Prices have risen as follows: Barakawi (from Mahas and Sukkot Dis.), P.T.430 to P.T.445 per 300 rottles (135 kilos); Barakawi (from Dongola), P.T.400 to P.T.430; Gondeila, P.T.520 to P.T.540; Gorgoda, P.T.340 to P.T.360.

Tobacco.

Darfur Province.—October.—81 kantars of tobacco were exported. November.—Trade in tobacco practically ceased. There was no export.

Livestock, Hides and Skins.

Darfur Province.—Average price of bulls was £E6 a head. November.—1,098 head of cattle passed through El Fasher quarantine during the month. 770 head of imported cattle were sold in El Fasher market in November. The average price of sheep was 620 mills., and of goats 500 mills. per head. Trade in hides practically ceased. There were no exports.

Red Sea Province.—December.—107 cattle and 660 sheep were exported via Port Sudan during the month. Grazing in the littoral is rapidly improving.

Berber Province.—November and December.—The figures of animals sold in Damer market are 11,394 sheep and goats and 388 cattle in November, and 10,607 sheep and goats and 563 cattle in December, the total of sheep and goats for the last three months of 1919 being over 33,000, which must be a record Average prices were P.T.682 for cattle in both months, and P.T.177 for sheep in November, P.T.152 in December. Grazing is on the whole better than might be expected—certainly better than last year. 5,601 camels have been exported from Berber and Damer in the last three months.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Ellerman s.s. Austrian, for Patras, Bari, Venice, and Trieste, will leave Liverpool on March 27.

The Ellerman s.s. Falernian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, Cyprus, etc., will close for cargo at Liverpool on March 20.

The Ellerman s.s. Asturian, for Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on April 23.

The Cunard steamer Corby, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, and Constantinople, closes for cargo at Manchester on March 13 and Liverpool on March 20.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Alexandria, and Syrian coast ports, will leave Liverpool on March 13.

The Moss Line s.s. Siptah, for Algiers, Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Beyrout direct, will leave Liverpool on March 25.

KRONEN STAMPED IN NEW ROUMANIA.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest has reported to the Department of Overseas Trade that the total value of kronen currency stamped by the Roumanian-Transylvanian authorities in Ardeal is:—1,930,038.500 krönen, in the following proportions: 10-krönen notes, 9.047.649: 20-krönen notes, 13.172.078; 50-krönen notes, 3.037,785; 100-krönen notes, 5,180.232; 1,000-krönen notes, 871,448; 10.000-krönen notes, 3.476.

In addition to the amount stated, a further sum of 130 million krönen was stamped by a special commission instituted for the purpose of stamping notes, which for some good reason could not be presented to the stamping commission between June 12 and July 28, 1919. According to the arrangements made, it is proposed to exchange the stamped bank notes against Roumanian lei, in the proportion of two to one—*i.e.*, 1 krone is worth 50 bani, or half a lei. This sum of about two thousand million krönen does not include the krönen currency of the Banat and the Bukovina, which would probably almost double it.

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Paid-up Capital - £T. 2,000,000
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(PALIOS LINE.)

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Extensions.

The report for the half-year to September 30 last states that the net earnings of the Extensions, supplemented by the rebate from Government, yield a balance of Rs.1,25,656. The directors recommend a dividend of Rs.2 8a. per share, amounting to Rs.1,09,375, carrying forward Rs.16,281

Uvakellie Tea of Ceylon.

The report of Uvakellie Tea of Ceylon for 1919 states that the crop harvested amounted to 312,447 lb. of tea, against an estimate of 310,000 lb. The cost of production amounted to 41.03 cents per lb., including a charge of 3.66 cents per lb. for loss on rice, which, it is feared, will be still further enhanced during the current season owing to the increase in the cost of rice. The price obtained for the tea was 59.63 cents per lb., as compared with 46.40 cents per lb. for the previous season, which may be considered a very satisfactory result, and is the highest average that has been obtained since the inception of the company. The profit on the year's working is Rs.53,764, and Rs.10,834 was brought in, making Rs.64,598. The directors recommend a dividend of 15 per cent., absorbing Rs.36,000; transfer to depreciation account, Rs.5,000; to reserve, Rs.18,000; carrying forward, Rs.5,598. The estimates for 1920 provide for a crop of 320,000 lb. of tea at a cost of 40.22 cents per lb.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The report of the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended September 20, 1919, states that the profits for the period mentioned, after making provision for expenses of management and general charges in London and at chief office and branches, income-tax, excess profits duty, and bad and doubtful debts, amount to £80,235 3s. 8d., to which has to be added £27,388 3s. 10d. brought forward from last account, making a total of £107,623 7s. 6d. From this sum, £4,814 2s. 3d., the amount due to the Persian Government in terms of the concession, has to be deducted, leaving £102,809 5s. 3d., which the directors have dealt with in the following manner:—First interim dividend for the year, at the rate of 3s. per share, paid June 18, free of income-tax, £15,000; transfer to reserve account, £30,000; transfer to bank premises account, £5,000; second interim, being final dividend, at the rate of 5s. per share, paid on December 30, 1919, free of income-tax, £25,000; carry forward to new account, £27,809 5s. 3d.—£102,809 5s. 3d. The retiring directors are Mr. H. E. R. Hunter and Colonel Sir A. Henry McMahon, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Kemp, Sons, Sendell and Co., chartered accountants, who offer themselves for re-appointment. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., March 15, 12.30 p.m.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

Assam Railways and Trading.—Interim dividend of 2 per cent., less tax, on the "B" stock, payable April 1.

Resolutions for the voluntary liquidation of the Woodend (Kelani Valley, Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Company have been passed and confirmed.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the week ended February 14 amounted to 3,400,000 francs, as against 3,150,000 francs.

The capital of Sudan Plantations, Ltd., is, it is announced, to be increased to £750,000, 150,000 new shares being offered to shareholders at £2 premium.

Ionian Bank.—Final dividend of 3s. per share, with a bonus of 1s. per share, both free of tax, for the half-year ended December 31, making 7 per cent. per annum for the past year.

The directors of the Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Company have declared the third quarterly dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of 1919, payable March 20 to shareholders registered March 2.

An ordinary general meeting of the National Bank of Egypt will be held on March 29 at the head office in Cairo for the purpose of receiving the report and declaring a dividend, etc. An extraordinary general meeting will immediately follow to consider alteration of the statutes.

The directors of the Mahawale Rubber and Tea Company announce that the profits allow a total dividend for the year 1919 of 32½ per cent., less tax. Apart from the shares in the new company, nothing more will be distributed to the shareholders of the present company.

BANK OF ATHENS.

London Committee Formed.

In view of the increasing importance of the trade passing between the United Kingdom and those countries in which the Bank of Athens is established, the directors of that bank recently decided to form a London Committee for the purpose of fostering and developing such trade. In order that the best results might be obtained it was felt that the committee should be a strong and thoroughly representative one, and to this end Mr. O. V. G. Hoare and Mr. W. H. Hollis were invited to become members and to act in conjunction with Mr. E. M. Rodocanachi and Mr. P. N. Caridia.

The directors of the Bank of Athens announce that Mr. Hoare and Mr. Hollis, having agreed to serve on their London Committee, the same will be established forthwith. Mr. O. V. G. Hoare is a director of Barclays Bank, Limited, and the Colonial Bank, chairman of Cox and Co. (France), Limited, and a partner in Cox and Co. (Army Bankers), Charing Cross. Mr. W. H. Hollis is general manager and director of the British Bank of South America, Limited, and a director of Cox and Co. (France), Limited. Mr. E. M. Rodocanachi is a director of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, and of the Bank of Athens, and senior partner in the firm of Rodocanachi Sons and Co. Mr. P. N. Caridia is the London manager of the Bank of Athens and a director of Cox and Co. (France), Limited. The Bank of Athens is established in Greece, Cyprus, Turkey and Egypt.

TRADE OPENINGS IN PERSIA.

H.M. Consul at Kermanshah reports that the following manufactured articles would command a ready sale in Persia:—Boots, saddlery, and leather goods. These should be cheap but of strong quality. They have to compete with leather goods of Hamadan, the chief leather town of Persia, only 130 miles from Kermanshah, the leather and stitching of which is inferior. Ammunition boots would command a good sale to mule drivers and pilgrims, many thousands of whom pass through Kermanshah during the year to Baghdad, where they acquire local boots of inferior make and durability. There is also a small demand for better quality boots and shoes for local gentry, and also ladies' shoes for zenana ladies.

Other openings mentioned are for cardigan jackets, socks, stockings, stout tweeds for hard wear, and shirting cloth, bright blue and pink, for female use, for Kassi silk for suits and shirtings for summer use, while it is pointed out that cotton piece-goods of all sorts are in demand. There are also openings for the sale of tea and sugar—preferably in cones of 6½ lb. weight each; and finally for glass work—beads, bottles, tumblers.

The routes by which merchandise can best reach Kermanshah is by ship to Busreh. Thence by rail to Baghdad West, where it must be transferred by camel, cart, or mule to Baghdad East Station and forwarded by rail to Quraitu Station, on the Persian frontier near Qasr-i-Shirin. An alternative and probably cheaper method from Busreh is by river craft as far as Kut, thence by rail to Quraitu; from Quraitu to Kermanshah road transport by camel, mule, or donkey.

Lord Allenby has issued orders in Egypt under martial law that cultivators rooting up cereals to plant cotton shall be fined £100 per acre.

A Bill has been introduced by the Greek Minister of Finance, authorising a lottery loan of 300 million drachmæ in shares of 200 drachmæ each. The interest will be at the rate of 5 per cent., and the term will be 60 years.

It is announced that the Government of India has decided to discontinue the experimental aerial mail service which has been maintained between Bombay and Karachi for six weeks, in connection with the arrival and departure of the English mail boat. It is estimated that the cost has been over £1,000 weekly and the revenue sometimes only about £10.

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TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The most productive tobacco-growing region in Yugoslavia, says the American Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade in a recent report, is Serbia, which, within its frontiers of 1912, produced annually about 2,000,000 kilos (4,409,200 lb.) of which it consumed only 900,000 kilos, the remainder being exported in leaf. The total production of Serbia and Macedonia, according to *Trgovinski Glasnik*, has increased to more than 4,000,000 kilos. Tobacco is extensively cultivated in the following regions: In the Department of Skoplje, 500,000 kilos; in that of Bregalnitza (exclusive of the district of Strumnitza), about 600,000 kilos; in the Department of Prilep, about 500,000 kilos; in Koumasovo, 600,000 kilos; in Vragais, 250,000 kilos; in Nish, 600,000 kilos; in Kruchevats, 300,000 kilos; and in Oujitse, 100,000 kilos.

Before the war, Herzegovina produced 3,500,000 kilos of tobacco, and there have been occasional harvests when the crop totalled 4,600,000 kilos. The next crop, however, because of the post-war conditions, will not exceed 500,000 kilos.

Bosnia and Dalmatia.

In Bosnia, the eastern sections are the most productive, especially the districts of Srbrnitsa, Vlasenitsa, and Svornik. In the north-east, the production is extensive in the districts of Belina, Brtchko, Gradatchatch, Bihatch, and Sazin; in the south, in the districts of Prozor, Totcha, and Tchainitche. Bosnia yields about 500,000 kilos of tobacco annually. In Dalmatia the cultivation of tobacco has increased steadily since 1884; in 1913 it reached about 3,500,000 kilos, but since the war the production has decreased.

The exact amount of the crop in the Banat, the Batchka, the Baranya, and in Croatia and Slavonia is not known; but according to Hungarian statistics Hungary yielded 6,000,000 kilos, of which approximately 4,000,000 were produced in these Provinces.

The annual tobacco crop of Yugoslavia therefore approximates 15,000,000 kilos. Of this, some 6,000,000 kilos are required for domestic consumption, leaving 9,000,000 kilos for export, either in the leaf, or prepared for immediate use.

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AT ADEN.

In a report on trade conditions and opportunities in the Aden market, the American Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard, says that the market is pre-eminently one for cotton piece goods, general hardware, kerosene, tinned or otherwise preserved foodstuffs, and a few other articles of more or less similar manufacture, which are required to meet the demand of the natives (principally Arabs, Somalis, and Christian and Mohammedan Abyssinians), who live in a comparatively primitive manner. Standards of living have not yet been developed to the point where there is an appreciable demand for merchandise of the more highly-manufactured sorts.

NEW COMPANIES.

Palestine Co. "Hiram."

The Palestine Co. "Hiram" has been registered with a capital of £25,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on in, with, and from Palestine or elsewhere the business of general merchants, importers, exporters, shipping agents, shipowners, shipbuilders, ship and insurance brokers, carriers, builders, builders' merchants, mine, quarry, and factory owners, brick and cement makers, timber merchants, furniture manufacturers, ironmongers, engineers, farmers, clothiers, provision packers, and preservers of provisions, meat extract manufacturers, wool washers, tallow melters, manure manufacturers, etc.

Europe and Asia Trading.

The Europe and Asia Trading Company, Limited, was registered as a private company on February 24, with a capital of £50,000, in £25 shares. Objects: To carry on in Eastern Europe and Asia the business of general merchants, manufacturers, importers and exporters, shipowners and builders, etc. First directors: I. Naiditch, Hans Crescent Hotel, Belgravia, S.W.1; S. Landman, 71, Staverton Road, Willesden Junction, N.W.

Kershaw, Leese and Co.

Kershaw, Leese, and Co. (Egypt), Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £40,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of (*a*) manufacturers' merchants and importers into Egypt and other parts of Africa and Asia of cotton and woollen piece goods and yarns, (*b*) exporters from Egypt and other parts of Africa and Asia of hides, skins, animal and vegetable produce, and other products of those places, (*c*) shipping merchants, commission agents, etc.

Yugoslavia Express Agency.

The Yugoslavia Express Agency, Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of transport and tourist agents, organisers of transport and travel, shippers, forwarders of goods, hotel, restaurant, and sleeping-car proprietors and agents, bankers, merchants, insurance agents and brokers, shipowners, etc., to assist and promote trading between Yugoslavia and Great Britain. First directors: Major G. H. Sim, A. C. Sim, and Dr. J. Jeftanovitch Qualification, 1,000 shares. 1, Broad Street Place, E.C.

London and Levant Transport.

The London and Levant Transport Company, Limited, was registered as a private company on February 27, with a capital of £42,500, in 10s. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of shipowners, ship and insurance brokers, managers of shipping property, to establish and maintain lines of steam and other ships between ports in the United Kingdom and the Mediterranean and Black Sea and elsewhere. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—W. H. Fox, 52, Shardeloes Road, New Cross, S.E.; A. Frampton, 3, King's Bench Walk, Temple, E.C. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Solicitor: J. B. Pittman, 17-18, Basinghall Street, E.C.

London and Black Sea Building.

The London and Black Sea Building Co., Limited, has been registered, with a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of builders, architects, surveyors, Government and building contractors, merchants, bankers, etc. First directors: Capt. J. A. Leighton, R.N.R., 180, Piccadilly, W.; M. V. Brackevitch, 15, Seymour Road, Hampton Hill (Engineer of Ways of Communication Harbour and Railways Contractor); J. G. Crookston, C.B.E., Cotham House, Ellesmere Road, Weybridge (engineer and naval architect; managing director Salamander Steel Works, Riga, Russia; vice-president Russian Shipbuilding Co., Petrograd; vice-president Chartiers Navals de Nicholdieff-Nicolaieff, South Russia).

ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Business has been on a restricted scale this week, but to-day there has been a reawakening of interest, and at the close the market looks decidedly better and with a tendency to go ahead on a renewal of demand from Egypt.

Government bonds on balance are closing better, the big demand to-day sending Unifieds up to 74⅜, a rise of ⅜, and Egypt 3½ per cent. prefs. up to 61¾, a rise of ½. Turkish 1891 have also appreciated half a point to 69½, and the 3½ per cent. 1894 have improved 1 point to 59. Turkish Unifieds are also half a point up at 32. City of Alexandria bonds have been exceptionally dull, and are closing 1½ points down at 65½.

In Bank shares National Banks have been a great feature during the last few days. There has been persistent buying from Egypt, and the price has advanced 1⅜ to 23½ on rumours of a very satisfactory final dividend, which is expected any day now. Agriculturals have improved 1-16 to 5 9-16. On the other hand, Anglo-Egyptian Banks have continued a dull spot, and are closing ⅜ lower at 19¾. Bank of Abyssinias have also dropped ¼ to 1¾, whilst Ottoman Banks are 5-16ths higher at 11.

In railways, Delta Light prefs. are 1-16th lower at 6 9-16.

Amongst land shares the market, after being weak, closes distinctly better. Aboukirs, after receding to about 41s. 3d., close a good market to-night at 45s., a rise of 2s. Allotments on a late demand to-night are ¼ up at 4. Some business has taken place in Béhéra round the current level of 21. Consolidated Lands are 3d. lower at 3s. 1½d. Delta Lands have dropped 2s. to 17s. 6d., and Foreign Trusts are 1s. down at 17s. Gharbieh Lands have been done in a small way at 3¼, and are closing ¼ lower at 3½. New Egyptians, after being down to 33s., finish unchanged at 35s. Sudan Plantations are again 1-16th easier at 8 1-16, and Union Foncières ¼ lower at 5½; but in nearly every case sellers are very scarce, and buying orders are exceedingly difficult to execute.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions Salts and Sodas are 1-16th firmer at 57s. 6d., and Morums Stores close unchanged at 19s. 6d., after being down to 19s.

In Greek securities the market continues dull, with a drop of half a point in the 1881, 1884, and 1890 loans to 54. Monopolies, Rentes, and the 5 per cent. 1914 London issue are all a point down at 46, 45, and 60 respectively. The 1902 Loan has been comparatively firm, and is only half a point down at 52½, whilst the 1910 Loan has been in quiet demand all the week, and closes unchanged at 43. Bank of Athens shares have again recovered 5s. to 65s., and there is some inquiry for these shares in view of the recent arrangements and the expectation of a resumption of dividend.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B, after being a flat market at 4 1-16, close ⅛ down only at 4⅜. Roumanians are fractionally lower at 21s. 9d.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 25:—Weather generally dry, with light showers in North-West Frontier, Assam, South Burma, and Mysore. Final crop forecasts:—Groundnut, 1,570,000 acres; yield, 884,000 tons (last year, 1,312,000 acres; yield, 490,000 tons). Sugar-cane, 2,667,000 acres; yield, 3,001,000 tons (last year, 2,820,000 acres; yield, 2,337,000 tons). Cotton, 23,063,000 acres; yield, 5,845,000 bales (last year, 20,497,000 acres; yield 3,671,000 bales). Rice, 81,548,000 acres; yield, 35,716,000 tons (last year, 75,864,000 acres; yield, 23,822,000 tons). Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good Broach, April-May, Rs.508. Piecegoods market unsettled. Calcutta jute market firm, but little doing. Hessians quiet, with prices tending downwards. Heavy goods very quiet. No change in Bank rates.

Considerable injury to commercial relations between France and Algeria is being caused by the interruption of cable communication. Of the four cables which existed before the war only one remains.

According to information which has been received from H.M. Minister at Belgrade, there is a possibility that the Government of Yugoslavia may take steps in the near future to restrict the importation of "articles of luxury," comprising such goods as silks, scents, expensive soaps, and other toilet articles.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price March 1	Price March 8
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28	28
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	67	65½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	74	74⅜
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	61½	61⅜
Greek 5%, 1881	54½	54
Do. 5%, 1884	54½	54
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	47	46
Do. 4% Rents, 1889	46	45
Do. 5% 1890	54½	54
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	54	54
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	53	52½
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	43	43
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	61xd	60
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	76½	76
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69	69½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	58	59
Do. 4% Unified	31½	32
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6½	6½
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68½	68½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70½	70½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	20½	19¾
Bank of Abyssinia	40/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	60/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7⅛	7⅛
Bank of Roumania	5½	5½
British Trade Corporation	9⅜	9½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10½	11¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	6⅛
London County and Westminster	15⅜	14⅝
National Bank of Egypt	22⅝	23½
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	71	71
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅞	9⅞
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	49½	49½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	42	40
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	50⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	43/-	45/-
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	17/6	17/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	3½xd	4
Béhéra Co.	21	21
Do. Pref.	3⅜	3⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	32/-	32/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/5 paid)	3/4½	3/1½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	19/6	17/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	18/-	17/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	31/3	31/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61⅛
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	7
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	72	72
New Egyptian Co.	35/-	35/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅞	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	8⅛	8⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	12/-	12/-
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	32/6	32/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/-	23/-
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	56/3	57/6
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99½	99½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅝	5⅝
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅝	3⅝
Levant Co. (fully paid)	19/6	19/9
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	19/6	19/6
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	102	100½
Chinese 4½% 1898	69½	62½
Do. 5% 1896	80	77½
Argentine 5% 1890	79	78
Do. 5% 1907	85½	85
OIL.		
Algerian	4/9	5/1⅛
Anglo-Bulgarian	9/6	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	4½	8⅝
Anglo-Persian Pref.	23/1½	22/9
Do. 5% Debs.	81½	8⅛
Anglo-Roumanian	8/6	7/4½
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/6	5/1
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	13/-	12/-
Roumanian	24/-	21/9
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	7/3	7/-
Traian (Roumanian)	9/6	9/10½

The British Overseas Bank, Ltd., announce that the increased business makes further support for Mr. McPhail necessary, and Mr. F. H. Hope Simpson, hitherto secretary, has been appointed an additional manager of the bank.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Jan. 23. Rs.	Feb. 12. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	60½	60½
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	2105	1900
Bank of Bombay	2650	2500
Bank of Madras	1950	1800
Bank of India	130	134½
Tata Industrial Bank	64	57½
COAL.		
Baraboni	18	15½
Bengal	805	800
Burrakur	49	45¾
East Indian	41x	40
Equitable	45	42½
Pench Valley	362½x	350
Raneegunge	64½	63
Standard	69½	71
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	503	490
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	3260	3300
Bowreah	955	950
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	204½	210
Century	990	1085
Central India	4110 / 2055	3875 / 1937½
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	1800	2600
Khatau Makanji	5650	—
Muir	286½	286½
New Ring	700	700
Phœnix	1085	1050
Svadeshi	3370	3380
JUTE.		
Alliance	842	800
Barnagore	194	168
Budge Budge	685	650
Clive	330	295
Dalhousie	565	533
Delta	709	660
Fort Gloster	1145	1020
Gourepore	1497½	1300
Howrah	47½	47½
Kamarhatty	1070	918x
Kanknarrah	864	745x
Khardah	588	560
Kinnison	1140	1100
National	455	440
Standard	744	684
Union	978	870
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	700	700
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	96	91
Cawnpore Sugar	345	360
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	329	350
Howrah Oil Mills	37¾	38½
India General Steam	161	155
Indian Iron and Steel	110 / 102	115½ / 53¾
Marshall Sons and Co.	12½	11¾
Titaghur Paper	350	338

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON FEBRUARY 27.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	22⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	72
" " Div.	Frs.	115
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	10⅞
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	21½
" priv.	£	3¼
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	80
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅞
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5⅜
Société des Immeubles	£	7¼
Bonded Stores	£	22
Unifiée	£	75⅜
Privilégiée		63
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	11
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅞
" Ord		106/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	22
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	98
" Jouissance	Frs.	150
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		41/6
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	430
" Div.	Frs.	400
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	300
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	8⅞
Egyptian Salt and Soda		54
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	660ex
" Fondateur	Frs.	9000ex
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	420
" 1903 "	Frs.	291½
" 1911 "	Frs.	278
Consolidated Land	P.T.	15
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1⅜
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	390
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2⅝
Urbaines & Rurales		4½
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅜
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1⅛

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Mar. 1	Mar. 8
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	56⅜	56⅜
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½% * Redeemable.	71⅛	71⅛
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		98½	98½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		65	65
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		67	67
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		84	85
Eastern		8⅜	8⅜
Mercantile of India A.		44	44
National of India		62⅜	61½
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		8/9	8/9
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/9	13/9
Burma Corp.		13⅛	12⅜
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		11/-	11/4½
Champion Reef Gold		4/7½	4/1½
Mysore Gold Mining		20/6	20/6
Nundydroog		17/6	17/-
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		18/3	18/1½
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		24/3	24/3
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		47/6	47/6
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		42/6	42/6
Brit. Burmah		5⅛	4⅞
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		19½	19⅛
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅜	9⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		49	49
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		140	140⅜
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		51½	50½
Bengal-Nagpur		115	115
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		105	104½
Burma Railways		112	112¼
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13½	13½
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13½	14½
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		13	12½
Madras and S. Mahratta		112½	112
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		127½	127½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		82	81½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		—	—
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		85½	84½
Do. Deferred		615	580
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		64½	64½
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16	16
British Indian Tea Ord.		8⅜	8⅜
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15⅝	15⅝
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		12/9	12/6
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		62/6	67/-
Consolidated Estates		7⅞xb	7⅞xb
Darjeeling Co.		22	20
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		60/-	60/-
Dooars Tea Ord.		57/6	57/6
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		18/-	18/-
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		67/6	66/3
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		35/-	35/6
Hewagam Rubber Co.		24/4½	24/4½
Jhanzie Tea Association		—	11⅝
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		22	22⅜
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		18/6	18/-
Lanka Plantations Ord.		29/6	29/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		55/6	22/9
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		45/7½	45/7½
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		14½	12⅝
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		29/7½	30/7½

Société Générale de Credit,

SOFIA (Bulgaria).

Capital, fully paid up: 6,000,000 Levas.

Transacts all kinds of Banking and Commercial operations.

Telegraphic Address: "Kambialbank, Sofia."

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

RED WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA, LTD.,

with which are incorporated

THE PUNJAB BANKING CO., LTD.,
THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,
AND
THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Authorised Capital - -	**Rs.**	**1,00,00,000**
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital - - -	**,,**	**88,21,400**
Reserve Fund - - -	**,,**	**40,00,000**
Reserve against Depreciation of Govt. Paper and other investments -	**,,**	**11,00,000**

Head Office - SIMLA.

Branches:

Abbottabad, Agra, Ajmere, Allahabad, Amballa, Amritsar, Bareilly, Bhopal Bhopal State), Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Dalhousie, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi (City), Delhi (Civil Lines), Ferozepore, Gwalior, Jullundur, Karachi, Kasauli, Lahore, Lahore (Cantts.), Lucknow, Meerut, Multan, Murree, Mussoorie, Naini Tal, Nowshera, Peshawar (Cantts.), Peshawar (City), Quetta, Rangoon, Rawalpindi, Sialkote, Simla (Town Office), Srinagar (Kashmir), Ujjain (Gwalior State).

Sub-Offices:

Barnagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Sadar Bazar (Delhi), Hapur (Meerut), Morena (Gwalior), Pachhar (Gwalior), Meerut City (Meerut), Sehore (Bhopal), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior).

LONDON BANKERS:

Messrs. BOULTON BROS. & Co., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C.
BARCLAYS BANK, LTD., 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other Branch.

Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected, Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.

Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.

The Bank undertakes Banking business of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper, Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.

Rules of Business and any further information can be obtained on application to Head Office or any of the Branches.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £2,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £2,900,000.

Court of Directors.

SIR MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, *Chairman.*
SIR DUNCAN CARMICHAEL.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
WM. FOOT MITCHELL, Esq.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.

Managers.—T. H. WHITEHEAD and W. E. PRESTON.

Sub-Manager.—J. S. BRUCE.

Agencies and Branches.

AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	KUALA LUMPUR	SAIGON
BANGKOK	HANKOW	MADRAS	SERREMBAN
BATAVIA	HONGKONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BOMBAY	ILOILO	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
CALCUTTA	IPOH	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
CANTON	KARACHI	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CEBU	KLANG	PENANG	TAVOY
COLOMBO	KOBE	PUKET	TIENTSIN
DELHI		RANGOON	YOKOHAMA

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY and MIDLAND BANK, Limited.
THE LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER and PARR'S BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general banking business connected with the East.

DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.3.

Authorised Capital, £2,000,000. Called up, £800,000. Reserve Fund, £110,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £1,200,000

Branches:

AMARA. BAGDAD. BASRA. BASRA CITY. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA. HILLAH. MOSUL.

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bt. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
JAMES H. BATTY, Esq. — J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. — SIR JAMES LEIGH WOOD, K.B.E., [C.B., C.M.G.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1, 2 or 3 years at five per cent. per annum and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at two per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

(Sgd.) **F. H. SUTTON,** *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM, PORT SAID, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, TANTAH, MANSURA, HAIFA, JAFFA, JERUSALEM, MALTA, and GIBRALTAR.

Subscribed Capital £1,600,000 | Paid-up Capital - £600,000
Reserve - - - £710,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - £3,000,000 | RESERVE FUND - £2,000,000
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

Governor: SIR FREDERICK T. ROWLATT, K.B.E.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., — SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, — COL. THE HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O., M.P.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. — ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), **Alexandria,** Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, **Damanhur** Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, **and in the Sudan** at Khartoum. **Port Sudan, Suakim, and Wad** Medani.

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ANDREW WEIR & CO.,

SHIPOWNERS.

Tank Steamer Owners, Ship and Insurance Brokers and Merchants.

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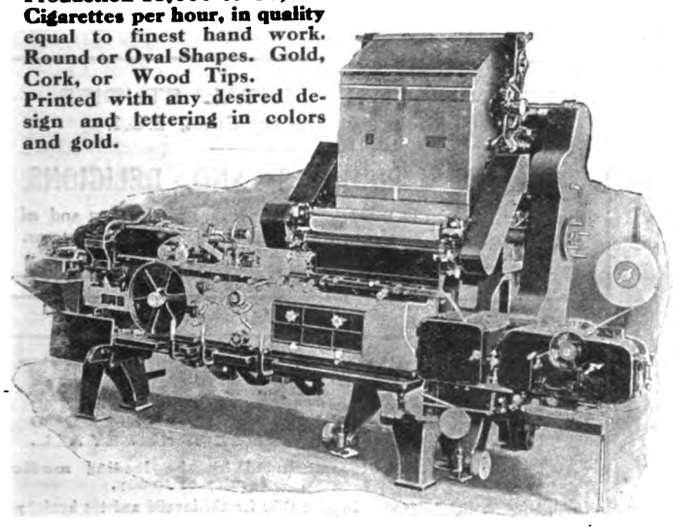

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 463.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Turkey has continued to loom large on the political horizon throughout the week. Further confirmation of the massacres in Marash and the surrounding territory has been received, and the Allied Governments have felt compelled to take more drastic steps than the mere threat to stiffen the peace terms, if the Turkish authorities did not mend their ways. The nature of the steps to be taken has not been officially divulged, but they are reported to include the military occupation of Stamboul, the strengthening of the French troops in Asia Minor and the direct employment of a Greek army against Mustapha Kemal's Nationalist forces. Lord Curzon, speaking in the House of Lords on behalf of the Government, referred to the situation in Turkey in grave tones: "At Constantinople there has been growing up a spirit of arrogance and defiance which bodes ill for the future. There have been flagrant breaches of the Armistice by the Turkish Government and Turkish forces. There have been repeated acts of hostility. There has been a constant interchange of communications, of arms, and of armed men, between the capital and the Nationalist forces in Asi . Minor. . . . All these incidents are evidence of a revival of a national spirit among the Turks and of an intention on their part, if they are left to do so, to intimidate the Peace Conference, and of their preparations for resisting the Peace Treaty should it assume at all a drastic form."

This indication that the Allied Governments at last "mean business" will be generally welcomed, and we can but regret that it follows instead of preceding the Marash tragedy. The present situation in Turkey, inconceivable even to the Turks for some months after the Armistice, is due entirely to the remissness of the Allies. But with firm handling now there is no reason why things should not be restored to the satisfactory position that existed when the Turks acknowledged defeat. Lord Curzon, it will have been noticed, was not optimistic. "Do not let anybody believe that any peace which we are going to conclude is suddenly going to spread peace over Asia. Far from it. I cannot guarantee that even six months hence the situation will not be worse than it is now." This, we fear, is a fresh instance of the fatal lack of conviction that has hampered every step taken by the Allied Governments. Peace can be established and maintained, if only the Allied Governments adopt a sane line of action.

It will be worse than useless to administer punishment upon Mustapha Kemal's Nationalist forces and then to leave Turkey to fend for herself. The campaign for the restoration of order in Turkey must be accompanied by a sound settlement, the machinery for the application of which must at once be made ready. It is evident that the Turks, in their own interests, as well as in the interests of their neighbours and Europe in general, cannot be left to themselves. Such a course merely provides the opportunity needed by the Committee of Union and Progress and its henchmen. A scheme for the better government of Turkey must be put into action without delay. The Turkish officials to work under it can easily be found, but they must have the support of foreign, preferably British, advisers, and these must be distributed throughout the country. Whatever objections can be urged against the proposals, there is little doubt that it is the only one which will enable the Allies to guarantee that the situation six months hence shall not be worse than it is now.

Some hope that this important point will not be lost sight of was afforded by Lord Curzon's speech. The whole principle upon which the Allied Governments are proceeding in Asia Minor, he said, is "the reconstruction, as far as possible on an ethnic basis, of such States or communities or groups as are able, on the principle of self-determination, to justify autonomous life in the future. We desire to afford protection and assistance to them, and, further, to create a state of affairs in which, instead of living in perpetual warfare with their neighbours, they will settle down with them in the future . . . you want to produce conditions in which not only will you protect Christians, but in which you may secure decent government for the Turk himself. . . . Therefore do not lose sight of the fact that in helping the Christians to a future independent life we also have, if we can do so, to produce good relations between them and their neighbours and secure something like a peaceful existence for the latter as well." It is certain that words alone will not achieve this praiseworthy end. Decent government can only be secured by decent administrators. The Turks, by common consent, have not produced any yet. Therefore they must be provided with them, until such time as a decent Turkish officialdom can be evolved.

This need for the loan of administrators requires to be emphasised, because there will be a temptation in certain circles, in view of the Turkish retention of

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Constantinople being announced subsequent to the agitation on the subject, to suggest that Moslem *amour propre* will be hurt if there is any interference with the Turkish administration. The reply, if such a claim were made, should be immediate and decisive; that while Moslem views on the subject of the Khalifate and its connection with Constantinople will be listened to with all respect—although those views were not the determining factor in the Allies' decision—the question of the decent administration of Turkey is a purely secular affair into which religious beliefs do not enter.

The cables from India show that the genuine, if unhistorical, sentiment in favour of Turkey is being worked up to boiling point. Some of the resolutions which have reached us are imbued with that spirit of contingent sedition for which precedents may be found in other parts of the Empire, but which is, to put it mildly, dangerous doctrine to preach to excitable Eastern populations; and when we read of a body of Indian Moslems threatening to "sever its connection with the British Government," we are tempted to point out that India, large as it is, has not room for such dissidents, who would doubtless find more congenial surroundings in Constantinople than Calcutta. The Moslem leaders are on firmer ground when they protest against fanatical and ill-informed anti-Turkish agitation in this country; we cannot indeed assert that their own proceedings are entirely devoid of fanaticism, or are characterised by judicial appreciation of the facts of the position, but Englishmen, and English women, should set an example to the rest of the Empire, and some of the protagonists in this country have fully earned the epithets employed.

Whatever result may be attained by such tactics in India, we question whether the cause of Indian Moslems is likely to benefit by activities on the lines being followed by the Khalifate Mission now in this country. The value of threats varies with the longitude, and already we notice a distinct tendency to question the credentials of those who appear to be inclined to use them. People are asking whether this mission is working solely in the interests of its Indian constituents, or whether some of its members are not influenced by inspiration from a different quarter. The "record" of Mr. Mohamed Ali was the subject of a recent question in Parliament, but his name is less familiar here than in India, and he has in the past displayed so much interest in the affairs of other nations that the professions of a body of which he is a member are not likely to pass current at their face-value. The English public would welcome a plain presentation of the point of view of Indian Moslems, but they want to be quite sure that the dish answers its description on the menu: is it sentiment *à l'Indienne*, or sentiment *à la Bosphore?*

There is good reason for believing that Mustapha Kemal's strength has been over-estimated, and that his policy has been based largely upon bluff and the presumed weakness of the Allies. The Nationalists, we learn from Constantinople, are failing badly in their efforts to arouse the Islamic world, in spite of the alacrity shown by Indian and Egyptian agitators to seize upon the Khalifate question for their own ends. Most of the support obtained by the Nationalists from the Turkish population is the result of terrorism, and while there may be a certain amount of anti-British feeling, it is chiefly of a negative and artificial character. If this diagnosis of the situation in Turkey be correct, there is little doubt that a marked improvement will quickly follow decisive action and the introduction of a definite policy for the good government of the new Turkey.

The report that, in the absence of Dr. Vaida-Voivod, the Acting Prime Minister of Roumania has handed in the resignation of the Government, and that this has been accepted by the King, requires to be confirmed before it will be believed. Both the President of the Chamber and the President of the Senate had protested publicly against such a step on the part of M. Stephen Pop, and a new Minister of War had been appointed to the Cabinet. But it is evident that the Ministry was in a precarious condition. Much sympathy will be felt for Dr. Vaida-Voivod in his difficulties; he has successfully upheld Roumania's interests with the Supreme Council, and has secured formal recognition by the Allies of the reunion of Bessarabia with Roumania. Domestic problems, however, seem now to be of more immediate concern to the Roumanians than foreign affairs.

On the day that he dealt at length with the subject of Turkish rule in Armenia, Lord Curzon was also interrogated in the House of Lords on the condition of Montenegro. His reply showed that he was not so sure of his ground in regard to the latter question. Indeed, his speech was entirely stultified by a confusion of thought between Yugoslavia and Serbia. There has never been the least suggestion that any section of the Montenegrin people desired to be outside the Yugoslav Federation. It was, therefore, superfluous to labour the point. The whole question turns on whether the Montenegrins shall be allowed to decide their own future—either as a separate unit like Serbia or Croatia, in the Federation, or as a province of Serbia—by a free and unhampered vote. The British Government profess to desire such a solution of the problem; but for a year they have weighted the scales against the little country by giving their ear to the opponents of the duly constituted Government. With equal propriety they might have refused during the war to recognise Serbia's Regent, Prince Alexander, and his Prime Minister, M. Pasitch, because a certain section of the Parliamentary Opposition bitterly denounced the latter. Lord Curzon gave away his case when he stated that the publication of the names of witnesses in the Count de Salis's report might cause these witnesses to "suffer seriously from divulgations." It follows (1) that their evidence would be against the Serbian occupation, and (2) that the Serbian authorities would make them "suffer seriously"—an admission that would seem to endorse everything that has been reported regarding the actual condition of the country. Incidentally, of course, nothing would be simpler than to omit the names of the witnesses.

A letter from General Sherif Pasha to *The Times* puts the Armeno-Kurdish agreement of November 20, 1919, in an interesting light. The Pasha states that, immediately after the signing of the Armistice, he saw that the Kurd lands forming part of the Ottoman Empire "were the object of covetousness, as much of the Armenian organisation as of certain of the Allied Powers." Probably very few people outside Armenian circles would seriously challenge that view; and when the Pasha refers to "the ignorance of the majority of the European circles concerning the Kurd countries," which led to the belief that Kurdistan "was merely a fanciful geographical expression," he is only setting forth a regrettable fact. But in the absence of any propagandist machinery, how was that ignorance to be enlightened? Sherif Pasha hit upon the ingenious idea of making known the existence of a Kurdistan "by our competitors themselves, in an Act signed by the representatives of the Armenians to the Peace Conference," and the result was the agreement made with Boghos Nubar Pasha and the Delegate of the Armenian Republic of the Caucasus. In the past we have been accustomed to look upon the Kurd as, politically, dull and slow-witted, and the Armenian as preternaturally sharp; but if Kurdistan can produce many diplomatists as skilful as General Sherif Pasha, its neighbours will have to keep very wide awake.

Winter weather has been helping the Kurds in the Urumiah region in their fight against the Persians by putting a stop to co-operation by the British flying men. At the end of February there was fighting at Salmas, but how it went we are not informed. The fact that the Kurds are reported to be showing a disposition to come to terms would seem to indicate that they have not been getting the best of the exchange of incivilities, and the Persian Government troops may congratulate themselves on a creditable piece of work for their first service.

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The attitude of America, or of that section of American opinion that takes any interest at all in the subject, towards the Armenian question is decidedly strange. It urges—nay, demands—that something be done immediately; it shows a very marked inclination to blame Great Britain or, sometimes, France, for not doing it; and it seems to be satisfied that America need do nothing towards bringing about the desired end, except, perhaps, provide financial and moral support. All this may do credit to the hearts of the Americans concerned; but we may be pardoned for remarking that to allow the heart to rule the head is not always wise, and that sentimentalism is apt to lead to Pharisaism.

In this connection the publication of telegrams exchanged between Mr. Gerard, formerly American Ambassador in Berlin, and Mr. Balfour is of extreme interest. According to the summary of Mr. Gerard's first message he "expresses distress over the news that the Allies might cut up Armenia"; reminds us that America has given £6,000,000 for Armenian relief; states that the President has been asked that America should aid Armenia; mentions that "we are earnestly anxious that Britain should seriously consider American opinion on the Armenian case"; and concludes: "Can you not postpone consideration of the Turkish question until after ratification of the Treaty by the Senate, which is likely to take place before March 1?" That is, if we may say so, very typically American, and we would ask in the most friendly way that America would "seriously consider" the British point of view, as put forward by Mr. Balfour. The latter, in his reply, expresses a very natural failure to understand why Great Britain should be held responsible if a Greater Armenia is not forthwith created; and points out that "Great Britain has no interests in Armenia except those based on humanitarian grounds. In this respect her position is precisely that of the United States."

If Americans, or some of them, are distressed by the sufferings of Armenia, so are Englishmen; and they show to the full the disappointment hinted at by Mr. Balfour that the United States have not seen their way to become mandatory for Armenia. But they realise also "that even the most lavish charity, unsupported by political and military assistance, will prove quite insufficient to deal with the unhappy consequences of Turkish cruelty and misrule"; and the trouble is that our American friends have not apparently realised that fact. Moreover, it is not without interest to note that the "ratification of the Treaty by the Senate" has not yet taken place, although March 1 has come and gone, and the latest indications are that ratification will still be just as "likely" in March, 1921.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Direct Action Rejected.

The most momentous event of the week has been the decisive rejection by an overwhelming majority of the policy of "direct action"—that is, a general strike—at a special Trade Union Congress convened to discuss the question. The constitutional Labour leaders have all along been opposed to revolutionary methods, and they spoke emphatically against it at the public session of the Congress: the hotheads were hopelessly outclassed in argument. But he would be a bold man who prophesied that we have heard the last of "direct action" as opposed to political action. The man who most strongly depreciates Parliamentary methods is gene-ra"-- he who has failed to get into the House of Commons—the temptation to cry "sour grapes" seems irresistible. Accordingly, one finds that many of those Labour leaders, who, like Mr. Smillie, have again and again been in a minority at the polls are always ready to denounce political action as slow and ineffective, and to advocate "direct action." It is not to be supposed that even an adverse vote of their own colleagues will deter them from trying again.

The sequel to the rejection came within twenty-four hours. The miners were practically the only industry in favour of "direct action," and they immediately demanded an advance of wages. Not a week before it had been announced that they did not want an increase of wages, but a reduction of the cost of living: consistency does not seem to count for much in the politico-economic strategy of the day. As home-used coal is already being produced at a loss, and the industry is only kept solvent by the high price of exported coal, it is not quite clear where this increase of wages is to come from, unless out of the pockets of the general public once more; and it is noticeable that the demand has been received with a certain lack of sympathy even in quarters usually friendly to Labour.

The Vicious Circle Again.

Whatever may be the case with the miners' demand, the Government's decision to modify the bread subsidy has once more started other demands for increased wages from all classes of the community. As this sequence of cause and effect was as clear as daylight in advance to the man-in-the-street, it was probably foreseen by the Cabinet, and it must therefore be deduced that in their opinion it was better to start the vicious circle spinning afresh than to continue an uneconomic price for bread. The trouble is that while increasing the price of bread, they have not put it on an economic basis, and the subsidy, now reduced, will probably mount again in a few months' time.

As to the general increase of prices this past month, there is no doubt about it whatever. It works out, I am told, at about a shilling a week a head, and taking the ordinary household at four to five people, that means that the average husband, *quâ* bread-winner, has to find another pound a month, or twelve pounds a year, if his harassed wife's temper is to preserve any of its pre-war quality.

Income Tax.

There is, however, one silver lining to the financial cloud. The Income-Tax Committee's recommendations have broadly been accepted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and so far as is known, they will appreciably lighten "the burden of the ass" who turns the scale at less than a thousand a year. In effect the Income-Tax will start at £250 a year, and the allowances for children where the income is limited will be increased; so that if a man with, say, £750 a year chooses to have ten children, he would still be practically exempt—as he deserves to be for his heroism. It is good news that the double income-tax on Colonial investments, which has long been an anomaly and always operated as a grave injustice, is to be abolished. The Budget this year will be awaited with very considerable curiosity, as it is believed that most of these changes will be incorporated in its provisions.

Meanwhile, the proposed tax on war profits, which is being examined by a Committee of the Commons, seems to be hanging fire. Everybody wants to hit the profiteers, but unfortunately these modest people wear no label, and business men have been by no means impressed by the suggestions of the Treasury officials for the war profits tax, while the Stock Exchange—which certainly has no war profits to conceal—shivers at the very prospect. It would cause an immediate slump in national and industrial securities, already low enough, and would thus hit the innocent with the guilty—indeed, they have depreciated further quite recently; but although we are told that is in consequence of the inquiry being held, I incline to think that it is mainly because so many people are selling out stock in order to buy their houses.

The Industrial Boom.

Industrial activity has again perceptibly increased, and the issue of new industrial companies has beaten all previous records; about twenty new enterprises are appealing to the public for funds before Easter. The banks are finding it a little difficult to cope with this sudden rush of business, and the inevitable result is that they are endeavouring to scrutinise some of the projects brought them more closely, while the rate of

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interest goes up. As the issue of new prospectuses is likely to continue for many months, it is evident that we are in for a long period of dear money.

British Sugar.

The most interesting of these new enterprises is the flotation of a company for establishing the sugar-beet industry at home. It is virtually a new industry. Several attempts were made to found it in Victorian days, but these all failed, mainly because it was worked on too small a scale; although the disappointed promoters also blamed the farmers as being too conservative to grow the beet, which has its own particular value nevertheless as a cleaning crop.

Another attempt in 1913 at Cantley, in Norfolk, yielded rather better results, and there is really no reason whatever, on the ground of soil and climate, why Britain should not enter the ranks of sugar-producers. The present is obviously a good time to start, since the shortage of sugar is acute. A great deal of experimental work has been done by a society of investigation, and the new industry will be founded on an estate near the River Trent. The authorised capital of the company is a million pounds, of which half will be issued; if successful, it will either have to enlarge its operations very considerably or allow others to imitate it. The Government is sufficiently interested in the scheme to subscribe towards the shares.

Home Politics.

The political interest of the week has been in none of the speeches in Parliament—which, as a matter of fact, have been desperately dull—but in the movements behind the scenes. All talk of the speedy collapse of the Coalition has now been tacitly dropped by the Opposition, who are resigning themselves gloomily to the prospect of remaining in the wilderness at least another couple of years. Their difficulty is not so much that they cannot beat the Government candidate in odd by-elections, but that the two sections of the Opposition are hopelessly divided from each other, and neither will give way. Labour does not see why it should not put up candidates in every constituency, even if the prospect of a majority is hopeless—as in Horncastle a week ago—but it merely deprives the Independent Liberal of his last feeble chance of success. Liberalism, on the other hand, cannot forget those happy days when a small and obedient Labour Party fed out of Mr. Asquith's hand, nor can it resign the hope that those days will return.

The fact that this attitude of mind is still cherished in Independent Liberal circles alone indicates the hopelessness of their position; nor has Mr. Asquith's return to the Commons really improved matters. It led his little party to form higher hopes for a few days, but the ex-Premier's own attitude has shattered most of the illusions. He still clings entirely to the old party lines, of which the country is emphatically tired. He intends, for instance, to move the rejection of the Home Rule Bill, and the very words of his reasoned amendment against it indicate, like his speeches, that his mind is still in the pre-1914 period.

Further than that, he, as the official leader of the Liberal Party, makes it a condition of any *rapprochement* with Mr. Lloyd George and the Coalition Liberals that the Prime Minister should wear a white sheet, eat humble pie, and be prepared to take subordinate office under his old chief. It is, of course, absurd to expect that Mr. Lloyd George will do anything of the kind; nor will the Coalition Liberals, occasionally restive though they may be, desert him for Mr. Asquith. A few old-fashioned Liberals, rather out of touch with the present day, seemed to expect that the moment the Paisley election result was known the Coalition Liberals would leave the Government *en bloc;* as a matter of fact, not one has gone over, or shows any desire to go over.

Consequently the ground is being cleared for the fusion of Unionists and Liberals into one Coalition Government Party. It is understood that Mr. Bonar Law, who seems to have been specially designed by Providence to play the part of second in command, has no objection to being deposed from his nominal position as Unionist leader, and that the Unionist Party as a whole accept the situation. Who would have supposed ten years ago that the Carlton Club, the home of Toryism, would ever consider the acceptance of Mr. Lloyd George as its leader? But it appears likely not merely to consider, but to invite him to act as leader, and to admit the Coalition Liberals as the left wing of the reconstructed party, occupying much the same relative position as the old Liberal-Unionists towards the Conservatives in the years 1886-1905.

The basis of this fused party would be opposition to Labour—in its official sense—and objection to nationalisation and socialisation schemes; much of its strength would lie in the utter refusal of the insignificant Independent Liberal and the larger Labour Parties to unite against it, each preferring to play for its own hand; but perhaps in the end its real strength in the country will be the fact that a majority of people do not particularly want a change, more especially since the only practical alternative at the moment is Labour.

The constructive policy of the Government remains a little vague, but it must not be forgotten that the mere fact that it allows people to get on with their own businesses and does not want to embark on vast schemes of reform like Labour, counts for righteousness with many; and another solid point in its favour is the general feeling of conservatism induced by the renewal of disturbances and uncertainty on the Continent.

The Week's Publishing.

The appetite for war books seems to grow by what it feeds upon. The first volume of Sir Julian Corbett's official account of "Naval Operations" (Longmans) is now out, and brings the history of the war at sea from the mobilisation of the Grand Fleet to the Battle of the Falklands.

From the German side Admiral von Scheer's memoirs are promised; the extracts from these already published in the *Daily News* show that he takes the German naval official view, which was often strongly at variance, as von Tirpitz has shown, with that of the statesmen of Berlin and German military headquarters. He recalls his last interview with the Kaiser at the Armistice, when the latter remarked "I have no longer a Navy"; but there appears to be no indication of any feeling that the German Fleet disgraced itself by the submarine war, and one would imagine from this narrative that the sinking of the ships in Scapa Flow was almost a victory for the enemy. Perhaps one should not begrudge a defeated foe any consolation he may secure from such acts, but one cannot help a feeling of surprise that he looks on the Scapa scuttling as being in the nature of a consolation at all.

Mr. Harold Spender has published a life of "The Prime Minister" (Hodder and Stoughton), which has a certain piquancy in view of the fact that its eulogistic and almost ecstatic tone contrasts very comically with the rather acrid criticisms which Mr. Spender's better-known brother, the editor of the *Westminster Gazette*, has made daily upon Mr. Lloyd George ever since the deposition of Mr. Asquith three years ago. The fashion for writing the lives of eminent men while they are still alive seems to be growing; one often wonders how they appreciate the compliment.

In a purely literary sense, the most interesting book I have read for some time is "Shakespeare Identified" (Cecil Palmer), by J. Thomas Looney. Like most people who have read the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy, I am obstinately unconvinced by the Baconians; but Mr. Looney only goes so far along their road as to be certain that Shakespeare did not write the plays. Thereafter he seeks the real author, and finds him in the Earl of Oxford of Elizabeth's day. He presents his evidence very persuasively, and does not ignore the undoubted difficulties; I must admit that some of his points dovetail into each other in what seems to be on the surface an extremely convincing fashion. Fortunately he does not go cypher-hunting, that trap of the Baconians, but confines himself to dates, facts, and quotations from the plays and Oxford's acknowledged works. The book will probably give rise to a controversy among the experts.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 1.

A Royal Visitor.

During the past week there have been several banquets at Abdin Palace. Amongst them has been a farewell banquet to Lord Milner and his colleagues, one in honour of the members of the Nile Projects Commission, to which the European and Egyptian notables were invited, and another in honour of the Crown Prince of Roumania, who is visiting this country *en route* to the Far East, and who since Thursday last has been the guest of the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby at the Residency. This morning the Crown Prince inspected the aerodrome at Heliopolis, where a very fine display of mimic warfare in the air was given by the Air Force. Subsequently a review of the entire British garrison was held at Abbassia, at which the Crown Prince, who was accompanied by Lord and Lady Allenby, took the salute, and at the conclusion of which he decorated His Excellency with the Order of St. Michael the Brave.

The Cabinet.

The question of the reconstruction of the Cabinet as a result of the resignation of Sirry Pasha has not yet been settled. It is understood that Shefik Pasha, the Minister for Agriculture, to whom the vacant portfolio of Public Works has been offered, declines to accept it unless certain conditions, amongst them the cessation of work on the Sudan projects until the new Commission has reported, are agreed to.

In connection with the note on the Nile Control Works issued by the Ministry of Public Works, it may be pointed out that it is prefaced by a statement signed by Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha, in which he states that the projects have many times been discussed by him with Sir Murdoch MacDonald, that he agrees with the latter to the projects in the form now presented, and that he hopes that they will in due time be approved by the Government and be carried out. This statement was signed by him four days after his second resignation, and thus entirely disposes of the statements in circulation, first, that he had never been consulted in connection with, and did not approve of, the projects; and, secondly, that whatever documents he had signed in their connection had been signed by him under pressure. Since the publication of the note with his preface Sirry Pasha has been violently attacked by the Extremists, who are evidently very much annoyed that even after quitting office he should have the courage to persist in his views.

The members of the Nile Commission are all here now, the American member, Mr. Cory, having arrived last week. They are leaving to-morrow for the Sudan, where they will make an extended trip up the Blue and White Niles. It is, however, not certain whether the native member, Hussein Pasha Wassef, will accompany them, as up to the time of writing he has not yet attended any of their meetings.

The Milner Mission.

The labours of the Milner Mission are fast drawing to an end, at any rate as far as this country is to be the scene of their activities, and to-morrow they give a farewell reception at the Semiramis. On and after Thursday, the 4th, all official business will cease, and the members, who, however, will not travel together, will begin to wend their way home. Sir Owen Thomas and Mr. Spender will be the first to leave, followed by Lord Milner, who will proceed on Saturday for a short visit to Palestine prior to returning to London. Sir Rennell Rodd and Sir John Maxwell will follow shortly afterwards. Mr. Hurst, who is at the present moment in Alexandria, where, with the Judicial Adviser, Mr. Sheldon Amos, he is submitting his scheme for the judicial reorganisation to the general assembly of the Mixed Court of Appeal, will, on the conclusion of the discussion, return to London via the Balkans.

Meanwhile no further change has taken place in the political situation, and neither the Moderates nor the Extremists have made any further move. The *impasse* to which Zaghlul Pasha and his party have brought matters therefore continues, but I believe that when the Mission has left there may be some movement for the formation of a coalition committee which will follow it to London, where it will probably be joined by Zaghlul Pasha, and where it will discuss the future status with the British Government. It is indeed highly probable that the Mission will not present its report to the Cabinet until the end of April.

The Bomb Outrages.

The inquiry into the attempt on Shefik Pasha is progressing, and so far has given very good results. It has been discovered that the bomb thrower and his accomplice belonged to a society which interested itself in Arab drama, but which is believed to have a political object. Several of the members have been arrested, and there is reason to believe that the inquiry will throw light on the circumstances surrounding the previous attempts on Ministers and the organisation which is responsible for them. The bombs in this case have been found to be similar to those used against Sirry Pasha and those with which two students blew themselves up about a month ago. In fact, there is a very close relationship between all the bombs used or discovered during the past year. They are of purely local manufacture, and are not, as was at first stated, military bombs. Meanwhile, the men accused of the outrage on Said Pasha last September have been brought to trial, and have been sentenced, the thrower of the bomb to ten years' penal servitude, and one of his accomplices to fifteen years' penal servitude by default. This is generally regarded as a very light sentence, but in view of the unfortunate precedent set up by the Military Court in the Wahba outrage case a heavier sentence by the Native Courts could not very well be expected. As pointed out on more than one occasion in this correspondence, lenient handling of cases such as these fails to have any deterrent effect, and can, in fact, only aggravate the situation.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, March 1.

The New Ministry.

The New Government is settling down to its work, amid a howl of execration from the Opposition Press. Dr. Laginja, leader of the Narodny Club, was at once appointed Ban of Croatia, and it is interesting to note that he would not take his appointment from the Minister of the Interior, but insisted upon receiving it from the President of Council. As is the custom in Balkan countries, there has been a wholesale resignation of officials, who are being replaced by supporters of the Government. The new Ban at once released from prison several offenders accused of working against the Union, and this action has given occasion to his opponents to accuse him of separatism. The programme of the Narodny Club is, however, not yet absolutely defined, and they deny any desire for separation; they say that they insist on a wide autonomy for Croatia within the Kingdom of the S.H.S., which programme the Radicals have adopted, while the Democrats are all in favour of an entirely unified and centralised State. As every province of the kingdom has a different history and a marked individuality, a system of federation seems the most desirable, at least for the present generation. Needless to say, the Slovene Clericals have a similar programme, but there appears to be a rift in the lute already, for the Slovenes and Croats are having some differences about their representation on the Provincial Councils.

Meanwhile, the re-assembling of the Skupshtina is awaited with interest. The Government maintain that

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they will have a quorum; for this they require the presence of 128 members, which they may have difficulty in arranging, as the Democrats and Socialists have notified their intention of abstaining. Apparently the indeterminate and independent members, such as the ten Montenegrins and the Bunjivtsi will hold the balance, as every vote counts. The point is an important one, for M. Protitch holds the mandate from the Regent to "govern with Parliament." If he fails to secure a quorum, the Opposition maintains that he must return his mandate, as M. Vesnitch, Minister in Paris, did, when he failed to form a coalition Cabinet, for which he received what is called a "half-mandate." But most Radicals say that, as the Democrats governed for several months without Parliament, so can they, if necessary, and in any case they will carry out the elections for the Constituent Assembly, which it is hoped will meet in May.

It is amusing to note that both sides roundly accuse the other of reactionary views. The Radicals are admittedly the Conservative party of Serbia, and the Democrats and Socialists abuse them for being enemies of a thoroughly popular scheme of agrarian reform and of encouraging the big landowning Begs of Bosnia and the separatists. The Radicals, on the other hand, call the Democrats tyrants for governing without Parliament and administering the country by decree, introducing very far-reaching reforms, such as the division of large estates among the peasants. This question of agrarian reform is particularly acute in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for while the vast estates in Prem, Bachka, and the Banat generally belonged to Magyars, that is, men of enemy race, so that they could be divided up with a clear conscience, the Begs of Bosnia and Herzegovina are themselves good Serbs, although they are Mohammedans. The Radicals will certainly be tender to them, but we may be sure that they will feel bound to introduce some form of division of property, for that has been a fundamental principle in Serbia since the Liberation, and the possession by every man of a piece of freehold land has undoubtedly been the strength of the country, and is the key to their marvellous resilience during the disasters of the war.

The Government's Policy.

The Government have stated that their foreign policy is unaltered, and they will present as stiff a back to the Adriatic question as their predecessors, for in this the triune people are entirely united. As has always been the case with the Southern Slavs, hostility has united warring factions. While Italian propaganda has spared no effort to sow dissension between Croats and Serbs, so much so that their agents in Zagreb have been crying in the streets, "Down with Serbia," it has, in fact, defeated its own object by uniting Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes more compactly than ever in their opposition to aggression on their national territory on the Adriatic. It is reported in the papers that d'Annunzio has realised this, and is expelling Yugoslavs from Fiume.

The Exchange Question.

The Ministry of Finance has allayed a good deal of anxiety by issuing a statement that the replacing of the krone by the new dinar-krone note at four to one will proceed, but this has provoked a reply in the form of a resolution from the Narodny Club to the effect that "the extremely difficult economic question of the currency cannot be solved by the annihilation of the greater part of the property of our people, both Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and all provisional measures undertaken can only be preliminary to the legal solution on the basis of mutual understanding." This sounds fair enough, but it is difficult to see how any change can be effected once the kronen are definitely recalled at four to one. Still, the users of kronen are about three-quarters of the population of the kingdom, for the dinar coinage was in circulation only within the frontiers of the old Kingdom of Serbia.

Meanwhile, so many bad 1,000-kronen notes are in circulation that the banks have stopped accepting them, and they can only be exchanged at the National Bank. The falsification is effected by tampering with the official stamps which, it will be remembered, were recently affixed to avoid this very difficulty.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 26, 1920.

A New Cabinet.

The ministerial crisis which has been threatening for so long has arrived. Resignations are offered, withdrawn, accepted, and refused with such frequency that it is almost impossible to say at a given moment who is and who is not in the Cabinet. The Minister of Finance has resigned definitely as a result of "the lack of unanimity in the Cabinet," and has gone off to Transylvania to await the return of the Prime Minister. Dr. Vlad gives the impression of being a sincere and honest man, frankly *un peu vif* for a parliamentary career. His opponents can always count on giving the Chamber an interesting quarter of an hour by rousing the doctor, and he has been frank in the extreme in specifying the grievances of the Government against the General Headquarters Staff.

The chief of the Staff has also sent in his resignation on the grounds that he disapproves of the order to withdraw the Roumanian troops behind the "Clemenceau" line in Hungary. It is to be hoped that a *modus vivendi* can be arranged between the new Cabinet and the new Chief of Staff.

Roumania's interests are so intimately connected with the treaty of peace with Hungary that it will hardly be possible for Dr. Vaida-Voevod to return from London and Paris before that treaty is signed. One must feel a certain sympathy with him at this moment, for while the present crisis was imminent before his departure, his hand cannot have been strengthened by having his Cabinet dissolved behind his back.

It is regrettable that Roumania has not yet been able to form a stable Government. Since the armistice the country has lived through a continuous series of political crises. The energy and inventiveness which have been used up in the creation of difficulties for succeeding Governments would have gone a long way towards solving more pressing problems. However, it is always difficult for an outsider to understand why getting the "Greens" out of office and the "Blues" in is so much more important than getting the railroads running and the broken bridges mended.

General Averescu will probably be called upon by the King to form the new Cabinet, and it is presumed that he will draw his material from amongst the leaders of the "bloc," which has, so far, resisted all the efforts of its opponents to split it up.

M. Take Jonescu has been "proclaimed" deputy for the capital of the Maramuresh, no opponent having presented himself at the by-election.

National Dances.

Almost any visitor to a Bucharest hotel has heard the fiery music of a "Hora," as the Gipsy orchestras often interpolate one of these between "Madame Butterfly" and "Me and My Gal," and some few of the enlightened know that a "Hora" is a national dance in which a circle of people holding hands whirl to the enlivening music of two or three "lautari." But few foreigners have any idea of the number and variety of folk-dances that exist in Roumania. Each district has its specialty, most of them being round dances but with a bewildering number of tricky steps, which the onlooker judges to be simple, until, roused by the ever-quickening rhythm of the Gipsy music, he breaks into the circle and endeavours to follow the movements of his neighbours.

Local colour fades quickly under the bright lights of the cinematograph and the international café, so a few years ago a group of Roumanians who saw the peasant casting off his native costume in favour of a Manchester pink shirt and an Italian felt hat formed a society to preserve a knowledge of the old dances with which the peasant enlivened feast-days in the good old times.

Once a fortnight eighty to a hundred young people, gaily attired in the charming costumes of various districts, meet together and carry on the tradition. The sight is undoubtedly one of the prettiest in the city when the ever-growing circle flashes quicker and quicker to the wild music. It would be a revelation to many a visitor who fancies he knows the country, and one

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cannot help wishing more foreigners could see the bright-eyed girls in their gay red kerchiefs.

Prince Carol.

It is reported that Prince Carol is about to undertake a long voyage. He left Constantza last week on the Princess Elizabeth, and it is suggested that he may visit Egypt, India, Japan, and America, so that he is likely to be away for a good many months. The Prince has apparently consented to have his morganatic marriage annulled, and is now regarded as the heir to the throne. He was accompanied by Col. Joe Bayle, the famous Alaskan "Gold King," who is one of the most remarkable figures in the present history of Roumania. One of the debts of gratitude she owes him is for liberating some of her most prominent politicians, when they were kept as hostages by the Bolshevists at Odessa, where they had been taken prisoners. No other route being available, he flew over in an aeroplane, and concluded an arrangement with the Bolshevists for an exchange of prisoners.

Symphony Concerts.

The musical community of Bucharest has enjoyed a weekly treat for the last eight weeks in the Symphony Concerts conducted by M. Georgescu at the Athenée Palace. The hall is crowded every Sunday afternoon, most of the seats being booked before the tickets are issued. The programmes have included the favourite symphonies and concertos of Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, and Tchaikowsky, and several of the symphonic poems of Strauss, which were given with extremely fine effect. M. Georgescu is a pupil of Nikisch, and he certainly does honour even to so great a master in his art. He has little, if any, of the modern tendency to seek for dramatic effects by undue emphasis of light and shade, and his broad and unaffected renderings of the C minor symphonies of Beethoven and Brahms would alone entitle him to a high rank among modern conductors. The orchestra consists of about sixty players of both sexes, and it has improved almost beyond recognition under the magnetic and inspiring influence of its new conductor. Unfortunately, M. Georgescu is not to be here much longer; one cannot help hoping that he may one day give London audiences an opportunity of enjoying his fine interpretation of the classics.

The Queen and Princess Elizabeth are very regular attendants at these concerts, and very often the King is also present. On two occasions the Queen has brought with her two little orphan village boys who were found among the ruins of their homes after an air-raid, their parents having been killed. The Queen has taken them under her charge, and is having them educated and brought up at the Palace. The little fellows, aged about six or seven, sat quietly throughout the concerts, but applauded rapturously at every opportunity. On the first day of their appearance they, too, were greeted with applause by the audience, which, however, was, of course, intended for the Queen.

Y.W.C.A. in Bucharest.

The York of the Y.W.C.A. is progressing in a most gratifying way. Classes have been opened at an almost nominal fee for tuition in English and French, and these are attended by approximately 80 girl clerks, students, and schoolgirls, who are only too glad to avail themselves of cheap courses in these days of high prices. A *table d'hôte* has also been opened this week, at which a three-course dinner is served to these girls for 7 lei, i.e., 3 lei less than the cheapest they can get in town. Thus two much-felt wants have been supplied by the Y.W.C.A., and it is a matter of regret that they have not yet succeeded in finding accommodation for a hostel for girl students and workers, which is, perhaps, the greatest want of all. But they are still untiring in their efforts to find a suitable house. Between 70 and 80 girls have joined the association as members.

Effects of Newspaper Lockout.

A few of the newspapers have re-appeared, but the two French papers have not been printed since the lockout stopped them last week, and several of the oldest-established Roumanian papers are still combining to issue the *Press of the Capital*, which has been created to meet the present emergency.

BULGARIA

Sofia, February 14.

The General Strike and the Chamber.

Last week there was a debate in the Chamber upon the interpellations of the Communists and the Moderate Socialists concerning the general strike of the State functionaries. Prior to this the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, had summoned together all the party leaders in the Chamber, and had declared to them the firm resolution of the Government to maintain its present attitude towards the strike, and also its decision to leave the Chamber to decide freely by a vote of confidence whether it approved of such measures for the preservation of internal order and for safeguarding the prestige of the authority of the kingdom. In case of disapproval the Cabinet is quite prepared to tender its resignation, leaving to the King and to the Chamber the decision of the course then to be adopted.

Next day, therefore, the interpellations constituted the chief business of the Chamber. All the party leaders put forward their views at length, and were unanimous in their condemnation of the strike as anti-constitutional, and entirely justified the Government in their action. The debate concluded with a well-argued speech of the Premier, who described vividly the misfortunes and devastations which had befallen those countries like Hungary which adopted the principles of Bolshevism. M. Stambolisky's speech was listened to with great attention and in unusual silence by the Socialists. The result of the voting was that the Government obtained ninety-six votes against eighty-three.

The Government, being convinced that the strikers had at last realized that they had been cheated by unscrupulous Socialists greedy for power, and had agreed to resume work, decided to put an end to the strike. Several high functionaries of the Bulgarian State Railways, including the director, M. Morphoff, have been charged by the Minister of Railways and Communications, M. Marvo Tourlakoff, to draw up a list of the strikers guilty of sabotage. These will be sent to courts-martial for trial and exemplary punishment, while the other workers, after signing a declaration of future obedience to their chiefs and of loyal fulfilment of their duties, will be admitted as State functionaries again.

It therefore appears that this burning question, which has been exploited by both the internal and external foes of Bulgaria to prejudice her position in the world, will soon receive a satisfactory settlement.

Russian Refugees in Bulgaria.

Owing to the recent Bolshevist advances upon Odessa a great number of Russians are emigrating. There have already arrived at Varna 4,000 refugees, and 4,000 more are expected shortly. After this their admission on economic grounds will be stopped. Some of these refugees will go to Yugoslavia and thence to the Banat, where they are to be installed in the farms abandoned by the Hungarians. Those remaining in Bulgaria are being despatched chiefly to the districts of Shoumla, Plevna, Provadia, Preslav and Osman Pazar. Many have been lodged in the monasteries in the district of Gornya Orehovitza. Information has been received that 400 students from the Odessa Girls' Institute are *en route* for Bulgaria. They will be lodged at the Russian Shipka monastery, where at present there is an orphanage of 157 children. At the military school are lodged 200 refugees. The Ministry of the Interior, or rather that section of it which is specially responsible for such cases, has been charged with the duty of providing lodging and food for the Russian refugees. A hospital of 700 beds has been prepared for the sick at Tsaribrod.

Food Supplies for Thrace.

On the request of the French authorities in Thrace the Bulgarian Government has authorised the Food Departments in the kingdom to allow, free of all duty and tax, the necessary grain foods to pass through the co-operative societies to the Thracian population. The influx of refugees from Thrace continues in the districts of Nova Zagora and Haskovo.

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The Agrarian Victory in the Last County Elections.

The final results of the last district elections for the county councils, held on January 25, show a great increase of votes for the Agrarians. Next to these come the Communists. The Agrarians obtained about 3/5ths of all the votes; the remaining votes were divided equally between the Communist and the Bourgeois parties. In connection with the elections it may be added that M. Michel Takeff, the Democratic leader, was murdered by a Communist, who has been arrested and detained by the military authorities.

The Recall of General Claudel.

General Claudel, who was Commander of the Allied armies in Bulgaria, has, after being received at a farewell audience by H.M. the King, the Premier and War Minister, and the Foreign Minister (M. Madjaroff), left Sofia en route for Constantinople. The same day his successor, General Gondrecourt, arrived; he will act in Bulgaria as the delegate of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Orient.

An Anglo-Bulgarian Engagement.

The most notable event of the day at Sofia is the projected marriage of Captain Collins, who is on the staff of the British Military Mission, with Mlle. Yanka Zagorska, who is the daughter of General Zagorsky, and who was educated in England. For the celebration of this betrothal the residence of the British Military Mission became on February 12 the rendezvous of all the social lights of Sofia. Special invitations were issued; tea was served, and entertainment provided in the way of a military band and dances. All the chief officers of the Allied Military Missions were present at the ceremony, including the Diplomatic Corps. Among the many Bulgarian families represented at this gathering were M. Madjaroff, with his wife and daughter, M. Liaptcheff, former War Minister; M. Sarafoff (one of the Peace delegates at Paris), with his wife and daughter; and M. Yoblansky, a prominent banker and former Minister, with Mme. and Mlle. Yoblanska. The entertainment and dances lasted till eight o'clock in the evening.

Admission of Bulgarian Students into France.

The Bulgarian Legation at Paris has been notified of the decision taken by the French Universities to admit all Bulgarians who were students before the war to all facilities accorded to French and neutral students.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 23.

Constantinople.

In the early part of last week "official" announcements were made to the effect that the Peace Conference had decided to leave Constantinople under Turkish sovereignty, and the Turkish Press manifested its joy in ecstatic leading articles, illustrated by silhouettes of Stamboul and portraits of Mehmed II., the "Conqueror," printed in red ink. At the same time it must not be for one moment supposed that the Turks are by any means satisfied, nor that they attribute the decision to any other motive than that of fear on the part of the Entente Powers, who are confidently supposed to have yielded before the Nationalist menace. Mustapha Kemal Pasha has seized upon the occasion to announce to the Anatolians that such is actually the case, and that they have only to continue to support him in order to make the Entente yield upon every other point also. That the Turks should take this point of view is a surprise to no one who knows their ways. It is unfortunate, but it was inevitable.

It was pointed out in a previous letter that the proposal to preserve Constantinople as the seat of the Khalifate, while banishing the Turkish Government to Asia Minor, was hardly practicable, and it is a great pity that the announcement was allowed to be made before anything had been definitely decided. Now the Turks think we have climbed down. No doubt the Nationalist leaders who make the announcement know well enough in their hearts that there has been no climb-down at all, but it suits them admirably to describe the decision as such, and the mass of the people will believe them. The *Vakit*, for instance says:—"We must not let the good news make us lose sight of what *we have yet to accomplish*." Thus "we" have saved Constantinople, and the other things that "we" have yet to accomplish include the expulsion of the Greeks from Smyrna, the preservation under Turkish rule of Armenian territories, the prevention of foreign control, and so forth.

Adrianople.

It would be easy to be unjust to the Turks, but real injustice would undoubtedly cause considerable trouble. There are various uneasy rumours with regard to the fate of Adrianople, which, if there be any truth in them, certainly foreshadow an injustice which will inevitably provoke chronic trouble. The Turks themselves have been guilty of terrible injustices, but two wrongs do not make a right. If in the whole of Turkey there is a city that is inhabited by an undeniable majority of Turks, it is Adrianople, and the Turks would have just cause to complain if that city were taken away from them. From the military point of view also, Adrianople is the key to Constantinople, for there is no other line of defence between that city and Chatalja, which is at the very gates of the capital. Such, at all events, is the opinion of a competent authority who could never be accused of undue partiality towards the Turks.

The Nationalists.

Reliable information is at last available with regard to recent events in the zone of French occupation, and, unhappily, the terrible rumours which were current a little previously appear to have been mixed with far less than the usual degree of exaggeration. Marash was evacuated on February 10, but the Christian population were informed beforehand. At the same time, however, it was impossible to make transport arrangements, and several hundreds of the refugees perished of exhaustion in the snow and the cold. Once the French had withdrawn, the Nationalists wreaked a terrible vengeance upon the Armenians who had remained behind, and some twenty thousand were butchered with all the unspeakably horrible accompaniments of rape and torture. Of Marash itself nothing is left save a heap of rubbish, and the French have intimated their intention of returning. In the meantime they have armed the Armenians in the Adana region, but it is to be hoped that there will be no necessity for further withdrawals. It is also to be hoped that the experience will serve to show the danger of half-measures.

Bolshevism and Islam.

The Islamic Society, of which the Sheikh-ul-Islam is the president, recently issued a manifesto strongly condemning Bolshevism, and stating that so far from there being anything in common between Bolshevism and Islam, the former is the negation of the fundamental principles of the Moslem religion. A few days later, however, it was announced that this manifesto had been published by a few members of the Association only, and without the knowledge of the other members, a number of whom, consequently, resigned. It would be interesting to know who were the members who resigned and whether their action was inspired by mere pique, or whether they share the views of the Nationalists, who regard Bolshevism as a useful possible ally. Not that it is probable that there can ever be a serious alliance between the Turks and the Bolshevists, but the Nationalists think the Red Bogey might be useful for the purpose of frightening the Entente. In reality, the very persons who would suffer most under Bolshevist rule would be the Osmanli bureaucracy, which is responsible for the idea of the alliance. In the next place, Russian foreign policy, whether directed by a Tsarist, or by a Soviet Government, follows the same general lines. Lenin's oriental schemes are a Soviet translation of the old aggressive policy of Tsarist Russia, and that policy was hardly friendly to Turkey.

On the other hand, it is through Soviet Russia that the Unionists hope to receive help from their old ally, Germany, the foster-nurse of Bolshevism, and it is through Soviet Russia that Germany is still doing all that can possibly be done to encourage the Turks to

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resist the Allies. Hence, the Turkish chauvinists see in Bolshevism merely a clever disguise adopted by their old friends the Huns.

Azerbaijan.

A few days ago I was introduced to a Turk from the Azerbaijan Republic, and I have no reason to regard the information that he gave me upon that occasion as inaccurate. He stated that the whole family of Enver Pasha is extremely popular in the Moslem Republic, and that he himself had witnessed an enthusiastic reception accorded to Halil Pasha, Enver's uncle, upon the arrival of the latter at Baku after a tour in Daghestan. In the evening of the same day, at the theatre, Halil Pasha received a tremendous ovation from the audience, which numbered about two thousand persons. He also stated that the Bolshevists have an officially recognised organisation in Baku, and that the Ittihad (Union) party, which is not very strongly opposed to Bolshevism, is likely to come into power very shortly; and he added that in that case Halil Pasha would certainly exercise a very great influence upon the policy of the country. But the most curious item of information was to the effect that the proprietors of the principal petrol wells are all in favour of Bolshevism. This sounds incredible, and I hesitate to repeat it, but such is the criss-cross of intrigue in the Near East that there may be something in the statement.

The Atlantic Squadron.

On Saturday the Atlantic Squadron under the command of Admiral Freemantle arrived here, and afforded the Turks ocular proof that part at least, and a very formidable part, of the British Navy escaped intact from the Jutland battle. To-day some 2,500 bluejackets and marines, with fixed bayonets, and accompanied by bands, marched through the European quarters of the city. Stamboul and the Turkish quarters are to be visited in a similar manner later on, and on Friday the whole fleet will sail up the Bosphorus to the Black Sea and back.

The effect of the visit of the Fleet is likely to be most salutary at the present moment, but I happened to overhear two Turks, who apparently were unaware of the fact that I understand their language, commenting upon the super-Dreadnoughts, and one of them remarked, "Yes, those 15-inch guns are very powerful, *but they could not reach Angora.*" It reminds one of Oliver Twist.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 25.
(*Delayed in transmission.*)

The Caucasian Republics.

The announcement of the Allied recognition of the new Caucasian Republics was received by the Turkish Press with the greatest enthusiasm—but only as regards the Azerbaijan, which one journal declared to be the prize Republic of the Caucasus. This, of course, is simply because the Azerbaijanis are the nearest relations of the Ottoman Turks, who, however, seem to forget that the majority of the Azerbaijanis are Moslems of the Shiah sect, and that their sympathy for the Ottoman Turks was largely based upon their desperate desire for support from anywhere in order not to come again under Russian domination. This, by the way, is characteristic also of the attitude of the other Caucasian peoples—even the Turk rather than the Russian. And from what is related by people who have recently returned from South Russia, this is not surprising. In the words of one friend of mine, who has seen pretty well all that there is to be seen in South Russia, "Denikinites or Leninites, they are all perishers." It is generally recognised out here that the Allied recognition of the Caucasian Republics will probably prove to be a wise move, for it is to the interest of none of the new States to allow the Bolshevists to make any progress in their territories. They have everything to lose by such an event, and may be trusted to put up a pretty stiff fight in the mountains. Incidentally, they do not want Denikin either, and this is the factor that may complicate the situation.

It remains to be seen how Azerbaijan will behave, for there are strong pan-Islamic tendencies among the Turkish part of the population. Moreover, it is stated in certain circles that are well-informed on the subject that Enver has received considerable support in the country, and that he and his brother Nuri have made Baku their headquarters for a wide-flung net of pan-Islamic intrigue in the Middle East. There are two important political parties in the Azerbaijan Republic—the *Mussavat*, or "Equality" party, which is actually in power, and the *Ittihad*, or "Union" party, whose policy is frankly pan-Islamic, and in many respects similar to that of the sinister Turkish Committee, whose name it recalls. The Mussavat party is professedly democratic and liberal, but is said to be at heart even more closely related to the Turkish Unionists than the Ittihad party. The War Minister, Mihmandaroff, enjoys considerable influence, and the Unionist Press of Constantinople is certainly very sympathetic towards him. In any case, the hospitality accorded to Enver and Nuri needs some explanation, but perhaps the Azerbaijanis will realise more clearly where their true interests lie, now that they have been accorded the much-coveted official recognition.

The formation of a strong and solid block between Asia Minor and the Caspian Sea would be an obvious advantage in many respects, and above all to the British Empire. Politically, as well as topographically, the Caucasus Mountains are part of the Himalaya system.

Restitution?

The sincerity of the Government schemes and promises of reforms may be accurately estimated by noting the history of the reparation which the Sublime Porte, under pressure of public opinion and for the purpose of impressing Europe, offered to make to the Armenians. The Government invited the Armenian Patriarch to appoint delegates for a Commission which was to settle the question of "abandoned" property. As some million Armenians were murdered during the war, there was a good deal of "abandoned" property—even after much of it had been "adopted" by pious Unionists. According to the scheme elaborated by the Commission, ownerless Armenian property was to be handed over to the Armenian community for the benefit of the immense number of widows and orphans created by the massacres. In view of the fact that a considerable proportion of ownerless Armenian property can never be traced, for the simple reason that when it became "ownerless," the person who made it so in most cases promptly took measures to ensure his own full enjoyment of it, the measure elaborated by the Commission and adopted, after months of incubation, by the Sublime Porte, was not such a very great concession after all. Now, however, it has been finally decided to revoke the original acceptance of the Commission's scheme and that all "abandoned" Armenian property shall be considered simply as intestate property to which there are no legal heirs. In other words, it becomes the property of the State, which thus seeks to profit by the wholesale murders which it pretends to regret.

The Retort Direct.

For some time past the Sublime Porte has been seriously embarrassed by the agitation of the Kurdish Association for the establishment of an independent Kurdistan, and the arrest and trial by Court Martial of Mustafa Pasha are of more than ordinary interest in that the Pasha is the President of the Kurdish Association in Constantinople. He was arrested upon a trumped-up charge of having acted in a manner subversive to order by making certain statements to an Armenian paper. The statements in question were of a very mild nature, but in defending himself before the Court Martial, Mustafa Pasha repaired any errors of omission, and pointed out that it was ridiculous to bring such an accusation against him when hundreds of thousands of persons had been murdered, women and young girls outraged before their parents and husbands, babies soaked in petrol and burnt alive before their mothers' eyes, while those who had committed these and innumerable other unspeakable atrocities had never been molested, much less punished. This time these charges are not brought by some

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"lying" Greek or Armenian, nor by some European unacquainted with the essential virtues of the Turk—as the Turks are fond of maintaining—but by a sincere Mussulman who has a good deal to gain by keeping his mouth shut.

Secret Diplomacy.

The revelations of the German Minister Kautsky have forced the hand of the Turkish Government, and the Press has recently been publishing the details of the enquiry held into the causes of the entry of Turkey into the war. Javid Bey's evidence established one or two very interesting points, and among other matters the ex-Minister of Finance stated that in 1917 Talaat Pasha received two letters from a "well-known" Englishman in Switzerland, offering Turkey very advantageous terms for a separate peace. Javid Bey remarked that he did not know whether the offer was really serious, but in any case he admitted that the Turkish Government would not have considered any such offer.

Another interesting point that has been confirmed is that the wireless order to Admiral Suchon to make for the Dardanelles was sent from the Turkish wireless station at Osmanieh, near Constantinople, which had been seized by force for the purpose by the crew of the German Embassy yacht Lorelei.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, February 24.

International Amenities.

The Turks have celebrated the news that they are to retain Constantinople by blowing up two more bridges on the Ottoman (Aidin) Railway, this time between Azizieh and Balajik—the section which forms the boundary of the Italian zone. This British railway is between the devil and the deep blue sea, and for nearly a year the company have had continually to repair bridges and the permanent way, besides occasionally having a train blown up by the Turks. So remarkably easy is it for the Turks to damage the railway in the Italian zone that the Greeks maintain that they receive technical assistance for their enterprise. The Italians retort by declaring that the Greeks allow the bridges to be blown up to show their annoyance at the way the British Government favour the Turkish programme. Several of the British railway officials who worked in France throughout the war state that it is a much more hopeless task to keep part of the Aidin line open than it was to work the railways behind the French front. The Aidin line is reduced to less than half-a-dozen locomotives, and there is scarcely a bridge between Smyrna and Aidin that is not mended with a wooden trestle to "carry on" until it can be properly repaired.

The Bolshevist Touch.

It must be admitted that there are some signs of pronounced Bolshevism among the Turks now fighting the Greek occupation of the Aidin vilayet. Frequently, to pass away the time, they attack their own nationals whom they suspect of possessing riches, and after they have tortured the rich Turk and obtained possession of everything he has they shoot their victim.

Smyrna, March 2.

The trains on the French line ("Smyrne, Cassaba et Prolongement") cannot run now beyond Magnesia. The last train through to Smyrna was held up for thirty-six hours near Magnesia by the Turkish insurgents; and the officials of the trains now refuse to go further than Magnesia.

Commodore Maurice Fitz-Maurice attended a reception on the "old depot ship," H.M.S. Europa, which leaves Smyrna to-morrow for Malta, where she will be sold to be broken up. After the reception a photo was taken of the officers and crew, few of whom, however, served under the Commodore during the four years the Europa was his flagship at Mudros. Commodore Fitz-Maurice recently transferred his flag to H.M.S. Byrony, which remains in Smyrna until peace with Turkey is signed. H.M.S. Danube has also arrived in Smyrna, to take the place of the Europa.

SYRIA.

Beyrout, February 27.

Lawlessness in Asia Minor.

The wave of unrest which has lately swept over Cilicia and Syria has not yet quite subsided, and it will require a determined effort on the part of the occupying Power to re-establish order and tranquillity. The recent blizzard which covered the plains with over half a yard of snow and altered the salient features of rugged hills and ravines, has rendered the task of pacification harder.

Alexandretta has been the scene lately of great military activity, as through it passed all the reinforcements, supplies, and munitions destined for the defences of Killis, Osmaniyeh, Marash, Aintab, and the neighbouring region, and for guarding the railway between Adana and Aleppo, the bridge between these two towns having been destroyed by the rebel bands of Mustapha Kemal. The damage caused by the blizzard extended to telephone and telegraph wires, and to military vehicles, which were snowbound on their way to Antioch.

A European, recently arrived from Latakia, reports the occurrence of cases of robbery and murder outside that town, followed by a regular fight between the Moslem inhabitants of a village in Latakia district and the Ainsariyeh of the hills, in which the intervention of French troops is said to have led to a few additional casualties.

In Merj Eyoun (Jedeida) there has been a recrudescence of disorder. The armed bands, after indulging with impunity in another fanatical raid, became so emboldened as to open fire from an ambush in the village of Khaalsa, in the Hulé district, on the French Military Governor and the detachment of troops that escorted him on his tour of inspection. But reinforcements having been quickly brought up from Jedeida the French inflicted a severe punishment on these rebels, whose losses are estimated at over 200 killed and many wounded. The artillery razed many of the isolated houses and small villages which had been used as temporary defences.

Large forces of these lawless bands are said to have been massing on the frontier of Merj Eyoun with sinister designs, but the energetic measures which the French military authorities are taking this time are calculated to discourage the bands' activities. Indeed, the visit of General Gouraud to Jedeida may be taken as an earnest of French vigorous action. The General arrived at Sidon on the 24th instant, then resumed his journey to Nabatieh, and, after lunching at the famous castle of Qal'at el Shequeef, reminiscent of Crusader glories, he proceeded straight to Jedeida.

Weights and Measures.

The multiplicity of systems of weights and measures has been leading to much confusion, and giving occasion to much abuse on the part of profiteers, who would sell, for example in the case of textiles, a drah (Syrian measure equal to about two-thirds of a yard) at the same price as a yard; and, in the case of foodstuffs, would sell a kilo at the same price as an oke (which is equal to one and a-fifth kilos). The recent decision, therefore, of the authorities to unify the systems of measures and weights by adopting the metric system has been welcomed.

Jerusalem, February 28.

Protests against Zionism.

The recent declaration of General Bols, the Governor of Palestine, that it was the intention of the Government to adhere to Mr. Balfour's declaration regarding the establishment of a national home in Palestine for the Jews has given rise to considerable apprehension, which has found expression in general protests. The Moslem-Christian Society met and decided to protest against the Government's decision and against Zionist aims and aspirations. Permission was asked for, and obtained, to hold a public demonstration, a guarantee being given that there would be no breach of the peace.

The demonstration, which took place yesterday, began with a procession, after the Friday prayers at 1 p.m., from the Mosque of Omar. Several thousands were present, both from the city and from the surrounding villages. The procession moved at first to the American Consulate, then to the Italian, French, and Spanish Consulates, presenting at each place a protest to be forwarded to the respective Governments. In each of these spots, as well as in different corners, speeches were delivered by eminent persons in three and four languages.

The day passed very smoothly, and the absence of any disturbance may be attributed to the precautions which the Government had taken to insure peace and order.

The protest, which was sent to all the Allied Governments, as well as to America and to Spain, and to the Press in Europe and America, was couched in severe terms. It declared that if the Allies do not prevent Jewish immigration the Arabs would not be held responsible for any trouble that might ensue.

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THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 23.

Lord and Lady Allenby.

Events have been crowding one on the top of the other, and an additional fillip has been given to the season by the return of Lord and Lady Allenby from the Sudan, where they appear to have had a most interesting tour. Their Excellencies, who went via the Red Sea, came back via Halfa, travelling by Nile as far as Luxor, where Lord Allenby had a long talk with M. Clemenceau, who took dinner with him in his saloon before the Residency party left for Cairo. M. Clemenceau has now arrived in Khartoum, and is displaying an insatiable thirst for sight-seeing and travelling, which is not a little disconcerting to those who are entrusted with the task of looking after him.

Shrove Tuesday.

It has been Cairo's wont since time immemorial—broken only during the war period—to celebrate Shrove Tuesday by a monster fancy dress ball. In pre-war days the venue used to be the picturesque Casino attached to Ghezireh Palace, but, the property having now been sold, the scene was transferred on this occasion to the Continental Hotel, where Lent was ushered in with all the verve formerly attaching to similar events on the other side of the river. The restaurant and grill-room were filled to overflowing; there were over 700 diners, and the scene was most animated and picturesque—in fact, a fitting prelude to the revelry which followed and lasted well into the early hours of Ash Wednesday. Amongst those noticed in the grill-room were Sir R. and Lady Rodd, General Hunter Pasha, Mrs. and Miss Wawell, the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, Capt. French and party, Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. Selby, M. Pontalis Lefevre and Madame Lefevre, Miss Jackson, Col. Corder and party, Lieut. Karney and party, and Major Morris and party. The scene in the ballroom presented a most picturesque appearance, and great originality was shown by the mummers. There were, as usual, Arab Sheikhs, Bedouins, "Sittat" pierrots and pierrettes, etc. Once again "Alice in Wonderland" provided characters, which were most admirably carried out by an amusing party, comprising, amongst other people, the well-known pianist Mr. Frederick Kitchener, as a superb Duchess. There was a party of wonderful Bolshevist sailors, headed by a still more gorgeous Admiral (Major Morris), who, after a riotous time on their barque in the dining-room, "abandoned ship" and forced their way into the dance-room, where they terrorised and captivated the many beauteous maidens who had given them the "glad" eye during dinner! There was also a dashing quartette of cowboys. One of the most amusing and original was undoubtedly a scarecrow, who not only effectively disguised himself by his "costume," but has since kept his identity a secret. Had there been any prizes on this occasion he would certainly have taken the first one for originality.

Racing.

Racing is still going strong, and as if the cravings for sport and excitement of the community have not been sufficiently catered for by the weekly meetings at Ghezireh and Heliopolis, the enterprising committee at the latter have now arranged for fortnightly meetings on Sundays—quite a novelty for Egypt, though the idea has been mooted on several occasions in the past. The first one was held yesterday, and proved a tremendous success.

Miscellaneous.

The cold snap reported in my last letter continues, and has even extended as far south as Luxor. Last night a heavy downpour of rain took place, and to-day—a typically English "murky morn"—we are hoping that, better late than never, we shall have the interval of delightful weather that usually precedes the spring winds.

Upper Egypt continues to attract visitors. Amongst those who have been staying at the Cataract Hotel have been Sir Valentine Chirol and the Hon. John and Mrs. Collier, whilst Earl and Countess of Carnarvon have been at the Winter Palace Hotel at Luxor, where Lord Carnarvon is interested in some excavations that are being carried out under his auspices.

The literary element amongst our visitors has been added to this week by the arrival of Mr. Algernon Blackwood and Mrs. Clayton Glyn (better known as Elinor Glyn), the latter of whom is the guest of Lady Congreve at the C.-in-C.'s house at Ghezireh.

Aviation in Egypt has certainly received a great impetus, thanks to the Cairo to Cape flight, and the arrival from London and departure of the various machines seems to be arousing much interest. Lord Milner paid a visit on Saturday afternoon to the Heliopolis aerodrome, where he inspected the Handley-Page and Vickers machine, which have now left for the Cape, and the D.H.9, which is on its way to Australia.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GRECO-BULGARIAN UNDERSTANDING.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Allow me to congratulate you for the logical remarks on the question of Thrace published in your to-day's issue.

Greece and Bulgaria certainly ought to bury the past and come to a cordial mutual understanding. An armed peace sounds bad in the Balkans, but I am afraid that the Bulgarians will not easily recognise the rights of Hellenism in Thrace, though in the past they were ready to acquiesce in the Bulgarian minority both in Western and the Eastern Thrace. (See Professor Dr. J. Cvijic's Map, material supplied by M. Karajonov, Bulgarian Consul at Adrianople, published in "Peterman's Mitteilungen," 1913.) The Bulgarian Premier took the first steps to make overtures to M. Venizelos, in view of a sincere entente and the projected Balkan League. It is to M. Stamboliski's honour that he took this step soon after the Neuilly Treaty.

A correspondent from Sofia writes in your correspondence column that the neighbours of Bulgaria are afraid of their beaten foe. This is not true, because Roumanians, Yugoslavs and Greeks desire no further humiliation from their enemy of yesterday. They only desire peace by every means with their neighbour who, unfortunately, has not shown any sign of sincere contrition. They acknowledge the fact that the Bulgarian peasant is a hard working labour man who is equal perhaps in intellect with their own peasants, who are by no means drones.

The Macedonian question has been resolved since 1913. As for the Dobruja, there is no doubt that a great injustice is done to Bulgaria by not allowing the right of self-determination to a province which has been a vital part of the Bulgarian kingdom since its liberation from the Turks.

I have nothing to say against the idea of the revival of the Balkan League. M. Venizelos, the father of the ill-fated first Balkan League, undoubtedly must contemplate the reconstruction of his grandiose work. In order to perform this miracle the Balkan statesmen require the sincere co-operation of the Press in their respective countries. I think it is time that fiery articles cease, so that the thorny work of reconstruction and the mutual understanding between the Balkan peoples might be easily brought to a happy end.—I am, etc.,

Theodore D. Mosconas.

March 11, 1920.

THE FUTURE OF TURKEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir—In a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom.

We all desire reform of Turkey, and some genuine guarantee that the atrocities perpetrated within her boundaries shall cease. Some advocate banishing her to Asia; but they have not made it clear how this would help Armenia, and its boundaries, Cilicia and North Syria.

As Mr. Lloyd George says, Turkey with her centre of Government at Konia would be more difficult to control or punish than Turkey with her headquarters at Constantinople. With the Dardanelles open for French and English Fleets, the iron hand might effect some result at the seat of Turkish Empire. But the iron hand needs clothing in a velvet glove; and this is where the policy advocated by The Near East wins my approbation. Judging from a fairly intimate knowledge of parts of the Turkish Empire, I have not the slightest doubt that a large majority of the Turkish people would welcome a strong control of Turkey from outside. What has happened in Turkey took place before in Russia, and, at the Revolution, in France. A small clique of scoundrels seized the reins of power, put into their hands by the disorganisation of the country. The Bolshevists do not represent—they coerce the Russian people. Robespierre, Marat, and Danton were autocratic tyrants, not democratic leaders; so Enver, and many of his gang, were, some of them non-Turkish, self-appointed rulers over a miserably disorganised country. We want the iron hand of a nation with a mandate to crush and break the evil-ruling element in Turkey; and we want the velvet glove which will aid the best elements to assert their superiority and authority. The two things must go together. A native State in India is largely controlled by the English Resident. But this quiet Englishman attains his object because he has England behind him. Turkey would obey if she knew that she could be compelled to do so; and all the best elements in Turkey would welcome the compulsion.

Under the Cyprus Convention, England practically promised to reform Turkey. Let the Powers now give her, or some other country, if a better can be found, a mandate to do so, and hold the country who holds the mandate responsible, and we shall hear less of the odious atrocities and savage barbarities which have recently disgraced this "civilised" age.—I am, etc.,

A Friend of the Near East.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future of Egypt.

Mr. Cyril Goodman, late Assistant Director-General of the Public Health Department in Egypt, makes a practical contribution to the Egyptian problem in the March issue of the *Contemporary Review*. That problem, he considers, narrows itself into two subsidiary questions: What shall be the limits of self-government, when granted, and when and how shall it be made? In regard to the first question he summarizes the limits as follows:—

(1) The temporary retention of the control of the Suez Canal with the towns of Port Said and Port Suez, and probably of Alexandria, without separating them from Egyptian territory.

(2) The maintenance of the Capitulations in a modified form with the protecting Power as the guardian of the rights of Europeans.

(3) The right to withdraw or modify the grant of self-government in case of abuse.

(4) The maintenance of the present political situation in the Sudan.

(5) The proper safeguarding of the rights of Anglo-Egyptian civil servants.

The second question is the one which the Milner Commission has set itself to solve. In regard to it Mr. Goodman draws attention to the two opposed schools of thought: those who by laying stress on increased efficiency and commercial stability practically stand for an increase of British influence and the indefinite postponement of responsible self-government; and on the other hand, those who think that liberal measures of reform can go hand in hand with the piecemeal introduction of self-government. Against the latter doctrine it is pointed out that supreme authority, and with it responsibility, must rest somewhere and cannot be held in suspense.

The idea must be definitely abandoned that the administrative machine can be composed of Egyptians and British, with a different policy and different aims, while the Foreign Office or its agent acts as arbiter between them. If British influence in the present dual system is to be gradually diminished without the concurrent establishment of a strong constitutional government, a point will rapidly be reached in which the two influences will neutralise each other and supreme authority and responsibility will rest nowhere. Under such conditions the administration will be gradually weakened and will fall into contempt; general disorganisation and administrative confusion will follow, culminating possibly in disorder similar to the recent outbreaks. The inevitable results will be further British intervention and a definite setback to Egyptian hopes of self-government, and, what is even more serious, a feeling amongst Egyptians that they have not been fairly dealt with and that reforms have been granted in a way deliberately intended to be unsuccessful.

Mr. Goodman would get over the difficulty by—

A frank agreement between the protecting Power and the Egyptian people, whereby the former makes a solemn and public declaration of its intention to grant responsible self-government within a fixed period (say of fifteen years), dependent on the loyal acceptance by the latter of an interim constitution providing for the establishment of a unified Anglo-Egyptian government, whose duty it shall be to prepare Egypt for Home Rule within that period. Such an *interim* constitution would need to provide for:—

(1) A clear definition of the position and powers of the protecting Power.

(2) The exercise of all such powers openly and in the channels provided by the constitution.

(3) The abolition of the present dual system of government, whereby the British and the Egyptian elements of the government act independently, and its substitution by a constitutional Anglo-Egyptian government acting with full responsibility through official channels.

(4) The preservation of a certain limited number of posts for British officials and a definite promise that no permanent appointment shall be made to any other posts until suitable Egyptians can be found to fill them.

The article proceeds to examine the proposed solution, calling attention to the existing régime, which, lacking uniformity, tends to divide the two chief influences of the Government into two separate and potentially hostile camps. The change would materially affect the position of the High Commissioner, who would become the chief responsible official of a constitutional State, while the Sultan would become a constitutional monarch. Mr. Goodman elaborates his thesis in an interesting manner, and the article should be read by all who are concerned with the future of Egypt.

Cyprus and Great Britain.

In the *Fortnightly Review* for March Mr. H. Charles Woods discusses the general problem, "British Interests in the Mediterranean." He says that Britain must necessarily have a safeguard to her interests in the Ægean, and he states that this cannot be secured without the possession of a base in that sea. He finds that Lemnos would be an ideal island for Britain's purposes, and suggests the exchange of it for Cyprus. On this point he says:—

Should its acceptance by us be considered advisable, there is a possible diplomatic solution of the question—a solution dependent upon the exchange of Cyprus for Lemnos. Such an arrangement would certainly entail a sacrifice on our part, but it could now hardly fail to be acceptable to Greece. It would be a sacrifice to us because the former island is well placed as a halting-place on the air route towards the East, because it constitutes a good base for aerial observation or operations in this locality, and because it forms an offset to the valuable advantages promised to France, in Syria and Armenia, under the Sykes-Picot agreement. But whereas from the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, and particularly from the moment when we acquired a controlling interest in that undertaking in 1876, it was vital that we should have an outpost in this part of the world, the strategic value of Cyprus greatly decreased from the time of our arrival in Egypt in 1882. That this has been recognised in high quarters is proved by the fact that the suggested exchange of Cyprus for Corfu was under consideration before the war and by the offer of Cyprus to Greece on October 17, 1915—an offer not then entertained because its acceptance would have necessitated the entrance of that country into the war—an entrance strongly opposed by the anti-Venizelist Government which had been in Power for about ten days. The repetition of the same offer, even in the form of an exchange instead of a free cession, would now, however, come under entirely different circumstances, for, instead of being made dependent upon the immediate fulfilment of her treaty obligations towards Serbia, it would carry with it advantages altogether outside and beyond those in any case now to be secured by Greece. For these reasons, the facts that Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, that it is very fertile, and that for years there has been an almost continual agitation for union with Greece would seem to mean that such a proposal would be likely to secure a favourable reception in that country where the influence of M. Venizelos is at present stronger than was the case directly after our arrival at Salonica in October, 1915. In short, if Great Britain would stand to gain strategically and militarily by the acquisition of Lemnos, Greece would realise, by the annexation of Cyprus, political, sentimental, and commercial advantages vastly surpassing those bound up with the possession of any other insular territory the future of which is at present under discussion.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ (KOLOZSVAR).

We have received an appeal of the Royal Hungarian Francis Joseph University, which is addressed to "the Universities of the civilised world." It was written before the inaugural ceremony on February 1, upon which occasion the Roumanians formally opened as a Roumanian institution the University of Cluj (Kolozsvar). In protesting against this act of the Roumanians, the appeal states that this University was founded by the Hungarian State and supported by the Magyar population of Transylvania. Its professors, it says, are almost without exception Magyars, and of its students 83 per cent. are Magyars, and only 9.8 per cent. Roumanian. To set against this there is, of course, a Roumanian side of the question. It is that the University was built largely with Roumanian money, and set down in purely Roumanian territory for the deliberate political purpose of Magyarising the Roumanians. If the Roumanians of Transylvania are culturally inferior to the Magyars, the latter must be held largely to blame. As far as is known, the majority of the officials of the University were given the opportunity of taking the oath of allegiance to the new Government.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

During the past week there have been violin recitals in thoughtless abundance, but none of particular brilliance. That which Mr. Horace Ayckbourn gave at the Wigmore Hall, on March 8, was, generally speaking, on the level of mediocrity. He has normal competence in technique, and does possess a kind of studied interpretative power. But his playing is more careful and correct than free and inspired. He introduced a new Sonata by F. J. Morgan, and it was a very dull introduction to his recital. For the composer seems to lose his breath after uttering about six words, and is so anxious to deliver his original message that his repetitions of it give us plenty of time both to learn it by heart and forget it. In works of Pugnani-Kreisler and Bach-Kreisler, Mr. Ayckbourn did not get enough breadth into his playing. He was most successful in slighter (and some of his own) pieces—Humoreskes, Romances, Caprices, and so on; in these, the qualities he lacks were scarcely needed. But it should be observed that Mr. Ayckbourn was not helped overmuch by his accompanist, Mr. S. J. Ffoulkes. This misfortune was removed when he played Mr. York Bowen's Suite in D, for he was accompanied by the composer, whose incisive clarity improved the violinist's playing enormously. This Suite indeed was played extremely well.

At the Queen's Hall, on March 10, Miss Bessie Rawlins (violinist) gave, with the London Symphony Orchestra, under Mr. William Sachse, an orchestral concert. Miss Rawlins is a player whose technical abilities and tone are not inconsiderable, but in this concert her ambition overleaped her resources. For what she strove to play were Beethoven's Concerto (Op. 61) and Dvorak's Concerto in A minor (Op. 53)—music which only the highest and most matured violinists should essay. In simple parts Miss Rawlins expressed a certain beauty, and maintained at times a fine dignity of tone, but in difficult phrases, particularly in cadenzas, she showed her limitations. It is true that the orchestra gave her little help, for it was badly conducted; people joined in the attack more or less when they liked, and seemed quite pleased to get out of it. This being so, it was a pity that a new work by Mr. Edric Cundell, called "Serbia," a symphonic poem for orchestra, should have this night received its first public performance in England. (It was performed at Salonika in 1918.) The poem is based on the folk songs which the Serbian soldiers used to sing after their retreat over the Albanian mountains. It is a work well knit together, and extremely well scored.

On March 11 there were two violin recitals. Miss Winifred Small was playing works by living British composers at the Wigmore Hall, and Miss Katharine Kendall gave a recital at the Æolian Hall. I enjoyed Miss Small's playing very much. She plays with a grace and charm which, though still developing, are quite unaffected. She was assisted by Miss Myra Hess, who belongs to the school which puts clarity and neatness above all things, so that the exposition of native composers was made very worthily. Miss Small has both enterprise and taste.

Miss Kendall's programme consisted chiefly of classical music and of pieces of Spanish inspiration. She was far better in the classical stuff, which she played with great refinement. Her playing was not without blemish, but it was the amateur's lack of finish rather than the professional's wrong interpretation that was noticeable. Miss Anne Mukle accompanied her with a reserve that was too modest. In most charming things by F. Couperin and Veracini the violinist was accompanied on the harpsichord by Miss Nellie Chaplin, and though a little of this combination is quite enough, it was really very pleasant to hear. There is no doubt at all that the distinctness and succinctness of these old pieces, which were written for the harpsichord, are not really attainable on modern instruments. In the atmosphere of the old pieces which appear to speak (but do not actually) for themselves, Miss Kendall has steeped herself successfully, and if she could refrain from playing any composers after the eighteenth century, she might make a name for herself

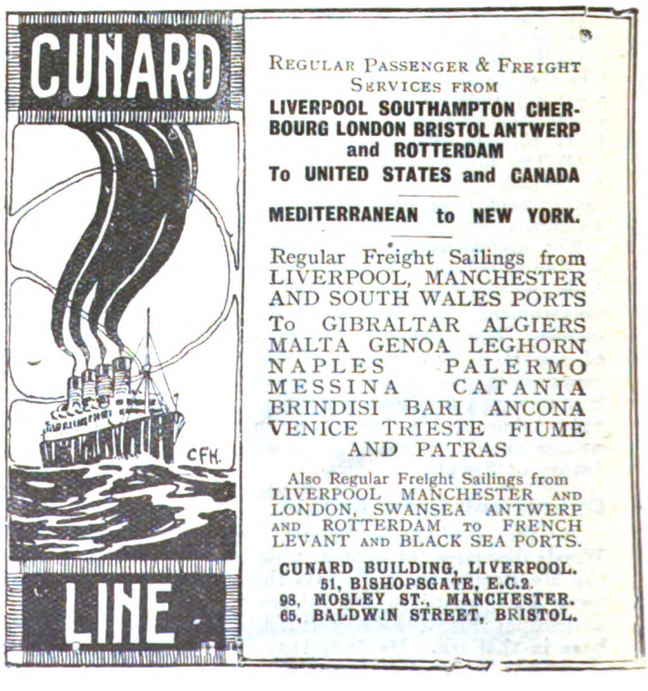
M. Bronislaw Huberman, the Polish violinist, who gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall on March 13, has a reputation which, though very wide, is not wholly deserved. That he is a master his playing of Bach's Sonata in C major (for violin only) proved without any doubt; but there was nothing else in his programme that stamped him as a genius. With M. Paul Frenkel, who assisted him at the piano with a very wooden style of playing, he commenced with a Sonata (Op. 18) by Richard Strauss. This work has all the vices and a few of the virtues of the composer; its sweetness and strength make one rather comatose, despite all its gusty climaxes. M. Huberman worked at it very hard, and maintained a splendid tone; but it is really a sonata for lesser men than he. The same criticism applies even more strongly to the thin if pretty tawdriness of the Saint-Saëns Concerto in B minor. In two Romances by Beethoven (Op. 40 and Op. 50) the violinist suffered through the lack of all poetry in the pianist, whose playing in these two things was a matter for contrast and not for comparison. But one remembers, and will not soon forget, M. Huberman's performance of Bach; its magnificence quite compensated for its solitariness.

On March 12 Mr. Bryden Monteith (pianist) played with the New Queen's Hall Orchestra, under Sir Henry Wood. Now, whatever may be said of Sir Henry's conducting, there is one thing that he does not lack, and that in sympathy. Time after time, when Mr. Monteith was losing his grip on the rhythm of the Schumann Concerto in A minor, the conductor pulled him back into the straight path. This young pianist is far from complete development, and I think he has started on big things too soon. Both in the Schumann and in Cesar Franck's Symphonic Variations he showed little depth, and a bad use of the pedal made matters worse. In a Chopin prelude which he gave as an encore it was unlucky that it happened to be the important notes which were played wrongly. However, there is something to be said for Mr. Monteith; if it is permissible to praise from afar in a phrase which is commonly used to damn from afar, I should add that he shows promise. The road will wind uphill for him all the way, but he has no insuperable obstacles. The New Queen's Hall Orchestra played Beethoven's overture "Coriolan" with that distinction which Sir Henry always achieves. But in some ballet music by Schubert his little habits of anticipating or delaying accent, of sudden increase or decrease of tone, and so on, became a little mechanical. There is often a possibility in Schubert of freshness being lost; its preservation depends, of course, on whether or not his devices are allowed to degenerate into tricks.

A REVIEW.

It is the common and ignorant view of academies that they persist in stereotyped methods, and teach nothing but those methods. If accomplishing nothing else, Sir Hubert Parry's "College Addresses: Delivered to Pupils of the Royal College of Music" (London. MacMillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net), will serve to dispel that view. For it is the central theme of this book that Music must ever be only a part of man, must be not an end but a means; that it must, moreover, be extended as mankind extends. Sir Hubert Parry, in these lectures, lays it down forcibly that other interests than Music must be pursued by man if he is really to enjoy life. Mr. H. C. Colles, who has edited and written an introduction to these addresses, has here performed a labour of love, which, though probably more of personal than of public value, will not be lost. He has collected addresses delivered from 1894, the date of the death of Sir George Grove (who, readers of this journal may be reminded, was once Secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund), to April, 1918—a few months before Sir Hubert Parry himself died. During that long period, Sir Hubert Parry continuously strove to show how important personal character is in Music, and though this effort would appear to have resulted more in piety than in the creation of Music, his influence is not yet dead, and some great work due to his methods may now be in the making.

ANDANTE.



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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF GEORGE ALFRED LEFROY, BISHOP OF CALCUTTA AND METROPOLITAN." By Bishop H. H. Montgomery. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 14s. net.)
II.—"FORTY-FOUR MONTHS IN GERMANY AND TURKEY." By Har Dayal. (London: P. S. King and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)
III.—"GIPPO," or "THE JESTER IN EGYPT." By C. E. Newham. (Cambridge: W. P. Spalding. 3s. net.)
IV.—"MARLBOROUGH'S ENGLISH SELF-TAUGHT FOR JEWS." (London: E. Marlborough and Co. 3s. net.)

I.—EVANGELIST AND ADMINISTRATOR.

Bishop Lefroy's life deserved a record, and it is here presented with considerable skill. The book is quite short, a great virtue in these days; it consists mainly of extracts from the late Metropolitan's letters, chosen to illustrate rather than to exhaust, and the best testimony to the compiler's work is that we are tempted to ask for more. He has given us an adequate portrait of a big man, but it might well be supplemented by a collection of his spiritual letters designed to serve the needs of churchmen in India; the examples given of letters of this class show that Lefroy could handle the most difficult problems with a rare combination of tact and courage, and we should like to see his treatment of cases of conscience made available for study by the men by whom similar problems have to be faced.

We have spoken of Lefroy as a big man, and we think the epithet will be accepted by everyone who reads this Life. He was not endowed with outstanding intellectual power, but his character was at once strong and beautiful, and his practical ability was of a very high order; as Lord Curzon put it, "he had the zeal of a Crusader, the heart of a woman, and the spirits of a boy," and his life was passed in surroundings where these qualities had full play. The story of his career is short. From Cambridge he went to Delhi, where he worked for twenty years as a missionary; then came twelve years as Bishop of Lahore, and then six years as Metropolitan, a time marked by increasing pain and sickness, until he died, worn out, on New Year's Day, 1919. Throughout, he was an evangelist first and foremost, but his administrative gifts soon became apparent, and the interaction of these two forms of activity dominated his life; at Delhi we see him engaged in municipal work, or checking mission accounts, when he wanted to be preaching, while, later on, diocesan duties, heavy as they were, could not satisfy him, and the organisation of the Church for evangelisation was the note of his time as Metropolitan. It is an old question whether evangelists, or, for that matter, specialists of any kind, should be called away "to serve tables"; the tables have to be served, and men of Lefroy's temperament will go on wearing themselves out in the process, without paying the slightest attention to theories of administrative economy. His administrative work was exceptionally good; is it not on record that Lord Morley would have liked him as a Lieutenant-Governor? but as time goes on, we expect to see larger results becoming manifest from his years of effort at Delhi, and it is with Delhi that his name will remain most closely associated.

II.—A STUDY IN DISILLUSIONMENT.

Mr. Har Dayal was well known to the Indian public in the days before the war as one of the most active members of the revolutionary party, and in particular as the editor of a notorious journal issued in San Francisco. He has now changed his views, and in the course of 100 pages he tells us why. He was in Berlin most of the time from 1914 to 1918; he mixed freely with the motley band of Asiatic and African revolutionaries who gathered, or were gathered, in Germany; and he learned by rather bitter experience that they were no earthly use. He visited Constantinople, and found the Turkish politicians equally hopeless. He learned, too, that Germany was not in the least likely to be a liberator, and his conclusion is that England and France must for some time to come take a large share in the administration of those countries which are not yet able to stand alone. He has thus cast off the errors of his youth, and we hope this book will serve to counteract in some measure the harm done by his earlier teaching. We cannot yet accept him as a serious political thinker, but he shows that at any rate he is open to the logic of facts; his scathing picture of German society is in substantial accord with what we have learned from other sources, and we see no reason to doubt the faithfulness of his description of "Asia Minor" in Berlin, where ardent Nationalists spent most of their time and energy "in quarrelling among themselves and telling lies against one another." It is all a sorry, sordid story, but we are glad that it has been printed.

III.—THE "GIPPO."

A number of short sketches of the lighter side of life with the E.E.F., in which cheerful spirit rises undaunted above the monotony of "sun, sand, flies and mosquitoes." Most have already appeared in the *Passing Show* and *Blighty*, and they lose a little in effect by being collected in one volume. The two which seem the most successful, "Coals to Newcastle" and "The Purple Patch," are also two of the shortest, their very shortness helping towards leaving us with that pleasant sense of surprise—of having been rather neatly "had"—on which Mr. Newham often depends for our smiles. The description of a wonderful game, "a sort of football-cum-polo-cum-hockey," played four a side on donkeys, is very good fun. Mr. Newham is not impressive when he aims at the gruesome or pathetic, and his three attempts at verse are so poor compared to his prose that it seems a pity he was not persuaded to omit them. His young officers are, however, human beings—and likable ones—and not the wearisomely smart mouthpieces for war-time slang whom one was expected to regard as humorous by so many writers of this kind of thing during the last few years.

IV.—A YIDDISH-ENGLISH PRIMER.

Mr. Philip Blackman has prepared a well-arranged pronouncing vocabulary for the use of Yiddish-speaking immigrants anxious to learn English. The primer will be of interest also to those desirous of reversing the process, and of becoming acquainted with the dialect used by probably the majority of the Jews of the world, though ability to read Hebrew characters is a pre-requisite. The Zionists have revived Hebrew as a living language, and the tendency is for it to replace Yiddish, at any rate in Palestine. But the process will be a slow one, and until it is completed, this little primer will retain its many uses.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Reminiscences of the Near East (1891-1913)." By H. H. Johnson. (London: Henry J. Drane. 6s.)

"The Black Sheep of the Balkans." By Leland Buxton. With an Introduction by Lt.-Col. the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P. (London: Nisbet and Co., Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"The Arab Horse Stud Book." Vol. I. (Lewes: W. E. Baxter, Ltd., for the Arab Horse Society.)

"Where's Joseph?" By C. W. Hopper. (London: W. Collins and Co. 6s. net.)

"Lt. Beatrice Raymond, V.C." By Lt.-Col. Eyre Lloyd. (London: Andrew Melrose, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"From Persian Uplands." By F. Hale. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"My Campaign in Mesopotamia." By Major-General Sir Charles V. F. Townshend, K.C.B., D.S.O. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Limited. 23s. net.)

"The Memoirs of Naim Bey." Compiled by Aram Andonian. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 2s. net.)

"Desert Love." By Joan Conquest. (London: T. Werner Laurie, Ltd. 7s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. March.	1920. March.		1338. Jumada II.	5680. Adar.
18	5	Thursday	27	28
19	6	Friday	28	29
20	7	Saturday.....	29	Nisan. 1
			Rajab.	
21	8	Sunday	1	2
22	9	Monday	2	3
23	10	Tuesday.....	3	4
24	11	Wednesday	4	5

M. Clemenceau, after he leaves Egypt, will go to Athens.

Sir Davison Dalziel left London for the Continent on March 11.

M. Colas, Secretary to the Greek Legation, left London on March 11 for Paris.

Mgr. Kenealy, Archbishop of Simla, was received on March 13 by Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State.

Mr. A. O. Lamplough, the painter of Egyptian scenery, is leaving London for Egypt this week.

Unless much greater support is forthcoming during the next few months the Church Zenana Missionary Society will be compelled to withdraw from ten stations in India.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of Mohamed Ali upon the Crown Prince of Roumania.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling will preside at the festival dinner of the Royal Society of St. George at the Connaught Rooms on April 23 (St. George's Day).

The Governor of Ceylon has sailed for England, where it is understood he will confer with the Secretary of State regarding constitutional reforms in the island.

The Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway, has received £80 from Major E. T. Kingscote, St. James's Palace (proceeds of concert), and £52 10s. from the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The Archbishop of Canterbury had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on March 9, and presented to his Majesty the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, who was accompanied by the Armenian Bishop of Manchester.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, was entertained at luncheon by representatives of the Royal Horticultural Society on March 9, and on the following day he dined with Nubar Pasha at the Carlton.

It is stated that the Sultan of Muscat left Muscat on March 3 for India on board H.M.S. Lawrence. He is to be received by the Viceroy at Delhi, and will visit Bhopal as the guest of the Begum.

Nubar Pasha, President of the Armenian Relief Commission, and the Armenian Patriarch in Constantinople were entertained at luncheon by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress at the Mansion House on March 11.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, has been allowed by his doctors to leave London for Scotland for the final stage of his treatment. He hopes to be able to return to his Parliamentary duties within two or three weeks.

Crown Prince Carol of Roumania has been entrusted with a mission to take an autograph letter from King Ferdinand to Japan, and for the purpose of opening up new relations with that country.

Sir Arthur Peel was received in audience by the King on March 13, and kissed hands upon his appointment as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Bucharest.

Mr. and Mrs. Noel Buxton gave a reception at 12, Rutland Gate, yesterday, to enable a large company of their friends to meet Mr. Harold Buxton and Miss Mabel Buxton on their return from Armenia.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Dudley Carleton read a paper entitled "From the Adriatic to the Oxus." The lecture took place yesterday at 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1, and was presided over by the Right Hon Lord Carnock, P.C., G.C.B.

A lecture arranged by the Egypt Exploration Society will be given to-morrow at 8.30 p.m. in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House (by kind permission of the President and Council). The lecturer will be M. Jean Capart, Curator of the Musées Royaux du Cinquantenaire, Brussels, and the subject "The Study of Egyptian Art."

Mr. Herman C. Norman was received in audience by the King on March 13, and kissed hands upon his appointment as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary, Minister Plenipotentiary, and Consul-General at Tehran, when the King invested him with the Insignia of a Companion of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.

It has been resolved by the Church Missionary Society to retire altogether from Mesopotamia. This is due to the disastrous effects of the war, lack of recruits for the society's work, and the necessity of strengthening the operations of the society elsewhere. Provision for the spiritual needs of the Protestant Christians will be made by the London Jews' Society, who have decided to extend their work in Mesopotamia.

The Vienna correspondent of *The Times* writes (March 12):—Admiral Troubridge has given up the command of the British Danube flotilla, and his place has been taken by Captain Wharton, who will eventually hoist his flag in the monitor Glow Worm. This step has rendered it possible for Admiral Troubridge, as President of the Inter-Allied Danube Commission, to make an extended tour of inspection of the Danube. The Admiral, who leaves Budapest on March 15, and who will be accompanied by other members of the Commission, will travel in the yacht Szofia, and will visit the Danube ports as far apart as Regensburg and Turnu Severin before finally returning to Budapest on April 11.

The following honours appear in the *Gazette* of March 10:—

CONFERRED BY THE KING OF ROUMANIA.

ORDER OF CAROL I.

Commander: Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) C. R. Ballard, C.B., C.M.G.

ORDER OF THE CROWN OF ROUMANIA.

Commander: Col. H. Le Roy-Lewis, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D. Officer: Capt. R. V. C. Bodley, M.C., K.R.R.C.

CONFERRED BY THE SHAH OF PERSIA.

SAMARITAN CROSS.

Sister M. H. Gammie, A.R.R.C. (T.F.) Nursing Service.

CONFERRED BY THE SULTAN OF EGYPT.

ORDER OF THE NILE.

Second Class: Capt. Sir G. A. Loyd, G.C.I.E., D.S.O., War. Yeo.

CONFERRED BY THE SHAH OF PERSIA.

ORDER OF THE LION AND SUN.

Second Class: Maj. Sir R. Williams, Bt., D.S.O., Welsh Guards.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (March 1):—On February 28, the officers of the 2nd Infantry Regiment gave a farewell dinner to 2nd-Lieut. Flora Sandes, who has recently been demobilised. This intrepid British woman is regarded by Serbs as a kind of Joan of Arc, for she has shared all their dangers and privations since 1915. During the awful days of the retreat, she was nursing in the field dressing-station of the unit, and declined to leave the front. The commanding officer, to encourage the desperately strained moral of his men, persuaded her to stay, and she was enrolled as a private, as the only means of maintaining her under the circumstances. Miss Sandes became a combatant, joined heartily in the fighting, and was rapidly promoted lance-corporal and corporal. In the fierce fighting on the steep Hill 1212, which led to the recapture of Monastir, in repelling a fierce Bulgar counter-attack early in November, 1916, her company commander, Lieut. Doditch, fell wounded. Sergeant Sandes sprang up and led the men on herself in the thick of the fray, into hand to hand fighting, when a bomb burst quite near, and she fell with no fewer than 20 wounds. Lt. Doditch succeeded in dragging her to safety, and as she lay in hospital at Salonika, the Crown Prince visited her and pinned on her breast the Star of Karageorge with Swords, the highest Serbian military decoration. Completely recovering, she was promoted 2nd-Lieut., and took part in the final victorious rush of the Serbian armies in the autumn of 1918. Small wonder that the Serbian troops venerate this courageous British woman.

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APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Yovanovitch, formerly Serbian Minister in this country, has been appointed Yugoslav Minister at Washington, in succession to M. Grouitch, who has been offered the post of Marshal of Ceremonies to the Court of Belgrade.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Professor A. Ferguson, the Egyptian Government pathologist. He was well known for his scientific research work, and to him is largely due the fact that an outbreak of cholera did not occur in Egypt during the war.

STAMPS OF THE NEAR EAST.

The Times states:—Since the restoration of the autonomous Government at Koritsa by the French at the end of 1916 a number of more or less ephemeral stamps have been issued in Albania. Now a definite series of national stamps is in preparation by the French Government Printing Establishment, comprising six values bearing the likeness of the Albanian national hero, Skandenberg, and four postage due stamps with a vignette of the fortress of Scutari.

Soon there will be three separate and distinct sets of postage stamps current in Syria. Already we have the stamps of the French sphere of administration overprinted "T.E.O." (Territoires Ennemis Occupées), and those of the British Army Post Offices inscribed "E.E.F." in the British area. Latest advices from Paris state that for use in Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, and Hama in the Arab zone, contemporary Turkish postage stamps are to be introduced, with the addition of a native imprint at the top setting forth the name and titles of the Sultan Hussein.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Isak Pasha, Turkish Commander-in-Chief, has arrived in Rome from Naples.

Damage estimated at £1,000,000 has been caused by a fire in the docks at Oran (Algeria).

In consequence of the re-establishment of the Press censorship in Egypt, a demonstration of about 600 students took place.

Two hundred looters, led by an Arab Sheikh, attacked Pelhoi, a small Jewish co-operative and workmen's colony west of Metuoloh, in the north of Galilee. Four men and two girls were killed and five persons wounded.

At a secret Consistory held in Rome on March 8 the Pope announced the appointment of Mgr. Luigi Barlassina as Patriarch of Jerusalem.

A memorial has been placed before the Supreme Council asking that the Assyrian nation dwelling in Asia Minor may become independent under a Mandatory of the League of Nations. These people, who prefer to be called Assyrian-Chaldean, say that under the present arrangement between the French and British they will be divided—part under French rule in Diarbekir and Mardin, and part under British rule in Mesopotamia—a division which would be injurious to their nationality.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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MINING ENGINEER, M.I.M.M., open to any proposal. Can interest capital. Knowledge interests in Near East, Box No. 156. "Near East." 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

WILL any lady travelling to Egypt early in April by long sea route take charge of two children, aged 9 and 8, on voyage. Reply:—Mrs. A. van Millingen, "The Warren," Purley, Surrey.

AVIATION.—Demobilised Captain (31) who is a really expert pilot and mechanic, requires flying appointment, seaside joy-riding or flying expedition in any part of the world, advertiser has had five years experience in the R.F.C. and R.A.F. and done over 1,500 hours flying. Box No. 157, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

MOTOR ENGINEER. 30, married, desires appointment in motor or other industry, six years pre-war experience in both rubber and mechanical branches of motor industry; 4½ years with Armoured Car Force in France, Belgium, Russia, Caucasia, Rumania, Mesopotamia and Persia. energetic and of good appearance and education, would go abroad.—J.F.C., 15, Manchester Road, London, N.15.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1920.

THE DRAGOONING OF MONTENEGRO.

In the multiplicity of complicated subjects, all more or less in a critical stage, with which the Allied Governments and peoples are concerned at the present time, it is inevitable that the affairs of Montenegro should appear relatively unimportant, if not actually insignificant. Sooner or later, however, when other questions are happily relegated into the background, the inwardness of the Montenegrin controversy will be brought home to the world, or at least to the Anglo-Saxon peoples, and we are confident that public opinion will then be capable of being roused to a pitch of indignation that will bode ill for all those, whether individuals or nations, who share in any degree responsibility for a grave injustice. There is a further reason why so little attention has been paid in this country to the fate of Montenegro; it is that the position is so unprecedented, and the events that are said to have taken place are so incredible, that the public and, we believe, to some extent the British Government, feel compelled to take refuge in the supposition that the allegations, although made in good faith, are the result of some misunderstanding or misrepresentation, perhaps inseparable from any discussion of Balkan affairs. It may clear the ground for fuller knowledge if we explain the peculiar circumstances which enable immediate responsibility for events in Montenegro to be relegated through a number of channels to parties virtually inaccessible to, let us say, the Paris Conference. In the first place, the issue is between Montenegro and Serbia, and not between Montenegro and Yugoslavia; but it is Yugoslavia which is represented at the Conference, and it is only necessary to recall the abuse heaped upon M. Pasitch, then Prime Minister of Serbia, by the Yugoslav (as distinct from Serbian) organ in the British Press, to understand that Yugoslavia does not accept responsibility for everything done in Serbia. It so happens that M. Pasitch, who, as head of the Serbian Government during the war, was denounced on behalf of the Yugoslavia-to-be as the personification of "Oriental" despotism, is the nominal head of the Yugoslav delegation to the Peace Conference; but that delegation is so identified with the personality and statesmanship of M. Trumbitch that the Supreme Council, in its complete ignorance of Near Eastern affairs and peoples, could not bring itself to associate Yugoslavia, directly or indirectly, with any conduct incompatible with the highest Western standards. Again, the Serbian element in the Belgrade Cabinet interposes another "non-conductor" in the chain of responsibility, because it can plead that the question of Montenegro is a purely military matter. It is thus evident that it is only necessary for a single Serbian military officer in command in Montenegro to give his account of the condition of things in that country to the Belgrade War Office to have that version impressed in the most perfect good faith upon the Supreme Council by Yugoslav statesmen, whose assurances naturally carry full weight with the representatives of Great Britain and France. This, there can be little doubt, is the explanation why the existing situation in Montenegro has been tolerated so long by the British and American Governments, and, let it be added, by M. Trumbitch.

What has happened in Montenegro is in the main outline identical with events in Fiume, with this difference, that the Serbian D'Annunzios, who, unlike their Italian counterpart, have acted *incognito*, have established themselves where their presence was resented. All that has followed, or is said to have followed—packed assemblies, compulsory petitions, insurrections, massacres—is merely the Balkan touch, which would naturally be lacking in Fiume. The mistake made by the Supreme Council is to suppose that a reference to events in Montenegro is calculated to hurt Yugoslav susceptibilities any more than an inquiry addressed to the Italian Government as to what it proposed to do with D'Annunzio can cause offence to Italy. Serbia has set its heart on annexing Montenegro just as strongly as Italy wants Fiume, and the Serbian Government, being far shrewder than the Italian Government, which forgot to claim Fiume in 1915, was careful to inaugurate a campaign to serve its purposes. To avoid all misunderstanding, it must be pointed out that the Serbian Government which adopted this course was not the present Yugoslav Government, but that of M. Pasitch, so vigorously attacked by those who stood for what may be termed the Trumbitch-Yugoslav principles of government. There was nothing strange in M. Pasitch's action; what does give rise to amazement is that the British and French Governments should have lent themselves to these "Oriental" methods. Montenegro entered the war as an independent ally. After a fine exhibition of chivalry, which saved the Serbian army from annihilation, the Montenegrins had their own country overrun by the enemy; their King and Government were offered, and accepted, hospitality in France. Almost at once the campaign for undermining their prestige and for the union of Montenegro with Serbia was begun, and, as far as can be gathered, the British and French Governments allowed themselves to be influenced by these intrigues, until they were guilty of the double-faced action of outwardly acknowledging Montenegro, with its Sovereign, as an Ally, while accepting its opponents' estimate of it, denying it the status of an Ally and treating it as a province of Serbia. Such conduct, aggravated in various ways, which need not be enumerated here, is so un-British that it has only to be fully appreciated by the nation at large to bring retribution on the politicians who sanctioned it.

The occasion, however, is one not for avenging, but for righting, a wrong. Anyone acquainted with the Balkans will feel that the moral responsibility of the Supreme Council for tolerating an anomalous state of things in Montenegro is greater than the offence of the perpetrators. The latter are the victims of tradition; but it is a tradition to which the Allied Governments claim to have put an end as a result of the Great War. As a matter of fact, they have made no attempt to interfere with it. The world for the moment has other preoccupations, but our belief in the future of Yugoslavia as a leading factor in the progress and prosperity of a united Balkan Peninsula prompts the warning that a palpable injustice to Montenegro will as surely retard the consolidation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes as it will alienate the sympathy of the Anglo-Saxon peoples when the facts are known. All that is required is that the officials of the Serbian régime in Montenegro, whether military or civilian, should be withdrawn, just as the Yugoslavs and the Allies have urged that D'Annunzio ought to be withdrawn from Fiume. With them must also retire the handful of subsidised Montenegrins associated with Serbian anti-Montenegrin propaganda from 1917 onwards. There is no doubt as to Montenegro remaining within the Yugoslav Federation, but she ought to be allowed to determine of her own free will whether she shall join as a separate unit or as a province of Serbia. We appeal confidently to the Yugoslav Government to see that an era of great promise now opening out before the united Southern Slav nation is not marred at the outset by a grave wrong to one section.

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CENTRAL ASIA AFTER THE PEACE—II.*

By Colonel A. C. Yate.

While the Amir Habibullah Khan sat on the throne of Kabul it was always on the cards that he would have placed himself at the head of a Central Asian Confederacy, embracing Bokhara, Khiva, and Kokand, in addition to his own territories, and curbed Bolshevism from the Sea of Aral to the Pamirs. That hope is gone. We have to reckon with a young Amir, of whose standing in the eyes of his own subjects we have no certain information, and upon whom, as an ally, we can place no confidence. The nominally independent Khanates of Khiva and Bokhara have, it is understood, been forced to submit to the dictation of the Tashkent Revolutionary Governments, and ever since Lenin and Trotsky came into power, renegade subjects of the British Crown in India have figured at Moscow and Petrograd, and Bolshevist envoys have been intriguing at Kabul. It should further not be forgotten that Persian deputies were at Brest-Litovsk in 1917. The point not yet decided is whether the Amir of Kabul will ally himself with Bolshevism for the invasion of India or take his stand against Bolshevism with the determination of freeing the Turkistan Khanates from its tyranny and creating an Afghan Kingdom, which will reabsorb all that Russia in the last century has filched from the descendants of the mediæval monarchies which flourished at Samarcand, Bokhara, Herat, Balkh, and Ghazni. When we recall the events of 1884-6, as the result of which Russia annexed Badghis and the Turcoman Steppes from Zulfikar on the Hari-Rud, through Kushk to Khamiab on the Oxus, it creates almost a revulsion of feeling to take up one's daily paper and read: "The Afghans at Merv." I, for one, although I deplore the assassination of Habibullah and resent the dallying of Amanullah with Bolshevism, am delighted to see Afghans back on the territory which Russia "grabbed" in 1885; and not only would I have the Afghans stay there, but I would carry their frontier northward, certainly to the Zarafshan and perhaps to the Syr-Darya. This would place in their hands the section of the Trans-Caspian Railway east of Merv on the Tejend River, while Persia should be encouraged to extend her frontier northward to annex the Krasnovodsk-Tejend section. This allotment of that railway to two different powers would be a salutary fetter on both. I believe the Afghan Government has all the grit needed to play its part in this programme, but such is the effeteness, coupled with inordinate conceit, exhibited by the Persians during the years of, and since, the war, that I view with some misgiving the idea of their annexing a railway and extending their will over the Turcomans, who for decades have been a thorn in the Persian side, as "Hajji Baba" has so humorously pictured to us. I most certainly sympathise with Col. Dudley Carleton's vindication of Turcoman and Sart claims to be saved from Bolshevist domination, but I think it will take some time before the Yamud and the Goklan nomads will adapt themselves to Persian rule. I still retain a vivid memory of how, as I rode from Herat to the Caspian in June-July, 1885, I, thanks to my muleteer's refusal to take a short cut, escaped a Turcoman raid, with which all Astrabad was ringing when I arrived there on July 29.

I am satisfied of the military power of the Afghan to withstand the Bolshevists, and, although Kabul is now admittedly independent, I think India should send envoys to Kabul and arrange the terms upon which Great Britain should support Afghanistan in extending its Empire northward over territory which never was Russian until the seventies of the nineteenth century. We have all been watching the expedition this month against the Waziris, and we note, despite our advantage in aeroplanes, the stubbornness of the fighting between our highly trained troops and the tribesmen. The War Office at Kabul can place one or two or three hundred thousand such fighting men on its northern frontier, provided the transport and supply departments are up to their work. That is the point. The art of keeping an army together for months in the field is one in which the Afghan as yet lacks experience. Still, I am under the impression that Afghan divisions at Merv and along the Oxus would stand as firm against the Russian as the Waziri stand against Maj.-Gen. Climo. We have yet to reflect on the policy of doubling the power of our warlike neighbour on the N.W. Frontier. The fact is that that increase of power must come. We have recognised Afghan independence, as we were bound to do. We never held in our hands the power to make the Afghan dependent, as Dost Mohammed showed in 1837 and Sher Ali in 1878. In the future, face to face with a strong Afghanistan, which will develop railways and all up-to-date contrivances of transit and transport, we have to maintain a strong and loyal India. *Diride et impera* was a power in that country till recently, and doubtless is so still in a measure. Moslem and Hindu seemed unlikely to combine, and yet, during the strong sentiment aroused in regard to Constantinople and the Khalifate, the hint was thrown out that Moslem and Hindu might unite against their British suzerain. In the event of such a union we must remember that behind the British Army in India stand all the resources of the Commonwealth of Australia, of New Zealand, of the Union of South Africa, and of East Africa—an ever-growing power.

Let us pass westward to the next section of the Anti-Bolshevist front. It is full time that Persia bestirred herself. Her lethargy and helplessness during the war is a byword. It is only paralleled by the pretentiousness and conceit with which the Persian delegates approached the Peace Conference at Paris. We have had a visit from His Majesty the Shah and from H.H. Firuz Mirza, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. From a very able Afghan friend of mine in Edinburgh, who was during the Shah's stay there attached to his suite, it was a pleasure to receive appreciative reports of his youthful Majesty's interest and intelligence. The restoration to Persia of some of her pristine splendour and prosperity is a task of which any properly constituted Shah may be proud. His Majesty Sultan Ahmed Shah Kajar has a glorious opportunity before him of going down to history with the *éclat* that attaches to the names of some of his illustrious predecessors. One of the first things that he has to do is to organise his finances and an army, and to improve his communications—no light task. Yet Bolshevism admits of no delay. I cannot suggest the return of Mr. Morgan Shuster as Finance Minister, for Britain has now by right assumed the mandate for Persia. That country wants a second Sir Henry Lindsay-Bethune* to organise its army, and, furthermore, competent advice and control in all matters affecting finance and ways and communications. For the work of army reform I think Lieut.-General Sir G. F. McMunn would have been an excellent selection, but as he has just taken up the post of Quartermaster-General in India, someone else must be selected. What we want is prompt action. We hear of nothing being done in Persia. Not only has that country to protect itself, but it must also become a base for the support of Denikin and the prevention of Bolshevist invasion. Here, again, India will undoubtedly have to step in, and, utilising the Nushki Railway and the Persian Gulf and Tigris bases, put backbone into the efforts which we hope Persia will make for herself.

We have heard a good deal lately from lecturers, one or two of whom have been brought out under the auspices of the Persia Society, about roads and railways and motor transport in Persia. We want to see it put into practice. Of petrol there is a superabundance, thanks to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. Last May that company had a function at Swansea, from which a friend wrote to me:—"Yesterday I suggested to Sir Charles Greenway the idea of a paper telling the story—'the romance,' as Pretyman called it in his speech at the lunch—of oil development in Persia. He liked the idea, and I think I shall be able to carry it further." It never has been carried further, though the *Persia Society* might very well have taken it up. We are indebted to a Mr. C. A. Walpole for much valuable information about the possibilities, wants and resources of Persia, but the "romance"—and what a relief a little "romance" is to the average dull statistical address—of the oil industry is still a desideratum. What is more a desideratum, however, is that the Government of Persia should without delay pull itself together and prepare, prior to reform, for self-defence.

If the United States decline to accept a mandate for Armenia and to place there such a military force as will overawe alike Turk, Kurd, and Arab, and safeguard the

* The first part of this article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of March 11.

* Note.—Those who do not know General Sir Henry Lindsay-Bethune, Bart., *de jure* 9th Earl of Lindsay, should consult Connolly's *Eminent Men of Fife* or Burke's Peerage, S.V. Lindsay. He died at Teheran, the capital of Persia, on February 19, 1851, and lies buried in the Armenian Cemetery there. *Vide* also Binning's *Persia*, vol. II., p. 217.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE
KING OF SPAIN
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Armenian and Nestorian Christians, then the Allies must look elsewhere. I see it suggested that Holland should accept a mandate for Armenia. We might certainly, with very good reason, look either to Holland or to the Scandinavian Powers for some effort in the good cause of the general welfare, or to Switzerland, all of whom have been selfishly profiteering, except perhaps Norway, during and since the War, were it not that the Swedish gendarmerie had already brought such disgrace upon itself. The four small Powers grouped round the entrance to the Baltic must, as neutrals, have amassed during the war much wealth, wealth extracted from the depleted Allied pocket. Let them place some of that wealth at the disposal of the League of Nations, if that League ever materialises. It is but just that Western Europe should support Britain in enforcing quiet in Asia Minor, and responsibility for this should partly rest upon the Italians and the Greeks. The Black Sea must remain an Allied lake until Bolshevism has been brought to its bearings. That Bolshevism, as we see it, holds the inner lines of military operation from the Pacific to the Polish frontier is obvious at a glance. We are not here concerned with the Baltic Republics, Poland, Galicia, the Ukraine, and Roumania. Their only chance is to coalesce and present a united front to Bolshevism from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and that, with Germany and Hungary behind them, is indeed anxious and onerous work.

(To be concluded.)

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

PEACE TREATIES: St. Sophia, Constantinople. ARMENIANS IN TURKEY: Statement by Prime Minister. CONSTANTINOPLE. (March 8.)

SUDAN. TURKEY: British Officers in Constantinople. DEMOBILISATION: Troops in Egypt. NATIONAL RELIEF FUND: Turkey (Massacres). (March 9)

INDIA: Chaplains (Service Gratuity).—Mesopotamia (Army of Occupation).—Military Affairs (Commission of Inquiry).—Industrial Workers (Wages).—Deceased Soldiers (Pensions to Widows).—Burma Rice Trade.—Government of India (Secretary of State's Communication).—Films (Censorship).—Child Labour.—Indentured Labour (Fiji).—Strikes.—Islamic Delegation.—Passenger Accommodation.—British Army (Married Officers' Pay). CONSTANTINOPLE. PALESTINE: Anti-Jewish Excesses (Alleged). KURDESTAN: Turkish Massacres. INDIA: Officers' Leave.—Officers' Pensions.—South Africa (Indian Interests). (March 10.)

TANGIER. PEACE TREATIES: Austria and Bulgaria. PALESTINE. CONSTANTINOPLE. PERSIA (DEFENCE FORCE). INDIA. Mahomedans (Shias). (March 11.)

The total population of Mesopotamia, according to a census recently taken, is returned at 2,849,282, the number of inhabitants in the different vilayets being:—Baghdad, 1,360,304; Busreh, 785,600; Mosul, 703,378. As most of the individual returns, as reported in *The Times*, are given in round figures, the population may be set down at two and three-quarter millions. Of the total, 1,146,685 are adherents of the Sunni division of Islam, 1,494,000 are Shiahs, 87,500 are Jews, and 78,792 Christians.

MONTENEGRO'S RIGHTS.

Lord and Lady Sydenham held a reception at the Savoy Hotel on March 12, when a number of guests were invited to meet M. Yovan Plamenatz, Prime Minister of Montenegro, and to hear a statement from him on his country's case. Among those present were Lord Gladstone, Lord and Lady Treowen, Sir Clement Kinloch-Cooke, M.P., Sir Roper Parkington, Mr. Ronald McNeill, M.P., Mr. J. A. Seddon, M.P., and Mr. Victor Fisher. Lord Sydenham, who had delivered a powerful appeal on behalf of Montenegro in the House of Lords the previous day, recalled the recent history of the country, and pointed out that it could not have been treated worse if it had gone over to the enemy. He declared that Montenegro's independence as a sovereign Power must be recognised, and that the Parliament must be allowed to decide the future of the State.

M. Plamenatz, in the course of a long speech, recapitulated the part that Montenegro had played in South-Eastern Europe; he recalled the services that she had rendered to the Allies in the war, and described the ordeal through which she had had to pass since the Armistice—an ordeal of which he had had personal experience, as he had taken part in the fight against the Serbian forces before he could make good his escape abroad.

After Lord Gladstone had spoken, a resolute note was struck by Mr. Ronald McNeill, who emphasised the unjustifiable character of the British Government's attitude towards Montenegro. Mr. Seddon stated that the Labour Party was strongly opposed to the coercion being exercised upon the Montenegrins, and he was prepared to support any steps taken to secure justice for the country.

Mr. Victor Fisher urged the appointment of a Montenegro committee.

CHESS.

Solution to Problem No. 17:—1, R x R, etc.

The City Championship has now reached a most interesting stage. Sir G. A. Thomas leads with 7½ out of 8, but he is closely followed by Mr. R. P. Michell with 7 out of 9 and Mr. R. C. J. Walker with 6 out of 7. Mr. Walker, the present holder of the championship, only reached the final after tieing for the fourth place in his section. Probably his game with Sir G. A. Thomas will decide the contest.

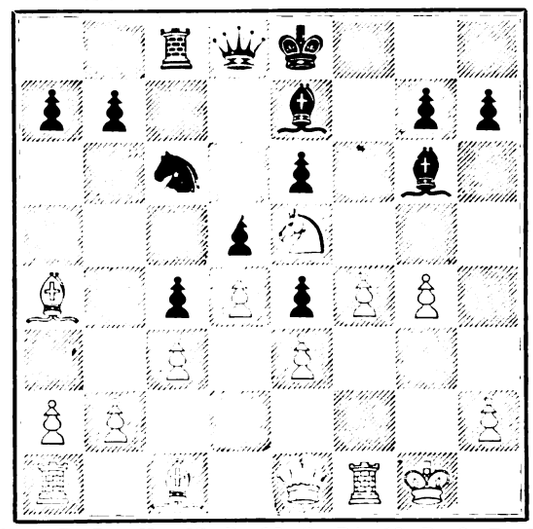
To-morrow the annual match takes place between the two universities at the City of London Chess Club. In view of Cambridge's victory last year by 7—0 it is not surprising that the Light Blues should be strong favourites. I shall expect to see them win, but shall be surprised if it is by anything like such a commanding margin.

These matches rarely produce much that can be called good chess. On the other hand, for those who like the unexpected they are an unfailing attraction. With chess, as with all other inter-University contests, the knowledge of the occasion plays no small part in the result, and the history of these matches is largely a record of the unexpected.

Before and after the University match the combined teams, strengthened by past members, will play matches with the leading London clubs. But the arrangements this time differ materially from the pre-war custom. Then there was a week of matches against the London clubs, followed by the University match. This time only two matches take place before it, and quite a number after it. Most of these matches were twenty boards before the war, but this is only maintained in the case of the City of London Chess Club. From the point of view of past members, this is a grave disadvantage, since it means that few of them will be able to take part in the week.

The following game was played recently in the Metropolitan Club's championship:—Opening, Queen's Pawn. 1, P—Q4, P—Q4; 2, P—K3, Kt—KB3; 3, B—Q3 P—QB4; 4, P—QB3, Kt—B3; 5, P—B4 (1), P—B5; 6, B—B2, B—Kt5; 7, Kt—B3, Kt—K5; 8, QKt—Q2, P—B4; 9, 0—0, P—K3; 10, Q—K (2), B—K2; 11, Kt x Kt, BP x Kt; 12, Kt—K5, B—B4 (3); 13, B—R4 R—B; 14, P—KKt4, B—Kt3; 15, Q—Kt3 (4), 0—0:

Position after Black's 14th Move. B-Kt 3.



16, Kt x B, P x Kt; 17, B—Q2, Q—R4; 18, B—Q, P—QKt4; 19, P—Kt5 (5), K—B2; 20, B—Kt4, KR—R; 21, R—B2, B—Q3; 22, P—KR4 (6), Kt—K2; 23, Q—R3, Kt—B4; 24, P—R5, K—K2; 25, R—R2, QR—B; 26, Q—Kt2, P x P; 27, B x P, P—Kt3; 28, B—Kt4, Q—Q; 29, K—B2, R x R; 30, Q x R, R—R; 31, Q—Kt2, R—R5; 32, R—R, Q—KR; 33, R x R (7), Q x R (ch); 34, K—Kt (8), Kt x P and wins.

1. The Stonewall variation, which has considerable points, but also certain limitations.

2. There was nothing in this early pressure by Black, and, as will be seen, White freed his game without difficulty.

3. Kt x Kt was impossible because BP x Kt would have created a serious problem with regard to castling.

4. By this dilatory move White missed his chance. P—B5 would have given good prospects, a likely continuation being P x P; 16, P x P, B—R4; 17, Q—Kt3, 0—0; 18, B x Kt, P x B; 19, Q—R3, B—K; 20, B—Q2, followed by K—R, enabling the rooks to come into action.

5. P—B5 was still indicated.

6. White could have obtained a draw by P—R3, as it would have been impossible to break through.

7. B x Kt should have been played, when a draw should have ensued. The text move was a mistake.

8. A surprising blunder, which loses two pawns. K—B would have been safe enough, for if Kt—Kt5 (ch), 35, K—B2!; and if Kt—R8 (dis ch), 36, K—Kt, and if 35 . . . Q x B, then 36, Q x Kt and White has rather the better of the position.

CARO-KANN.

"THE NEAR EAST" INDEX TO VOL. XVI.

The Index to Volume XVI. of "The Near East" (July 4—December 26, 1919) is now ready, and will be sent to subscribers on application to the Manager, "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I referred recently to the reported neglect of Egypt by British manufacturers. At the recent annual meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, held at Alexandria, the chairman commented on the decline in the United Kingdom's share of Egypt's trade in 1919, and said that while the falling-off was due to many reasons the most important was the continued strife between capital and labour. He went on to point out that the reputation of British goods was as high as ever, and that at anything like even money they would always find their market, and home manufacturers had, therefore, only *to produce to sell*. They have also, he might have added, to realise that at all costs markets abroad must be catered for. That is a lesson which I have constantly striven to impress upon them, and it applies, needless to say, with special force to the Egyptian market, where a unique opportunity awaits the British trader of regaining the position which he lost before the war.

***

The report of the Bank of Athens for 1919, which has just been issued, shows that there was a satisfactory development in business during that period, the profits amounting to 14,000,000 drachmæ, while the dividend proposed is 7 drachmæ per share, which is equivalent to 7 per cent. From 1913 to 1918 no dividend was declared, and the profits were accumulated, the balance on the profit and loss account at the end of December, 1918, being 7,077,300 drachmæ. A dividend of 3½ per cent. was paid for 1912, and one of 7½ per cent. for the previous year, while for several years before that the rate was 9 per cent. This year's results suggest that, given a period of peaceful development in the Near East, it will not be long before the dividend basis prior to 1911 is surpassed, especially in view of the development to which I referred last week.

***

Further complaints continue to be made regarding the inefficiency of the cable service. I quoted last week an instance given by the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce of how a contract was lost through cable delays. From the same chamber has since come an even more striking instance of the damage to trade caused by these delays. An order for 540,000 goat skins was despatched to a firm in India, but by the time the cable was delivered there had been an advance in the exchange of 17 per cent., and as a result a loss was sustained on the transaction of about £55,000. Once more I repeat that it is impossible to carry on business if traders are to be handicapped in this manner, and I trust the authorities will lose no further time in taking steps to improve the services.

***

The latest news which reaches me regarding the Constantinople market is far from reassuring. The position is regarded as being decidedly critical, and it is difficult to see how a serious commercial crisis is to be avoided. It is to be feared that the result of the unprecedented congestion at the port, with the delays in discharging cargo and other difficulties, such as the swiftly alternating rate of exchange, will be that some British manufacturers will suffer severe losses. It will be more than unfortunate should that prove to be the case, and it is small consolation to think that it was impossible to foresee the upshot of the events in South Russia, which have been the culminating factor in bringing about a difficult situation. I only trust that those who may sustain losses will not hastily decide to abandon the Turkish market. That would be the height of folly, for as soon as normal times return they will find it an easy matter to regain their losses several times over. And the commencement of normal times will date from the signing of peace, which will be followed by the rapid development of business.

***

In the current issue of the monthly journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States, a very interesting survey is given of the position of insurance business in Turkey. Before the war there were approximately 65 fire insurance companies operating in Turkey, the majority of them British. Most of these companies are now recommencing operations, and it is stated that at the present moment the general prospects in Constantinople for fire insurance are good. One aspect of the policy of the British companies comes in for criticism. "There have been many changes in the representation of British offices," it is pointed out, "and it is to be regretted that, in the great majority of cases, members of the British community have been put to one side, and the agencies entrusted to natives. Our companies do not seem to be able to understand that a British agent can do a far better and cleaner business than most natives, and, as a rule, devotes personal attention to it."

***

The net profits of the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended September 20 last were slightly lower than for the preceding period at £80,200, as against £83,100, but apart from that the figures in the balance-sheet are extremely satisfactory. Deposits have risen from £1,789,368 to £2,830,064; loans and discounts stand at £3,241,933, as against £1,996,274; while the note circulation has almost doubled at £1,109,201, as against £667,153—figures which throw a satisfactory reflection on general conditions in the country. The balance brought forward was larger than before, and the available total is about £300 greater at £107,600. The dividend is maintained at 8s. per share, or a trifle over 6 per cent., £30,000 is transferred to the reserve, making that fund £250,000, as compared with the paid-up capital of £650,000, and £5,000 is placed to premises account, leaving £27,388 to be carried forward, as compared with £27,400.

***

The holders of the £200,000 Six per Cent. Obligation Bonds of the Constantinople Telephone Company have so far had a most unfortunate experience. The bonds were issued in 1914, and the war has prevented them from obtaining more than one dividend. A circular was issued in September informing the bondholders that the company had regained possession of their property, and that steps were being taken to obtain an indemnity from the Government. In a further circular it is announced that no progress can yet be reported as regards the settlement of the company's claims, and in the circumstances the proposal is put forward to fund the arrears of dividend to July 1, less tax, into Six per Cent. Certificates repayable in 1934. £21 is due on each bond, and the certificates are to be of £20 each, the odd amount being paid in cash. It is further proposed that the date on which the bonds mature should be advanced by five years—covering the war period—a similar extension being made in regard to the date on which the right to convert the bonds into shares would have normally elapsed.

***

Considerable dissatisfaction is being expressed, I understand, with conditions at the port of Casablanca. It appears that there is very serious congestion at the port, and that steamers are delayed there for long periods owing to the lack of adequate facilities. The lack of quays is one of the most serious problems, it is stated, while there are also too few lighters and an insufficiency of cranes to unload goods from the lighters. French steamers have preferential treatment, and only one-quarter of the lighters are normally at the disposal of the ships of other countries. The only hope of improving the position at Casablanca lies in the development of the quays and in an increase in the number of lighters and cranes, to say nothing of the storehouses, which are at present quite insufficient to meet requirements. Until steps are taken in this direction the congestion will continue.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 1.

Egypt's Trade during 1919.

The December returns of the Egyptian Customs' Administration, which contain the figures for the whole year, make very interesting reading. The total imports of the year amount to £E47,409,717, and the exports to £E75,888,321. Whilst the imports are slightly less than the previous year, exports are substantially more, but both totals are far and away in excess of any figures previously recorded.

The following comparative table, comparing the trade figures for the last two years with 1913, the last normal pre-war year, and 1912, the year giving the highest exports recorded since 1884 up to the war, shows how phenomenally the foreign trade of Egypt has expanded in every branch:—

	1912.	1913.	1918.	1919.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Imports...	25,907,759	27,865,195	51,155,306	47,409,717
Exports...	34,574,321	31,652,065	45,370,020	75,888,321
Re-exports	448,665	578,251	1,378,732	4,307,401
Transit...	1,789,198	2,072,574	14,419,125	8,911,846

From this table it will be seen that since 1912 imports have increased by 90 per cent. and exports by 120 per cent., and that, whereas allowing for the specie movement of which in 1912 there was a net import of £E4,000,000, the balance of trade has increased from £E5,000,000 to £E33,000,000. It will be noted that this latter figure is very little short of the highest total for exports alone in any one year before the war.

Another interesting feature of the Customs returns is the expansion in re-exports and in transit trade, both of which increase the commercial importance of Egypt, which, by becoming a distributing centre for the Levant, at the same time guarantees its own supply of the commodities in question.

Under imports the principal items are: Preserved meat, £E1,016,411; hides and skins, £E762,178; wheat flour, £E779,485; sugar, £E494,819; coffee, £E811,020; coco-nut oil, £E227,273; kerosene, £E1,710,897; benzine, £E536,463; mineral oils, £E297,161; stationery, £E1,270,839; timber, £E490,921; coal, £E3,000,973; natural indigo, £E230,995; nitrate of soda, £E1,311,870; medicinal preparations, £E353,125; soap, £E524,029; matches, £E221,866; cotton yarn, £E969,993; sewing cotton, £E425,442; cotton-piece goods, £E11,086,788; mixed textiles, £E483,192; woollen and worsted clothes, £E861,388; silk cloths, £E781,446; silk yarn and thread, £E324,047; sacks, £E585,986; ready-made underclothing, £E390,410; ready-made clothing, £E405,666; hosiery, £E756,429; tin-plate, £E362,606; tobacco, £E3,070,744.

The main decreases were under: Preserved meat, £E884,192; sugar, £E265,357; benzine, £E1,266,433; stationery, £E387,827; coal, £E2,153,152; matches, £E249,739; cotton piece-goods, £E2,226,139 (mainly cotton piece-goods bleached and printed); whilst increases were registered in hides and skins, £E260,747; wheat flour, £E177,740; coffee, £E213,352; kerosene, £E893,285; and nitrate of soda, £E1,233,905.

Under exports cotton accounted for the major portion, the total being £E65,441,901, as against £E38,034,467. Other important items were: Eggs, £E282,188; hides and skins, £E1,301,859; rice, £E550,590; sesame, £E133,958; cotton seed, £E3,013,993; cottonseed cake, £E412,477; onions, £E424,634; ground-nuts, £E111,116; sugar £E654,656; cigarette-paper, £E240,251; gum, £E359,199; phosphate, £E156,750; wool, £E131,499, and cigarettes, £E1,032,076. With the exception of sugar and gum each one of these items shows a considerable increase on the previous year in value, and with the exception of cottonseed in quantity.

Coming to the share in the foreign trade, we find that under imports Great Britain heads the list again with £E21,840,957, against £E27,077,635 the previous year—a slight falling off in percentage. On the other hand France has increased her share by about 30 per cent. to £E2,390,541, and Italy hers slightly to £E2,512,028, whilst the United States, owing especially to kerosene, increased from £E491,326 to £E2,889,749.

Under exports the United Kingdom did better, taking one-third of the year's increase and raising her share from £E30,542,834 to £E40,222,821. As usual, the United Kingdom took all the eggs, cottonseed, and cake, and over 50 per cent. of the cotton: France increased her share by nearly 200 per cent. to £E5,871,556; the United States quadrupled theirs at £E16,714,079, whilst Switzerland and Japan, for all practical purposes, doubled theirs at £E1,763,730 and £E1,864,292 respectively, all due to cotton.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan was fairly good. Imports from the Sudan totalled £E1,778,646, as against £E2,718,981, and exports to that country £E2,847,607, as against £E2,492,208. The principal items of imports from the Sudan were:—Livestock, £E715,834; hides and skins, £E126,883; cereals and agricultural produce, £E474,260, of which sesame £E216,332; whilst the chief exports from Egypt were cereals £E305,332, sugar £E661,709, textiles £E998,152, and tobacco £E224,328.

The Economic Situation.

We had another tram strike this week, but it was of short duration. The workers had an extremely bad case, and undoubtedly were the tools of the Extremists, who are straining every nerve to make political capital out of the present economic situation. The strike was settled by the intervention of the authorities, who detailed Egyptian troops to convoy the trams which the company found itself able to work with its loyal personnel. The day after this show of determination the whole of the strikers returned to work. There is no doubt that if the Government will only adopt a firm attitude in industrial questions, and, whilst giving all due consideration to the workers, at the same time afford proper protection to employers when they are in the right and to the personnel which remains loyal, we shall not hear much of industrial disputes, and the Extremists will not find it so easy to excite the workers.

At the same time, it must be admitted that it is urgently necessary for something to be done to alleviate the economic stress, which despite, and really because of, the great prosperity of the country is very great at present. The high price of cotton has undoubtedly had a great deal to do with the creation of this economic crisis, since it has tempted cultivators to extend the cultivation of cotton to the detriment of the normal cereal rotation, and it is indeed very unfortunate that the recent big drop in cotton prices should have come too late for cereal sowings to be resubstituted for cotton.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 2.

A Serious Outlook.

I have already upon more than one occasion called attention in these columns to the very difficult situation that exists in Constantinople as a result of the congestion in the Customs, scarcity of labour, and expenses of discharging cargoes. So long as it was possible to keep up a certain circulation of commerce with Russia a crisis was avoided, although it was always realised that we were skating over thin ice. Now, however, that Russia is closed, the outlook is decidedly serious. Goods ordered for the Russian market cannot be delivered, and are held up here, while large quantities of merchandise are being returned, to complicate the situation still further. The rate of exchange had been gradually rising, when, a fortnight ago, the news that the Turkish capital would probably be removed to Asia Minor caused a panic on the Bourse, and the pound sterling suddenly jumped from 360 to 440 piastres. There was a reaction, of course, but the rate is still in the neighbourhood of 400. Consider now the case of a merchant who, three months ago, ordered goods to the value of £1,000. At that time the rate of exchange was about 350 piastres to the £ sterling, and the cost of discharging, etc., was about £T10 per ton. For argument's sake, let it be supposed that the goods cost £50 per ton. The merchant's estimate of his gross cost would be as follows: Invoice, £1,000 at 350 piastres to £, £T3,500; discharging at £T10 per ton, £T200; total, £T 3,700. When the goods arrive, however, the actual bill works out somewhat as follows: Invoice, £1,000 at 400 piastres to £, £T4,000; discharging at £T50 per ton, £T1,000; total, £T5,000.

The merchant thus stands to lose £T1,300. True, prices have gone up in the meanwhile, but how can he be sure that the rate of exchange will not drop before he can unload his goods, or even before he actually gets his goods? For very often weeks and even months pass between the time he gets his bill of lading from the bank and the day when the goods are in his warehouse. Is it to be wondered at that it is practically impossible to get orders for goods to be delivered at some future date? Further, is it surprising that importers are not taking up their bills of lading? Even supposing they have paid a 10 per cent. advance, it would pay them to forfeit it rather than to take the goods under the present circumstances. In the above-mentioned hypothetical instance, a 10 per cent. advance would have meant £T350 against a loss of £T1,300.

In short, unless something unforeseen occurs to prevent it,

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there seems to be every probability of a repetition in Constantinople of the crisis that occurred in Greece last spring, when millions of pounds' worth of goods choked the Customs because the importers could not take them up. In that case, large quantities of goods had been ordered on the speculation that the war would be prolonged. In the present instance, in Constantinople there has been considerable speculation, at the risk of the manufacturer, in exports to Russia. Until Russia is open again to commerce, British manufacturers will be well advised to exercise great caution for some little time to come.

Undoubtedly the situation is considerably aggravated by the difficulties and expense of discharging cargoes. If it were possible for merchants to take delivery of their consignments *sous palan*, that is, into their own lighters alongside the ship, they would probably avoid a considerable proportion of the outrageous charges made for unloading, Customs, etc. But, unfortunately, there is a great scarcity of lighters, and one is forced to the conclusion that nothing can be done unless some enterprising company sets to work with its own lighters, which, however, would have to be very numerous, or there would be a strike of lightermen, and the new enterprise would be unable to carry on.

Another cause contributory to the general uneasiness is the falling off in exports. This is partly due to the cessation of arrivals of Anatolian produce, for the situation in the provinces is such that transport is a most risky affair. But even when there are deliveries from Anatolia, it is found that better prices can be obtained by selling the goods on the Constantinople market, where they change hands several times. Naturally, this helps to maintain the high rate of exchange, which is further aggravated by the uncertain political outlook, and the popular distrust of Turkish paper.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, February 14.

Mining Commission.

A Commission, consisting of several directors of the Bulgarian State Coalfields at Pernik, will shortly leave for abroad. It proposes to visit Italy, France, and England, with the intention of purchasing all mining implements necessary for the full exploitation of the Pernik coalfields.

Export of Grain Foods.

The consortium authorised by the Bulgarian Government for the monopoly of export of grain foods has organised an information bureau at Constantinople, Piræus, Salonika, Trieste, and London.

SMYRNA.

SMYRNA, February 24.

National Bank of Turkey.

Major Blake, who has acted as adjutant here since General Milne established the British Advanced Headquarters in Smyrna, has recently been demobilised, and remains in Smyrna as the local manager of the National Bank of Turkey. At present he is assisted by Mr. Michaelides, who has considerable experience in Turkish banking business, and was nine years in the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Constantinople. Suitable premises have been secured on the quay adjoining the imposing building occupied by the Oriental Carpet Corporation. This bank is expected to afford financial help to British traders in Smyrna to enable them to develop their businesses which, with very few exceptions, have been considerably crippled during the war, and the advent of Major Blake is hailed with delight by the British colony.

THE NILE CONTROL WORKS.

I.—The Future Water Requirements of Egypt and the Sudan.

(FROM OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

The Ministry of Public Works has just issued a note on the control works which have been proposed for the regulation of the irrigation water supply of the Nile Valley and in connection with which a Commission was recently formed to study and report on the data on which these works are based.

It is pointed out that whilst the summer supply of water in the Nile is insufficient nearly every year for the adequate irrigation of the cultivated lands at present dependent on it, there is at the same time an insistent demand for expansion of the cultivated area, due to the pressure of a rapidly increasing population. The present increase is estimated at about 200,000 souls per annum, and as expansion must proceed at an equivalent rate until the limit is reached further control of the river is urgently required both to prevent the heavy loss due to the present unavoidable restriction of crop, and to provide additional water for development.

The total area of Egypt which can be cultivated is about 7,300,000 feddans. Of these, about 5,200,000 feddans are actually under cultivation, and of this total 1,200,000 feddans are still under the basin system of irrigation which produces but one crop annually. The maximum increase of area of cultivation in Egypt will be about 1,900,000 feddans, while about 1,200,000 feddans remain still to be converted from basin to perennial irrigation.

Requirements of Egypt.

As regards the water requirements of Egypt, it is to be noted that the intensity of cultivation is not uniform throughout the country, and that the cultivated area does not everywhere need the same amount of water per feddan. The causes are mainly variations of climate, and the fact that certain areas, as already mentioned, are almost entirely confined to basin irrigation.

It is computed that at present the country requires annually about 33,000 million cubic metres of water for the adequate fertilisation of its crops. In 1913-1914, a year of exceedingly low flood, about 41,000 million cubic metres passed Aswan between July, 1913, and June, 1914. This volume, which was the lowest ever recorded, would have been more than ample to meet all actual requirements if it had been distributed throughout the year to suit the demands of agriculture. The distribution, however, was so unequal that water passed uncontrolled to the sea at one period, whereas at another there was an actual shortage. This condition of excess at one period may be largely modified in a bad year, but cannot, owing to the impetuous advent of the Blue Nile silty flood, ever be entirely avoided.

Storage and regulating works will meet the deficiency as well as the requirements of the inevitable expansion of the present area both as regards quantity and time of supply, and it is estimated that a reasonable average rate will be the reclamation of waste land at the rate of 60,000 feddans per annum, and at the same time the changing from basin to perennial irrigation at the rate of 40,000 feddans per annum. If this is done, Egypt will have completed her

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development to the utmost limit in about thirty-five years from now.

The Sudan.

As regards the Sudan, it was only in the early years of this century that development of the cultivated area was decided upon, and that to any extent summer water was used. In 1903 it was proposed to undertake experiments to test the feasibility of producing by irrigation exportable crops such as wheat, cotton, sugar, etc., and as it was foreseen that to obtain a favourable result it might be necessary to use summer water, and the available supply thereof was strictly limited, the Sudan and Egyptian Governments agreed provisionally to fix at 10.000 feddans the area in the Sudan which could draw summer water. This arrangement was made in view of the fact that the Aswan Reservoir rendered Egypt's position more secure in low years.

When in 1912 the Aswan Dam was heightened, and thus an increased supply of summer water was made available, the Sudan area was increased to 20,000 feddans, and up to date that figure has not been exercised in full. The Sudan now has a scheme in hand whereby an area of 300,000 feddans will be developed within the next few years, of which area about one-third will require water in the spring. This area forms only one unit of a total of about three million feddans which it may be possible to develop under perennial irrigation by about the end of the present century. It is pointed out, however, that Egypt will have reached her full development long before then—*i.e.*, in about thirty-five years—and that by that time the Sudan will only have been able to develop about one million feddans. Until this limit is being approached in the Sudan, it is therefore unnecessary to consider any further development.

Present and Future Water Requirements.

From careful investigations it has been computed that 50,000 million cubic metres of water per annum will meet the ultimate future demands for the perennial cultivation of 7,100,000 feddans, which is the maximum cultivable area in Egypt. The water required by the Sudan for the one million feddans which will have been developed by then will be about 6.000 million cubic metres per annum, and it is considered that with the works contemplated the Nile can well meet the demands of further expansion in the Sudan.

To meet these demands for water supply the volumes available in low years are naturally those which must be taken into account. Taking the 1913 flood, which was the lowest for over fifty years, as a minimum, provision must be made—if the present-day area is to be provided for—for the storage of about 2,000 million cubic metres of water to prevent a restriction in cultivation as took place in that year. The works contemplated are intended to meet the demands for water made by Egypt and the Sudan in the circumstances sketched above, but at the same time they are intended to meet the imperative need of saving Egypt from the effects of a high flood.

Control Works Necessary.

The following are given in the note as the works which must be ultimately constructed to assure adequate control of the river:—

1. A reservoir on the White Nile, with a masonry dam at Gebel Aulia, to increase Egypt's summer supply and afford a valuable measure of protection against high floods.
2. A small reservoir on the Blue Nile, with its dam at Sennar, to irrigate the Gezira plain.
3. A barrage at Nag' Hammadi to protect flood cultivation in the part of Upper Egypt as yet unconverted to perennial irrigation, and to supply it with summer water when conversion does take place.
4. A reservoir on the Upper Blue Nile to increase the Sudan's supply and aid in flood control.
5. A reservoir at Lake Albert to complete the storage necessary to meet the ultimate demands of Egypt.
6. A channel in the Sudd region to assure the Lake Albert reservoir water reaching the main Nile.

It is pointed out that the effect of carrying out these works in the order named will be to ensure that step by step as cultivation increases water can be made available to meet its needs even in the worst of years, and the series is so arranged that each work is an essential link in the chain that secures the prosperity of the Nile Valley. "Each link is needed not only when it is made, but when the chain is finished."

The following table shows the cost of each of these works and the dates on, or before, which they should be completed:—

White Nile Dam, 1925	£E2,500,000
Sennar Dam, 1924	2,350,000
Nag' Hammadi Barrage, 1925	1,500,000
Upper Blue Nile Dam, 1930	1,500,000
Lake Albert Dam, 1940	2,000,000
Sudd Channel, 1940.....	15,000,000

The directors of the National Bank of Egypt propose to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent. (£1 per share), making 14 per cent. in respect of 1919.

ENGINEERING.

Attaching Power to Ordinary Cycles.

To convert an ordinary bicycle into a motor-cycle has often been the aim of inventors and manufacturers, with the result that there are now several small petrol-engine attachments which can easily be fixed on a cycle frame. One of the latest, which has recently been shown at an exhibition, and which, of course, is of British design and construction, presents some very interesting improvements, for it has the important advantage of allowing the cycle to be propelled either by pedalling or by the motor at the will of the rider. The power unit can be attached to any make of cycle, either ladies' or gentlemen's, being fixed by means of a hinged slip on to the seat pillar tube, with two supporting stays. The engine is of the two-stroke type, and of 1 h.p., with magneto and clutch, giving free engine. The driving chain wheel is not attached to the spokes of the wheel but to the rim by means of five tubular spokes, and the controls are attached to the handle bar. The engine supplies the motive power when the rider requires it. It is sufficient to carry him up all but the very steepest hills without any pedalling, and, being placed over the rear wheel of the cycle, there is no inconvenience from heat or smoke. The weight of the cycle with the attachment is approximately 55 lb. as against 1½ cwt. to 2 cwt. which is the weight of the ordinary motor-cycle.

Danube-Salonika Canal.

It is reported that considerable progress is being made in Yugoslavia in the construction of railway lines in the interior, but the transit of goods through Fiume and other ports on the coast has become very difficult owing to the delay in settling the Adriatic question. The line Paris—Agram—Belgrade soon becomes congested, and, though railway communications from Salonika to Belgrade are in running order again, the journey still takes a considerable time. The Government is taking the question of transit seriously in hand, and by degrees the import and export trade of the new State should be freed from difficulties. In dealing with this subject, a correspondent in a contemporary discusses the project for a canal linking the Danube with Salonika. The utilisation of the great waterway to Serbia will undoubtedly prove a most important factor in the life of the new State, and the River Morava, which is the backbone of the country, will be utilised in conjunction with the River Vardar. This project has extensively been dealt with in notes that appeared in several issues of THE NEAR EAST soon after the Balkan War and during the recent war, and in which were pointed out the great benefits that Serbia would derive by the union of the two rivers, Vardar and Morava, forming an excellent waterway all along Serbia, with one outlet in the Ægean Sea, at a point south of Salonika, and another in the Danube. By carrying out this scheme, apart from the benefits of navigation in transporting products, etc., considerable water power could be secured at various points of the rivers, which would be utilised for industrial and agricultural purposes. It appears that the Yugoslavian Government is going to carry out the scheme proposed some years ago by a Serbian engineer—viz., the canal will start from the large village of Kevevara, which is situated at the junction of the Danube and the Morava, and, following the course of the latter river, it will join up with the Vardar near Koprulu, finally breaking off to connect with the port of Salonika. The total length of this waterway will be 600 kilometres, and ships, it is said, of 10,000 tons will be able to pass down all the way. The scheme differs very slightly from the one that was mentioned in THE NEAR EAST, but in the tonnage of the ships there must be some mistake.

A New Sweeping Machine.

How often have tourists in Near Eastern towns been driven away by the thick clouds of dust which only a moderate summer breeze suffices to raise to great heights! The remedy of sweeping the roads either by ordinary means or sweeping machines is often worse than leaving the dust alone at the mercy of the wind. There are modern methods by which such a scourge can be prevented, but for some reason or other they are very slowly introduced. Possibly the municipal authorities are not properly informed by their responsible engineers as to the merits of the newest mechanical appliances for the purpose. There are towns, however, in which modern sweeping machines are being used, and for preventing the raising of dust a sprinkling water-cart precedes it with more or less effective results. A new combined sprinkling and sweeping machine, which was noticed at a recent show, would undoubtedly be of interest to many municipal authorities in the East now that preparations for the approaching summer are under consideration. The machine is automobile, with a strong and compact frame. The tank is mounted upon bearers bolted to the frame. The distributing pipe is of cast iron, built up in sections, with machined joints, so that if any part is damaged it can be replaced without the expense of a complete new pipe. The down pipes are connected to the tank, and to the distributor by flexible compression joints. The distributor is fitted with a double row of jets placed one above the other, and capable of being used separately or together at the will of the driver. The jets are brought into operation by means of a lever placed in an accessible position on the left side of the driver. A special feature of the machine is that the water issues from two holes, which approach each other at an angle, causing the two streams to impinge one against the other and break into a flat fan-shaped spray of varying degrees of fineness. The sweeping arrangement underneath is very efficient, and is easily controlled by the driver from his seat.

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NEAR EAST COAL RESOURCES.

V.—ROUMANIA*

By John Kirsopp, M.I.M.E., F.G.S

According to the authorities, M. L. Mrazec and I. Tanasescu, the coals of this country may be grouped, according to geological age and quality, in four divisions: carboniferous, mesozoic, miocene, and pliocene coal and lignite. Carboniferous rocks containing tenticular seams of anthracite occur in the northern part of the Middle Carpathians, and this is mined on a small scale at Schela, in the Gorj district, analysis of which gives: Moisture, 6.54 per cent.; carbon, 90.04 per cent.; hydrogen, 1.31 per cent.; O. and N., 0.58 per cent.; sulphur, 0.33 per cent.; ash, 1.20 per cent. The output from this district has increased from 837 tons in 1900-01 to 2,500 tons in 1911-12, the statistical year being taken from April to March.

Bituminous coals occur in the upper valley of the Jalomitza River in both Liassic and upper Cretaceous rocks, and, although the coal is of superior quality, it is much crushed and the seams are very irregular. Analysis of the Brandus coal (district of Dambovitza) gives carbon, 72.49 per cent.; hydrogen, 4.80 per cent.; O. and N., 16.25 per cent.; sundry volatiles, 0.98 per cent.; ash, 5.48 per cent.; calorific value, 6,926 calories. Small miocene areas containing seams of black lustrous coal are found in the Bahna and Cerna valleys, having a calorific value of 4,500 to 5,000 calories. The most important fuels commercially in Roumania are the pliocene lignites, which can be divided into two classes, the black lustrous lower pliocene lignites of the Comanesti basin, and the upper pliocene brown lignites.

The Comanesti basin has an area of 100 sq. kilometres, in which a number of coal outcrops occur at various points. In the Supan valley at Galleon two seams occur, 1.05 m. and 0.80 m. respectively in thickness. The lignite is compact, black, and lustrous, does not disintegrate on exposure to the atmosphere, and does not coke. Analyses of coal from the Comanesti Asau-Vermasti localities of the Bacau district give: Moisture, 12.46 per cent.; volatile matter, 39.46 per cent.; fixed carbon, 40.04 per cent.; ash, 8.04 per cent., its calorific value varying from 5,000 to 6,200 calories. The output from this field increased from 10,155 tons in 1900-01 to 33,298 tons in 1911-12. The proved area of the Asau-Comanesti Lalcaia-Galleon and the Vermasti localities, in the district of Bacau, covers 15 hectares (37 acres), and contains a probable reserve of 2¼ million tons.

The upper pliocene lignites are found in several localities. In the district between the Danube and Oltul rivers, lignite seams with an average thickness of 2.5 m. outcrop at numerous points over an area of 140 by 30 km. (87½ miles by 13¾ miles), containing a probable reserve of ten million tons, and have been exploited at Valea Copcei, Cucesti, Isvorul, Anestilor, Strehaia, and Balta, in the district of Mehadinti.

Analyses of the Valea Copcei coal give: moisture, 32.07 per cent; volatile matter, 37.84 per cent.; fixed carbon, 17.61 per cent.; ash, 2.48 per cent.; sulphur, 1.59 per cent.; calorific value, 3,607 calories. The production of the Mehadinti district increased from 2,456 tons in 1902-3 to 17,359 tons in 1907-8, but decreased to only 1,786 tons in 1909-10, since which year no returns are available. Lignite-bearing beds underlie an area of about 80 sq. km. (30 sq. miles) in the district between Boteni and Curtea-de-Arger; two seams are known, the upper 0.50 to 0.70 m. thick, and the lower one 2.50 to 3.20 m. thick.

The lower one contains lignite of good quality, which is mined at several places, viz., Jidava, Poenari, Jugur, and Berevoesti, all in the district of Muscel. An average analysis of these coals gives: moisture, 22.22 per cent.; volatile matter, 42.48 per cent.; fixed carbon, 27.60 per cent.; ash, 7.70 per cent.; sulphur, 0.67 per cent.; calorific value, 4,348 calories. The production from this district increased from 3,316 tons in 1902 3 to 77,941 tons in 1911-12, the proved area of this field covering an area of 45 hectares (111 acres), and containing an estimated probable reserve of 13 million tons.

In the Jalomitza valley, an area of 45 km. (23 1-3 miles) is underlaid by upper pliocene strata containing two coal seams; the upper seam is from 3.90 m. to 5.10 m. in thickness, including partings, and the lower seam varies in thickness from 5 m. to 6.50 m., including several partings. The principal mining localities in this region are Margineanca-Fagetal, Sotanga-Aninoasa, and Vulcana-Pandele, in the district of Dambovitza, these coals analysing: moisture, 25.72 per cent.—22.34 per cent.; volatile matter, 45.73 per cent.—35.57 per cent.; fixed carbon, 15.55 per cent.—30.20 per cent; ash, 13.00 per cent.—11.89 per cent.; sulphur, 0.95 per cent.—1.91 per cent.; calorific value, 3,872—4,213 calories. The production from these fields increased from 16,528 tons in 1899-1900 to 126,196 tons in 1911-12. The mines at Margineanca are worked in concession by the State. The proved area of these localities covers 25 hectares, and is estimated to contain a probable reserve of ten million tons. In the Filipesti-de-Padure locality, in the district of Prahova, the coal analysed: moisture, 15.77 per cent.; volatile matter, 33.13 per cent.; fixed carbon, 39.86 per cent.; ash, 11.24 per cent.; calories, 3,802; the proved area covering 5 hectares (12 acres). The production here fell from 6,800 tons in 1899-1900 to 2,090 tons in 1911-12. Other areas where lignite beds are known to occur are the Subcarpathes of the Moldavie Meridionale, Filarel (Roumania Plain, and at Marculesti (Plain of Baragan). Petroleum also occurs in the localities of Gura-Oenitei, Moreni, Baicoi, and Tintea, and asphalt associated with the lignite-bearing formation at Matila, Pacureti, and elsewhere.

In 1909-10, 65 per cent. of the total consumption of lignite on the Roumanian railways was from the mines of Margineanca, Sotanga, and Aninoasa (Jalomitza basin), 29 per cent. from the mines of Jidava Poenari, and Schitu-Golesti (Muscel district), and 6 per cent. from the mines in the Comanesti basin (Bacau district), Valea Copcei, and Strehaia Mehedintzi district, and Filipesti-de-Padure (Prahova district), their total consumption of fuel being lignite 109,021 tons, 32,637 tons of coal, and 138,664 tons of petroleum residue, an excellent fuel being produced by the utilisation of lignite into briquettes with petroleum residues, the fuel so produced being of excellent quality and cheaper than Welsh coal.

There is an important maritime trade from the port of Braila, on the Danube, coal from the mines of the Muscel district being sent by water from Schilu-Golesti to Braila, a distance of 364 km. (227½ miles), prior to the European war, the price per ton on barge being 9.50 frs. (7s. 6d.) and at Braila 20.55 frs. (15s. 10d.). The output of the Dimbovitza mines was barged at Doicesti, 309 km. (193⅛ miles) from Braila, the price being 9.50 frs. (7s. 6d.) on barge, and 18.77 frs. (14s. 10d.) at Braila, and that of the Baian district, at Asau, 228 km. (142½ miles) from Braila, the price being 16.00 frs. (12s. 8d.) on barge, 22.85 frs. (18s. 2d.) delivered at Braila. The total production of coal for the whole country increased from 63,328 tons of the value of 478,960 frs. (£18,991=5s. 11d. per ton) in 1900-01, to 242,020 tons of the value of 2,703,260 frs. (£107,188=8s. 10d. per ton) in 1911-1912. The probable reserve is estimated to amount to 36 million tons.

Egypt.

The discovery of workable coal would be of immense importance to this country, and several efforts have been made to test some of the more promising areas without any tangible result. Lignite and minute coal seams are not however, entirely absent. In the deposits of Oligocene and Eocene age in the petrified forest east of Cairo a boring was made at Bir el Fatim, but no records were retained. In the Gasr el Saga series of the Middle Eocene, fifty miles south-west of Cairo to the north of Birket (in the hills adjoining the great lake occupying the deepest part of the Fayum depression) highly lignitic beds are found, and certain beds of the series further to the west contain very thin seams of true coal, but not known to exceed one or two millimetres (1-3 to ½ of an inch) in thickness.

In the Nubian sandstone in Upper Egypt and the Oases, a boring was put down at Redesia, a village to the south of Edfu, which passed through thin beds of bituminous matter at different depths, but entered water-bearing stratum at 99 metres (330 feet), which hindered operations, but it was finally continued to 258 metres (860 feet) without further evidence of carbonaceous material. Probably the cause of this boring operation was the attention drawn to old letters written by a Mr. Neutinger between 1844 and 1854, asserting that between 47 and 92 metres depth five coal seams were met with, the lowest one 2.25 m., of good coal, in a locality suggested as Gebel Zabara, about five miles east of Edfu station.

* The previous articles of this series appeared in THE NEAR EAST on October 10, November 7, November 28 and January 9.

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ARMENIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts presided at a meeting of the Council of the British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce, which was held at the London Chamber of Commerce on March 3, when those present included Boghos Nubar Pasha, the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, Professor Thoumaian, deputy chairman, Sir J. Roper Parkington, Mr. E. R. Bartley Dennis, M.P., Mr. James A. Malcolm, and Mr. S. P. Stephens (hon. treasurer).

Mr. E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts, in introducing Boghos Nubar Pasha, said that that name was historical and revered by every student of the history of the British Empire. It was unnecessary for him to refer to the services which Boghos Nubar's father had rendered to this country and to Egypt, but it was pleasant to reflect that that father's son was so nobly following in his parent's footsteps. He was devoting himself with rare ability and assiduity to the service of his own country, and in doing so he was promoting the best interests of the British Empire, which was identified with the advancement of civilisation and culture, and more particularly in bringing about a union of East and West. He need not refer to his arduous labours on behalf of his ancient and noble country at the Peace Conference in Paris and now in London. He felt that he had achieved a great work in the face of many difficulties, and he was grateful that he had been able to find time to attend this meeting. The British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce had no political objects. It was a purely commercial body, but he thought it would perform a very useful function in assisting the energetic and industrious Armenian people to develop the undoubted wealth of their country and in promoting trade relations with Great Britain.

Boghos Nubar Pasha said he was particularly touched by the chairman's reference to his father. It was a surprise—indeed, a very agreeable surprise—for him to learn that, with the co-operation of their friends in England, a British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce was already founded. As soon as the Armenian State was set up by the Peace Conference—an event which they all hoped might not be deferred—one of their first cares and duties would be to establish commercial relations with the European countries, and they could not but view with lively gratitude the fact that Great Britain was taking the lead in that direction. Armenia, which until now had not been able to undergo any economic development under the barbarous Turk, would not fail, under the invincible industry of Armenians, to progress by leaps and bounds. Their first efforts would be directed towards the restoration of their agriculture in order to assure immediately the subsistence of the people on the produce of the country itself. As soon as that was done they would be able to export their produce. But to attain that double object they would need, above all, agricultural machinery and implements, which they could only get from abroad. And it was in that vast field open to activity that an institution such as the British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce would be of the greatest value. Next to agriculture, and perhaps concurrently, they would have to develop their subsoil, which possessed immense unexploited riches. Experts who had explored the country attested to the existence of great mineral deposits. Copper, silver, lead, iron, coal, oil, and other minerals were to be found in Armenia. But the co-operation of their friends was necessary for them to accomplish such a task. He was confident that Great Britain, who had so powerfully contributed by the triumph of its arms to the liberation of Armenia, would not be lacking in enterprise and sympathy to help Armenia in peace to their mutual advantage.

The Patriarch of Constantinople, after being welcomed by the chairman, addressed the meeting in Armenian, Professor Thoumaian interpreting. Although commerce, he said, did not come within his ecclesiastical sphere, yet as the representative of a prominently commercial people, when he was invited to be present, he at once consented. He took that opportunity of expressing his hearty appreciation of their efforts and interests in the commercial aspects of Armenia. In order that Armenian commercial activities might attain their full development Armenian independence must be an accomplished fact. Mere independence, however, was not sufficient. His people had been so terribly and cruelly treated that without outside help it would be difficult, and would take a long time, to develop their full activities. For that reason they wanted British help above all. The soil was fertile, but the subsoil was still richer in mineral wealth. He himself had resided for many years in Armenia, and knew personally that in many places the ores were almost exposed at the surface. He heartily welcomed that beginning which was certainly in the right direction, and he hoped that the Chamber would be an intermediary between the two nations of Great Britain and Armenia. When British enterprise and Armenian perseverance and endurance were coupled together the prosperity of New Armenia would be assured.

It is understood that Mr. F. W. Shannon, of Shannon, Ltd., will shortly be visiting Egypt.

Mr. D. Zebitch, of the Anglo-Serbian Commercial Trust, Ltd., left for Yugoslavia this week.

The Dunlop Rubber Company has completed the purchase of the cotton manufacturing business of James Hoyle and Sons, Ltd., Acre Mills, Hebden Bridge, with which the Dunlop Company has had business connections for some time.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

It is not possible to record any increase of business in the market during the past week, and the tone has continued quiet. The opinion is held in many quarters that the correct policy to adopt at the moment is to hold aloof, as there is a possibility of lower values. The political situation in Germany has had an unsettling influence upon trade. Although fluctuations continue to take place in Egyptian cotton prices, the tone may be described as firmer. It is anticipated that the Egyptian market will be controlled in some form or other until the end of this season, and this should mean stability of values. It is now realised that the crop will be smaller than the early estimates. There has been a slight improvement in the inquiry in Egyptian yarns, but sales of weight have been few and far between. Producers remain deeply sold, but since the beginning of the year there has been a tendency for order lists to run down in some quarters. Limited operations have occurred in piece goods for Egypt, and no better news is coming through from Constantinople. Demand for India has been very poor, business being confined to sorting up lots chiefly in finishing and printing styles. A fair amount of activity has shown itself for China in a variety of goods, and more producers are selling their production into next year. Rather less activity has been reported for South America. The home trade has given steady support in fancies. A limited trade has transpired in American yarns for home use, but moderate contracts have been put through in bundles for India.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.—The market has been more animated during the past week, but buying still remains very restricted.

Sultanas.—There is a fairly firm demand for this commodity, and the market could absorb very considerable supplies.

Sugar.—There has been a pronounced lack of business in raw, but prices have been fully maintained, which clearly emphasises the general position with regard to stocks. A steady tone has characterised the refined market. Prices in America have declined slightly. There is no fresh news from Cuba.

Coffee.—Sales have been brisk, and the tone of the market has been strong, particularly as regards qualities of Costa Rica and East Indian, supplies of which are not nearly sufficient to meet requirements. Prices here have ruled above the level obtaining in America, which should attract consignments of Costa Rica. Prices for various qualities here ruled as follows:—Costa Rica has been done at from 170s. to 180s., Mocha at from 170s. to 186s., Indian at from 158s. to 167s., and Brazil from 128s. to 131s. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are for May 125s. 6d., for July 125s. 3d., for September 121s. 9d., and for December 119s. 6d.

In their weekly report Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson state that with the steady rise in the dollar exchange a gradual increase in values might have been expected to be seen in the New York market. Possibly merchants are confining themselves to very conservative commitments until confidence can be felt that rates are really stabilising themselves at, or about, to-day's level. Brazil does not offer freely meantime, and if she can continue to hold firm, any sustained inquiry from the United States should gradually improve prices, especially should Europe be able to increase her demands. Some nibbling has been heard of from Finland, no doubt a channel through which a reopening of trade with Russia would come. It's a far cry yet before anything in force, we fear, could materialise in trade from that quarter. We mention it merely as a passing rumour and for what it is worth. There are, however, possibilities before this season has run its course, and this period of quietude might well prelude a return to activity and completely changed conditions. Coffee could have been bought March 17 to 21 last year, December position, at 13.75 to 14.00, and sold in June at 24.00. There are many things that might move the market mercurially before this season is over.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been closing rather quieter, La Plata being done at 53s. Rapeseed has been steady, with Toria to Hull, March-May, coming to business at 51s. 6d. Cottonseed has been very dull, Egyptian being done round about 27s. There have been offers for season of 60s., but 5s. more can be obtained on the Continent, so little business is likely here pending a further advance in quotations.

Oilcakes, etc.—Linseed oil has been steady at 125s. spot and 123s. March-April. Rape oil closed firm at 137s. for refined and 128s. for crude. Cotton oil has been rather quiet, with Egyptian deodorised quoted 130s. and crude 115s. Turpentine has firmed to 246s. 6d. spot, while the quotation for May-August is 184s., and for July-December 143s. 6d. The position as regards oilcakes is unchanged.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report for the week ended February 20:—We have to report a fairly active market this week, with sales amounting to 42 cases of our usual druggist manufacturing qualities at 15s. 6d. to 20s. per lb. c.i.f. port of destination. The weather has been exceedingly cold, with 10 to 20 degrees centigrade of frost in Karahissar, Konia, and other high plateaux opium districts; this protracted cold weather stops all field work, and, naturally, will be conducive to a shorter crop this year. The exchange dropped a bit at the beginning of the week, but recovered again yesterday. We quote cheque on London ps. 414 per pound sterling, and 0.82 dollars per Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,490 cases, against 165 at same date last year. We reckon our opium year from June to May; therefore above arrivals are from June 1, 1919.

For the week ended February 28 Messrs. Barker Brothers state:—"We have to report a very firm market, with sales amounting to eighteen cases Karahissar at 18s. 6d. per pound c.i.f. Two large buyers were on the market, but sellers refused their bid of 18s. for Karahissar owing to our stock of this quality being almost depleted

Greek Five per Cent. Funding Loan of 1893.—Coupons due April 1 should be presented for payment between 11 and 2 at Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, 70, Old Broad Street.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Bibby Line s.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on March 24.

The Henderson Line s.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Glasgow on March 24.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines) steamer Polo, for Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, Jaffa, Cyprus, etc.), will leave Liverpool on March 27.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines) steamer Belgravian, for Algiers, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on March 24.

The Moss Line s.s. Siptah, for Algiers, Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Beyrout direct, will leave Liverpool on March 25.

The Anchor Line s.s Freinfels, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on March 23.

The Cunard s.s. Corby, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Syra, Piræus, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on March 20.

The Bibby Line s.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on March 24.

The Clan Line s.s. Clan Robertson, for Bombay and Persian Gulf, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on April 1.

New Ellerman Liner.

There was launched recently by Messrs. Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., at Wallsend-on-Tyne, the single-screw steamer City of Brisbane, built to the order of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd., of Liverpool. The christening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Stevenson, wife of Captain W. M. Stevenson, Marine Superintendent of the Hall Line, Liverpool. The City of Brisbane has a cruiser-shaped stern, and her leading dimensions are 462 ft. 9 ins. in length between perpendiculars, 58 ft. 5 ins. in width, with a moulded depth of 33 ft. 5 ins. The ship is being built to Lloyd's highest class, and is designed to carry nearly 12,000 tons d.w. on a draught of 27 ft. 10 ins. The engines, which consist of double reduction geared turbines of the Brown-Curtis type, and also the boilers, are being built by the Wallsend Slipway and Engineering Co., Ltd., Wallsend-on-Tyne.

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

Position at Baku.

The directors of the Baku Consolidated Oilfields have issued a circular in which they state that telegraphic advices from Baku, dated March 2, show that industrial life follows its usual course, though the exploitation of the oilfields is retarded at present by the scarcity of drilling material and the lack of transport facilities. Steady progress is being made in consolidating the working of the four amalgamated companies, and the monthly production of petroleum from old wells is maintained at about 435,000 poods, or 7,000 tons It is desirable, however, that provision should now be made for development work on a scale commensurate with the magnitude and importance of the company. With this object in view large orders must be placed for drilling machinery, casing, etc., and substantial cash deposits paid in respect of such orders. Not only have the prices of all oilfields material risen enormously owing to the war, but the pressure on the resources of manufacturers entails considerable delay in obtaining deliveries. It would, therefore, be unwise to await the re-establishment of normal conditions before placing orders for the necessary machinery and plant. It is added that the financial position of the undertaking is thoroughly sound, and that its properties have been uninjured by military measures or civil commotion.

U.S. Fuel Oil Stations.

An announcement has been made by the United States Shipping Board regarding the establishment of fuel oil stations to supply the bunkering for vessels of the United States Shipping Board outside the United States. The stations for which tentative arrangements have been made include, it is understood, Constantinople, Bizerta in Algeria, and Colombo, each having three tanks with a capacity of 165,000 barrels. It is expected that these stations will be ready for operation shortly.

Since the inauguration of civilian aviation in Great Britain on May 1, 1919, until March 6, 1920, the records of the Handley Page commercial aeroplanes are as follows:—Total number of passengers carried, 4,217; total amount of freight carried, 50,653 lb.; total mileage covered, 82,428. The above figures include passenger flights at Cricklewood, London, in the United Kingdom and foreign countries, and passengers and freight carried on the London, Paris, and Brussels air services. On the Handley Page continental air service between September 2, 1919, and March 6, 1920, 764 passengers and 23,344 lb. of freight have been carried over a distance of 47,545 miles.

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COMPANY MEETING.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

The thirtieth ordinary general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held on March 15 at the Cannon Street Hotel, Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., the chairman, presiding.

The manager and secretary (Mr. Sydney Rogers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Our financial year ends, as you know, on September 20 Therefore, as you will remember, the first half of the year with which we are now dealing was an unquiet period, owing to the disturbances I alluded to last April —namely, the Jungalee rebellion at Resht, and the unsettled conditions in the South, following the investment of Shiraz by the Kashgais. But since April, apart from some symptoms of unrest here and there, and the anxieties connected with the disturbed conditions beyond the northern frontiers, Persia has been at peace. Under the wise administration of his Highness Vossough ed Dowleh, the present Prime Minister, and of his colleagues, the country is gradually settling down. Business is reviving; all our branches have been actively at work, with the exception of Sultanabad, which shortage of staff has prevented our reopening, and if, as we shall all devoutly hope, Persia is not exposed to any fresh attack from without, either in the form of military operations or of aggressive Bolshevist propaganda, there is reason to believe that the country will speedily recover from the effects of the war and regain its former prosperity.

The period since last spring has been distinguished by three notable events. First, the conclusion of the important Anglo-Persian Agreement, which was signed in Teheran in August last. Secondly, the memorable visit to this country of H.I.M. the Shah, accompanied by his distinguished Foreign Minister, Prince Firouz Nosrat ed Dowleh; and, lastly, the grant to the Persian Railway Syndicate of permission to carry out the survey of a railway from the Mesopotamia border through Hamadan to Teheran, with a branch to Enzeli on the Caspian. No events could show more clearly the progressive character of the present Government and their determination not to be left behind in carrying out their share of the work of reconstruction which must everywhere follow the war. His Majesty's visit can hardly fail to strengthen and confirm the friendly relations which have so long existed between our two countries.

The Anglo-Persian Agreement.

You will remember that under the Agreement the British Government undertakes to supply the Persian Government with expert advisers in some of the departments of administration. For the most important of these posts—the Financial Adviserships —Mr. Sydney Armitage-Smith, C.B., a very able and distinguished Treasury official, has been selected, and he sailed for Persia ten days ago. I need hardly say that it will be not only the business, but the privilege and pleasure, of the officials of the bank as the State Bank of Persia, to do all in their power to assist and co-operate with the Persian Government and their official adviser in the important work of financial reform, on which the progress of the country will so largely depend. Another matter provided for by the Agreement is the revision of the Customs tariff, which is now, I believe, under discussion in Teheran.

You will also have seen from the statement which appeared in the newspapers that the bank is one of the members of the Railway Syndicate. I venture to think that the Persian Government have shown much wisdom in deciding that the first railway to be made should be one connecting their capital with Baghdad. When the gaps in the Baghdad railway are completed the construction of the Persian line will place Teheran in direct railway communication with Europe. The effect on the trade and general business of the country cannot fail to be considerable, and the project is one more likely than any other to be rapidly remunerative. It is also hoped that the line from Mohammerah *via* Dizful to Hamadan, which was partially surveyed by the Railway Syndicate before the war, will at a later date be taken in hand. This is an important line, as it will provide the fertile districts of North-Western Persia with access to the Persian Gulf by the shortest route. Of course, the ability of the Persian Government to finance these and other great projects will depend entirely on sound financial administration and the increase of revenue which may confidently be expected to follow.

I may add that in May last we decided to open an agency in Bombay. We expect the agency to be of great value in financing the increasing trade of India with Persia. In saying that trade with India is increasing, I may explain that this is an inference drawn from the active demand for exchange on India during the past year, and also from the returns of the receipts of the Southern Customs, which have been very satisfactory.

I will now draw your attention to the balance-sheet. Although the past year has not been free from difficulty and anxiety, I think you will agree that the figures we are able to present to you show increased strength and progress and a satisfactory extension of business, the total on each side of the account amounting to no less than £10,076,808, as against £7,716,747 a year ago.

The reserve account, you will see, now stands at £250,000. Notes in circulation have increased from £667,153 to £1,169,201. Deposits have risen from £1,789,368 to £2,830,064. Bills payable are £5,184,733, against £4,337,837. On the other side of the account, cash in hand, at bankers, and money at call in London are £2,103,003, while last year they stood at £1,392,389. A satisfactory feature is that Treasury Bills have decreased from £2,350,000 to £1,000,000, showing a greater utilisation of our resources in the business of the bank, whilst investments, now standing at £2,731,079, and consisting largely of National War Bonds, mostly redeemable at a short date, will give you an idea of the support the directors have thought it their duty to give to the Government towards financing the large commitments of the nation for the cost of the war. The increase in bills discounted, loans, and advances from £1,996,274 to £3,241,933 is another indication of the extension of the bank's business in Persia arising from the causes I explained to you last year.

Appropriation of the Profits.

Of the profit and loss account I need say very little, as the figures are much the same as last year. The net profit, after providing for all charges, including income-tax, excess profits, depreciation of investments, and an ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £80,235 3s. 8d.—only £2,901 less than that of last year. The sum brought in is £27,388 3s. 10d., making a total of £107,623 7s. 6d. Of this total the amount due to the Persian Government absorbs £4,814 2s. 3d. We have allotted £5,000 to writing down our bank premises account You will, I am sure, be glad to see that we have again added £30,000 to reserve; £40,000 represents the two dividends paid of 3s. and 5s. per share, and we carry forward £27,809 5s. 3d. In all the circumstances I think that you may regard these results as satisfactory. I would ask you to bear in mind that Persia is not yet out of the wood. There are obvious risks and dangers to the peace of the country arising out of the state of affairs in the North, on the Turkish and Russian borders, which it would be foolish to ignore. It is essential for the present that we should be more than usually cautious and conservative in our finance.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted. The retiring directors, Mr. H. E. R. Hunter and Colonel Sir A. Henry McMahon, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., were re-elected, and Messrs. Kemp, Sons, Sendell, and Co., chartered accountants, were reappointed auditors to the bank.

On the motion of Sir J. Rees, seconded by Colonel Westropp, a vote of thanks to the chairman was passed, and the proceedings then terminated.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Bengal Dooars Railway.

The report of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company for the year ended September 30 states that the capital expenditure during that period amounted to £8,166. The results for the year were as follows:—Gross earnings, Rs.16,62,419; decrease, Rs.77,247; working expenses, Rs.8,59,620; increase, Rs.1,24,132; net earnings, Rs.8,02,799; decrease, Rs.2,01,379; net earnings in sterling (less Indian income-tax), £50,175; decrease, £12,586; gain by exchange, £6,492; increase, £2,024. The amount at credit of net revenue account is £50,623 Out of this sum the directors have placed £4,000 to credit of reserve fund, bringing it, with interest, up to £163,107, and the directors recommend a final dividend of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary stock and a bonus of 2 per cent. (both subject to tax), carrying forward £24,623. Meeting, Gresham House, E.C., March 25, 3.15 p.m.

Constantinople Telephone.

The United Kingdom representative of the Constantinople Telephone Co., in a circular to holders of obligations, announcing that a meeting will be held at Winchester House on March 24, states that the unpaid interest for the war period and the amounts owing to the contractors at the outbreak of war has engaged the serious attention of the directors. The company claims from the Turkish Government indemnities which include arrears of interest, but no progress can yet be reported. The directors propose the immediate discharge of these arrears by the issue of certificates bearing interest. The interest, including the coupon due July 1, 1919, amounts to £30 on each obligation. The total tax per obligation is £9, which makes the amount due on each obligation £21. It is proposed to issue a certificate for an even £20, and pay the balance of £1 in cash. The certificates will fall due for payment in 1934, and will carry 6 per cent. per annum, having half yearly coupons for 12s. each. It is proposed at the same time to defer the payment of the principal sum of the obligations for five years to June 30, 1934, and to extend the right of conversion into shares from June 30, 1917, to June 30, 1923. The total overdue interest on obligations, including the July, 1919, coupon, is £60,000, and the amount due to contractors and others is £40,000. It is intended to issue similar certificates to the contractors. It is proposed that the coupon due January 1, 1920, shall be paid in cash. The working since taking over the undertaking on April 1, 1919, justifies the expectation that in the absence of any further adverse exchange conditions or other untoward circumstances arising, the interest on the obligations and certificates will be duly met. At an informal meeting of a number of large holders of obligations recently held, it was unanimously agreed to accept the above proposal. At a meeting of the largest creditors it was also agreed to accept the proposal. The directors are advised that there is no provision in the statutes of the company or in Turkish law whereby a majority can bind a minority of holders in such matters. The acceptance of the scheme is therefore a matter of individual judgment, but the directors are not prepared to proceed with it unless it be generally approved. Attendance at the meeting, when the whole position will be considered, is particularly invited.

A branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank will be opened at Tunis on April 1 next.

The directors of the Eastern Bank recommend a final dividend on shares numbered 1 to 150,000 of 4s. per share, less tax (making 8¾ per cent. for the year), placing £40,000 to the reserve fund, and carrying forward £29,951.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

STAMBOUL, February 21.

Imports.

In manufactured goods the market has been quieter than during the preceding weeks. Transactions are further reduced owing to the lack of demand for Russia and Anatolia. This circumstance, together with the enormous present stocks, has caused prices to fluctuate notwithstanding the decrease in arrivals from England and the constant rise of prices at the centres of production. Owing to the stagnation the restriction in the circulation of money has made itself more and more keenly felt.

This movement comes to add its weight to other difficulties, such as the exorbitant increase in the rents of shops and warehouses, which, in general, have increased more than tenfold in the interval of one year.

Produce.

Sugar.—The rise in prices continue, aggravated by the firmness of prices ruling at centres of production, the lack of arrivals, and the rise of the dollar. Present quotations: £107-108 (against £102 last week) per ton for sugar in transit, and £T.56-57 per 100 kilos in Customs. The stock here is still further reduced. It is estimated at about 100 wagons.

Coffee.—This commodity has risen by several piastres per oke. Rio in transit quoted at Ps.62-75, according to quality. Santos in transit quoted at Ps. 75-85, according to quality. For coffee in Customs prices are increased by Ps.16 per oke.

Oil.—Prices stationary at £T.7.40-7.50 per case. No arrivals this week.

Exports.

The market is generally calmer owing to the slackening in the demand and the progressive exhaustion of stocks.

Opium.—Fifty cases have been sold at the same prices as those realised last week—namely, £T.9½-£T.9¾ per oke for druggist and £T.11 for fine.

Cereals.—The heavy arrivals from the interior have again brought about a fluctuation in the prices of a piastre per oke. Wheat (tender) I., Ps.15; (tender) II., Ps.14½; (hard), Ps.13¾; barley, Ps.6¾-7. The arrivals for the week have risen to 240 wagons of wheat, 50 of barley, and 31 of flour. Flour has fallen by £T.½ per sack. Native at £T.13-13½ per sack, American at £T.14.

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For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take

WILKINSON'S (Estd. since 1829)

ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

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(The best "Pick-Me-Up")

Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.—"We recommend your Jamaica Sarsaparilla."—MEDICAL REVIEW.

"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.

The late LORD CLYDE said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."

"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.

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World-wide Reputation for over Three-Quarters of a Century.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

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EGYPT.
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CYPRUS.
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(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

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PROPOSED YUGOSLAV INDUSTRIAL BANK.

The Department of Overseas Trade are informed that the Minister of Mines and Forests of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes recently convoked a meeting of all the heads of the provincial Governments, at which it was proposed to establish a big "Privileged Industrial Bank." The object of this bank would be to assist in financing all industrial enterprises in the country, apparently with a view to establishing a form of nationalisation.

The project has emanated from the idea of safeguarding the exploitation of the national resources of the kingdom. The function of this bank will be to contribute to the national organisation of industry, which, in the opinion of the promoters of this scheme, should be established and exploited under native control as far as possible, until it becomes completely independent of foreign capital.

A capital of one hundred million dinars is at present promised as a preliminary effort. It is proposed to issue shares, 50 per cent. of which will go to private individuals, the remainder being taken up by the State. The State would not, however, acquire its shares by payment from Treasury funds. Its participation would consist in investing 50 per cent. of the shares which revert to it in virtue of the nationalisation of industrial enterprises operating by the aid of foreign capital. In this way it is considered the Government would establish sound relations with all the industrial undertakings of the country. The bank would seek to develop industry and improve economic conditions generally, and its duty would be to watch over and co-ordinate all effort in this direction. There is not yet, however, any very clear definition of the scheme, which is apparently still in a preliminary state.

NEW COMPANIES.

British Sinai Petroleum.

The British Sinai Petroleum Co., Ltd., has been registered, with a capital of £500,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To acquire and turn to account any oil, petroleum, and mineral-bearing lands, and claims, options, and concessions over such properties, and to enter into an agreement with the British Burmah Petroleum Co., Ltd. Minimum cash subscription, seven shares. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Registered office, 6, Queen Street Place, E.C.

Levant Iron and Machinery.

The Levant Iron and Machinery Co., Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £25,000 18s. in 5,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of 1s. each. Objects: To carry on at Constantinople and elsewhere the business of importers of and dealers in metals, agricultural implements, electrical, and other machinery and implements, etc. The first directors are: W. J. Whittall, Impasse Whittall, Grande Rue de Moda, Constantinople; G. A. Chisnell, 146, Grande Rue Mahmondich, Galata, Constantinople. The Board of Trade authorises the company to acquire parts of the undertakings of J. W. Whittall and Co., Ltd., and George Chisnell and Co., Ltd., the books and documents of which undertakings are liable to inspection under the Trading with the Enemy Act. Registered office: 8, Serjeants Inn, E.C.

Assam Oil.—The directors of the Assam Oil Company have declared a final dividend for the year 1919 of 3½ per cent. on the preference shares, payable March 31 to holders registered March 24.

Mysore Gold.—The transfer books in respect of the new shares Nos. 610,001/1,220,000 were closed on March 15 for the purpose of preparing notices of the instalment of 2s. 6d. per share payable on April 1.

Sir William S. Meyer, late Finance Member of the Government of India, will read a paper before the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts on March 19 on "The Indian Currency System and Its Developments." The chair will be taken by Lord Chalmers.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

There has been rather more activity this week in Egyptian securities with a certain amount of irregularity in prices. On the whole, the tendency has been a favourable one.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds are closing a point higher at 75⅜, and the 3½ per cent. prefs. are ¾ up at 62½; but, whilst there has been a fairly large turnover in the former, business in the latter has been very limited owing to the great scarcity of sellers. City of Alexandria bonds have improved half a point to 66.

In bank shares Nationals, after rising to 23¾ on the excellent final dividend of £1 per share, making 28s. for the whole year, relapsed on profit-taking to 23, but are closing only 3-16ths lower at 23 5-16; Agriculturals, after losing ¼, close only ⅛ down at 5 7-16, and the prefs. are 1-16th off at 6 7-16. Anglo Egyptian Banks have recovered ¼ to 20. Ottoman banks are half a point down at 10¾.

In land shares the market has been very firm. Aboukirs have improved 6d. to 45s. 6d. Béhéras are half a point up at 21½: Delta Lands had a sudden move to 20s., a rise of 2s. 6d., and New Egyptians close 1s. 3d. higher at 36s. 3d. Sidi Salems are ¼ up at 3, and to-day Gharbieh Lands and Union Foncières have both jumped half a point to 4 and 6 respectively. This improvement has been due to buying orders from Egypt, and sellers on this side have recently been exceedingly scarce. There has been a set-back in Allotments to 3¾, a fall of ¼, and Sudan Plantations close 5-16ths lower at 7¾.

Amongst miscellaneous shares Markets are 6d. lower at 22s. 6d., while Salts have improved 1s. 6d. to 59s.

In oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B have dropped ⅛ to 4⅛, but Roumanians are 9d. higher at 22s. 6d.

In Greek securities there has been a general advance on the exceedingly satisfactory interest payments on the old loans, which, for the first time since 1893, are to receive their interest in full. As a result, the 1881, 1884, 1890, and 1893 loans are all two points higher at 56. The 1887 Loan has also risen 2 points to 48, whilst the 1889 Loan is 5 points up at 50.

"THE FINANCIER" RUBBER SHARE HANDBOOK.

The 16th edition of "The Financier" Rubber Share Handbook," which has just been issued, gives in a precise and readily accessible form just the information required by those interested in rubber companies. It can without reservation be recommended to the investor; indeed, it would not be going too far to say that now that the outlook for the industry is more interesting than it has been for a very long period his armoury would be complete without it.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders has received information that the surplus of the revenues assigned to the service of the Greek Debt in respect of last year will permit of the payment this year of the full original interest on the loans of each of the three groups. As regards sinking fund, the additions this year will be 30 per cent. of the original interest in the case of groups I. and II. and 32 per cent. in the case of group III. The whole of the additional interest is payable on the April coupon in the case of the Funding loan and rentes, on the June coupon in the case of the five per cent. loan of 1890, and on the July coupon in the case of the Monopoly loan and the five per cent. loans of 1881 and 1884.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 3:—Rain nearly general in Assam and local in North-West Frontier Province, Bengal, and South Burma. Dry elsewhere. General crop conditions good. Fazilka-Abohar railway survey (Ferozepore District, Punjab) by North-Western State Railway, 24 miles sanctioned. Bombay Cotton Market irregular. Fully good Broach April-May Rs.491 8 annas. Piecegoods market quiet, very little demand. Calcutta jute market very quiet. Quotations nominal. Hessians quiet with slight decline in prices. Heavy goods very quiet and easier. No change in Bank Rates.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price March 8	Price March 15
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28	28
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	65½	66
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	74⅜	75⅜
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	61⅜	62⅜
Greek 5%, 1881	54	56
Do. 5%, 1884	54	56
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	46	48
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	50
Do. 5% 1890	54	56
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	54	56
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	52½	52½
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	43	43
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	60	60
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	9½	75
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69½	69½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	59	59
Do. 4% Unified	32	32
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5 9/16	5 7/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6½	6 7/16
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68¾	68¼
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70¾	70¼
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	19½	20
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7 7/32	7⅜
Bank of Roumania	5½	5½
British Trade Corporation	9⅛	9⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11¾	10¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	9¼	9⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
London County and Westminster	14⅜	14⅜
National Bank of Egypt	23½	23 9/16
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6 9/16	6 9/16
Do. 5% Debs.	71	71
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	49½	47½
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	40	41
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	50⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66¼	66¼
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	45/-	45/6
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	17/6	17/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	3⅜
Béhéra Co.	21	21½
Do. Pref.	3¾	3½
Building Lands of Egypt	32/-	32/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/5 paid)	3/1½	3/1½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	17/6	20/-
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	17/-	17/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	3¾	4
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	31/3	31/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	7
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	72	72
New Egyptian Co.	35/-	36/3
Sidi Salem Co.	2¾	3
Sudan Plantations	8 7/16	7¾
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5¾	6
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	12/-	12/-
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	**32/6**	**32/6**
Egyptian Hotels	**50/-**	**50/-**
Do. Markets Ord.	**23/-**	**22/6**
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	**86½**	**86½**
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	**57/6**	**59/-**
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	**99⅛**	**99⅛**
Khedivial Mail Ord.	**5⅜**	**5⅜**
Do. Do. Prefs.	**3⅜**	**3⅜**
Levant Co. (fully paid)	**19/9**	**18/10½**
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	**19/6**	**19/6**
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	100⅜	101
Chinese 4½% 1898	62⅜	62⅜
Do. 5% 1896	77½	74⅜
Argentine 5% 1890	78	76½
Do. 5% 1907	85	84
OIL.		
Algerian	5/1½	4/3
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	4¼	4¼
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/9	23/-
Do. 5% Debs.	82½	23½
Anglo-Roumanian	7/4½	7/4½
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/1⅞	4/9
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	12/-	10/4½
Roumanian	21/9	22/1½
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	7/-	6/3
Traian (Roumanian)	9/10½	10/1½

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WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 4, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Feb. 12. Rs.	Feb. 19. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	60½	60½
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	298
Bank of Bengal	1900	1765
Bank of Bombay	2500	2480
Bank of Madras	1800	1800
Bank of India	134½	141
Tata Industrial Bank	57½	51¾
COAL.		
Baraboni	15¼	14½
Bengal	800	800
Burrakur	45¾	44¾
East Indian	40	40
Equitable	42½	42
Pench Valley	350	335
Raneegunge	63	61¾
Standard	71	66x
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	490	480
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	3300	3660
Bowreah	950	880
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	750
Cawnpore	210	210
Century	1085	1100
Central India	3875 / 1937½	3830 / 1915
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	2600	1800
Khatau Makanji	—	750
Muir	286⅜	254x
New Ring	700	700
Phœnix	1050	1110
Svadeshi	3880	3900
JUTE.		
Alliance	800	730
Barnagore	168	160
Budge Budge	650	615
Clive	295	280
Dalhousie	533	505
Delta	660	620
Fort Gloster	1020	1000
Gourepore	1300	1325
Howrah	47⅓	45¼
Kamarhatty	918x	875
Kanknarrah	745x	720
Khardah	560	550
Kinnison	1100	1030
National	440	410
Standard	684	675
Union	870	830
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	700	700
Burn and Co.	350	300
Carew and Co.	91	91
Cawnpore Sugar	360	352
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	350	350
Howrah Oil Mills	38⅓	32¼
India General Steam	155	155
Indian Iron and Steel	113½ / 53½	107½ / 47½
Marshall Sons and Co.	11½	11½
Titaghur Paper	338	318

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MARCH 5.

Supplied by G. L. Mortara, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	22½
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	70
" " Div.	Frs.	115
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	10⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	20⅛
" priv.	£	3½
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	78½
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1½
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5⅜
Société des Immeubles	£	7½
Bonded Stores	£	21⅞
Unifiée	£	75⅜
Privilégiée		63
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	10½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5 7/32
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3½
" Ord		106/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	37⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6 9/16
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	98
" Jouissance	Frs.	150
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		39/3
Egyptian Markets		23/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	430
" Div.	Frs.	400
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	295
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	8½
Egyptian Salt and Soda		57
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	655ex
" Fondateur	Frs.	—
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	436
" 1903 "	Frs.	300
" 1911 "	Frs.	280
Consolidated Land	P.T.	15
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1⅛
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	373
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	2
Urbaines & Rurales		3⅛
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅞
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1 3/32

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Mar. 8	Mar. 15
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	56⅜	55⅜
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½% * Redeemable.	71½	66
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		98½	98¼
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		65	70
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		67	68½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		85	86
Eastern		8 1/16	8 1/16
Mercantile of India A.		44	43⅜
National of India		61½	62¼
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		8/9	9/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/9	14/6
Burma Corp.		12⅜	12 1/16
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		11/4½	11/-
Champion Reef Gold		4/1⅜	4/0⅝
Mysore Gold Mining		20/6	19/-
Nundydroog		17/-	16/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		18/1½	18/1½
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		24/3	23/4½
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		47/6	48/1½
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		42/6	42/6
Brit. Burmah		4 9/16	4 9/16
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		19 7/16	18⅝
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅜	9⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		49	49
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		140⅝	139
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		50½	49⅜
Bengal-Nagpur		115	115⅜
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		104½	104½
Burma Railways		112¼	111
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13⅜	13½
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		14⅜	13
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		12⅞	13½
Madras and S. Mahratta		112	112
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		127½	127½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		81½	83
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		—	—
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		84½	84⅜
Do. Deferred		580	571
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		64½	64
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16	16
British Indian Tea Ord.		8 3/16	8
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15¾	15¾
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		12/6	12/6
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		67/-	67/6
Consolidated Estates		—	47/8
Darjeeling Co.		2/-	19/9
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		60/-	3¼
Dooars Tea Ord.		57/6	60/3
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		18/-	19/-
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		66/3	67/9
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		35/6	34/6
Hewagam Rubber Co.		24/4½	24/4½
Jhanzie Tea Association		11 1/20	11 1/20
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		22⅜	22⅜
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		18/-	18/1½
Lanka Plantations Ord.		29/6	29/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		22/9	22/3
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		45/7½	44/6
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		12½	12½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		30/7½	30/-

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* April 15 about.

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BERRIMA	11,137	Mar. 24	—	Queensland
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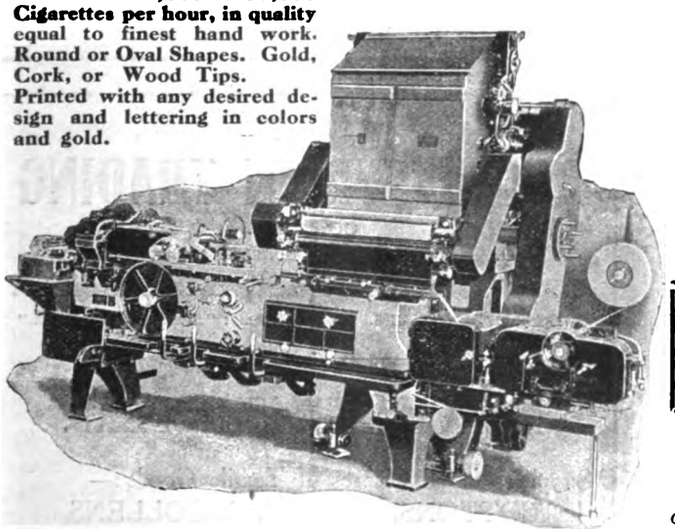

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 464.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The course of events in the Near and Middle East continues to serve as a reminder to the Allied Governments that they cannot count upon peace following a settlement which merely indicates boundaries and makes no definite arrangement for some form of benevolent supervision over the Turkey that is to be and its neighbours. Even if the Turks were to accept their fate in a proper spirit, it would still be necessary to prevent Armenians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis from attempts to introduce such alterations in the general settlement as might be prompted by local chauvinism; the Kurdish problem must almost inevitably defy final solution until the effect of the creation of an independent Armenia can be gauged: the Syrian question, too, is likely to be in a state of flux for some time to come. It would seem better, therefore, to admit at the outset the tentative nature of all arrangements regarding the new States——the new Turkey excepted—in order that the different peoples should realise that the presentation of a good case, and not a *coup de théâtre*, is all that is required to secure the modifications which they may consider essential. The great desideratum is that the various States should have something definite to go upon as soon as possible: it may be worse or it may be better than what they fear at present, but it will offer a definite meeting-ground for discussion, and should remove many of the existing difficulties that arise from misapprehension.

The appearance in Adrianople of an understudy to Mustapha Kemal need not at present be taken too seriously. He suffers from a disadvantage which the Nationalist leader in Asia Minor is spared—his headquarters are accessible to the Allies, and he could be surrounded without much difficulty. Provided that he has not taken extreme action against any British subjects in his power, it would be more satisfactory to have him dealt with by the Turkish Government, against whom, quite as much as against the Allies, his insubordination appears to be directed. In Constantinople itself the firm line taken by the Allied Governments is stated to have had satisfactory results. The Porte has made a formal protest, but there is little doubt that the Moderates find their hands strengthened, and that the Turkish peasantry will be encouraged to resist Nationalist exactions in which they have felt obliged to acquiesce hitherto for lack of support in the attitude which they would otherwise have adopted.

It is too early at present to gauge the full significance of the movement which has completed one stage with the declaration of the independence of Syria and the "coronation" of the Emir Feisal as King of Syria. When the Grand Shereef of Mecca threw off his allegiance to Turkey he proclaimed himself King of Arabia, and it was only a logical mind and a proper sense of proportion that made him content with the more accurate title of King of the Hejaz. The Emir Feisal is reported to be contemplating an Arab State that would comprise Lebanon, Mesopotamia, and Palestine as well as an undivided Syria, but he has hastened to announce that his acceptance of the Throne will not in any way affect the cordial relations between himself and the Allies. The latter will certainly not interfere with Syrian self-determination. They will, however, be within their rights in commending to the Pan-Syrians a sense of proportion and due recognition of facts. There are already signs that Lebanon may prove a rift within the lute, and it certainly remains to be seen whether the Arabs of Mesopotamia take more kindly to the idea of a ruler in Aleppo than they did to that ruler's father in Mecca. As far as her responsibility for Mesopotamia is concerned Great Britain would welcome a single authority that would overcome the centrifugal tendencies of the various Arab tribes and factions, but a *sine qua non* is that it should be accepted voluntarily by the dwellers in Mesopotamia and not have to be enforced by propaganda or more forcible methods.

The Indian Khalifate Delegation has made a very rash experiment. It has sought to justify by argument an agitation that had only fanaticism or misrepresentation behind it. The British public has a profound respect for religious beliefs and an equally profound contempt for lack of intelligence. When it is told that Indian Moslems are perturbed by their own fears lest interference with the Khalifate may be contemplated, it is prepared to lend a sympathetic ear, and it would certainly resent the intrusion of religious fanaticism (however much it may itself be victimised by this very evil) into a purely political settlement. Consequently, although it had been led to think that on general grounds the Turks would be better off if their Government quitted Constantinople, when the Moslem aspect of the question was raised it readily accepted the decision not to disturb the *status quo*. Such an attitude, however, is very different from an endorsement of the childish contentions which the Khalifate Delegation has advanced. As THE NEAR EAST has strongly urged the retention of the Turkish administration in Constantinople, we can speak on this

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subject without fear of misunderstanding. The four delegates have clearly failed to realise that, while every allowance is made for extravagance of speech at some large gathering swayed by fears or misunderstanding, the same latitude cannot be given to men claiming the ordinary degree of intelligence who pretend to base the same statements on reason and logic.

A petition of grievances, beginning, "We, the people of England . . .," was once presented to the House of Commons by three tailors of Tooley Street, Southwark. Mr. Lloyd George may possibly have recalled the fact when the spokesman of the delegation, in presenting its case to him last week, claimed to be speaking on behalf of the Moslem world. Unfortunately for the delegates, the claim was immediately stultified by the reckless assertion that "after the Balkan War the empire of the Khalif was reduced to such low limits that Moslems considered the irreducible minimum of temporal power adequate for the defence of the Faith to be the restoration of the territorial *status quo ante bellum*." Taxed by the Prime Minister with the Arab secession, Mr. Mohamed Ali sought refuge in the assertion: "We have come here in the interests of peace and reconciliation, and propose going to the Arabs and Turks for the same purpose." It was the beginning of a very complete discomfiture, which, unless we misjudge the Mohammedan intellect in India, will not be lost upon those for whom the delegation speaks, in spite of the bluster that followed Mr. Lloyd George's very emphatic reply, and the subsequent threats with which the spokesman of the delegates still further prejudices his case.

It is, indeed, fortunate for the Turks that their future is not in the hands of this particular Indian champion. He declared that if an International Commission of Inquiry established "that the Turks really had been guilty of atrocities and horrible crimes, then they would wash their hands of the Turks." Great Britain, on the other hand, we trust, will not wash her hands of the Turks. Fully conscious of all that has been perpetrated in the past, she will, it is to be hoped, take up, *mutatis mutandis*, the work which she has done in, among other places, India, where she saved the Moslems from the fate that has overtaken so many millions in the Turkish Empire. Mr. Mohamed Ali was reminded that the Turkish representatives at Paris had admitted that their Government had been guilty of atrocities and crimes not only against 800,000 Christians, but also against 3,000,000 Moslems; but we have not yet heard that he has washed his hands of the Turks.

Mr. Lloyd George was able to remind the Delegation that neither the British Government nor the Supreme Council had had to wait for its arrival to hear the opinion of Moslem India on the subject of the Turkish settlement. He then proceeded to state certain incontrovertible facts. The war with Turkey was no crusade against Islam, but was brought on by Turkey suddenly slamming the gates in the face of an old ally who had always stood by her, and who had no quarrel with her of any sort or kind at that time. The absence of any prejudice to Islam was shown by the fate of Austria-Hungary, a Christian country, which had suffered a worse fate than Turkey. The same principles had been applied to both with more disastrous results to Austria. They were the principles of self-determination applied to empires which have forfeited their title to rule. As for temporal power the Turk will exercise it in Turkish lands, and he will not exercise it over lands which are not Turkish, because the same principles must be applied to the Turk and to the Christian communities of Europe. It was a question not of race nor of religion, but of the world's concern in large tracts of territory being laid waste by misgovernment. The question for Islam to answer was whether it was really proud of Turkish dominion. It is the one question which has been burked in India, because the answer would prove that the agitation is not based upon any genuine solicitude for Turkey, but is intended to serve a wholly different end.

A definite stage in the programme of measures for the material development of India is marked by the constitution of the Board of Industries under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Holland, who, as already announced, will work directly under the Viceroy pending the reorganisation of the Executive Council. The most interesting feature of the new Board is the presence on it of Mr. A. C. Chatterjee, C.I.E., the most distinguished Indian now in the ranks of the Civil Service, whose appointment we regard as a guarantee that Labour questions will from the outset receive the attention which undoubtedly they deserve. Mr. Chatterjee has special qualifications for handling these questions. An economist of recognised position, his long experience as Registrar of Co-operative Societies has given him first-hand knowledge of the mentality of the working-classes, knowledge which has already been utilised by his deputation to the International Conference at Washington; and his past record justifies the anticipation that Indian workers will find in him a wise and sympathetic friend.

The work before the new Board was clearly defined in the statement made last week in Parliament by Mr. Fisher, who is still representing the Secretary of State. Mr. Fisher declared that it is settled policy to improve the condition of Indian workers as rapidly as possible, and scarcely a day passes without fresh indications of the urgency of action in this direction. According to recent cables many of the Bombay mill hands have been "out" again, not on account of new grievances, but in connection with the big strike of January, and we are surely justified in saying that, when strike breeds strike, the conditions call for drastic change. Before this latest development the *Times of India* had urged the establishment of a permanent board of arbitration, but our contemporary had to recognise that the want of organisation among the workers would greatly increase the difficulties of such an institution, and that is the real crux of the position: there is no prospect of progressive improvement until the workers can formulate their demands and press them in an orderly and constitutional manner.

This aspect of the question received some attention last month in a debate in the Indian Legislative Council on a proposal to appoint a Labour Commission. Sir Thomas Holland had no difficulty in showing that this particular proposal was inopportune, and that a general inquiry would serve only to delay remedial measures which are already on the anvil, but he had to admit that India has a long way to go before effective methods of collective bargaining can be brought into operation. The mover of the resolution attributed the delay in settling the Bombay strikes to the lack of any organised body to present the workers' case, and other speakers laid stress on the uncertainty attending the efforts of external leagues or committees, which can propound reasonable terms of settlement, but cannot guarantee that the workers will be reasonable. In the course of the last set of strikes some prominent employers in various parts of India declared explicitly that they would welcome the formation of genuine workers' organisations, and we take it that opinion is moving steadily in this direction, though unfortunately Western India seems to be lagging behind the other centres of industry.

Perhaps at this juncture a word of counsel to the Board of Industries may not be out of place. It is a new institution, and it should start at least abreast of the times, but in India old traditions are apt to persist, and already we seem to detect a tendency to rely too much on direct State action as the panacea for all sorts of evils. That is the doctrine of the India which is passing away, the India where for more than a century Englishmen have been wearing themselves out in the attempt to do things for the people. In the new India the people will do things for themselves, and in the time of transition the Englishman's main business is to train them in this habit. The Board of Industries will be entirely right in pushing forward their construc-

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tive programme of education, housing, and welfare, but at the same time it is their obvious duty to study this question of organising the workers in all its ramifications, to find out what forms of guilds, or unions, or associations are suited to the environment, and to facilitate organisation on the most efficient lines. Failing such action, it is now clear that the workers will organise themselves, and there is, unfortunately, no doubt that the lines on which they have started are about the worst that are possible—the choice does not lie between organisation and individualism, but rather between good organisation and bad.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Political Scene-Shifting.

The new alignment of parties has caused a great moving of political "property" behind the scenes, the noise of whose hasty shifting on the other side of the safety curtain has not been altogether drowned by the loud newspaper chorus during the *entr'acte*. The title of the new comedy is not yet settled, but Mr. Lloyd George, as stage manager, is cast for the principal part; Mr. Bonar Law may be either patient Griselda or unfortunate Desdemona (smothered by a Coalition pillow as a reward of too great trust in the hero); Mr. Asquith is shaping well as the honest, ineffective Cassio: and Labour is the villainous Iago. (The old-fashioned Liberals and Unionists are merely "noises without," and they do not appear to care for it.)

Labour is very angry at the rôle assigned to it, and indignantly repudiates the label of Bolshevism which the Prime Minister has attached to its coat-tails. The description notoriously only applies to a sprinkling of extremists, but the Prime Minister appears to think it will serve his purpose. Apparently it will, for Labour has permitted itself to be outmanœuvred; it cuts no figure in the House of Commons at the moment, in spite of its numbers, and none of its speakers have issued a really convincing answer to Mr. Lloyd George's account of its activities. It has furnished us with a curious study in political ineptitude, and the shadow of Mr. Henderson's ponderous activities is over all its doings.

The real opposition to the anticipated fusion of the Coalition came from the Liberal members of the Cabinet, whose objection to play the part of dumb-driven cattle caused some little surprise. As they have not resigned, however, and show no signs of doing so, their reluctance need not be taken more seriously than that of "ville qui parle et femme qui écoute." Events are driving them and the Unionists steadily into the same fold, and one of the facts which meets them at every turn is the country's hatred of party politics, and its desire to make up the leeway of five years' lost work. For that reason, and because it can see no alternative either in the handful of Independent Liberals or the Labour battalions (and also because these two will not coalesce), it wants the present Government to carry on.

The fact that the Coalition feels itself stronger than for some time past is shown by the series of Cabinet changes, which involve seven by-elections in various parts of the country. These would have afforded a good index of opinion, but for the fact that in several of the constituencies the issue will be hopelessly confused by the presence of half a dozen or more candidates. In these circumstances each party will claim that had it not been for the intervention of the independent it would have won.

The Coalition, dissatisfied with its name, is still hunting for a more satisfactory title, and is considering the alternatives of "National Democrat" and "National Reform." These things amuse the quidnuncs of Westminster, but they do not disturb the rest of the country; of more importance is the evidence that Mr. Lloyd George is preparing for a repetition of the "People's Budget" of 1909, which restored the falling fortunes of the then Liberal Government. Apparently the proposals for the revision of the income tax are to be accepted practically in their entirety, and since those proposals substantially lessen the burden of the millions who live on anything from £200 to £800 a year, this will undoubtedly secure a good number of votes all over the country. On the whole, and in spite of the hitch in the programme of fusion, the Government must be considered safe for a long time to come.

The Coming Budget.

It seems to be accepted on all hands that the coming Budget will not only relieve the small taxpayer but wipe out the Excess Profits Tax, and so assist the business community. On the other hand, the evidence given before the Committee that is inquiring into the levy on war profits continues to be so heavily adverse to that project that the City is becoming reassured as to the prospect of the tax being imposed.

It is scarcely necessary to add that it is hardly less opposed in principle to a tax on earned profits above a certain rate in proportion to the capital, and, in fact, the more the idea is examined, the less likely does it seem to give any promise of working satisfactorily. It has always been accepted as a fact that the return on capital must bear a considerable ratio to the risk of the enterprise, and it would be extremely difficult for the State to apportion the relative risks of starting, say, a draper's shop, a newspaper, a shipbuilding yard, and a new stockbreeding enterprise. On these grounds alone, it seems that the proposed tax must be either totally rejected, or else made so small as to be nugatory.

The German Revolution.

England has taken the German revolution very quietly. So far as it has had any effect, it appears to have strengthened the conservative tendencies at home: the country wants neither militarism nor Spartacism, and it has read the news from Berlin with the detached air of a physician watching a patient in the crises of a recurrent fever rather than with sympathy or a desire to start a crusade. There was no desire to intervene, but a very perceptible demand to "keep out of the mess"; and those few who hoped to use the revolution as a means of establishing co-operation between the two countries must have been surprised at the entire lack of response. It becomes more and more clear that there is no question of reconciliation, or of anything but formal relations, between England and Germany for many years to come.

Savings Bank Returns.

A return issued by the Government demonstrates the rather surprising fact that the deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank have gone up during the last six years by a very considerable number of millions. In some ways it indicates the conservatism of the depositors, for the 15s. 6d. War Savings Certificate is very much better value than the 2½ per cent. interest of the Savings Bank: but a good many of the deposits, I believe, are traceable to soldiers who have banked their gratuities and allow-

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Royal Exchange
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REPRESENTATIVES:
CALCUTTA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner. H. L. Bell, Gen. Man.
CAIRO: 48, Place de l'Opera. M. S. Harris, Gen. Man.
ALEXANDRIA: Societe Generale de Pressage et de Depots.
CYPRUS: Najem Houry & Sons.
CONSTANTINOPLE: Messrs. J. W. Whittall & Co., Ltd.
SMYRNA: Messrs. C. Whittall & Co.
JERUSALEM, JOPPA: Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited.

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ances, and some, of course, reflect the increased earnings of the working-classes.

As to this, we live in days when old and new ideas jostle one another incongruously. A country doctor told me that an old village patient, when paying his fee recently, drew out a stocking from under the bed filled with golden sovereigns. The medico advised Methusaleh to put it in a bank. "Nay—don't trust banks," was the laconic answer. "Then deposit it with the Government," suggested the doctor—the war was then on. "Government's worse than banks," muttered the sick man, as he pushed his hundred and fifty pounds back into the darkness. The whole scene might have come out of Barkis' room in "David Copperfield"—as a matter of fact, it took place in East Anglia.

On the other hand, a financier who has floated some of the recent companies tells me of an entirely new feature in the applications for shares. A few years ago, he said, one recognised two species only of investor—the big man or corporation that applied for a block of some thousands of stock and the ordinary small middle-class investor who wanted a hundred or so. The former, of course, flourishes; the latter, hard hit by prices, is becoming a rare and shy bird; but his place is being taken by the superior working-man, who applies for anything from twenty-five to ten shares, and often for a single one pound share. I should not have thought a single share much good to anybody as an investment, but I suppose the new class of investor is feeling his way. These small blocks of shares add to the book-keeping, and consequently to the overhead establishment costs of a company, but on the whole they are welcomed as adding to its stability.

The Football International.

Football is getting rather hot work these warm spring days, but an enormous crowd assembled on Saturday to see the last of the big internationals, between England and Scotland, which resulted in a victory for England by 13 points to 4. The upshot of the season is that Ireland has been definitely beaten all round, but between England, Scotland and Wales there has been little to choose. The presence of the King at several of these great functions has been much appreciated, and there are many who hope that he will be able to spare time from his State and social duties during the summer to attend some of the great county cricket matches as well.

The American Invasion.

The present year is the tercentenary of the Mayflower, which sailed from Plymouth, Devon, for Plymouth, New England, with the Pilgrim Fathers in 1620. The event, which followed the foundation of the Cavalier colony of Virginia and preceded the greater flow of Puritan emigration which founded Massachusetts and Connecticut, was of no great importance in itself, but it has stamped itself on the memory of people on both sides of the Atlantic, and the anniversary will be celebrated with enthusiasm both in the United States and in England this summer. Many thousands of Americans, most of whom no doubt claim more or less legitimate descent from the Mayflower, are coming to England this summer to visit the tombs of their ancestors; they will probably find less difficulty in discovering their forefathers than in obtaining hotel room, for most of them will probably make their headquarters in London, where the hotels are already overcrowded. However, it is hoped that one or two more of the great caravanserais will be evacuated by Government departments by then; several are already being hastily cleaned and refurnished in readiness.

Most of the visitors will probably explore East Anglia, the original home of the Independents and Nonconformists who furnished the bulk of the Puritan emigrants; Essex, Cambridge, and Huntingdon in particular were the centres of Puritanism, and most of the sleepy little towns of Essex, such as Braintree and Maldon, have records of old Puritan families which will appeal to the visitors. Even now, Nonconformity remains strong in that part of the world, and preserves something of the old rugged independence which it has lost in less conservative districts.

The City Churches.

The difficulties of Church finance, which have been mentioned in this column from time to time, are not likely to be much lightened by the forthcoming report on the City churches. Most of these churches are very comfortably beneficed, but owing to the movement of population their congregation usually consists of a couple of charwomen, a sexton, and a verger. Probably all but half-a-dozen of these places of worship could be closed at once without any spiritual loss whatever to the City—the idea that business men attend the luncheon-hour services on weekdays has little foundation—and the transfer of their endowments to the poorer suburbs would do a great deal of good.

The further suggestion is often made that many of the City churches could be pulled down, the ground de-consecrated, and the valuable sites sold to build churches where they are really required. This project is always denounced as vandalism, but, as a matter of fact, while a few of the City churches are really beautiful specimens of architecture, several of them are little more than barns, which have no pretensions to rank as masterpieces, whether by Wren or others.

Rebuilding the City.

It is evident that the whole subject will have to be taken in hand afresh now that the rebuilding of the City has become a matter of urgent practical importance. The shortage of offices is even worse than the shortage of houses, and rents are now absurd. A few weeks ago a firm which had occupied two rooms on the top floor of a house in a poor thoroughfare for many years past at a hundred a year vacated those premises; within twenty-four hours several offers had been received for the same two rooms—at a rent of a thousand a year. Business men are helpless, for the character of their work seems to tie them to certain thoroughfares, and they have to pay the penalty. A few of the daring spirits have moved to the West End, but the character of their *clientèle* entirely changes with the move, and most dare not risk emigrating from one particular street.

The remedy is obvious and painful—a modified sky-scraper. Many great businesses are carried on in intolerably inconvenient houses, originally family mansions of old City families. I remember once talking to a great man in the iron trade in his private office in Thames Street; it had once been a spare bedroom, but the only spacious rooms, those on the ground floor, were required for his innumerable clerks. This particular millionaire became so impatient with his spare-bedroom office than in the end he built huge premises further along the street, but that was in pre-war days. Half the offices in the City are not much better, although great blocks of offices were erected in Finsbury Pavement and elsewhere between 1900 and 1914, but the process will have to be continued much more vigorously in the future, unless business is to suffocate itself.

There is no difficulty about the architecture, as the office-blocks in Kingsway are dignified, convenient, and spacious, and the new buildings, even at the present high cost of construction, would probably pay for themselves in a few years. A few quaint old nooks might be swept away, but the gain would be enormously greater than the loss.

Sir Robert Mcrant.

The death of Sir Robert Morant deprives the Civil Service of one of its most forcible and brilliant heads, and the Ministry of Health, in particular, of one who was licking that young Department into shape with assiduous care—for Dr. Addison, excellent little man as he is, was only a Parliamentary figure-head, and the real work was done by the unseen autocrat behind the scenes. The smooth working of the Education Act of 1902 was largely due to Morant, and the Insurance Act, forerunner of the Ministry of Health, was almost entirely controlled by his administrative efficiency. His official life had still another eight years to run—he was only fifty-seven—and that would have been time enough to influence permanently the new Ministry. One can only hope that his work there was more forward than appears on the surface.

A Puritan Revival.

Something of a storm has been caused by a long denunciation from the Rev. F. B. Meyer, a prominent

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Nonconformist, of the materialism, luxury, and immorality of the day. Every age, of course, has heard these things, for even Savonarola was not the first of the castigators. I doubt whether the public take them very seriously, for the vast mass of people lead decent and orderly lives, and idealism lurks in many unsuspected places. The real gist of Dr. Meyer's crusade, which follows a recent objection by the Bishop of Chelmsford to such innocent things as whist-drives, and a number of protests against dancing, appears to be that he, and several others, desire to revive the old Puritanism. But the day for that seems to have gone by for good. It is a pity that these excellent pastors do not always distinguish between the ordinary amusements of young folk and the real evils of the day, which they might attack with rather more effect.

The Week's Books.

Far and away the most interesting book of the week, and one is almost tempted to say of the season, is "Wisden's Cricketers' Almanac," which now re-appears at half-a-crown instead of the familiar shilling of one's youth. It is as good as ever, although last year's county cricket was not; and if one does not quite believe the story of the sporting theological student who ranked it at a divinity examination between the Bible and the Apochrypha in the inspired literature of the world, one sees his point of view. For sheer accuracy it beats every historian from Thucydides downwards; for terseness it leaves Tacitus far behind; and I am not sure that the records of "a pair of spectacles" in a first-class match do not equal in poignancy the most tragic lines of Æschylus. Wisden is unique.

A solid but excellent biography of "Silvanus Phillips Thompson" (T. Fisher Unwin), by the relatives of that distinguished man, has reached me. It is one of the books that require slow reading, because they provoke thought on many different subjects. Lighter in tone, and, I am afraid I must add, less original, is Mrs. Courtney's "Freethinkers of the Eighteenth Century" (Chapman and Hall). a series of sympathetic sketches of men like Leslie Stephen, F. D. Maurice, Bradlaugh, and half-a-dozen others. It is rather curious that she should not have included John Stuart Mill, but it is certainly rather difficult to get up any enthusiasm over that particular luminary.

It is only necessary to mention the titles of new books by popular favourites like Eden Philpotts and H. A. Vachell. The former's "Miser's Money" (Heinemann) deals with Dartmoor once again, the latter's curiously named "Whitewash (Cassell) touches another part of rural Southern England. These, with Mr. W. J. Locke's "The House of Baltazar," may be considered the most important novels of the spring season.

The Poet Laureate publishes so little that one is inclined sometimes to forget his existence, but in "October and Other Poems" (Heinemann) Mr. Robert Bridges adds one more slim volume to his small record. Most of the contents of the present book consist of war lyrics. Dr. Bridges is too scholarly a poet to be widely read, and "distinguished" is the fatal adjective that is perhaps most easily applied to his work, but he has a small and devoted band of admirers, although he has frankly little in common with the contemporary tendencies of Georgian verse.

One of these days somebody will write an essay explaining why the good plays always go to the publishers, and the bad ones to the theatres. There appears to be a sort of class-war between the literary drama and what is, on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle, called the "legitimate." One of the best of the former that has come my way is "The Leper's Flute," by Ian D. Colvin (A. F. Bird), whose political verses are still remembered as the most incisive since the "Anti-Jacobin." "The Leper's Flute," however, knows no politics; it is pure poetry, and the drama is founded on a touching romance of old Cape Town. Much of the blank verse is in the grand manner which, after too long a sentimental diet of Tennyson-and-water, at last shows signs of coming back to us. Actors would probably shirk it, but the increasing public which loves the new school of English poetry will do well to add it to their bookshelf.

OCELLUS.

ARMENIANS STILL PERISHING

Two letters have just been received from Dr. W. A. Kennedy, our Agent at Adana. The following are extracts:—

February 25, 1920.

"As far as can be estimated at present at least 13,000 or 14,000 of the Armenians of Marash have perished. Out of 23,000 about 8,500 now remain in the city and quiet has been restored under Turkish authority; all French troops having been evacuated. They have fallen back on Islahieh and are holding for the present the line of the railway which is not yet open to Aleppo. About 3,600 Armenians accompanied them from Marash, but on the third day of the march they were caught in a blizzard which lasted all day, during which time over 1,300 perished in the cold and storm. These were mostly women and children, so that the majority of the present arrivals are men or grown lads who managed to stick it out. Most of these have now arrived in Adana and are being supplied as we can best do it in co-operation. The Armenian authorities have turned over to us another section of the Apkarian School and I have accepted the responsibility for the present for as many boys as can be accommodated there. This will cost about three hundred pounds sterling a month and I must ask the Committee to accept only as a part of the extra work we must do during the next month or so. I have already asked Garabed to increase the number of workers so that all funds available will be put to immediate use. I shall trust you to do all you can to augment the funds to be sent to Adana at once, and whatever may be necessary later. Unfortunately, the weather has been unusually cold, and this has increased the distress, but it seems better to have funds than to send for clothing now. (In regard to the above figures it is to be understood that they do not include 5,000 or 6,000 people who have Perished in the villages surrounding Marash.)"

February 28, 1920.

"The situation here continues to be very nervous and disturbing. There has been an influx during the past week of over 2,000 refugees. Several hundreds have gone on to Tarsus and others have found shelter in the city. . . . I have been allowed to take six rooms in the Apkarian School, in which we are preparing to keep about 100 boys, and am asking the Armenian authorities to give accommodation for a group of girls who remain of those who escaped from an orphanage at Marash."

That bald statement of heartrending facts speaks for itself. Pray pause a moment, read between the lines, consider all the circumstances, and send your gift to-day for immediate relief to the Hon. Treasurer,

ARMENIAN REFUGEES (LORD MAYOR'S) FUND,
96, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, March 12.

The Political Situation.

The advent to power of M. Protitch and the Narodny Club was greeted by the Democrats and Socialists as "the first step towards separation," and as indicating "the consent of the Radicals to the break-up of the State." The leader of the Narodny Club (Dr. Matko Laginja) is Ban of Croatia. His nomination raised an interesting constitutional point. The Ban, since the union, has been an administrative official, appointed by the Regent on the advice of the Minister of the Interior. But Dr. Laginja made it one of the conditions of his support that he should be appointed on the advice of the President of the Council. The effect is, of course, very greatly to increase the powers and prestige of the Ban, and Dr. Laginja's address to the people certainly has an authoritative ring that must sound strange in Serbian ears, for they have regarded the Ban simply as the equivalent of the prefect of a province, and an anachronism that will be swept away by the Constituent Assembly when it reduces the organisation of the Triune Kingdom to a common form. The actual policy of Dr. Laginja is unknown: he would probably deny energetically any desire for actual separation, and his supporters state that they are only out for decentralisation, in which demand they certainly have the sympathy of outside observers. Time and the Constituent Assembly will show what their real intentions are.

As the days pass the Government appears to be strengthening its position. The Hrasnitsa incident certainly created a very unfavourable impression, and it was very widely believed during the first few days of the existence of the new Cabinet that it was not strong enough to hold power for very long, especially as the alliance between the Radicals and the Narodny Club is so unnatural, many of the ideals of the two parties being diametrically opposed. The *Pravda*, which is exceedingly bitter in its attacks upon the Government, has now altered its main heading from "The Situation" to "The 24th Day of M. Protitch's Cabinet."

There is a strong feeling, however, among non-political circles that it would be very advantageous if a Coalition Cabinet could be formed, with the sole purpose of carrying out the elections to the Constituent Assembly. The only other matter of urgent importance is the Adriatic Question, and on this there is no division of opinion among Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; the attitude of the Radicals is identical with that of the Democrats—namely, absolute firmness, and if Italy took heart at the thought that the new Government would show any flexibility on this point, she must have been disillusioned.

Efforts at Reconciliation.

Several prominent men have been endeavouring to bring about, if not a reconciliation, at least a meeting between the opposing leaders; this is difficult, as feeling has been running very high and many bitter things have been said. But it is hoped that, with tact and diplomacy, they may be persuaded to bury the past, at least for a time, and form a coalition which will carry out the elections. Dr. Smodlaka, the well-known Dalmatian, who was one of the delegates at Paris, has arrived in Belgrade. About a dozen members have associated themselves with him in a new non-party party; they have issued a declaration stating that they desire the present Cabinet to give way to a coalition which shall include representatives of every shade of political opinion. As parties are so evenly balanced in the House, these ten or eleven votes are very important, and may well hold the balance of power. Dr. Smodlaka made an impressive speech in the Skupshtina the other day, appealing for a compromise, and for the sinking of party struggles in the common interest. As he has been living abroad so long, he is perhaps a better judge than politicians in Belgrade of the harm which the country has suffered in reputation and prestige by the long bickerings. Friends of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes will earnestly wish that his call for unity will meet with response. Meanwhile, negotiations are in progress.

The Government's Policy.

In his declaration of policy which M. Protitch made in the Chamber on March 5, he announced his intention of endeavouring to attain a compromise upon the question of the new constitution; he stated that they would submit an electoral Bill for the Constituent Assembly, for the Budget, in order to put the finances upon a more regular footing, and a Bill for the ratification of the Peace Treaties. He foreshadowed a recess in two months, when it was hoped that the new elections would be carried out. He spoke firmly on the Adriatic question, stating that while many mistakes had been committed, there had been none on the side of the Yugoslavs, whose patient and correct attitude was in sharp contrast to the actual irregular state of affairs at Fiume. Referring to Albania, he expressed the hope that the country would be left to the Albanians, who would be allowed to arrange their own relations with their neighbours under the guidance of the League of Nations. Finally, he looked forward to the foundation of a democratic constitution in the spirit of national unity, with wide rights of autonomy, guarantees of the widest political freedom and rights of citizenship.

Russian Refugees.

Events in Russia have sent another flood of refugees into Serbia. This falls hardly upon the exhausted country, especially in the devastated south, which can scarcely support its own population, reduced as it is. The trains, crowded to suffocation already, so that travelling had become almost unendurable even to the stoutest heart, have brought large numbers of refugees from Salonika. For the Serb cannot deny help to the "brother Russian" in his hour of need. When the first flood of emigrants arrived last summer a "*Russky Dom*" was formed at Belgrade, which provided financial and other assistance and organised the disposal of the often destitute refugees. Between May 26, 1919, and January 31, 1920, the committee settled no less than 1,600 Russian refugees in different parts of Yugoslavia. Nine hundred have returned to Russia; 1,350 were nourished free of cost by the Russky Dom; and the entire expense was provided by subscription in Serbia. Both the American and the Serbian Red Cross did splendid work in providing clothing. It is estimated that there were no less than six thousand Russian refugees in Yugoslavia before the recent wave, which is adding another burden to the country. This the generous and hospitable Serbian people is meeting willingly, gratefully remembering the past services of its Russian brothers when the circumstances were reversed.

Afforestation.

The Government has embarked upon the re-afforestation of the woodlands which were so ruthlessly cut down by the enemy during the occupation. It is chiefly pines that are being planted, partly from young trees and seed from Government plantations, partly from material obtained from abroad.

Yugoslavia and Armenia.

The *Politika* announces the arrest of Mitad Bey, a Turk, who took a prominent part at the recent congress of Mahommedans at Skoplje; he was arrested at the request of the War Criminals Committee of Armenia, by whom he is accused of the murder of sixty-seven Armenians. The Armenian Republic has in Belgrade a delegate who has issued a notice that all Armenians in Yugoslavia, whether prisoners of war, volunteers or civilians, who wish to return

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to their homes, may apply to him for the necessary information. This connection with Armenia sounds strange and novel in Siberia, which naturally feels a sympathy for a people that has suffered so much from their common enemy the Turk. There is not a large colony of Armenians in Serbia, but there are a few prosperous merchants. One, who fled from Constantinople at the time of the massacres there some twenty years ago, arrived virtually destitute; the Government of the day, in order to assist him, granted him a monopoly of the right of grinding coffee, and now he is a wealthy man with a very prosperous business.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 5.

Political Situation.

The French railway strike prevented the Simplon express from leaving Paris, so the Roumanian Prime Minister has again been delayed, and the threatened reconstruction of the Cabinet can hardly take place before Dr. Vaida's return.

At least both the President of the Chamber and the President of the Senate have protested publicly against any new Government being formed during the absence of the head of the present one. This seems only elementary decency to an impartial observer, but elementary decency has not always been a characteristic of party politics in this country.

In the meantime a new Minister of War (General Moshoin) has been installed, and he was quite well received in the Senate yesterday. True, one of the Senators mildly suggested that the Government should keep up with the times, and instead of entertaining the Senate with a procession of marionettes who flitted across the Ministerial stage, it would be more in keeping with present-day conditions to maintain a cinematograph and show portraits of successive Ministers on the screen!

The Liberals are making our flesh creep with tales of Bolshevist armies on the Dniester when they seek a little variety from their attacks upon the Minister of the Interior, who is accused of undermining the foundations of society by his radical laws. One of these, which has not as yet been presented to the Chamber, is a Restriction of Rents Act. Bucharest is as hopelessly underhoused as all European capitals, and as the centre of a greatly increased territory, both its permanent and floating populations have more than doubled. Rents are soaring, and the value—at least, the prices—of house property as well. A law was passed some time ago allowing landlords to increase rents 30 per cent. on pre-war leases, but while this protected those fortunate beings who already had roofs over their heads, it did nothing for the homeless ones.

Dr. Lupu's new law contains clauses limiting the number of rooms which a family may occupy to five for two people (exclusive of servants), and allows one extra room for each child. The state of mind of the possessors of large mansions may be imagined when they read that they will be invited to receive paying tenants in the unoccupied suites of their houses. It is not yet certain whether an option to pay a cash indemnity will be given or not. To provide for the floating population several plans have been suggested. Limiting the occupancy of hotel rooms to a month is one of these, and lodging the staff of Government departments in temporary buildings and turning the Government offices into hotels is another. It is safe to predict stormy weather in the Chamber when this law is presented.

Bucharest Streets.

Bucharest will take a long time, under present conditions, to restore her good looks, which have been sadly damaged by air-raids and the long neglect of ordinary repairs. Owing to the soft and yielding nature of the subsoil it has always been difficult to keep the streets level and in good order, and with the rapidly increasing motor traffic this difficulty has increased.

At last, however, the Calea Victoriei, one of the main arteries of the city, is receiving much-needed attention. Since the war holes had been mended with patches of cobbles, and for the last few weeks large sections of the road presented the appearance of neglected miniature rock gardens stripped of their vegetation. Ragged paths of asphalt wound their way among rocky summits and steep escarpments and around deep holes often filled with water. It was amazing to see with what apparent indifference the horses picked their way along, though at walking pace, the carriages bumping and swaying behind them in a most uncomfortable way. Now the street is being systematically paved with stone, asphalt having been unprocurable, or untransportable. It is a pity that this important thoroughfare of nearly two miles long is so narrow that the traffic along it is usually more or less congested, and the tramways running from the centre of the town to the North Railway Station instead of taking the most direct route (by the Calea Victoriei) have had to be deflected down narrower side streets, where they leave so little room for other traffic that carriages and motor-cars frequently are obliged to take refuge on the pavements, to the great inconvenience of pedestrians. It even became a danger when recently the Municipal Gas Company ran short of fuel and the town was in darkness for several nights. In some of the streets in the old part of the town the tram-lines run within a few inches of the pavement, and a fatal accident occurred the other day to an unwary shop-window gazer, who was caught at a corner by the projecting mass of humanity clinging to the steps of a passing tram and swung off his feet and under the wheels. At that point there is barely a space of 5 feet between the side of the tram and the shop window, and it is one of the chief shopping centres. But doubtless as other conditions become more normal some means will be found of rendering the business part of the city more adequate to the needs of a growing commercial town.

Another Tram Strike.

The newspaper lock-out continues, and another tram strike has just taken place. Public service is indeed afforded us in such a capricious way that taking up a telephone receiver, or turning an electric switch, or even waiting for a tram, is really an adventure to-day. One can never tell what the result will be. It is hard to blame the workmen when one looks at the prices they must pay for food and clothing. Last June a man with 20 lei a day was better off than he is to-day with 60. As nothing has been done since the war to increase taxation, the Government is faced with huge expenditures—the Army alone on its present footing costs two hundred millions a month—and insignificant revenues. The alternative of obtaining paper money from the Banca Nationala "upon payment of the cost of the paper and printing," as the balance-sheet of that institution naïvely puts it, has put the State finances in a most unenviable position, and the reaction upon the industrial life of the country is naturally lamentable. No matter how much paper money a man is given for his day's work, if that money will not buy him food and clothing the man will be discontented, and will not put much enthusiasm into his work.

Post-War Values.

The following item appeared in a Bucharest paper: "A collision took place yesterday between two goods trains. Both locomotives were so seriously damaged that they will need extensive repairs, and four goods waggons were almost entirely destroyed. This unhappy accident again reduces our meagre resources in rolling-stock.

"There were also two dead and four injured."

Human life is the only thing of which the price is falling!

Projected Tax on Visitors.

The Bucharest Municipality is proposing to introduce a tax of one leu per day on every foreign visitor occupying a room in a hotel in Bucharest. They also propose to tax members of clubs.

Union of Bessarabia.

The news that the Supreme Council had recognised the union of Bessarabia with Greater Roumania was the occasion of great rejoicing in Bucharest. Flags flew on all

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the public buildings, and parades were hastily organised. A torch-light procession finished off the day's celebrations. The Bill for the expropriation of big estates in Bessarabia was before the Chamber when the telegram arrived, and while the Transylvanians were quite frank in expressing themselves as to the radical character of this Bill, which fixes a maximum of one hundred hectares for individual estates, the Bill was passed unanimously.

Various News Items.

The delegates of the Cluj Chamber of Commerce, who visited America for the purpose of placing some orders for imports, have just returned, and have had an audience with the interim President of the Council of Ministers and the interim Minister for Industry and Commerce, M. Bontescu having resigned.

The Archbishop of Rouen, S. Em. Dubois, is expected to arrive at Bucharest on Saturday next, March 6, on his way home from Syria, where he has been on an official mission.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 2.

Turkey and Azerbaijan.

On the top of the celebration at the University of the birthday of Pierre Loti came another similar gathering this week to salute the official recognition of the independence of Azerbaijan. For the benefit of those who still cherish the illusion that the Turk is in danger of being unjustly treated, and that official Turkey is friendly to England, the following extracts from the speeches of the principal speakers may be useful. Yusuf Akchura, an exponent of the Turanian theory, which is based upon the intimate relationship between the Salonika renegade Jews and the Yakuts of Siberia, spoke after the president, Halide Edib Hanum, herself of the former class, had opened the meeting. "Last week, in this same place and almost at the same hour, Suleiman Nazif Bey stated that the Turks did not enter the war as a result of the deceptions of a small number of rascals, but joyously and of their own free will. This is perfectly true . . . they entered the war . . . to release the millions of their Turkish and Moslem brethren who suffered under a foreign yoke. We have succeeded, and to-day we celebrate that success. . . . The independence of Azerbaijan is only the first step. . . . Western Persia is part of Azerbaijan, and the feeble barrier erected by the Powers will soon be annihilated . . . and then there will be no obstacle to the realisation of our great ideal . . . Europe is a seven-headed dragon. During the war these heads made war upon each other, and were broken. The Moslem world will now declare war upon the heads. The world war is not finished, only the actors have changed their places, and in this war of reds, whites, and blacks . . . the sword of Mahomet will decide to whom victory shall belong . . . the Crusaders found the sword of the Turk confronting them, and once again the sword of the Turk shall be raised . . . ." Wild applause attended this speech. Another speaker was acclaimed in frenzied style when he referred to "that cowardly nation" which could not force the Dardanelles with all its Dreadnoughts and soldiers, and which now flaunted its flag before the Khalif's palace.

The spirit of the meeting was dominated by the most fanatical anti-British feelings—but there was not a word raised against any of the other Allies. Why? Who knows?

Armenia.

The official recognition of Armenia, although saluted with considerable enthusiasm here, is regarded by the Turkish Armenians as a mere official confirmation of an accomplished fact, and as something which has no bearing upon the main problem—the extent of the Armenian State. Lord Curzon's reply to the Archbishop of Canterbury to the effect that Armenia would not be accorded an opening on the Black Sea *as well as* on the Mediterranean, caused a certain amount of uneasiness, for in some quarters it was interpreted as a declaration that Armenia would have no port at all. It is to be hoped that Armenia will receive the most generous treatment possible, for in view of the somewhat doubtful attitude of Azerbaijan, and the past dealings of Georgia with Germany, Armenia will be the healthiest element in the Caucasus. Certainly there is no people on earth with a more sincere and deep attachment to Great Britain than the Armenians. They are worth supporting in every way, and for many reasons.

Turkey and the Yemen.

For some days it has been rumoured that a number of deputies have been elected as representatives in the Turkish Parliament of the Yemen. Interrogated on the subject, the Minister of Justice (Mustafa Bey) declared that he had no official information, but added that it was quite possible since the Yemen was not only not occupied by the British, *but a Turkish Vali, or Governor, was at his post there.* If this is true, it may account for certain events that have recently occurred in the Yemen.

The Russian Situation.

Although it was stated that no more Russian refugees would be brought to Constantinople, a number have already arrived and more are expected. Those whom I have seen have very little to say. Most fled before the arrival of the Red Army, but those who stayed state that they were robbed of everything, and ordered to leave within twenty-four hours under pain of death. There was a good deal of shooting and miscellaneous murdering, but I heard no stories of torture, or of anything more than the outrages inseparable from the entry of a Russian army. All agreed that the Volunteer army, in many respects, was worse than the Bolshevists, and I have heard the same thing in other quarters.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, March 5.

The Approaching Coronation.

Syria to-day is all agog with the imminent coronation of Emir Faisal as King of Syria. The crown is said to have been already made, and preparations for the ceremony of its presentation are in progress. According to a correspondent from Damascus, the Emir has issued an order convening the Syrian Conference, of which forty-three members have arrived, and the remainder are expected shortly.

The Evils of Partition.

Quite apart from political considerations, it may be stated that never has the argument in favour of a united Syria appeared more insistent and justified by the facts than now, when the high cost of living is in some measure due to the existence of politico-economic barriers between different parts of the country. It is enough to cite the following glaring instances. At Haifa meat is selling at 5½ to 6½ piastres the oukie (about 1¾ oukie to the pound), while in Beyrout it is selling at about double this price. Lentils at Haifa seem to be so plentiful that 200 tons were offering lately for shipment to Smyrna. At Lattakia fowls are selling at about 10 piastres each, while the price in Beyrout is 30 to 35 piastres; and, while wheat is lying in thousands of bags at Mersine, it is selling here at as much as 12 piastres the rotle, equal to about 6¾ pounds. Of course, the Hauran—the granary of Syria—is full of stocks, from which, however, Beyrout and the Lebanon are not profiting. The reason, in so far as the coast ports are concerned, is that the various districts where stocks are plentiful are not allowed to export any foodstuffs to the neighbouring territories. If the protection of local interests be the aim, this measure is defeating its end. Free economic intercourse between the different parts of a single country should never be interfered with; and, if the present abnormal condition of things be invoked to justify any interference at all, this should be exercised only in the shape of a judicious control to help in balancing the economic interests and needs of the neighbouring districts, and certainly not to create plethora in one and dearth in another. The outrageous cost of living is creating discontent of the bitterest kind among all classes of the population. It is reported that orders have lately been issued in Damascus to prevent any cattle from being sent outside the Arab zone. This is only one instance among many of the evils of the policy that led to the cutting up of Syria into so many

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zones, each a sort of a watertight compartment. It can hardly be credited, yet it is only too true, that in Damascus itself, the city of agricultural wealth and plenty, the general cost of living is as high as in the other parts of Syria. The prices of certain commodities are five, and in certain cases nine, times higher than pre-war prices.

The Visit of Cardinal Dubois.

Cardinal Dubois is a prominent figure not only in the Church of Rome but also in the world of science, being a member of the Rouen Academy. His interest in education is indeed so wide that, during his sojourn in Beyrout, he made a point of visiting the schools of different denominations. The devotion and zeal his Eminence displayed during the war in the cause of suffering humanity fully justify the hope that his mission in Syria and the Lebanon, involving the great task of setting up again the numerous educational and religious establishments that suffered so much at the hands of the Turks during the war, will be fruitful of good results. Both the prestige and the energy of such a personality are required for the performance of a task of this magnitude. His Eminence also enjoyed the collaboration of the following distinguished members of his mission, viz., Monseigneur de Liobet, the well-known chaplain of the French Army, whose nickname of "Evêque Poilu" is the highest tribute of affection and popularity; the Reverend Father Berré, who consecrated a whole life to apostolic work in Armenia; and Father Oudin, who has done yeoman service for France in the East.

CYPRUS.

Undated.

Festival of the Trees.

The Director of Agriculture, Mr. Bevan, in co-operation with the Inspector of Schools, Canon Newham, has adopted an excellent scheme for the encouragement of tree planting. In compliance with a circular, on February 14, the Festival of St. Tryphon, in all villages which maintain school gardens, the priest, schoolmaster, agriculturists, and pupils assemble in the schoolhouse. After a short customary service, conducted by the priest, the schoolmaster will distribute gratis a number of seedlings from the Government Nurseries to the pupils. They then march in procession to a suitable place, where the schoolmaster gives practical demonstration as to the proper mode of planting. The boys then disperse and plant the young trees in their home gardens. It may be hoped that this good custom may be extended to other villages, as nothing is more needed than tree planting. The great difficulty is to get villagers to protect young trees from goats, which are still allowed to do incalculable damage, and often render the care of seedlings almost hopeless even in private enclosures.

Irregular Marriages.

The Holy Synod of the Greek Church at an early meeting will consider *inter alia* the subject of marriages which in the eye of the Church are illegal, but which nevertheless are not infrequent. Marriages of cousins, *e.g.*, are not countenanced by the Church; but such unions are easily arranged, the parties contriving that the wedding service shall be quietly performed by some priest who is complaisant and will stretch a point. There are consequently a good many cases, over 800, it is said, in Cyprus, and it is generally considered desirable that this rather anomalous state of things should be ended and the status of such couples regularised. The Holy Synod will probably find it expedient, and consistent with modernism, to yield some points and adopt conceptions which will bring the independent Church of Cyprus into line with the Churches of Greece and Alexandria. Should the Archbishop be absent (on "Deputation" duty), the Bishop of Papho will preside; and in that case questions may arise as to the validity of decisions arrived at without the direct sanction of the Prelate. But there should be no obstacle to a satisfactory settlement respecting the Church's attitude, which is certainly called for.

March 14.

Public Health.

There is some improvement as regards the wave of influenza. Owing to cases of smallpox, Larnaca has been gazetted as a place affected by infectious and contagious disease. Anthrax is, too, prevalent. There is no doubt that the habit of villagers of leaving unburied the carcases of animals of all kinds, from camels to goats, notwithstanding the preventive laws, is one of the chief causes of this serious disease. The germs are not infrequently carried by winged insects, especially the dreaded *sphalangi*. Egypt is gazetted as suffering from no less than twelve diseases, including fowl plague, sheep-pox, and mange.

The Deputation.

There is still much difference of opinion as to whether the deputation should return to London. Accounts are published of an interview between Mr. Nicolaïdes, a member, and M. Venizelos, in which that statesman attributed the delay in settling the Cyprus question partly to the Ministerial changes in Paris. The papers in general advise a return of all the members, including the Archbishop, to London as soon as possible.

Personal.

Law No. 1 of 1920, which establishes a Clearing House in Cyprus, has been approved. Mr. K. W. Stead has been appointed to manage the local office which is being created under the provisions of this law.

Mr. B. Dickinson has been appointed President of the Additional District Court of Nicosia. He also acts as P.D.C. at Larnaca.

Dr. H. Cleveland, Chief Medical Officer, who is retiring from the service, has been granted three months' vacation leave from February 7. The Senior District Medical Officer, who has acted for Dr. Cleveland on several occasions, is Dr. E. Corsellis, D.M.O., at Limassol.

Mr. J. D. Montagu has been appointed a Local Commandant of Police on probation.

Mr. H. R. Price has been appointed Assistant Engineer in the Public Works Department.

PORT SAID.

Port Said, February. (*Delayed.*)

The Weather.

The exceptional weather in Egypt has formed a topic of conversation which people in this country are seldom blessed with. The cold has been such that the natives, and especially the children, have suffered severely; English children have also suffered from chilblains. The thermometer has been down below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and several people report having seen snowflakes. Squalls of wind, rain, and hail have been quite frequent. Traffic has several times been stopped in the Canal, and the rough weather in the Mediterranean has been a danger to several ships while making Port Said.

The famous aeroplane ship, the H.M.S. Ark Royal, which passed through the Canal southwards several weeks ago, has now returned, and is at present lying in port. It is said that H.M.S. Cæsar, which has been acting as port guardship for some time, has been ordered to return to England, and she will be leaving before the end of the month.

The new Padre, the Rev. F. Johnstone, has now taken up his duties in Port Said, having been demobilised recently. The post entails much more work than formerly, as the number of English people, and especially of young Englishmen, in commercial houses is far greater than before the war.

The Municipality having realised that house-owners have been making the proverbial hay, whether the sun shone or not (mostly the latter during the last fortnight), have revised in an upward direction the Municipal house tax. This has formed a splendid excuse for landlords again to raise rents, by about five times the amount of the increased tax. So the game goes merrily on, and everyone is pleased except the tenant, whose only share in the fun is payment.

"BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUNDS."

In connection with the supplementary report of the above Fund, which was published in The Near East of March 11, we have been asked to append a summary of the cash statement of the London office for the year ending September 30, 1919. According to this audited statement the Fund balanced at £2,963 18s., showing a balance at the bank or in hand of £580 7s. 9d. The balance at September 30, 1918, was £1,757 3s. 8d.; subscriptions and donations during the year amounted to £1,074 1s. 8d.; loans repaid to £88 10s., and interest on deposits to £44 2s. 8d. On the outgoing side, remittances for relief in the Near East accounted for £314; grants and loans to refugees to £2,049 12s. 5d.; printing, postage, and miscellaneous expenses to £19 17s. 10d. Since last September the balance in hand has been augmented by £20, the amount of a repaid loan, and accordingly stood at £600 7s. 9d. Of this sum all but £66 14s. 10d. had been paid away by February 28, 1920. Allowances paid in Great Britain amounted to £146 1s.; passages to Turkey, £230 2s. 8d.; and monies sent to Constantinople, £142 9s. 3d. being the other chief items.

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SERBIAN SKETCHES.

I.—The Voivodas

That picturesque and romantic group of men the Serbian voivodas is dying out; times have changed; their task accomplished, those who have survived the struggle are turning to peaceful pursuits.

The word *voivoda* is an ancient Serbian title, and means "Leader in War"; officially it is adopted in the Army as the equivalent of our rank of Field-Marshal. All the world has heard of the late Voivoda Putnik, of Voivoda Stepanovich, who hammered the Austro-Magyar forces on the Tser in 1914, and, above all, of gallant Voivoda Sir Zhivoyin Mishitch, K.C.M.G., a very Serbian counterpart of our "Bobs," who twice cleared his country of the invader in a lightning-like manner. But in the months of the people it means a leader of irregulars, a man who has raised a band of devoted followers and led them in the precarious and dangerous game of *comité*-fighting or guerilla warfare, where no prisoners are taken. Their activities in Macedonia were for years directed against the Turks, but when Bulgarian propaganda became intensive, and the "Macedonian Committee" began its militant operations about twenty-five years ago, these Serbian voivodas arose and fought two enemies at once, of whom the Bulgar was more formidable than the Turk. These leaders were men of great enthusiasm for their cause, fiery patriots, men of iron resolution, indomitable will, and dauntless courage. Their one object in life was the liberation of their countrymen from enemy oppression, and in the mediæval conditions obtaining in Macedonia they had full scope for their military energies.

Voivoda Kosta Pavlovitch is still alive and well; he fought as a volunteer in 1878, and remained under arms till the recent Armistice; he now knows practically for the first time in his life the blessings of peace. In spite of his forty years of fighting, his hair is as black as a raven's wing.

Two other names are familiar to most Britons who served at Salonika, for they had become legendary during their lifetime. Voivoda Voyin Popovitch, known as *Vuk*, the Wolf, perished gallantly in 1916; a shell-fragment lacerated his arm, which remained hanging by a shred of flesh. His men implored him to allow them to take him down to the dressing-station, but he refused: "Give me a knife," he said, and himself hacked off a useless "member," declining to leave his men; a moment later another shell killed him outright. Vuk's name was famous before the war, and it was he who largely developed the use of hand-grenades and bombs before the Germans brought Hell to earth.

And now Babunski is gone. Yovan Stoykovitch was born at Veles in 1878, and so was only in his forty-third year. At the time when he reached man's estate terror in Macedonia was at its height. The only way a man could serve his fatherland's cause was as a schoolmaster or as a priest, and either meant that he was condemned to death in advance by Boris Sarafoff and his colleagues. Stoykovitch became a schoolmaster in the little village of Martovats, not far from his native Veles, just below the Babuna, from which he earned the nickname that he made famous. For some years he instilled the idea of patriotism into the children of the harassed Macedonian Serbs, until the Bulgarians, with knife, bomb, and rifle made life unendurable. In 1903 he took the decision and went to the mountains. He came almost at once into collision with a powerful Bulgarian band, under Stevan, "The King," an all-powerful *komitoji*, with whom he was connected by marriage. Yovan defeated Stevan's band and shot their leader himself; he sprang at once into fame, and became a marked man.

For years he carried on the struggle, defending his district, now against Bulgars, now against Turks, or Albanians. By 1908 he had fairly well cleared the district of enemy operations, in collaboration with other Serbian leaders, like Sokolovitch, Rajkovitch, Pop Bogdan, Dovezenski, George Skoplianche, Vuk Popovitch, and Tankositch.

In 1912 Babunski sprang to arms again in the war against the Turks; with his comrade, Vuk Popovitch, he was in the advance guard of the fighting down to Vitol (Monastir) and Elbassan. In those days of hard fighting, when every man was a hero, he was one of the first to receive the gold medal for valour. At the time of the first Austrian invasion he was in Belgrade. His old followers hastened to gather round their beloved leader, and it was largely due to his efforts and those of Tankositch, who was with him, that the enemy did not succeed in effecting a landing that night.

As the Bulgarians were already showing signs of restlessness, he was then sent south, where he remained on the watch till the disaster of the autumn of 1915. His services in assisting the French detachment near the Greek frontier won him the admiration of our gallant Allies, who gave him the Legion of Honour and the Military Cross with palms, and from his own Prince he received the Karageorgevitch Star with swords, the Serbian highest military decoration, and the rank of lieutenant.

Those who met him at Salonika, expecting to see a fire-eater of the theatrical type found a big, very modest man, whose quiet demeanour gave little evidence of the energy, determination and inflexible courage within: he showed little signs of twenty years almost incessantly spent under arms, nor did he look the least perturbed at the fact that the Bulgarians offered a reward of 20,000 levas for his body, dead or alive. This hardened warrior, whom the Serb papers describe as "Chevalier sans peur et sans réproche," lived to see his life's work crowned with success, his country liberated and united, and the Bulgarians punished for torturing his wife and murdering one of his children. And now, at the early age of 43, he has succumbed to an inglorious end by influenza.

II.—The Tsintsars.

There is a strong infusion of Roumanian blood in Serbia, especially in the north-eastern corner, where there is a strong colony. The less heavy physique and more vivacious manner, in fact, more Latin type, are quite noticeable. The women are noted for their good looks, and it is a local saying that one Vach girl will "vlachify" a village; they are called Vlachs by the Serbs, that is, Wallachs. The Roumanian Government has from time to time tried to attract them back to their own country, but they have been settled too long in Serbia, and been too much absorbed by the free life to wish to leave. Many are men of property and substance; the Government has never made any distinction of race, and they have always enjoyed the full advantages of free Serbian citizenship, which is extremely democratic, and so never had any inducement to return to aristocratic Roumania. They are not organised in any way, and call themselves Serbs, but are usually bi-lingual; there is, as a rule, nothing in their surnames to show a different origin. They are, in fact, in the process of complete absorption. The Serbs apply to them as a term of contempt, when annoyed with them, the name *Tsintsar*, owing to the common occurrence of the sound *ts* in the Roumanian language, and the Socialistic and Chauvinistic *Beogradski Dnevnik* comes out with the sarcastic comment that, while fully aware that there is a big colony of Tsintsars in Serbia, they are hardly numerous enough to deserve no fewer than six members of the Cabinet, and that they are, therefore, playing here a rôle similar to that of the Jews in Hungary. The six Ministers in question are Mr. Protitch himself, and MM. Trifkovitch, Yovanovitch, Ninehitch, Yankovitch, and Spalaykovitch. If this is accepted, there are only five true Serbs in the Cabinet. The best answer is that this is a striking proof of the process of absorption of the Tsintsars by the true Serbs. Their relatives of Macedonia, the true Tsintsars or so-called Kutzo-Vlachs, have not yet reached a sufficient stage of education to assert themselves. This attractive and interesting people have not yet made their début as a distinct entity on the political stage; their purely nomadic habits are the chief obstacle, though in long years of anarchy and fighting in Macedonia they have remained inarticulate, devoting themselves to their flocks, migrating bodily to the plains in the winter, returning to their villages in the hills for the summer. A large proportion of them are now Greek subjects, but still a substantial number owe their allegiance to-day to King Peter. Their language is a dialect of Roumanian, with heavy borrowings from Turkish and Greek. They have largely fallen under the influence of Greek culture, but latterly the Roumanian Government has carried on a certain intellectual propaganda, and established schools for them. When asked their nationality they usually say "Armun," or sometimes "Roman"; for this reason, and owing to their swarthy complexion and nomadic habits, they were frequently mistaken by the British in Macedonia for gypsies, with whom they have nothing else in common. Gypsies are very numerous in Siberia, where they play the same rôle as with us; they are chiefly musicians, horse-copers, tinkers and thieves, very dirty, very picturesque; they retain their own language, and make quite good soldiers. Honest and energetic gypsies make very good batmen.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

TURKEY: British Forces near Constantinople. SMYRNA (MASSACRES). MASSACRES IN CILICIA. INDIA: Army Officers (Continued Service).—Medical Service (Officers).—Mahomedan Population (Classification).—Muslims (Khalifate Deputation).—Income Tax (Officers' Pay). (March 15.)

TURKEY. KHALIFATE DELEGATION. PALESTINE (MONUMENTS). CEYLON (CONSTITUTONAL REFORM). March 16.

INDIA: Hunter Commission Report.—Mohammed Ali.—Najpat Rai.—India Office (Cost).—Joint Standing Committee. Hodeidah (Garrison).—Afghanistan. ARMENIANS IN CILICIA. CEYLON (RUPEE CURRENCY). OCCUPATION OF CONSTANTINOPLE. PEACE TREATIES: Western Thrace. INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS (PENSIONS). (March 17.)

PEACE TREATIES: Arab Kingdom (Palestine).—Syria.—Turkey (Khalifate Conference).—EGYPT: Lord Milner's Mission. ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY. TURKEY (MASSACRES). ROUMANIA, POLAND, AND CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. SYRIA. (March 18.)

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CORRESPONDENCE.

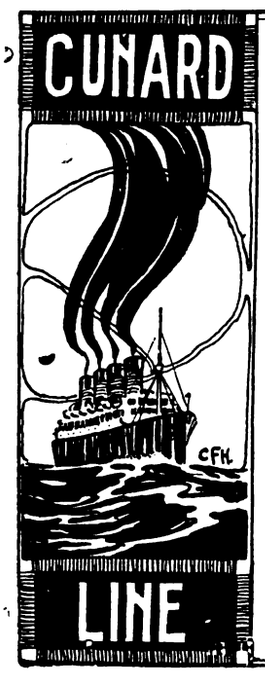
GENERAL KURAPATKIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Bolshevism hangs like a storm-cloud over civilisation, and in no part of the world is its menace greater than on the Asiatic continent. Its military strength has been immeasurably increased by the adhesion of Brusiloff, Kurapatkin, and the host of subordinate officers who will certainly follow their banner. The former proved his capacity for leadership under Tsarism; the latter gained renown as a civil administrator in Turkestan. If, as Colonel A. C. Yate has told your readers, Brusiloff's son was executed as a Bolshevist by Denikin, it was probably vengeance rather than patriotism that led the father to place his sword at the disposal of Lenin and Trotsky. The same may, I fear, be said of Kurapatkin. I had much intercourse with him during a tour through Turkestan in 1898, and a sketch of his career, with portrait, appeared in "The Heart of Asia," which I wrote in collaboration with Sir E. Denison-Ross. In those days Kurapatkin cherished a deep grudge against the Tsar, because, for some reason or other, his wife was not received at Court. He spoke bitterly of the intrigues of his enemies in Nicholas the Second's *entourage*, and of the ingratitude experienced by Skobelev, his master in the art of war. Even then he had no love for Great Britain, and his hostility was doubtless increased by the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which proved an indirect cause of his professional eclipse. But brains will tell, even in Holy Russia; Kurapatkin's great administrative skill and his renown gained under Skobelev forced the Tsar to appoint him Minister of War, and subsequently to give him command of his forces in the field against Japan. His defeat on the Yalu River was a crushing blow for himself and Russia; but he never had fair play. Napoleon would have left no lasting mark on history if he had been bombarded with contradictory instructions from superiors and severely limited in his choice of subordinates. After the Peace of Portsmouth, Kurapatkin retired into private life and nursed his vengeance. He has now emerged, and will help to restore the discipline which was destroyed by Kerensky's fatuous Government.

It is tolerably certain that Russia will pass through the same cycle as Rome did in the first century B.C., and France between 1792 and 1804—a reign of terror, chaos, a Military Dictatorship, and possibly an imperial régime. Whatever form her evolution may take, it will, sooner or later, be a menace to our Indian Empire. The north-western frontier is too remote from the Bolshevist base to render invasion a pressing danger. But India, Persia, and Afghanistan will be saturated with subversive literature, an appeal will be made to the greed of warlike races, and every possible means will be taken to sap the loyalty of the Indian Army. Unfortunately, our Government has never fully realised the tremendous effects of suggestion. Propaganda converted the dreamy, peaceable Teutons of sixty years ago into beasts of prey; it has produced all the unrest in Ireland, Egypt, and India. Yet no systematic attempt has been made to neutralise the virus of anarchy by counter-propaganda. It has been said with perfect truth that the statesman differs from the politician in that the first knows what is going to happen, while the second knows only what is actually happening. Events since November, 1918, convict the Entente's councils of optimism—a legacy of our obsolescent party system, which grapples with contingencies as they occur without giving one thought to future developments. If there ever was a time calling for the highest statesmanship, it is the present year of grace.—I am, etc.,

March 16. F. H. S.



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ALBANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me space to announce the arrival in London of three special Albanian delegates:—Mgr. Bumci, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kalmeti, in North Albania; Father George Fishta, of the Scutari Franciscans, Albania's chief poet and writer, famed through all the land; and Dr. Tourtoulis, doctor of medicine, who comes from Koritza and represents the South Albanians? All three gentlemen are charged with the duty of asking the British Government to grant the complete independence of Albania according to the Treaty of 1913, and to afford it the protection of the League of Nations during the time needed for the organisation of the land; to protest most strongly against any partition of Albania, any reduction of the frontiers of 1913, and any foreign mandate or protectorate; to beg also that no other Power may be given any rights over railroads, mines, or forests of Albania, or any other economic rights. Albania wishes to live in harmony with her neighbours and to be allowed to develop as freely on her national lines as they have done on theirs.—I am, etc.,

M. E. DURHAM,
Hon. Sec., the Anglo-Albanian Society.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Turkey.

In a leading article in its issue for March 19, the *Morning Post* denies the wisdom of a "bag and baggage" policy for Turkey. It pleads for a consideration of the Turkish point of view, and concludes:—

We are frankly sceptical of this policy of the big stick. The Turkish settlement is not to be achieved by reviving Gladstonian phrases; it demands, particularly on the part of Englishmen, cool detachment and a recognition of facts, which, if disregarded, may gravely imperil the Empire. We repeat again, what we have frequently advocated, that the Turk should not be left to himself in the future, and that this country is specially qualified from long experience to take in hand the Ottoman administration. We fully recognise the special interests of France in Turkey, and we think that these interests would be safeguarded if our Ally were given control of Turkish finance. It must be remembered that from a geographical point of view the Turk occupies a position which Great Britain cannot afford to disregard, and that in the event of a recrudescence of aggression on the part of any European power he may become a powerful barrier in protection of British interests. And we are emboldened to press for a policy of circumspection when we remember Lord Curzon's recent statement in the House of Lords concerning the building up of the devastated territories of the Turkish Empire: "Whether we shall succeed in that task I do not know"; it is by far the most difficult and hazardous adventure to which in my political life I have ever set my hand."

Syria.

For the March 18 issue of *Land and Water*, General Haddad Pasha has written an article entitled "A Syrian on Syria." After generally describing Syria, he states his beliefs and hopes for the future of his country.

It is extraordinary how old customs and modes of life persist. In Damascus and Baghdad the wealthy families still live in houses which have remained unchanged in form since Roman days. The central fountained court, with the living rooms opening on it, the modest entrances and the bare exteriors; this is the type of house the modern Damascene lives in At Pompeii one sees just such houses, only rather smaller. We owe, of course, a very great deal to the Romans, and particularly the Byzantine Empire. We have never lost the culture which we imbibed at those sources. That, I often think, is the reason why the Syrians, Semitic though they are by race, are yet intellectually akin to the European. Many Syrian writers to-day occupy a prominent place in European literature. It would be invidious to mention names, but there are both English and French men-of-letters whom many would doubtless be surprised to hear were of Syrian origin. We have thus all the elements necessary to form a great and progressive nation. We have "intellectuals," we have first-rate men of business and affairs, we have laborious peasants, and last, but not least, sturdy soldiers. All are good fighters, but especially the hillmen, to whom the Turks owe not a little of their military prestige as the best infantry in Europe. And though our stock is divided into many races, and professes different religions, yet to-day we are all at one. All Moslems, Christians, and Druses, though in the past, thanks to the Turkish policy, of a *divide et impera*, they have often

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been at loggerheads, are now united under the leadership of the Emir Feisul. Though the Emir comes of the leading family of Mecca, and his father is the ruler of that holy city of Islam, yet he is absolutely impartial in religious matters, and I have myself observed that he is even ignorant of what religion members of his own suite may profess. No Englishman or American could be more impartial.

My belief to-day about the Middle East is this: The Ottoman Empire, as a great power in Asia, has ceased to exist, and in future will have no influence south of Asia Minor, or to be more precise, the Taurus Mountains. Another state should fill the void in the Middle East an Arab state, and the majority of its population will naturally be Moslems. And the Moslem world will then realise that you treat all, whether Moslems or not, with fairness. The past history of the Arabs supports the idea of the possibility of their forming a stable and sound government, and Europe need have no fear, either of its interests suffering, or of any outbreak of religious fanaticism. We must surely be treated on as favourable a basis as our (and your) enemies, the Turks. There is no question—it seems—of their not being independent in their own Turkish-speaking provinces. In our Arabic-speaking provinces we must be equally free. Palestine should have special treatment on account of her international and conflicting religious interests. For the rest, if Europe allows us to work out our own destiny, it will be found in the end to have been the best possible thing for Europe.

If unrest becomes chronic in the Middle East, the statesmen of Europe will find they have created a second, and far larger and more formidable, Balkan problem.

Armenia.

In a leading article the *Manchester Guardian* of March 6 discusses "The Case of the Armenians." After briefly recapitulating the recent history of Armenia and of Europe's attitude towards that unhappy country, it says: "Armenia was the mirror in which all the cynicism of Europe was reflected." It proceeds to state that even up to the present moment on utter lack of principle has characterised the Powers' dealing with Turkey, and condemns their treatment of this question as if it were of secondary importance. Hesitation and neglect, it says, have proved a fatal mistake:—

That is the outline of the story up till to-day. As to the morrow no man knows. Questioned closely on Thursday, Mr. Lloyd George would make no clear statement. Of the triumph of the Turks at Constantinople the House of Commons first heard through India. What audience will be selected for the announcement of the extermination of the last Armenian is not yet known. But as to the French, not only their duty as protectors of the Armenians under their care, but their whole position in Cilicia, and even their military prestige in the East are in question. The whole problem of preserving elementary order in Asia Minor has now become as complicated as it was simple sixteen months ago. But matters have reached a point at which even the cynical Powers and futile statesmen of the Entente can no longer afford to sit still with folded hands. They must try to forget their jealousies for a few weeks, and strike again one stroke in a concert worthy of those great days of whole-hearted alliance which saved Amiens and Ypres and broke the Hindenburg Line.

The Middle East.

In the *Daily News*, of March 12, Major-General Sir F. Maurice deals with the general policy of the Allies in Western Asia. He commences by pleading for light on these matters:—

Since the Armistice we have been kept in quite unnecessary ignorance of what has been going on in the countries of the nations with whom we have been at war. In no part of the world has the veil been greater than in Asia Minor, Trans-Caucasia, and Kurdistan. We have had no authoritative statement as to the areas we have been occupying from time to time, and not the smallest indication of the policy which has taken us into those areas. We have been dosed with soothing syrup, and are therefore quite unprepared for the crisis which is now developing. Rumour is again busy. Great concentrations of troops about Constantinople are reported. We are said to be on the verge of a renewal of war with Turkey. I was assured yesterday that the French were on the point of being driven from Syria, and that we were in difficulties in Kurdistan and on the Euphrates. The public mind is agitated with the problem of whether the Turk is to be turned out of Europe or not, but the real problem is how he is to be made to behave in Asia. We have 70,000 troops in Mesopotamia, because we have added there more than 1,500 miles to our land frontiers, and those frontiers are bordered by unsettled and unruly tribes. We have thrown our mantle over peoples who are looking to us for protection, and the difficulty is, with the means at our disposal, to afford them the protection which they seek.

He proceeds to state some of the difficulties which await any foreigners in this region:—

The Turk collapsed so completely in the last months of the war that it was assumed somewhat light-heartedly that we could do what we liked with him. We sent troops into the Caucasus, to the shores of the Caspian, we advanced beyond Mosul into Kurdistan, through Syria to the borders of Anatolia, and attempted to control the greater part of the valley of the Euphrates. The Greeks and Italians occupied portions of the Levant. It was hoped vaguely that the greater part of Turkey in Asia would settle down under the rule of mandatory powers acting under the authority of the League of Nations, and that the Turk would accept what no one else wanted. This policy, such as it was, came to grief when the United States fell out. It was at one time confidently expected that America would accept a mandate for Armenia, but she refused. This left France and ourselves faced with greater responsibilities than we could possibly accept. The French insisted on having Syria, despite the fact that not all the influence and tact of the Emir Feisul could induce the Syrian Arabs to welcome them. Within the area occupied by ourselves, in Mesopotamia, in Kurdistan, and along the valley of the middle Euphrates, there are tribesmen who have for generations been masterless, who have the strongest objections to European ideas of law, order, and sanitation, have no intention of paying taxes, and are always ready for a row which holds out any promise of loot. There are, therefore, troubled waters in plenty, in which the unscrupulous adventurer can fish to his own advantage.

After commenting upon the activities of Mustapha Kemal, he concludes:—

We have already in Mesopotamia alone a far larger territory within our occupation than we can administer effectively except at ruinous cost. We have to accept the fact that our policy in Asia Minor has been mistaken: it has left us with more to manage than suits our pocket. Having made the mistake, it will be long before we can retrieve it, for it is out of the question that we should at once abandon people to be slaughtered whom we are now protecting. We require to build up autonomous States from the Christian and Arab peoples who were formerly under Turkish rule, and to reduce the territory directly under our administration to manageable proportions. The temptation to extend our bounds for the sake of oil and railway concessions must be sternly resisted. We cannot afford to mortgage any more of our capital for the sake of posterity. We must have an Eastern policy to suit our means. At present we are drifting into unknown seas.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

At the Queen's Hall on March 16, M. Dushkin gave, with the London Symphony Orchestra, under Mr. Adrian Boult, a very sound orchestral concert. M. Dushkin is a young violinist who plays with much taste and refinement, and all his work is rather governed by imagination than subjected to fancy. Thus, in the Bach Concerto for violin and orchestra (No. 5 in E major), he preferred, in both the structural and in the ornamental parts, a quiet dignity to a sparkling brilliance. In some Russian folk-songs and dances of Rimsky-Korsakoff, the orchestra's difference with him as regards *tempo* quite spoiled the effect; but a new work by Blair Fairchild—an Etude Symphonique for violin and orchestra, though written by an American composer under the influence of the modern French school—was made very interesting. Although this study purported to apply modern technique to the violin, it did not appear to be very original, and it is probably an example of how difficult it is even in music not to be orthodox. (Orthodoxy is made of imperishable elastic, which stretches but more freely as it ages.) The chief item in this concert was Elgar's second symphony (Op. 63). It is a tremendous work, and it was conducted in masterly fashion by Mr. Boult, who for certain modern composers is in a class by himself. It is doubtful whether since Beethoven there has been a composer who excels Elgar in solidity of structure and in architectural beauty. In this second symphony all his most notable virtues—the strength of his basses, the transformation of his rhythms, the simple and sheer beauty of his melodies, and so on—are abundantly present. By the side of it, Richard Strauss' "Tod und Verklärung" paled almost to unimportance, and the accurate realism of its programme music seemed a little thing.

A REVIEW.

Any person with a correct sense of values can read Mr. Ernest Newman, and all who are neither stodgy nor sensitive do read him. If not the soundest of English musical critics, he is easily the most brilliant. In his latest volume, "A Musical Motley" (London: John Lane. 7s. 6d. net), he maintains all the qualities that have brought him to his present position, independence and honesty, knowledge and intuition, and an excellent command of English. He can write little essays that are as fresh and fragrant as green grass; he can send off whistling on their way little epigrams which, whether you like them or not, you must admit are uncommonly good shooting; and he can deliver himself of opinions with the air of the man with the wooden hammer who is certain he can make the bell ring. (As a matter of fact, I accepted all his arrowed epigrams, and heard the bell ring every time.) If there are faults in this book, they are these two: Mr. Newman's honesty is so compelling as to flood in everywhere and submerge a kind of idolised rock which is inadequately called good taste, and that which, in his bonnet, should always be (it almost always is) a bee, is sometimes only an insignificant fly. That is, Mr. Newman does sometimes offend with his sayings, and he does sometimes pad them. But his remaining virtues will (though he neither desires nor needs it) gain him forgiveness.

For those who hold, and do not merely keep, opinions on music, this book is the very thing. To such we commend such sayings of Mr. Newman as these:—"An amateur like Borodin is worth fifty professionals like Saint-Saëns."—"For some modern musicians who, as artists, have seen their best days, a worse fate is reserved; they linger on till they are knighted" (a comment upon Emperor Nero, the artist who sang while Rome burned).—"Bach was sometimes perilously near touching decadence."—"Tchaikovski was simply a man with intervals of neurasthenia, not a man with a philosophy of the cosmos. He cries out as he does, not because he is sitting in judgment on the original plan of the universe, but simply because he is afraid to go home in the dark."—"Professional criticism should be an affair not of politeness, but of ideal justice" (in an essay upon "Putting the Classics in their Place").—All these are admirable truths admirably put, and the book abounds in such sentences. It is true that in this volume one sees, or, rather, peeps at, the fallibility of Mr. Newman as of all men; but even where one differs from him, one usually discovers that he has some hold on what one deems the truth, and that on going round to the reverse side of that truth, one finds him there, sardonically smiling. In fact, this book is at once most stimulating and annoyingly accurate.

ANDANTE.

CHESS.

The University Match.

If I had had the results of the matches played by the combined universities against Hampstead and the City of London Club before me when I ventured to forecast the result last week I should have named Oxford as the winners of the university match, as the Oxonians unquestionably displayed the more promising form—and even then I should have been wrong, for the forty-fourth match of the series ended in a draw, after a struggle in which almost from the commencement to the adjudication it was impossible to tell what was going to happen, so many were the vicissitudes of the play. I have had a fairly long experience of these matches both as a participant and as a spectator, and I must confess that I cannot recall an encounter in which the result hung so continually in the balance. Speaking generally the quality of the chess was considerably below the pre-war standard, which was, of course, to be expected in view of the long break in the continuity of the matches. There were no outstanding games this time; and, on the other hand, there were more blunders than usual, for which, no doubt, an explanation is to be found in the unfamiliarity of the players with their surroundings, which may have added to the nervousness which is an inevitable factor on these occasions. On the run of the play Cambridge must be accounted rather unfortunate not to have won. Cambridge fared worst on the lowest boards, in which connection it is interesting to note that one of the best performances in the matches against the London clubs last week was that of the Cambridge reserve, Mr. K. F. Mills, St. John's, who played against Oxford last year, and whose inclusion this time might have made a considerable difference.

The following were the players and the openings adopted:—

Oxford.	Opening.	Cambridge.
1. T. H. Tyler (Balliol) 0	Ponziani	L. S. Penrose (St. John's) 1
2. H. G. Rhodes (New) ½	Queen's Pawn	H. V. Mellison (Trinity) ½
3. H. R. Bigelow (Balliol) ½	Irregular	J. H. Barnes (St. John's) ½
4. D. M. Morrah (New) 0	Caro-Kann	C. M. Precious (St. John's) 1
5. T. A. Staynes (Brasenose) ½	Queen's Pawn	N. H. Smith (Caius) ½
6. H. T. Burt (Balliol) 1	Ruy Lopez	M. H. A. Newman (St. John's) 0
7. E. S. Woodley (St. Edmund's Hall) 1	Scotch	W. J. Chalk (Queen's) 0
3½		3½

It was expected that a close match would result from the meeting of the respective first strings, Mr. Tyler and Mr. Penrose, but their game, which is given below, came to an untimely end through a blunder by which Mr. Tyler lost a piece. On board No. 2 Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Mellison had a long and somewhat uneventful game, which ended in a draw. Very different in character was the contest on board No. 3 between Mr Bigelow and Mr. Barnes. The result was a draw, but the match could have gone one way or the other half a dozen times. Mr. Bigelow began well by winning the exchange, but later, when it appeared that he must lose a minor piece, he offered up his queen as a sacrifice instead, but his opponent neglected to take it, no doubt disconcerted by such unexpectedly generous tactics. Mr. Bigelow subsequently gave up a piece for two pawns, and was left with seven pawns against a bishop and five pawns. Then just before the close he offered a draw, which his opponent accepted, though the position was one which the adjudicator would have dismissed almost without thought as a win. Mr. Morrah, on board No. 4, obtained an excellent development against Mr. Precious, who played the Caro-Kann Defence very indifferently, but lost a rook by an oversight, and resigned. The game on board No. 5 between Mr. Staynes and Mr. Smith, which was adjudicated a draw by Sir G. A. Thomas, was one of the best of the match, but it was not free from mistakes. A few moves before the end the Oxford player neglected an opportunity of winning two pieces for a rook. Admittedly the position was complicated, and required some working out, and he may have been under the impression that he would have laid himself open to serious consequences by so doing. But it was, as it happened, perfectly safe. On board No. 6 Mr. Burt defeated Mr. Newman rather easily. Mr. Burt, so far as I could judge, played the soundest chess of the match, showing excellent form. The game on board No. 7 between Mr. Woodley and Mr. Chalk also ended in a win for Oxford, the Cambridge player losing his queen.

The following was the game on board No. 1:—Ponziani opening. White, Mr. L. S. Penrose; black, Mr. C. H. Tyler. 1, P—K4, P—K4; 2, Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3, P—B3, Kt—B3; 4, P—Q4, Kt x KP; 5, P—Q5, Kt—K2 (1); 6, Kt x P, Kt—Kt3; 7, Q—Q4, Kt—B3; 8, B—K3, B—K2; 9, Kt x Kt, RP x Kt; 10, Kt—Q2, P—Q3; 11, O—O—O, B—B4; 12, B—Q3, B x B; 13, Q—B, Q—Q2; 14, P—KR3, Q—R5; 15, KR—K1, R—R4 (2); 16, B—Q4, R x QP (3); 17, R x B (ch), K x R; 18, B x Kt (ch), P x Kt; 19, Q x R, resigns.

1. Kt—Kt1 should have been played.
2. Now, if ever, was the time to castle on the queen's side.
3. A mistake which loses a piece.

CARO-KANN.

The *Prager Tagblatt* states that the fact that the present Clerical Magyar Government is stirring up enmity against Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania is plainly shown by the first words of the oath which recruits must take:—"I swear, in the name of the Holy Virgin Mary, that I will fight against Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania for the liberation and reunion of the occupied territories with the mother country, and I will fight for the suppression of every Socialistic movement."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE BLACK SHEEP OF THE BALKANS." By Leland Buxton. With an Introduction by Lt.-Col. the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P. (London: Nisbet and Co., Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

II.—"THE NAVY EVERYWHERE." By Conrad Cato. (London: Constable and Co., 10s. 6d.)

III.—"MOSES, THE FOUNDER OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE." By Percival Wood, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Capt. R.A.M.C. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 4s. net.)

IV.—"THE SUPERHUMAN ANTAGONISTS." By Sir William Watson. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

I.—ALL OF ONE FOLD.

It is an axiom that in dealing with Balkan affairs no writer can hope to satisfy all the peoples of the Peninsula. He will equally fail to please their ardent champions in this country, and his book will be judged for the most part from the point of view whether it is favourable or unfavourable to the protégés of the reader. Although he has not avoided the charge of weighting the scales, Mr. Leland Buxton can claim credit for a wider outlook than the mere desire to "write up" one nation at the expense of another. His goal is clearly a Peninsula at peace and amity with itself, although his cynicism prompts him to regard the Balkan millenium as still remote. But he believes that no sound edifice can be raised on false theories and misrepresentation, and he has set himself the task of holding up the mirror of truth to the Balkan peoples and incidentally to add to the knowledge of many British readers of this book. If he has allowed his truth to be blunt to the degree of unkindness in regard to the Greeks, and in this part of the picture has laid his colours on with too thick a brush, his contention would probably be that there is in the case of Greece a larger measure of self-deception to be cleared away. But his pungent analysis would fail of its purpose if it left its Greek readers too exasperated to benefit from the opportunity of seeing themselves as at least some others see them. It is to be feared that there is some danger of this, although recent observers have noticed a tendency on the part of the Greeks of the kingdom to be less intolerant of criticism than formerly—a sure sign of the growth of political self-confidence and national maturity.

If Mr. Buxton has a bee in his bonnet, it is a legitimate one: to him the British partisan inciting the Balkan "hatemongers" to more hate is anathema. A clear appreciation of the damage done by such partisans must make the unbiassed onlooker a little more kindly disposed towards Balkan shortcomings, for it is easy to understand how the self-complacency thus engendered among peoples of arrested development has reacted on their disposition to indulge their more primitive passions.

The optimism of those who hoped that the war would introduce a new era into the Balkans has been roughly undermined by the action of the Supreme Council. For our own part, however, we refuse to give way to the fears of the worst pessimists. Propaganda has been overdone; fresh light is being shed on the Balkans, not for the purpose of creating a shuffle among the partisans of the different peoples, but having the effect of making the world tired of the propagandists and hatemongers, who have helped to perpetuate the feuds of the small nations. If once it can be understood that no nation, whether in the Balkans or outside them, has qualified in the past for a glass-case in the Palace of Rectitude, the Peninsula will have taken a step towards federation, which must be its ultimate goal.

"A Bulgarian understanding with the Yugoslavs and the Roumanians," says Mr. Buxton, "is possible, but such is the antipathy between Bulgarians and Greeks, that friendly relations between these peoples will be out of the question for many years to come." This must needs be the case, if the two peoples were left entirely to their own devices. But extraneous forces, it is to be hoped, will be at work to bring them together. Mr. Buxton's solution would be to have both Bulgaria and an autonomous Macedonia units of a Yugoslav Federation. Certain it is that the settlement devised by the Allied Conference cannot be the final solution of the Balkan question. But we like to believe that the four nations immediately concerned will be capable of better statesmanship when the passions of the war and of Paris have had time to die down.

Everyone interested in the Near East should read "The Black Sheep of the Balkans." More people will resent its plain speaking than will be able to challenge the facts that it marshals. Greeks who share with Mr. Buxton the belief that they are destined to be the rulers of Constantinople will be grateful to the critic to whom they can refer for the comparison between the Greeks of the unregenerate days before the Great War and those of subsequent years in the twentieth century.

II.—THE BRITISH NAVY.

In this book, the author of "The Navy in Mesopotamia" does not deal with the main work of the British Navy upon the high seas, but he tells of the work accomplished in the side shows—such as the Cameroons, Serbia, Roumania, the Persian Gulf, and the Red Sea. Everyone has heard a little of these shows, but nobody knows much of them. This ignorance is removed by a reading of this book, which, for all its delightfully unofficial style, is in the nature of being an official account of these minor episodes of the war. Mr. Cato writes with true naval raciness, and with a good humour that pervades everything. In one respect, indeed (though not in any other!), he resembles the native of the Cameroons, of whom he says: "It may be said that the chief virtue of the native pilot is his unfailing cheerfulness. When he has run the ship aground with a big bump, he turns smilingly to the commanding officer, and says, 'Small water lib 'ere, sah,' and he says it, too, with the air of one imparting useful information." This book is full of similar instances which show that the British naval men encountered experiences, however inconvenient or unexpected, in just the same spirit of amused fatalism.

Much of the matter in this book is quite new. Thus we have not seen before the full story of the R.N.A.S. (which the author says it is wrong to translate by "Really Not A Sailor") in Roumania, nor so complete a description of the taking of Salip, a village on the Red Sea. A certain amount has been written on the Aden patrol, but no one has given a more vivid narrative of it than Mr. Cato. In one of his chapters dealing with this area, "An Outpost of Empire in Somaliland," the author, besides telling a very good story of that troubled region, has some most amusing incidental matter. For instance, after showing how the Navy helped the Warsangli tribe against the Dervishes, he quotes a letter written by the Sultan of the Warsangli and a learned member of the same tribe living at Aden. The letter found its way to the Anti-Slavery Society in London.

Surely we have found in Commander Turton a saviour of our place and people. God may give him long life and prosperity to enhance such heroic works. . . . Praise and gratification have been in the mouths of us all since the success achieved by the genius and talents of Commander Turton, R.N., of H.M.S. Northbrook. The results of his success are truly colossal for us. . . .

The book is full of excellent things, and both to those who know nothing of what the Navy accomplished in out of the way places during the war, and to those who know of them only through the lifeless official documents, we commend it very heartily. It is one of the most readable books of information that we have reviewed for a long time.

III.—MOSES AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

The doctor's meditations upon the plague of flies around him on the Macedonian front led him, he tells us, to the Egyptian plagues in the book of Exodus and thus on to the consideration of hygiene generally in the Old Testament. He came to see how on many points modern health precautions were parallel with those of the ancient Hebrews. In the volume before us he develops his subject with enthusiasm and carries his reader with him whether he agrees or not. The difficulty besetting any medical man in taking

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such a subject is that his up-to-date modern science is not balanced by an up-to-date view of the Bible. The claim that the ritual laws of the Pentateuch were laws of "preventive medicine" is an old one, and has been consistently supported by a very conservative interpretation of the Bible. Such a view in the past has been frequently maintained by Christian and even more by Jewish commentators. Now almost all recent writers who recognize the origin of these ritual laws in very remote pre-Hebrew customs, in folklore and in the practice of taboo (which the writer mentions only to reject) take a very different view of the "laws of Moses." Dr. Wood is not, it seems to us, consistent with either school. While admitting "that the Mosaic code was not brought to its final form until the Pentateuch was edited some centuries later than the time of Moses," that the number of the Hebrews quoted as in the wilderness was "probably far too high," and criticizing the utility of many of these laws, he takes as a whole a view which is only consistent to one holding an ultra-conservative view of Biblical interpretation. It would, however, be beyond the scope of THE NEAR EAST to enter in detail into these questions, but it may be said that the views here expressed are in many respects the opposite to those in "Hygiene and Disease in Palestine in Modern and Biblical Times," which was reviewed in THE NEAR EAST (vol. xvi. p. 197). The writer further labours under the disadvantage that he has apparently very little first-hand knowledge of the conditions of life of nomadic tribes in the wilderness and also of the ritual laws of Talmudic Judaism.

Throughout the book Moses is the hero, the author of all the ritual, the far-seeing administrator and the food controller. "His fundamental principles were so sound, his attention to detail so marked and his spirit so undaunted to the end, that when there was failure the blame should rather be laid at the door of 'the congregation.'"

IV.—ORMUZD AND AHRIMAN.

In this his latest volume of verse, Sir William Watson has taken from Zoroastrianism the fundamental idea of the chief poem in the book, "The Superhuman Antagonists." This poem recounts the history of an offer by Ahriman to Ormuzd that the Universe should be definitely bisected into two spheres, over which Evil and Good respectively should reign supreme. After consulting with three of the divinities mentioned in the Zend-Aresta, Rashnu, Vayu, and Mithra, Ormuzd decides against the proposal, and the poem ends with the Evil spirit, enraged by the refusal of his specious offer,

Betaking him in fancy and in shame
Back to those holds of midnight whence he came.

It is not a very notable poem that Sir William has written. This is partly due to his determined use of a Miltonic and Wordsworthian style of writing, which, however natural to him, sounds rather artificial and is often dull to the modern ear. It is true that he is always refined, and that even in wrapping commonplace ideas in outworn language he never resembles the hack; but his preservation of dignity when there is little (except his past) to be proud about does not avail much. The case is the same with the other poems in this book, which are topical and general: similar evidence of talent and similar absence of genius. If only Sir William could revoke that spirit which created his early odes and such priceless lyrics as "April, April!" Of that spirit there is not much manifestation in this volume; but it is well to remember, when gloomily pondering on the loss of Sir William's early raptures, that Wordsworth, for long after it was said that he should have stopped writing, wrote among much cumbersome verbiage some immortal lines. The parallel between the two men is too close not to arouse fears and excite hopes.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Albania: The Master Key to the Near East." By Christo A Dako. (Boston: E. L. Grimes Co. $3.50.)

"Mrs. Warren's Daughter." By Sir Harry Johnston. (London: Chatto and Windus. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Epic of Semiramis, Queen of Babylon." By the Rev. J. F. Rowbotham. (London: W. and G. Foyle, Ltd.)

"The Reign of Religion in Contemporary Philosophy." By S. Radhakrishnan, M.A. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.)

"The Incomparable 29th and the 'River Clyde.'" By George Davidson. (Aberdeen: J. B. Bisset. 6s. net.)

"Journal of the Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society, 1918-1919." (Manchester: University Press; and London: Longmans, Green and Co. 5s. net.)

"Saada la Marocaine." By Elissa Rhaïs. (Paris: Plon-Nourrit et Cie. 5 frs.)

An engagement is announced between Robert Victor Proudlock, Indian Army, eldest son of Robert Lewis Proudlock, of Bedford, and Kathleen Helen Bryham Peck, fourth daughter of the late Oswald Peck, of Wigan, and Mrs. Peck, of Bedford.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. March.	1920. March.		1338. Ragab.	5680. Nisan.
25	12	Thursday	5	6
26	13	Friday	6	7
27	14	Saturday.....	7	8
28	15	Sunday	8	9
29	16	Monday	9	10
30	17	Tuesday	10	11
31	18	Wednesday	11	12

Sir George Buchanan has returned to London from India.

M. Vaida Voevod left London for Paris on March 16 on his way to Bucharest.

General Sir Ian Hamilton and Sir Davison Dalziel, M.P., both left London on March 19 for the Continent.

Admiral Troubridge, the chief of the Inter-Allied Danube Commission, arrived at Vienna on March 17 from Budapest.

The Greek Premier, M. Venizelos, was, on March 18, the guest at luncheon of Admiral of the Fleet Earl Beatty.

Mr. Francis Wells has left for India, and expects to be away for about a year. Letters should be sent to him care of Alliance Bank of Simla, Limited, Simla.

Dr. Nemanja Vukicevitch, Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes at The Hague, arrived in London on March 17 from Paris.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, has left London for the Continent. During the absence of M. Boeresco, Prince Bibesco, Counsellor, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

The Shah of Persia has conferred upon Emad el-Molk, the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, the insignia of the Order of Temsal set in diamonds, in appreciation of the services rendered by him during his Majesty's visit to England.

The engagement is announced between Francis William Baldock Gore, of Assam, son of the late Mr. Francis Arthur Gore, and Mary Isabel Kirsteen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Corbet-Singleton, of Finchampstead, Berkshire.

Prince Nosrat ed-Dowleh, the Persian Foreign Minister and President of the Persian Delegation to the Peace Conference, left on March 21 for Mentone to pay his homage in person on the occasion of the Persian New Year's Day to the Shah, and will return to London in a few days' time to resume his work in connection with the Peace Conference.

On the opening of the Royal Asiatic Society's new premises at 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1, the President and Council are holding a reception on March 30 at 4 p.m. Short addresses will be delivered by the Right Hon. the Lord Reay (President) and by His Excellency Sao-ke Alfred Sze (Minister of the Republic of China at the Court of St. James's).

Under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society, two lectures on Arabia will be delivered in the Æolian Hall at 8.30 p.m. The first is on March 29, when Commander D. G. Hogarth, C.M.G., will lecture upon "War and Discovery in Arabia," and the second on May 3, when Mr. H. St. J. Philpby will lecture upon "Across Arabia: From the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea."

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in June, between Major Ernest Kynaston Fowler, M.C., 57th Wilde's Rifles, F.F., Indian Army, youngest son of the late Major W. M. Fowler, Gloucester Regiment, and Mrs. Fowler, of Friary Cottage, Bourne End, Bucks, and Dorothy Somerset Graves, only daughter of Colonel S. H. P. Graves, late 40th Pathans, Indian Army, and Mrs. Graves, of 21, Royal Avenue West, Isle of Man.

We understand that Lieut.-Colonel F. Forbes Mackay, who was recently Director of Civil Stores at Baghdad, attached to the Civil Commission, was married on the 22nd inst., to Ivy, only daughter of Henry A. Gray, of Wimborne. Mr. Mackay, who is now the managing director of the Scottish Mesopotamia Corporation, which is shortly

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opening at Baghdad and Busreh, will be sailing for the East towards the end of next month.

The marriage was celebrated on March 16, at St. Luke's, Redcliffe Square, S. Kensington, by the Rev. F. Marshall, M.A., Rector of Ockley, brother-in-law of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. H. R. W. Anderson, M.A., vicar of the parish, between Major Thomas Simpson Young, retired, Indian Army, and late 10th Suffolk Regiment, of Broughton Hall, Cartmel, N. Lancashire, son of the late Mr. J. S. Young, and Edith Julia, eldest daughter of the late Major-General E. D. Newbolt.

The anniversary of the Persian New Year's Day occurred on Sunday, March 21. On the following day the Persian Chargé d'Affaires and Mme. Ghaffar Khan held a reception of the members of the colony and friends. Among those present were the ex-Regent of Persia, Nubar Pasha, the Greek Minister, the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the American Chargé d'Affaires and Mrs. Wright Butler, the Czecho-Slovak Chargé d'Affaires, Lady Boyd, Admiral Sir Edmond Slade, Sir Walter and Lady Susan Townley, Lady Ameer Ali, Sir Hugh and Lady Barnes, Sir Francis Barker, Sir Charles Greenway, Sir Vincent Caillard, Sir John D. Rees, M.P., and the Hon. Lady Rees, the members of the Indian Khalifate Delegation, the personnel of the Legation, the Persian Consul-General, and the members of the colony. A congratulatory message was sent to the Shah by the Persian Chargé d'Affaires on behalf of the colony.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mohamed Ali Khan Ehteshan Homayoun, First Secretary to the Persian Legation in London, has been promoted to the position of Persian Consul-General at Constantinople.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on March 17 of Mr. Sidney Nowill, a Sheffield merchant, who was well-known in the Near East. At an early age he went to Constantinople, where afterwards, with his brother, he represented the Sheffield firm of John Nowill and Sons. The two brothers opened a further branch of the business at Athens, and in the interests of his firm Mr Nowill was a constant visitor to Egypt. At the time of his death he was sixty-eight years of age.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

According to official information from Belgrade, which has reached the Yugoslav Peace Delegation in Paris, conditions in Montenegro are constantly improving.

The Zionist Commission has decided to reopen the Shulanist School of Music in Jerusalem.

So far as present conditions permit, the medical, educational, and evangelistic work of the C.M.S. in Palestine has now been resumed. Hospitals and school buildings have been restored, but a good deal of work remains to be done.

Roumania has proposed that the peace negotiations with Soviet Russia should take place at Warsaw, whither Roumanian delegates have been dispatched. M. Tchitcherin is also asked to open direct negotiations with the Government at Bucharest.

An appeal is issued in the name of 12,000 Greeks, refugees from the region of Ortaköi, in Thrace, demanding the shifting of the Greco-Bulgarian frontier in that neighbourhood some six miles to the west, so as to restore "eleven pure Greek villages" to Greece.

A meeting was held at Bombay on March 5 to ask for the repeal of the Press Act and the extension of the amnesty to all Press publications.

According to a telegram received by the Zionist Organization in London, the Military Governor of Jerusalem has issued a proclamation prohibiting further demonstrations and processions.

It is announced by the Admiralty that, owing to the absence of a parcel post service to Yugoslavia, no parcels can be sent at present to the members of the Royal Naval Brigade and to the crews of his Majesty's ships serving on the Danube.

A Delhi message states that Mr. W. E. Crum and Mr. Paton, representing the Bombay and Bengal Chambers of Commerce respectively in the Imperial Legislative Council, in the course of a letter to the Viceroy, urge that he should continue vigorously to press the representations of their Moslem fellow-subjects regarding Constantinople and the Holy Places.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1920.

TRANSCAUCASIA.

If the Allies hoped to relieve themselves of responsibility by according recognition to the Transcaucasian Republics, they seem likely to be disappointed. A variety of circumstances is bringing the territory between the Black Sea and the Caspian into special prominence at this moment, and it is evident that the Allied Governments cannot afford to ignore the signs of the time in that part of the world. The key to the position lies in the fact that the peoples of Transcaucasia have been under Russian domination, and have made up their minds that they would rather face any ills they know not of than become a part of Russia again. When, in the early days of their emancipation, the Georgians turned to Germany for support they were by no means free agents, and there is no need to suppose that the step was taken as the result of any profound study of the European situation or in response to a matured conviction that Germany was the right horse to back. The Germans in those days were the only accessible Power for the Georgians, who owed their declaration of independence in great measure to German prompting; and probably the chief consideration was the necessity of seizing the first opportunity of protection against Russia. In the same way we may have to make some allowance for the Tartars of Azerbaijan, if, as is reported in *The Times*, they have concluded (in October last) a treaty of alliance with the Turkish Government. The suggestion does not dispose of the whole matter; but the Allies will do well to realise that the Russian bogey is a formidable factor in Transcaucasian politics. Recent events, moreover, are not calculated to have allayed misgivings on this point. When the Reds are seen to be carrying all before them, and pressing southwards through the Caucasus, it is certain that a considerable section of the Transcaucasian peoples finds ground for alarm, and will be tempted to embrace any proposal which offers the prospect of help in warding off the Russian peril. Underlying the satisfaction with which the recognition of the Republics by the Allied Governments was received would be the hope that adequate supplies of munitions would now be forthcoming, and possibly still more valuable help in maintaining the integrity of the new States. Any other explanation than the overriding fear of Russia, coupled with hostility towards Armenia, seems to make the contradictory policies of the Republics too crude even for peoples taking their first lessons in statecraft.

But when every allowance is made for the Republics the Allies cannot overlook the very definite links that are being forged between the Tartars of Azerbaijan and the Turkish Government. The treaty of alliance which is said to have been signed last October in Constantinople provided for reciprocal assistance in case of foreign aggression against the territorial integrity of either State, or in case any foreign Power should attempt to establish a political, administrative, or economic protectorate over either. According to a further clause, the Azerbaijan Republic, in order that mutual co-operation might be more effectively secured, bound itself to allow the Turkish Government to organise its army and supply the officers and soldiers required for the proper training of the Tartar troops. Now, whether this treaty was signed or not, or whatever validity attaches to it, there can be no doubt that the reported terms correspond to a definite tendency that has to be reckoned with both in Turkey and in Azerbaijan. In the latter, where the bulk of the population is Moslem, it is not to be wondered at that there should be some movement in favour of an understanding with Turkey. The course of events in the Caucasus since the collapse of Russia was summarised in THE NEAR EAST of February 12 and 16, and last week our well-informed Constantinople correspondent gave an interesting account of later happenings in the Moslem Republic. The collapse of Germany and Turkey left the new States at the mercy of conflicting interests within and of rivalries and undetermined frontiers without. If the Allies had been able to take at once the place vacated by Germany, the recent history of Transcaucasia might have assumed a different character. The British representative has done good work within the limits imposed upon him; but it is evident that his influence has not carried far in Azerbaijan. The ground has been left more or less free to the Turkish Committee of Union and Progress, which has been working through Enver Pasha and members of his family. The party in power is professedly democratic and liberal, but there would seem to have been little so far to distinguish it, in regard to its foreign policy, from the Union party, which supports the pan-Turanian movement of the Committee of Union and Progress, and is closely related to that body. Five or six months ago, when the treaty with Turkey was being negotiated, the Allies' intentions were either unknown to the Transcaucasian republics or were supposed to foreshadow a complete severance of interest in their fate. In these circumstances there could have been no incentive to the democratic party in Azerbaijan to withstand the natural tendency to lean upon their co-religionists in Turkey. It remains to be seen whether recognition of the Republics by the Allies has been sufficient to bring about a fresh orientation of foreign policy, which might well find encouragement in the adoption by Great Britain and France of a more vigorous attitude towards violation of the Armistice, whether at Constantinople or in Asia Minor.

The moral of what has happened in Turkey and in Transcaucasia is that the Allies cannot divest themselves of responsibility for the good government of the whole of this wide area against Bolshevism and Turkish intrigues; the new Republics stand no chance if left to their own resources. On the other hand, any prospect of the co-operation of Daghestan and Azerbaijan—both occupying strategical positions for the eastward movement—must serve as a strong inducement to the Turkish Nationalists to continue their policy of resistance to the spirit of the Armistice and to the efforts of the Allies to introduce better government in Turkey. At the moment something in the nature of a naval and military expedition has been prepared to deal more effectively with the Turks. It is established that Mustapha Kemal's forces are unlikely to prove formidable in the face of any organised attempt to come to grips with them, and in the interests of the future peace of this part of the world there can be no alternative for the Allies to seeing the thing through to its logical conclusion. Certain it is that steps to this end taken now will prove far less expensive in the long run than a policy of *laissez-faire*. Mustapha Kemal, we may be confident, enjoys considerable prestige in Azerbaijan. If he is allowed to trade upon this and the Azerbaijanis are left to suppose that the star of Enver and his family is in the ascendant in Turkey, Baku will become the centre of intrigues, which will keep a large part of Central Asia in a state of chronic unrest. On the other hand, with those who cannot be accused of connivance with the Committee of Union and Progress in power in Turkey and Turkish territory cut off by Armenia from direct contact with Azerbaijan, it should be comparatively simple to persuade the Azerbaijanis that a brighter future awaits them from the promotion of peace and good government within their borders than from lending themselves and their resources to serve as a catspaw for certain Turks in enterprises which are more concerned with schemes of self-aggrandisement than with solicitude for the welfare of Islam.

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CENTRAL ASIA AFTER THE PEACE—III.*

By Colonel A. C. Yate.

Britain has a very grave task before her as the champion of the Entente against Bolshevism (which has recently debated whether to turn its arms first against East or West) in the Middle East, but I venture to think that the entire British Empire is confident that England will do her duty, and that England's daughters will stand by her in this struggle, as they have stood by her from 1914 onward. France, we are confident, will stand by Britain, and selfish as I think the policy of Italy or Greece has been, both throughout and since the war, their own self-interest should prompt them to stand by Britain against Bolshevism. The pretensions of Greece have been quite abnormal, and we have all heard that these pretensions were admirably advocated by the personal charm and impressiveness of M. Venizelos. Still, we certainly draw the line at Cyprus. On January 21, before the Central Asian Society, Mr. Roland Michell, for thirty years Commissioner for Limassol, stated why Britain *must* retain Cyprus, and Sir Wm. Haynes Smith, Sir Charles King Harman, Sir W. M. Ramsay, and Colonel C. E. Yate, M.P., strongly supported him. Cyprus is a most valuable base and protection, and it was as such, I have been assured, that Disraeli took it in 1878. We realise that our hands are not strengthened at this crisis either by the state of affairs in Egypt or by the attitude of Moslems and Extremists in India, and the assassination of the Amir Habibullah Khan has certainly added to our difficulties. Bearing this in mind, our Government has done well to decline to send troops to any part of Russia or to the Baltic. Our interest and our duty bid us to hold the line from the passes north of Kashmir to the Dardanelles, and if we do that we shall have done our duty by ourselves and by our Allies. Bolshevism must be brought to its bearings and taught its limits. It is deeply to be regretted that at this juncture Kabul has once more, again under Muscovite temptation, and this time with a graver menace than ever, thrown down the gauntlet to India. We have had this theme amply thrashed out in our own journals by our own fellow-countrymen. Let us hear how the Afghan, not the fanatic, but the statesman, views it: "The fact of not having drawn up the treaty with Turkey has in a large degree helped the discontent in the Moslem world, and, where the people are more sensitive about their religious conceptions, the anxiety is most marked. For instance, in Kabul one sees it more in evidence than in the Punjab, and in Persia one might discover that people give no two thoughts to the subject. What has really happened is that the Bolshevists and others have propagated the idea that Turkey, the seat of Islam, is going to be dismantled, and what is more, that Great Britain is the chief mover in this process. It may be furthest from the English mind to destroy the Islamic seat, if Constantinople is to be regarded as the seat of Islam, and not Mecca. The formation of various societies in Russia—'for the protection of Islam,' as they are called—is really an amalgamated phase of the Pan-Islamic and Pan-Turanian movement. The one has been merged into the other; and I can, with confidence of facts, say that no small measure of diplomacy and delicate handling will be necessary to cope with these movements, which, as you will remember, started with 'The Society of Union and Progress' in Turkey at the downfall of the Sultan Abdul Hamid. At that time they were little more than social movements. Now they have become political in the extreme.

"It is a mistake to suppose that the Bolshevist canons appeal to the Khivan, the Bokharian, and the Afghan. The popularity, or, rather, the hold which the Reds have established over these Central Asian areas is very cleverly formulated. They do not say, 'These are our political aims, these our ways of dealing with our enemies; adopt them, or—we will fight you.' No; the thing is managed otherwise. The Reds have not fought with Khiva, Bokhara, or Afghanistan. They said to the former: 'You were under Imperialist Russia; you were oppressed; you were a mere nominal Khan of your country. We have destroyed your Imperialist oppressors, and we wish to see you happy. Here is some gold to be going on with. Now, are you with us?' The Uzbeks became adherents of the Bolshevists. To the Afghans the Reds said: 'The English have long been your enemies. Help us now to clear out these Russians who have for years been watching to pounce upon you from the Kushk-post,† and you can have your land up to Merv. Never mind if you are isolated from India. Open up your communications with the Caspian, and here is some gold which you may find useful.' Here also their purpose was achieved. It is not superior strength that has won the Bolshevist battles, but the downfall of Imperialist Russia in Central Asia, and inactivity on the part of Britain and India which has favoured their cause.

"It is idle to suppose that Russia will be killed by the Bolshevists. It is my belief that Russia will regenerate stronger even than she ever was before. Rivalry between Britain and Russia will be as keen very soon as it was twenty years ago. The Afghans and the Uzbeks, being at close quarters, have foreseen this possibility, and are shaping their policy accordingly. Britain must look into Central Asian affairs if she wants quietness in Persia and India. To remain indifferent to what is happening in Turkistan at present is not at all wise. People will tell you that, if Britain interfered, she would be interfering in the private affairs of Russia. I cannot agree to this. Turkistan politics throw shadows far and wide—to Baghdad, to Kabul, to Teheran, to Peshawar, and even to Lahore. Can they, then, be called a Russian affair alone? I think not.

"Now let us look into Afghan affairs. Whatever has happened since the death of Habibullah is passed, and should be regarded as a thing of the past. The Afghans should be again treated as allies and befriended. I must speak frankly. I think that the Afghan offensive of 1919 should be overlooked. I think that the British must take the initiative in friendly overtures. Supposing the Afghans adopted a sulky attitude and showed no inclination to open up friendly relations with you—who would be the loser? Is there any doubt about the question? The Afghans have factories, and they have now a channel for imports and exports at Merv. How can you blockade and boycott them now? Would you prefer a hostile Afghanistan next door? I do not think that, for the safety of India, you can afford it. You will not be allowed to conquer the country, for the League of Nations would not let you. All this shows that Afghanistan should be befriended and not cold-shouldered too much. Again, let this be borne in mind, that if Bolshevism penetrates further into Afghanistan that country will come under the very Power which Britain has consistently warned off her, viz., Russia; for, 'Communists' as the Bolshevists may take themselves to be, they will again regenerate Imperialist Russia. For this reason it is my political faith that Afghanistan should take advantage of the present opportunity and become friendly immediately with Great Britain. So you see how the two questions are interlaced with each other. Afghans *must* become friends of the British, and the British should, with their characteristic adaptability, make overtures to befriend Afghanistan."

Having given *in extenso* this expression of the views of my Afghan correspondent, I would suggest to those of my readers who desire to arrive at a judgment of some soundness on this question to re-read Lord Curzon's speech in the House of Lords on October 28 last. That speech distinctly states that, after a lapse of six months from the date of the signature of the Peace Treaty between the British Government and the Amir (August 8, 1919), it is hoped that it will be possible to re-enter into negotiations with the Afghan Government, and to re-establish really friendly relations between India and Afghanistan. That "probationary period of six months" has now been completed. This is a very critical moment. We have the precedents of 1837 and 1878 before us, when Dost Mahommed and Shere Ali yielded to blandishments of Russian intrigue. Russian—Bolshevist, not Imperialist—intrigue is again at work at Kabul. I am disposed to think that now, if the Amir shows himself amenable, the second stage of the negotiations will take place in London, not at Peshawar. If Nasrullah Khan thirty-five years ago had been a less impossible person, St. James's might ere this have seen an Afghan Envoy. One thing seems absolutely certain, and that is that an Anti-Bolshevist alliance between Britain and Afghanistan will greatly strengthen British power in its conflict with Bolshevism in Central Asia. I have long felt that the admirable and loyal conduct of the Amir Habibullah during the war entitled him to recognition; and, as he is gone, his nation is his rightful heir. Merv, which the Afghans have occupied on their own, is an earnest of other territorial increments to follow. When I look back to scenes and memories on and near the Murghab in 1884-5, I am bound to confess that I am heart and soul with the Afghans in their revenge. I only wish that the Amir Habibullah had lived to see it. One other Afghan, too, I would had seen it—Sardar Mahommed Hashim Khan, whom in April, 1885, I visited at Meshed, and who, with tears in his eyes, said to me, referring to the unprovoked Russian attack on General Ghaus-ud-din's force at Panjdeh, "Sahib, surely you English will avenge this." An Anglo-Afghan alliance in 1920 will take this revenge, belated though it be.

* The first and second parts of this article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of March 11 and 18 respectively.

† A base 60 miles north of Herat.

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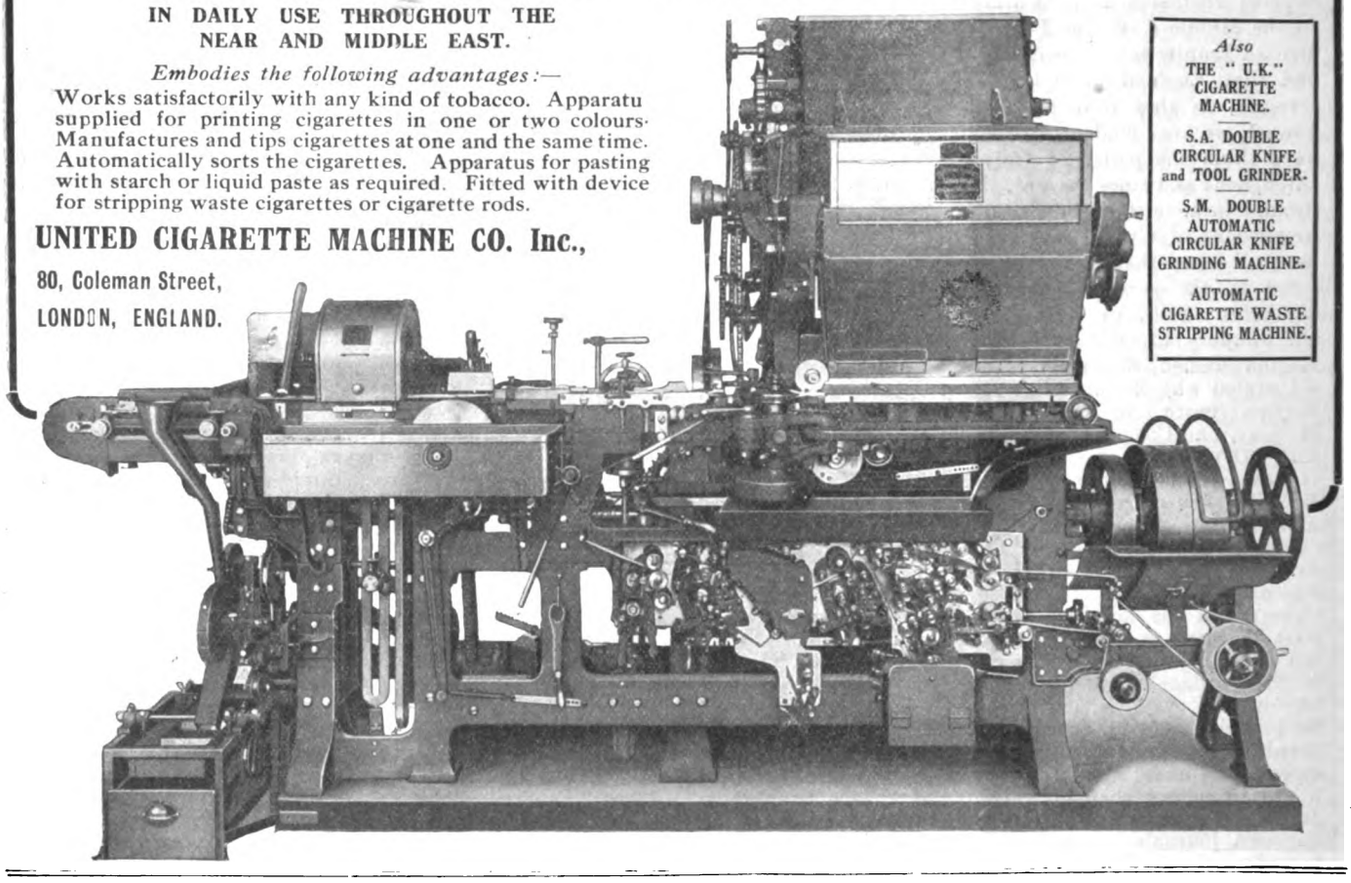

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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In the report of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders, which was issued this week, the financial outlook in Greece is referred to as distinctly favourable. The total surplus revenues receivable by the Greek Government should at the present rate of increase, it is pointed out, aggregate upwards of 85,000,000 drachmæ for the year 1919, as against 37,000,000 drachmæ in 1918, thus easily surpassing all records. The gross receipts from the assigned revenues in 1919 were 100,844,949 drachmæ, an increase of 33,394,901 drachmæ, and the receipts in 1919 applicable to the plus-values amounted to 50,468,064 drachmæ, as against 36,264,901 drachmæ in 1918. This considerable increase permits the raising of the interest payable in 1920 on the loans of all the group to the original rates, and of additions, by way of increased sinking fund of 30 per cent. of the original interest to Groups I. and II. and 32 per cent. to Group III. The distribution in 1919 by way of increased interest was 26 per cent. of the original interest to each of the three groups, and, by way of increased sinking fund, 14 per cent. to the first and third and 16 per cent. to the second group.

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The position as regards Turkey is briefly summarised in the report. The gross receipts from the revenues assigned to the service of the Unified Debt and Lots Turcs in 1916-17 amounted to £T3,633,692 (paper). There was a remarkable improvement in 1917-18 of nearly 68 per cent., the figures being £T6,087,495 (paper), while for 1918-19 the provisional receipts were £T6,057,868 (paper). For the first nine months of the year under review the receipts amounted to £T5,214,963 (paper). The arrears of interest on the Unified Debt up to September, 1919, amounted to £T6,320,000, and deducting the resources standing to the credit of the Debt Administration—exclusive of the Reserve Fund and collections effected in Turkish territories occupied by the Allies—the deficiency was then £4,351,000. Owing to further depreciation in the exchanges, it is estimated, however, that this has now been increased by nearly £1,000,000.

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The report of the Eastern Bank for the past year shows greatly improved results, the available balance, including the carry forward, being £122,500, as against £84,800 for the previous year, an increase of £37,700. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 4s. per share, making 7s. per share for the year, or 8¾ per cent., as against 6s. per share or 7½ per cent. for 1918, to place £40,000 to the reserve fund as against £20,000, and to carry forward £20,000. The bank's capital was increased last year to £2,000,000 by the issue of 50,000 new shares to shareholders at a premium of 10s. per share, and this premium has been placed to the reserve fund, which now stands at £225,000.

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The effects of the war on the Indian currency and exchange system were dealt with by Sir William Meyer, late Finance Member of the Government of India, in the course of an interesting paper which he read before the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts on March 19 on "The Indian Currency System and its Developments." When the war broke out, India was in a strong financial position; but the outbreak of war led, he pointed out, to a business and exchange panic, but the situation had been promptly dealt with. A bewildering sequence of events followed, leading to the appointment of a very strong committee, to provide, if possible, definite principles and lines of action, in place of the hand-to-mouth expedients which the ever-changing circumstances of the war and its aftermath had hitherto dictated. That committee, which had given a most able presentment of the difficulties and the policy necessary for the future, had provided the best policy possible in present conditions. Fate might yet have other and great vicissitudes in store, he remarked, but he thought that they might regard the success with which past difficulties had been met as a satisfactory omen for the future.

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The Indian trade figures for January make very interesting reading, the values of the imports and exports passing all previous records. The imports amounted to £16,718,000, an increase of £4,759,000 on the figures for the corresponding month of 1919, while the exports show an increase of £4,178,000 at £20,715,000. As regards imports there was an increase of £3,325,000 in articles wholly or mainly manufactured, this being mainly due to much larger imports of cotton piece goods, while the increased value of the exports is mainly due to larger shipments of raw cotton, jute, hides, and lac. The respective totals for January, 1914, were £12,026,000 for imports, and £14,934,000 for exports.

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In view of the developments in the Smyrna district it was only to be expected that there would be further delay in the completion of the accounts of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin. The report of the line, which has just been issued, states that they are, however, now well in hand, and will, no doubt, be ready for inclusion with the next report of the Council. Following the Armistice the company was able to regain possession of its property, but as a result of the disturbances which followed the landing of the Greek Army in May only about one-third of the line is being operated by the company's staff, the upper and remaining portion being in the possession of the Turkish insurgents. This has had two unfortunate consequences. A good season had been anticipated, but in the circumstances the receipts have naturally been very adversely affected. Secondly, there must, of course, be still further delay in proceeding with the necessary measures of reconstruction.

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The figures for Egypt's trade in 1919 are the most satisfactory that have yet been recorded. There was a slight decrease in imports at £E47,409,717, as against £E51,155,306; but, on the other hand, there was a substantial rise in exports at £E75,888,321, as against £E45,370,020, and there is thus a balance of trade in favour of Egypt of £E33,000,000, as against £E5,000,000 for 1918, and rather less than that amount for 1913, the best normal pre-war year. This result reflects the unprecedented prosperity of the country as a whole at the present time, and indicates very plainly the growing market that may be looked for in that country as a result of the greatly increased purchasing power of large sections of the population.

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An interesting survey of the present position in Egypt is given in the recently published report of the Credit Foncier d'Egypte. "The persistent rise in the prices of agricultural products," says the report, "has resulted in the increase of wealth surpassing expectations . . . After having always been debtor to Europe Egypt is now becoming the latter's creditor. The circulation of the National Bank of Egypt rose from £E2,200,000 on July 31, 1914, to over £40,000,000 on July 31, 1919, before the new crop; and on November 30, 1919, when the crop was partly sold, the circulation exceeded £E65,000,000. The bank deposits increase daily, and the sales of land are reaching prices never obtained before."

***

A satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Aboukir Company for 1919. The trading profit was £17,813, to which has to be added the profit on land sales, £67,429, and the carry forward of £1,615, making the available total £86,857. The interim dividend of 3 per cent. absorbed £9,000, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of 15 per cent. which will absorb £45,000, to place £25,000 to the reserve, and to carry forward £7,857.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, March 12.

The Currency Problem.

Although the Narodny Club has expressly stated that it includes in its programme a revision of the currency reform and the stoppage of the recall of kronen at the rate of four to one, the Minister of Finance, Dr. Velizar Jankovitch, a connection of M. Pashitch, and Minister of Commerce in the last Radical Government at Salonika, has issued orders for the exchange to continue. He sees perfectly clearly that as the recall of the krone has actually begun, and a substantial number of the new notes are already in circulation, it is impossible to draw back without throwing the commerce and organisation of the country into absolute confusion. The 1,000-kronen notes will be withdrawn from circulation by March 5 in Serbia and Montenegro, and by the 15th in the other parts of the kingdom. 100-kronen notes will be withdrawn by April 15, while the date for the recall of smaller unities will be announced later. Finally, the old Serbian dinar currency will be eventually withdrawn and replaced by the new dinar-cum-krone notes. On no account will any extension of date be allowed.

The 1,000-dinar or 4,000-kronen notes have already been in circulation for some weeks. They caused considerable interest at first, as there has not hitherto been a larger unit than 100 dinars in Serbia, this sufficing even for quite large transactions. The 1,000-dinar note was at once recognised as a great convenience. The 100-dinar is a French-made note, like the larger one, but the 10-dinar (= 40 kronen) betrays a totally different origin. The design is not bad, but not so artistic as the old or new French-made notes; it is overcrowded and too heavily coloured; it is deep blue in colour, so dark that the inscription can scarcely be read; on one side the edges are tinted with pink, as in Austrian notes. The notes are by no means an improvement on the pale blue, well-designed, pretty dinar currency engraved in France, which they are superseding. The sooner they are superseded themselves the better.

Since the beginning of the last phase of the political crisis there has been a heavy and continued fall in the exchange; the dinar has been down to 142, and this makes it virtually impossible for Serbs to buy in the English market, especially against rising prices. And when it is a question of goods dependent on American raw material, as in the case of cotton, with the American exchange to be taken into account as well, conditions are virtually prohibitive.

After a month of glorious spring weather, dry and sunny, the fruit-trees are beginning to blossom, the woods are showing a delicate green mantle, and the peasants have begun to prune their vines. Unhappily, this climate is nearly as treacherous as our own, and for the past three days we have been having a sleety drizzle, which is turning into snow. A mantle of snow would be unpleasant, but not disastrous; but a hard dry frost now would do immense damage to the fruit-trees and to the vines; indeed, probably most of the vineyards that have been pruned would be destroyed.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 12.

Spring-sowings.

A break in the cold weather, followed by a week of balmy spring days, put the question of spring-sowings forward. From various parts of the country news comes that little work is being done in the fields. The Ministry of Agriculture has succeeded in distributing sufficient seed-grain for the spring-sowings, but there is less wheat available than one might wish. The peasant seems, however, to be in no hurry to purchase seed-grain from the local centres of distribution, and in some parts of the country is demanding that the grain be given free, in others that wheat be supplied instead of barley.

Undoubtedly there will be a smaller surface sown than usual, and the expropriation of the big estates is partially responsible. There has not yet been time for the expropriated land to be surveyed and divided up amongst individual owners, so the land taken from the boyars has been handed over undivided to the peasants' associations to cultivate. Each peasant, however, naturally turns his attention first to the bit of land he already possesses and then, if he have time, to the common land. More often than not he hires himself and his oxen to the local boyar, who is hard put to it these days to find labour to cultivate his reduced estate, or else our peasant goes into the transport business, especially if he be within reach of a large town.

Slowly, but surely, it is being borne in upon the European that lack of transport is at the bottom of most of his troubles. Here the railroads are hopelessly inadequate to the demands upon them. The possessors of motor-lorries are overwhelmed by orders; private motor-cars piled high with bales of stuffs fill the roads from the congested ports to the capital; long trains of peasants' carts carry salt, wine and paraffin from the producer to the empty markets of the towns. Means of transport abandoned twenty years ago are being revived profitably.

The town-dweller waxes eloquent over the peasant's reluctance to plant oats, and the peasant, while not exactly verbose, may be heard to inquire now and again why he should put his horses and oxen to ploughing when he can earn two hundred lei a day per cart hauling merchandise?

INDIAN CURRENCY RESERVE.

A Reuter message from Delhi, dated March 13, states: Mr. Hailey, the Minister of Finance, is introducing a Bill in the Legislative Council on March 17 abolishing the existing limitations with regard to the nature of the securities in which investments of currency reserves are permitted. This is necessary on account of the present demand for remittances to London and the inability to meet the same from the Secretary of State's reserve. It is not practicable to give effect to the Currency Committee's proposals immediately, and the enactment will only be a temporary one, remaining in force until October, when the Government will be in a position to formulate definite proposals regarding the limits and composition of such investments.

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THE NILE CONTROL WORKS.—II.

Function and Utility of Each Work.

The White Nile Dam.

The note proceeds to give a description of each of the control works in so far as their purpose is concerned. The White Nile Dam at Gebel Aulia will consist of a masonry dam built across the White Nile 45 kilometres south of Khartoum at Gebel Aulia, and will form a huge reservoir about 500 kilometres long in the White Nile Province, with an effective capacity, after allowing for losses by evaporation, of 4,000 million cubic metres.

It is pointed out that if an abnormally low flood such as that of 1913 should recur before storage provision has been made on Lake Albert, it may not be feasible to abstract from the river enough water to make full use of the Gebel Aulia reservoir. The sequence of the proposed works is, however, designed to meet this eventuality, and even in such an abnormal year enough water could be conserved in this reservoir to ensure for Egypt at least as good a supply per feddan of cultivation as she actually enjoyed in 1913-14.

The reservoir will also help in the control of high floods. Its capacity is very much greater than is required to add 4,000 million cubic metres to the river, and it will, in fact, be capable of containing about 10,000 million cubic metres. This control will be accomplished by shutting the gates of the dam as soon as the main river at Khartoum has risen to a level beyond which any further rise would be a disadvantage to Egypt, and by keeping them shut until the river has fallen again to a safe level. By these means the contribution of the White Nile will be completely stopped, and the crest of the flood may therefore be reduced.

The actual crest, however, is composed very largely, if not entirely, of silt-laden waters of the Blue Nile, which cannot be controlled absolutely, though their volume will be materially reduced by the Upper Blue Nile dam and the Gezira canals. But, as the note points out, it is not only the extreme height of the flood which constitutes the danger to Egypt, but rather the long continuance of high levels which tend to make the saturated Nile banks slip and breach. It is, indeed, the discharge of the waters impounded in the huge natural reservoir of the White Nile Valley, and so prolongs the flood in Egypt. The White Nile dam, by delaying this discharge as well as the natural flow of the White Nile itself till all danger is passed, will to a great extent remove the continuous pressure on the Nile banks, and thus the combined effect of the works on the White and Blue Nile will be to relieve Egypt very largely of her danger from inundation.

On the completion of the Upper Blue Nile dam, and more particularly when ample water can be stored in Lake Albert, the White Nile reservoir will no longer be used simply for the storage of flood waters, but also as a regulating tank to equalise the discharge in the main river. This function is essential, as it takes about six weeks for water to travel from Lake Albert to Khartoum.

The Blue Nile Dam.

The dam on the Blue Nile at Sennar is for the purpose of supplying free flow irrigation water to a tract of 300,000 feddans in the Sudan Gezira, near Wadi Medani. The work is a combined regulator and dam. As a regulator it fulfils exactly the same functions as the barrages in Egypt, while as a dam it forms a reservoir of about 500 million cubic metres capacity.

The climatic and other conditions in the Sudan Gezira are such that winter crops are alone possible, whilst land must lie fallow for at least one year in every three. Of the afore-mentioned 300,000 feddans only two-thirds can therefore be cultivated annually, and of these only 100,000 feddans can be under cotton, as by contrast with Egypt the soil will only support a cotton crop once in three years. Other crops being reaped by the middle of January will require no water after that date, but cotton which does not come to full maturity until later, and will normally cease to be irrigated by March 31, and occasionally up to April 15, will require water in February and March, when Egypt can spare none of the quantity flowing down to her in the river. It is to meet this situation that it is proposed to create a reservoir at Sennar, which will be filled towards the end of the flood season, when there is always plenty of water, and wherein the quantity stored will be sufficient to irrigate the Sudan cotton crop in the spring without abstracting any water from the river when Egypt requires it.

The Nag' Hammadi Barrage.

It is proposed to construct a barrage in the neighbourhood of Nag' Hammadi for the purpose of raising the water level in flood times, so that the Girga basins may be assured of an ample water supply even in the lowest of floods, such as 1913, when large areas had to remain uncultivated. The necessity for the barrage will be all the greater when other works are constructed to the South, either for irrigating neighbouring lands or for filling a summer supply reservoir from flood. The area of basin land protected will be about 500,000 feddans, and except for the isolated basins of Aswan Province, and a few small areas on the east bank of the river, the erection of this work will mark the completion of the scheme inaugurated many years ago for protecting Upper Egypt against the loss caused by the failure of low floods to irrigate the land; whilst it will also be possible to give free flow summer water to the area commanded when the necessary conversion works have been carried out.

The Dam on the Upper Blue Nile.

It may also be possible to erect a dam at a suitable site on the upper reaches of the Blue Nile to form a reservoir having a capacity of 7,000 million cubic metres, and thus enable some control to be exercised on the amount of water passing down the river. Of this volume 4,000 million cubic metres will be held in reserve from year to year, and the remaining 3,000 million cubic metres will be retained from all floods except low ones for use in the Sudan in the following spring. If the flood is extremely low, no water will be abstracted from it for use in the following months; but, on the contrary, the late stages of the flood will be augmented by a portion of the 4,000 million cubic metres held in reserve from previous years of abundant supply. If the flood is very high the abstraction of 3,000 million cubic metres from the river mainly when the crest is passing will much diminish the quantity of water in the river at that period, and thus help materially to reduce the height of the flood in Egypt.

The construction of this dam is essential for the future development of the Sudan, for whereas Egypt can provide for her own needs from the White Nile, it is only water flowing in the Blue Nile that can be of use to the Sudan Gezira; but as regards Egypt, the Upper Blue Nile dam is also a valuable feature of the Nile control works, since the Blue Nile forms the flood, and it will be situated where the waters are as yet free from silt, and can therefore be safely stored at the crest of the flood.

Unless a reservoir is formed at some spot in the upper reaches of the Blue Nile the possible development of the Gezira plains will be limited by the amount of water to be stored in the Sennar reservoir. The Upper Nile reservoir will meet all the Sudan demands until well after Egypt is fully developed in 1955, and before that period, and until the sudd works and the Lake Albert reservoir are completed, the excess waters will be used to augment Egypt's supply. Nevertheless, as is pointed out, this reservoir will have to be largely increased in size in the last decades of the present century to complete eventually the Sudan's development, but it is believed that this can be done when required.

The Dam on Lake Albert.

The extra volume of water required to meet the ultimate requirements of Egypt in low years is such that the only place in the basin of the Nile where economical storage of sufficient magnitude can be provided is at Lake Albert, the area of which is about 5,500,000 square kilometres. A quantity of 5,500 million cubic metres could be stored by raising the water level by a metre, and as the lake has relatively steep sides there will be no great increase in the area of water surface, and there will be no additional evaporation loss of any importance. The proposal is to erect a dam at the outfall of the Nile of such a height as will raise the water level by seven and a-half to eight cubic metres. The reservoir will serve the double purpose of a reserve storage reservoir to meet the needs of Egypt, and a regulating tank where a portion of the water now wasted annually in the sudd can be conserved in flood and released in the following summer.

The annual flood arrives in Egypt somewhat later than the most advantageous agricultural date for sowing flood grain crops, and consequently there is always an urgent demand for water at that period which can only be met by adding to the natural supply water stored from a previous flood. As the period of storage will be very long, and evaporation losses must be eliminated to the utmost extent, Lake Albert best meets this case. The reserve volume in the reservoir should be at least 12,500 million cubic metres, so as to meet a recurrence of the worst known conditions, while a further 7,500 million cubic metres must be stored from the high to the low period of the year. Both these volumes represent the net amount required below Aswan, and do not include transmission losses to that point. The 7,500 million cubic metres will be conserved from the volume now annually lost in the sudd region or flowing to the sea at the time of the Blue Nile flood. The net volume required at Aswan being about 20,000 million cubic metres, the capacity of the reservoir as proposed is believed to be ample.

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BIRMINGHAM AND THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

(By Our Special Representative).

The City of Birmingham.

Tarsus, we know, on good authority, was, nearly nineteen hundred years ago, "no mean city." It was one part of the life effort of a phenomenal Englishman to have the world admit that Birmingham was no mean city. The greatest Empire known to history has acclaimed the late Joseph Chamberlain as a master craftsman, not only of a city but of a mighty loving Commonwealth. The greatest war in history has proved the truth of his grim, sardonic quotation that "who sups with the devil needs a long spoon." Those who have enjoyed the opportunity of visiting Birmingham, its vast suburbs, and its first great Peace Fair, will readily admit that the Birmingham spoon was quite long enough for William the Megalomaniac.

By many of our Near and Middle East readers Birmingham and its industrial activities are known only by repute. It made guns, and perhaps abetted a bit of gun-running across the Red Sea, up the steep, arid cliffs of the eastern side of the Persian Gulf; through Valona, possibly, and Salonika, to assist the blood-lust of Macedonian Komitajis; it made cheap and even imitation jewellery; it re-invented, at the bases of the Pyramids, scarabs of great antiquity and the tear-bottles of the predecessors of Cleopatra; for two pins—for needles and pins are made in the Birmingham district—it would have sold the monks of Mount Athos genuine antiques from the private museum of the young man who "had great possessions." This perhaps it did, until it awakened to find itself utterly outpaced in such vagaries by Pforzheim and other German rivals. It resolved to amend It has marvellously amended.

The writer spent nine months in Birmingham fourteen years ago. Its Town Hall was then, as to-day, the most noble Greco-classic town hall in the British Isles. One of its two main railway stations, New Street, was a great and spacious caravanserai; the other, Snow Hill, was a grimy, dirty hutment. It is now splendidly rebuilt, is a quarter-mile in length, and the city has shorn one eyesore. Progressive embellishment marks all the centre of the town; fine streets, buildings, shops, offices, theatres, linked up with the city periphery and for mile upon mile beyond, with excellent electric tram services and motor-bus connections. From a canal and railway standpoint it is probably the best-served city in the kingdom—it has no river. Its University is an arresting pile, posed high off the western side of the Bristol Road, but the writer, perhaps no fair critic, sees in it an amalgam of the Mosque of St. Sophia and a nineteenth-century factory. Be that as it may, the city has a library of over 270,000 volumes, and can teach centuries of the metal-craftsman's inherited lore to most nations of the earth. Its areas of squalid tenements are still unfortunately wide, but an acutely proud and honourable civic activity is engaged in a continuous task of betterment. Other cities were not built in a day.

The Old and the New.

Birmingham is quite old, dating back to Saxon, if not Roman times—the Ham or Home of one Berm, or Beorm—no doubt a freebooting type of Tubal Cain. In the thirteenth century it had two guilds and an annual fair. It gave a martyr to the Papist Queen Mary, and espoused the Cromwellian cause against Charles I. From the early eighteenth century it claimed rank as a metallurgical centre, and received a charter of incorporation in 1838, and the rank of city in 1889. Its present population is over 900,000, but if we consider the term "Birmingham and District" we can find ourselves well into the second million. Its fame throughout the nineteenth century rested largely on guns, brass-foundry, hardware, jewellery, and bedsteads! *Mais nous avons changé tout celà.* It does not make battleships nor spin cotton, nor challenge the dollar with the pound sterling like the bankers of London, but it seems willing to do almost anything else. It does not advertise so much as Detroit, but "it gets there, all the same," in its indomitable Midland England manner. It is no mean city; it is Birmingham.

And, thanks no little to the gambler at Amerongen, one of the outstanding features of the city in this year of 1920 is the palatial acre-wide works that have been built or extended and improved north, south, east, and west. The Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon, and Finance Company, the Austin and Wolseley Motor Works, the Vicker's industries, the Birmingham Small Arms, Westley Richards, Archibald Kenrick's, W. and T. Avery's, and E. G. Wrigley's, to name but few, are replacing the venerable but begrimed mid-nineteenth-century factories, and presenting to the visitor not only acres of new buildings, but entrance-halls as elegant as those of the Bond Street aviation showman. The old spirit of the mediæval guild has happily tenacious roots in Birmingham; that spirit has to adapt itself to meet a new day and a wider outlook, and the impression left upon the visitor is that Birmingham is in the van.

As our readers will understand, the decision to split the British Industries Fair of 1920 between London, Birmingham, and Glasgow was an excellent arrangement for the three cities and for exhibitors. Another wise decision was the limiting of visitors to an invited list of potential buyers, whereby one was spared the crushing that we had at the 1919 Olympia Motor Show. And yet there seems to have been a fly or two in the ointment. The three Fairs were open for only twelve days, and that synchronously. A single general buyer from overseas—and there probably were many such—could not possibly have seen the three Fairs properly, and I frequently heard the suggestion in Birmingham that there ought to be a week between each fair. To "do" even the Birmingham end of the Fair, as a foreign general importer, might well have occupied a full week of six days; and thus London and Glasgow would have to share the remaining six days between them, which, as Euclid would have said, "is absurd."

Glimpses of the Fair.

There can be no attempt here to describe the Fair in detail; that would require a catalogue of the wares of over six hundred stands. A bird's-eye view may, however, indicate to our overseas readers something of what they may expect to see next year if able to get to Birmingham. On all sides one heard complaints of lack of preparation-time and lack of space, and everybody seemed to agree that the B.I.F. of 1921 will far surpass that of 1920.

The Castle Bromwich Aerodrome, where the main exhibition was set up, is seven miles north of the centre of the city; trains and motor-buses ran at intervals, and were greatly congested on the return journeys in the evening. The ten-shilling motor-car divided by four half-crowns was a pleasanter method of getting to the Fair. For foreign visitors the Birmingham Fair Executive and the Chamber of Commerce did their utmost in the matter of free cars. It may be added that the Grand Hotel proved a miniature Babel, where one could hear most European languages spoken in groups (except German) throughout the two weeks of the show—among these Greek, Spanish, Scandinavian, and Dutch wre conspicuous.

Three large pavilions, A, B, and C—stretching, with one intervening space, over a quarter-mile of ground—and light and pleasant, but unpretentious, constituted the Castle Bromwich show, or main exhibition. In the Art Gallery, in Birmingham's centre, the famous Gun Trade had its own particular staging—an apparently unnecessary division, for who in this era of unfinished battle and eager sport is not an admirer or possible purchaser of a gun? And if Birmingham cannot make guns, who can? It is probable that next year this great and scientific trade will not be side-tracked to a proud and aristocratic aloofness, but will be housed in the main buildings.

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These contained a very goodly show of what might be called portable manufactures, chiefly in metal. Super-Dreadnoughts, locomotives, tractors, big agricultural machinery, heavy steel hammers, motor-cars, railway wagons—all such heavy goods were not in the picture. The three buildings staged the following extensive range of manufactures, set up in simple good taste and businesslike attractiveness:—Lighting fittings for electricity, gas, oil, etc.; cooking stoves and utensils, including aluminium, enamel ware, etc.; general hardware, including builders', marine, and household ironmongery of all descriptions; tools (hand) of all descriptions and small machine tools; metal furniture for house, shop, office, garden and camp use, including bedsteads; perambulators, mailcarts, and push-chairs; nautical instruments; fishing rods and tackle; machinery belting of all kinds; indiarubber goods for industrial and household purposes; motor-cycles and cycles; accessories for motor-cars, cycles, and aeroplanes; weighing and measuring appliances and instruments; sanitary appliances; paints, colours and varnishes, and painters' requisites; tubes in copper, lead, brass and steel, and pipe fittings, cold rolled brass and copper, ingots, strip sheets, and circles, brass, copper, and phosphor bronze wire and rod, brazed brass tubes, nickel silver and copper nickel alloys in the form of sheets, rods, wire, tubes, etc.; architectural and ornamental metal work, including gates and fencing; ropes of steel and hemp, cordage and string; saddlery and harness. This bald list, of which each separate category should be multiplied by tens, scores, or hundreds, may help to distinguish Birmingham's display from those of London and Glasgow. But to come, as Americans say, "down to brass tacks," and with the eye considering the Fair from the point of view of the huge markets of the Near and Middle East, there were numbers of stands which, if they could have been lifted bodily into Bucharest, Belgrade, Constantinople, Smyrna, Athens, Beyrout, Cairo, Khartoum, Baghdad, Teheran, or Bombay, I would undertake to sell at public auction at top-hole prices in five or ten minutes. There was one fascinating stall in particular, displaying garden and agricultural tools—without their wooden handles in most cases—which struck me as calling aloud to the Near East and saying, "Come and buy! this is the stuff to give 'em!" The same call was sounded by the hollow-ware displays, cooking utensils and apparatus, among which the multifarious owners of households and kitchens, hotel, club, and steamship chefs throughout the wide territory catered for by this journal and its subsidiary vernaculars would have been delighted to run amok. Aluminium, tin, enamel-ware—the former making a very modern display with its "light-as-a-feather" goods—abounded, as though saying to the Greek, Turkish, and Egyptian cookers, "I can handle your pilaffs better than my ancestor, the earthenware pot or casserole, and make a cleaner and healthier job of it."

Another considerable and very attractive section is the heating and lighting exhibits—all manner of stoves for coal, gas, and electric use, for heating, lighting, or cooking. These, periodically or constantly alight, that is to say, active, proved an irresistible "draw" to thousands of visitors who had come without the remotest intention of buying stoves, ovens, or illuminants. Thus also Curtiss and Harvey's incandescent mantle-making stand attracted crowds—for was not the incandescent mantle one of Germany's own pre-war preserves? Many of the firms here exhibiting in Birmingham, be it noted, were showing at the successful Athens Exhibition of last October and November, and I believe I am right in saying that the Department of Overseas Trade had considerable canvassing to do among British manufacturers before this year's Fair was staged, nearly all firms pleading that orders were already in excess of possible deliveries—so why exhibit or why advertise? *E pur si muove!* So Birmingham toed the line thus handsomely.

Moving on we came to some great steel-wire and hemp ropemakers' exhibits; firms that have made war-history with balls of twine and huge steel cables for towing submarined derelict ships to harbour. Wire fencing, with its many uses, was also in evidence, whether for the fowl-yard, the cattle paddock, or the land called "No man's."

We have covered a good deal of ground now, and we come to motor-cycles, bicycles, and their component parts and accessories, and then to a rich display of baby carriages and perambulators, doubtless needing nurses and occupants, but also probably largely sold ahead. I understand that British bicycles now are equal to any demand, and that shortly the motor-cycle and side-car will be in the same fortunate position.

Still meandering through realms of metal, we remember that Birmingham spells ironmongery. There is plenty of that here, and builders' ironmongery in the various metals, including aluminium; also metal furniture for the house in handsome designs and finish, and splendid shows of hearth furniture, safes, metal trunks and bedsteads, for which again the district is famous. Then we have machinery belting for the factory of many kinds, and delightful displays of saddlery and leather goods, for which latter there is a constant market in the Near and Middle East, since the great war has enormously enhanced the prestige of British styles and modes.

As may be judged by the small official schedule given above, the Associated Brass and Copper firms, who co-operate in the Fair as they do in outside business, staged magnificent exhibits, but it was noted by the authorities that Southern European inquiries for this wide range of manufactures were scarce. Lastly, in a very imperfect survey of a great homogeneous Fair, I would mention the exhibits of weighing machines for heavy goods and delicate spring balances in which undoubtedly Birmingham and England challenge all and any competition, and with these I may couple the name of Messrs. W. and T. Avery, Ltd., of world-wide repute. There are the names of a few other important exhibitors which it behoves me as a representative of THE NEAR EAST to mention. In the gun section: Explosives Trades, Ltd., the Birmingham Small Arms Co., Ltd., Westley, Richards, and Co., Ltd., Webley and Scott, W. W. Greener, and Cogswell and Harrison; in other trades, Vickers, Ltd., with their six fine stands of engineers' small tools, sewing machines, electric lamps and irons, wires and cables, surveying instruments, and a host of rubber goods; Archibald Kenrick and Sons, of hollow-ware and ironmongery fame; John and Edwin Wright, Ltd., of the Universe Rope Works, Birmingham, with three stands; Latch and Batchelor, Ltd., the great wire-rope makers; and George Gale and Sons, Ltd., makers of the "Dominion" wire spring mattresses.

Such is the briefest glimpse at a show in every way creditable to Birmingham and Great Britain. As its immediate President, the Executive of the Fair had Birmingham's present Lord Mayor, Alderman W. A. Cadbury—a member of the great cocoa and chocolate house of Bournville—and besides some most eminent names in British and Birmingham public life as Vice-Presidents and members of the Council, the greatest praise is due to the general manager, Mr. Charles Stanley, and an indefatigable secretary, Mr. G. Henry Wright, both of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. It may perhaps be permitted to close by affirming to the great manufacturers of Birmingham and Midland England, who may read these lines, the settled conviction that in the Near and Middle East this country has a long row to hoe—up hill and down dale it may be—but, if we "stick it" the harvest will prove abundant.

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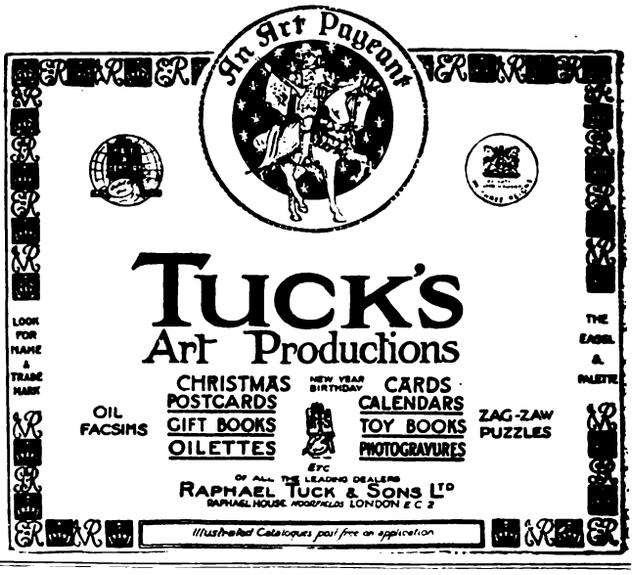

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TURKEY'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

The general debt of Turkey on March 1, 1915, was £T165,250,967; loans and advances received during the war totalled £T289,298,623, making a total debt on August 31, 1918, of £T454,649,590, says H.M. Commercial Secretary at Constantinople in a report on Turkish finances. From this should be deducted the Egyptian Tribute Loans of £T17,485,655, leaving a balance of £T437,163,925. On the other hand, there remains to be added the war indemnity and the bill for reparations for the Allies, which have been estimated at up to £T100,000,000. The annual services of the pre-war Funded Debt, excluding the Egyptian Tribute Loan, required £T6,679,158, to which may be added the annual charge for advances which must rank as debt, viz., £T1,269,123. Estimating interest, 5 per cent., and Sinking Fund, 1 per cent., the New Debt, excluding military requisitions and supplies, would require £T20,706,293 per annum. No accurate returns are available to indicate the revenue of the State during the last four years, and a study of Turkish Budgets, as voted by the Chamber of Deputies, has merely an academic interest. The estimate of expenses is invariably increased by Supplementary Credits, and the authorised expenditure is often greater than the actual expenses, whilst the estimated revenue is, as a rule, overstated. The average receipts may be taken, however, at a round figure of £T32,000,000 per annum, and as the service of the debt would be close on £T21,000,000, there is not much margin left for the State administration. It is quite impossible as yet to state how far Turkey, even under a reformed financial administration, will be able to meet its engagements. The great part, no doubt, of the debt to Germany can never be paid, but even if this is repudiated, Turkey will still find a difficulty in establishing its finances on a sound basis.

ENGINEERING.

New Small Tractor.

At a recent show there was a new small tractor which was drawing particular attention. It was fitted with a 4½ h.p. petrol engine and measuring 17 ins. wide by 39 ins. high. These dimensions enable it to be used between fruit trees and bushes on cocoa and coffee plantations, drawing ploughs or cultivators, etc. It will also haul loads on a trolley and work as a stationary farm engine, driving grinding-mills, pumps, chaff-cutters, etc. The engine, which is well designed and substantially built, is water-cooled, with detachable head to cylinder. The controls are fixed to the handle-bars, the right-hand side having a lever governing the throttle, and the clutch being on the left. The engine will run on petrol, paraffin or benzol, and, we are informed, five hours' work in the field consumes not more than one gallon of petrol. Whatever implements are being drawn can be raised at the end of the row, and the machine can be turned round by engine-power or by hand. Such a tractor and motor should be particularly useful on small farms and holdings almost in every district of the Near and Middle East, where the cultivation of the land in orchards, various kinds of plantations and vineyards, is generally carried out by hand, for the simple reason that neither the ordinary modern plough nor the native plough, drawn by horses or oxen, can work freely under trees or in plantations owing to the width and height which either of them occupy in working; but apart from this kind of work there is abundant scope also for this tractor's services on larger farms and estates. On light market-garden soil it has been known to plough nearly 9 ins. deep and about 6 ins. wide.

Machinery and Stores for India.

Recent reports confirm what has often been pointed out in these columns that there is a great demand for all kinds of mill machinery in India, and particularly engines, boilers and textile spinning and weaving machinery. All dealers in this line say that no machinery of any kind can be had at present, though the demand is large, as new industries are being opened up all over the country. There have been various inquiries about sugar and paper machinery, but the inquirers are being told that their demands cannot be met as soon as they wish. In the meantime, American and Japanese manufacturers are availing themselves of the opportunity to secure good business in that market.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Business Restricted.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

We have experienced a rather inactive market during the past week. There is still a lack of enterprise on the part of buyers, and business has been of retail dimensions. The output of Lancashire spinning mills and weaving sheds is being well absorbed, but producers at the moment are not nearly selling the production of the machinery. In face of the quieter state of affairs prices have been well maintained. Wide fluctuations have taken place in Egyptian cotton rates, and in both Liverpool and Alexandria an unsettled feeling continues to prevail. Some reports with regard to the prospects for the new growth are not very favourable. Business in Egyptian yarns has been within a narrow compass. Owing to the uncertain outlook many spinners have not been at all anxious to sell. On the other hand users are nervous as to what may happen in the near future, current values being distrusted. In piece goods for Egypt the turnover has been unimportant. Fewer bids have come through from the other side, and local merchants have not been in the mood to purchase speculatively. It is said that most of the outlets of the Levant are fairly well supplied for the time being, and there is plenty of stuff to be sent out. Demand for India continues very disappointing. All classes of goods have been neglected. Producers of dhooties are wanting orders. Inquiry for China has tended to fall off, but something has been done in bleaching descriptions. Fewer orders have been booked for South America. Quotations of manufacturers have been well held, but now and again it has been possible to purchase stock lots at rather easier figures than two or three weeks ago. American yarns have moved off slowly, but there is a persistent demand for quick delivery, especially in twists. Export yarns remain quieter.

Southern Punjab Railway.—Registers of the £3½ per cent. and £4 per cent. debenture stocks are closed until March 31 for the preparation of interest warrants.

Owing to ill-health, Mr. J. R. Bingham has resigned his appointment as secretary of the Bank of British West Africa, and has accepted a position in the bank's Egyptian service. Mr. G. B. Bennett has been appointed secretary.

Mr. G. T. Maclean, formerly Vice-Consul at Rotterdam, has been appointed His Majesty's Consul at Zagreb (Agram), in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and has already taken up his post. Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, had a pre-war population of about 90,000 inhabitants, the present population being estimated at about 130,000. It is an important industrial and commercial centre, and is served by a normal gauge railway in direct communication with the commercial centres of Europe.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, for the week ended March 10 were: Cattle markets, £1,302; general markets, £694; total, £1,996; total for year, £22,852. The figures for the corresponding week in 1919, ended March 13, were: Cattle markets, £1,293; general markets, £546; total, £1,839; total for year, £20,369

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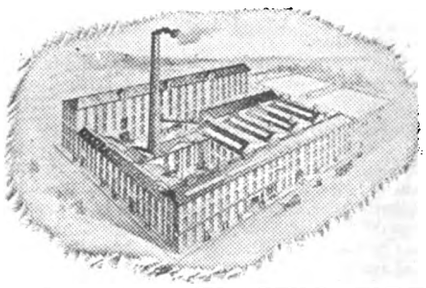
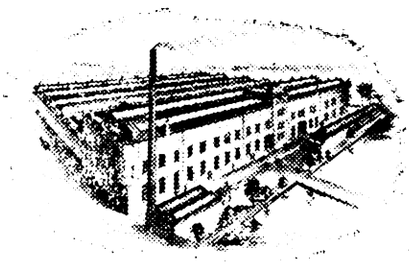
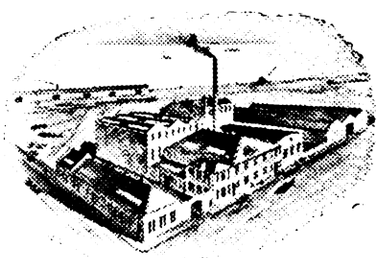

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.—The position is much the same as last week, though business has been rather more brisk, and there is evidence that an increased demand may be expected in the near future.

Sugar.—The market in raw has been quiet. Home refined has been in firm demand at the fixed rates. There has been little demand for free sugar. White Mauritius is quoted 117s. 6d. spot, Java 1s. dearer, West Indian crystallised about 109s., and American granulated 120s.

Coffee.—Business has been rather reduced in volume. Costa Rica has been done at 179s. to 190s., Nairobi round about 153s., and Brazil at 130s., while Indian has come to business as high as 191s. An irregular tone has marked the futures market. Quotations are for March 127s., for May 125s. 6d., for July 125s. 3d., for September 120s. 9d., and for December 118s. 3d.

Oilseeds.—There has in general been less demand for oilseeds. Indian linseed has been done at from 51s. to 54s., and the Argentine variety at from 45s. to 50s. Rapeseed has been weak, with Toria to Hull March-May at 50s., yellow Guzerat February-March at 53s., and brown Cawnpore February-March at 48s. Cottonseed has been rather featureless, with Indian at 20s. 6d., and Sakellarides at 24s. 9d.

Oilcakes, etc.—The market in oilcakes has been much more active. Linseed cake and soya bean cake have been done at 480s., while other varieties in demand have been cottonseed cake at 300s., palm kernel at 240s., and rapeseed at 340s. Transactions in seed oils have been fairly brisk. Linseed oil has been a firm spot at 123s., while rape oil has been in demand at 135s. for refined, and 125s. for crude. Cottonseed has been a shade easier, with Bombay crude at 95s. Turpentine has been firm round about 235s. spot, with March-April quoted 236s., May-August 174s., and July-December 139s.

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in February:—

Wheat and Barley.—In Lower Egypt, notwithstanding the exceptional cold and heavy rains, the crops, with few exceptions, have done well, especially when rains came at an opportune moment after applying artificial manure. The cold has, however, somewhat affected the growth of the late-sown fields in some provinces. The heavy rains have been more beneficial than the reverse. Water supply sufficient. The crops continue to look well and flowering is becoming profuse. Small attacks of rust and smut have been reported from various provinces, but the damage done is slight. Many rumours have been circulated that so far large areas of these crops have been uprooted or grazed to make room for cotton. Inquiries do not substantiate this to any extent, and only very small areas of inferior crops have been destroyed. The opinion is expressed that the area is small, though verification of this must be awaited.

Beans.—The crop is looking quite healthy, although it has suffered slightly from the cold windy weather. The formation of pods is making good progress, and the usual attack of broomrape, rust, and aphis has been particularly slight. In the south provinces damage has been done by birds, especially the migratory sparrow.

Onions.—The cold weather has slightly checked the growth of the plants, but the crop is nevertheless healthy and is expected to be about normal.

Bersim.—The cold weather that prevailed this month has affected the growth of the plants. Most of the area under temporary bersim has been ploughed for cotton, as also a small area of permanent bersim. Watering, grazing, and ploughing for cotton are in progress. Slight attacks of dodder were noticed in Minya, Asyût, and Girga Provinces, but the damage done was not considerable.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Coupon No. 45, falling due April 1, on 5 per cent. debentures should now be lodged at Bank of England for payment.

Constantinople Telephone.—A meeting of holders of Six per Cent. Obligation Bonds was to be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on March 24, 2 p.m., to consider a scheme for funding of arrears of interest.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended March 6:—Very little business has been done on our market this week, owing to the higher demands of holders. Buyers are offering piastres 940 per oke for extra Carahissar, and sellers are asking 10 piastres higher. The result is that only six cases changed hands of various qualities as follows:—One, current usual run quality at Ps. 925 per oke, equivalent to 17s. per lb. c.i.f.; one, usual Carahissar, at Ps. 945; two, selected Carahissar, at Ps. 950; one, rich Islamkeui, at Ps. 1,000; one, selected Yerli, at Ps. 960. Very little stuff comes down from the growing districts, as will be noticed below in our arrivals, which are increased this week by only sixteen cases. The exchange to-day stands at piastres 405 per pound sterling for cheque and 0.85 dollar for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,506 cases against 175 at same date last year.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Line) s.s. Falernian, for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on March 31.

The Moss Line s.s. Siptah, for Algiers, Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Beyrout direct, will leave Liverpool on April 1.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Asturian, for Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on April 23.

The Anchor Line s.s. Elysia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on April 8.

The Harrison Line s.s. Historian, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on April 3.

The Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Rangoon, will leave London on March 27.

The Bibby Line s.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on April 7.

The Clan Line s.s. Clan Robertson, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (cargo for Persian Gulf transhipped at Bombay), will close for cargo at Birkenhead on April 1.

The Power Line s.s. Pangbourne, for Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador, will leave London early in April.

Notes.

There was launched on the Clyde, on the 11th inst., by Messrs. Lithgows, Limited, Port Glasgow, the steamer Manipur, built to the order of the Brocklebank Line. The vessel is about 9,000 tons gross, and was towed to Glasgow for engining.

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers reports that a company is being formed at Algiers for the purpose of erecting a shipbuilding plant. The amount of the capital is not yet known. According to present reports the slips will be constructed at Fort-de-L'Eau, in the centre of the Bay of Algiers, and it is hoped during the first year of the company's existence to complete the hulls of three vessels of 3,000 to 3,500 tons each. As it is proposed to build the hulls only in Algeria, there should if the project is realised, be openings for British trade in the supply of engines and other fittings and materials.

EXPORTS TO SERBIA.

Attention is drawn to a notice on the above subject, which was issued at the end of last year, which states that it is very necessary for shippers to provide, in the first instance, shipping documents correct in every detail and clearly indicating that the goods in question are being shipped to Salonika "in transit" to Serbian destinations, and it is also necessary that the cases should be addressed to the ultimate Consignee in Serbia, and marked, "Transit pour la Serbie," with a view to obviating their detention and delay at the port upon arrival.

Recently the *Trgovinski Glasnik*, the chief commercial organ in Belgrade, warned Serbian importers to the effect that if these precautions are not taken goods imported from abroad having to cross Greek territory will be considered as goods exported from Greece and will be subject to the decree of 7.9.19, which exacts a security of 20 to 40 per cent. to guarantee the importation of an equal value from Serbia to Greece.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended December 31, 1919, states that the council have to report that the working of the lower portion of about one-third of the Railway is still being carried on by the company's staff under the control of the Inter-Allied Military Commission, but that the upper and remaining portion of the railway is still in the possession of the Turkish insurgents. In consequence, the receipts have been very adversely affected, as a good season was confidently anticipated but for the violent occupation of the district. In consequence of the disturbed state of the country the completion of the accounts has not been possible, but they are now well in hand and will be no doubt ready for inclusion and presentation with the next report of the council. The estimated weekly traffics since August 23 last are set out, and are stated in sterling at an average exchange of 400 piastres to the £ sterling. The rate before the war was about 110 piastres per £, and the tariffs have been increased both to make up for the depreciation and to compensate for the heavier expenses. The company's claim for war damage has been brought up to date, and will be presented to the Reparation Commission as soon as its sittings commence. On the retirement of Col. Corbett in October last from the post of Special Representative, to take up an appointment in South Africa, the council secured the services of Mr. Alwyn Parker, C.B., C.M.G., in his place. This gentleman's wide experience of foreign affairs and negotiations will prove of the greatest value towards securing the protection of the company's interests. Since the date of the last report by the council, very intricate and detailed negotiations have been continuously carried on respecting the general question of the future status of the company with the Foreign Office, the representatives of the Allied Powers and other bodies both in Paris and London. These negotiations are still going on, and it is not yet possible to deal in any way definitely with the many questions at issue. The council can at this juncture only say that Debenture and shareholders can rest assured that no effort is being spared to protect their interests. The Deferred Debenture Interest Certificates which were issued under the scheme approved at a special meeting of the bondholders held on June 11, 1915, are now being converted into Debenture Stock in accordance with the scheme. The members retiring from the council on this occasion are Mr. W. H. Swaffield and Mr. J. A. Goudge, who are eligible, and offer themselves for re-election. The auditors, Mr. G. S. Oldfield and Mr. William C. Sneath, F.C.A., retire at this meeting and offer themselves for re-election.

The following extract is given from the report of the general manager upon the half-year:—Since the date of my last report, the line beyond Aidin has been in the hands of Turkish insurgents, and the part nearer Smyrna, about one-third of the whole, has been operated by the company's staff under the orders of the Inter-Allied Military Commission. Information brought from time to time by company's employees who had been in the interior, tends to show that the property there has not been damaged. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining material of all kinds, arrears of repairs to the permanent way and works, and to rolling stock have not been overtaken to the extent that could have been desired, but six additional locomotives have been furnished by the Commission, and are now being brought into use. I regret that, owing partly to the disorganisation of staff, consequent on the war, and partly to the interruption of the railway, it has not yet been possible to complete the accounts for the half-year ended June 30, 1919, but all measures have been taken that are necessary for bringing this work up to date as soon as possible. The staff, already severely tried during the war, are still working under conditions of great hardship owing to the exceptional condition of the country, and their devotion to duty has been in many cases exemplary. The unsettled state of a part of the country under Greek occupation has resulted in neglect of agriculture there, so that prospects for the immediate future are not good, but the revenue brought in by a part of our own line, and the records of neighbouring railways which are not interrupted, fully confirm the view that an ample prosperity will return when peace is really established.

Meeting, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, March 26, 12 noon.

Eastern Bank.

The report of the Eastern Bank, Limited, for 1919 states that the capital was increased in September last to £2,000,000 by the issue of 50,000 new shares to the shareholders at a premium of 30s. per share. The reserve fund has been enhanced by the amount of premium received. These new shares do not participate in the dividend now recommended, but will rank pari passu with previous issues from January 1 last. The net profits to December 31, after providing for contingencies and including the balance brought forward, amount to £122,451. The directors recommend a final dividend of 4s. per share, less tax, making 8¾ per cent. for the year; placing £40,000 to reserve fund, which, when the premium on the new shares is fully credited, will stand at £225,000; and carrying forward £29,951. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel to-day, noon.

Aboukir.

The report of the Aboukir Company for the year 1919 states that an area of 2,017 feddans was sold during the year for the sum of £E235,421,819. The trading profit was £17,813, to which must be added profit on land sales £67,429 and the balance brought forward £1,614, making a total of £86,857. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 15 per cent., less tax (coupon No. 17), placing to the reserve fund £25,000, leaving to be carried forward £7,857. Meeting, 134, Palmerston House, E.C., to-day, noon.

Mysore Gold Mining.

The report of the Mysore Gold Mining Company for the year 1919 states that 270,420 tons of quartz were crushed during the year, from which were recovered by amalgamation, 116,401 oz. of bar gold—an average of 8.6 dwt. of gold per ton, 578,584 tons of tailings and slimes were treated for a yield of 65,575 oz. of bar gold—an average of 2.3 dwt. per ton. These quantities together represent a total production of 181,976 oz. of bar gold or the equivalent of 163,719.13 oz. fine of a realised value of £694,317, subject to deduction for royalty of £35,632. Adding interest on deposit account and investments, rebates on freights, rent, etc., aggregating £5,140, there is a total at the credit of revenue account of £663,825, less expenditure of £477,382, leaving a profit of £185,443. To which must be added £1,690 brought forward, plus £1,013 dividend on shares held in the Kolar Mines Power Station, making a total of £189,147. The interim dividend of 1s. per share absorbed £30,500, additional remuneration to directors and managers £610, income tax £66,189, reserve fund £10,000, amounts written off expenditure on capital account £37,694, new issue expenses, etc., £1,453, insurance and contingency fund £5,000, leaving available £37,700; a final dividend for 1919 of 1s. per share (less tax at the rate of 6s. in the £), payable April 8, will absorb £30,500, leaving £7,200 to be carried forward subject to royalty payable to the Mysore Government on the final dividend, etc. The liquid assets, including the reserve fund, and after deducting the liabilities, amount to £197,707. The value of the materials in stores and in use, including machinery and goods in transit, is £152,914. The quartz milled was 22,761 tons less than in the previous year. The tailings and slimes treated show an increase of 9,949 tons. The gold extraction was less by 11,687 oz. and £44,874 in value, and the profit was less by £78,078.

Constantinople Telephone Scheme.

With reference to the circular recently issued by the Constantinople Telephone Company for funding the arrears of interest on the Obligation bonds, by reason of the fact that a majority of Obligation holders cannot bind a minority, it is understood that the directors are unlikely to proceed with the scheme unless it meets with general acceptance

General Ceylon.

The report of the General Ceylon Rubber and Tea Estates for 1919 states that there is a profit of £53,203. After providing for London charges there remains £52,303, to which has been added £11,069 brought forward, also £6,417 excess profits duty recovered, making a total of £69,789. The directors recommend a final dividend of 17½ per cent., making 30 per cent., less tax, for the year, leaving £14,889 to be carried forward. The board have decided to capitalise a portion of the reserve and issue equivalent shares to the shareholders; to enable them to do this, and for possible future development, it is necessary to increase the capital of the company. The tea has cost f.o.b. 9.59d. and averaged net 1s. 0.77d., against 6.94d. and 8.45d. for 1918. The crops from the estates amounted to 1,596,439 lb. tea, exclusive of bought leaf (31,296 lb.), against 1,409,387 lb. for the previous season. The estimates for 1920 amount to 1,832,000 lb. tea. The yield of tea per acre works out at 411 lb. over the estates not interplanted with rubber. The rubber crop amounted to 1,252,782 lb., against 889,881 lb. last year, the average cost f.o.b. and net price realised being 11.00d. and 1s. 9.68d. per lb. respectively, against 1s. 0.80d. and 1s. 4.46d. for 1918. The estimates for 1920 amount to 1,338,000 lb. rubber. Meeting, 4, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C., March 30, noon.

Dimbula Valley.

The report of the Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea Company for the year 1919 states that the net profit was £40,038. The sum of £10,044 has been added to reserve, bringing this up to £42,044. It is now proposed to pay a final dividend of 17½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 30 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £2,571. The board have decided to capitalise the reserve and issue equivalent shares to the ordinary shareholders; to enable them to do this it is necessary to increase the capital of the company. The tea crop for the year amounted to 1,508,217 lb., being 71,783 lb. below the estimate. The estimate for 1920 is 1,629,000 lb. The cost of cultivation and placing the crop on board ship was 8.24d. per lb., against 6.45d. per lb. the previous year. The total crop realised £86,608 net, an average of 1s. 1.78d. per lb., against 9.23d. The rubber crop was 343,525 lb., being 6,475 lb. below the estimate. The estimate for 1920 is 375,000 lb. The cost of cultivation and placing the rubber on board ship was 10.91d. per lb., against 9.34d. per lb. the previous year. The total crop realised £31,513 net, an average of 1s. 10.01d., against 1s. 4d. last year.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following, and must be submitted by the date stated:—

CAIRO.—Main Drainage Department, Public Works Ministry.—Supply and sinking of ejector stations Nos. 1 and 2, Suez Main Drainage. April 28. (Particulars may be seen at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1).

ROUMANIA.—State Railways.—Supply of 250 passenger coaches, and 400-450 locomotives. (Particulars may be seen at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1).

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

ALEPPO, January 1.

The position in this market has been quiet during the month. Transactions have been almost entirely lacking, and the chief exporters are maintaining a waiting attitude, closely watching the markets. Several factors have contributed to the inactivity, notably the difficulty and insecurity of communications with the interior.

Very plentiful rains during the second half of December have favoured cultivation throughout this district, and have resulted in a fall in the price of wheat, barley, butter, etc.

Produce.

Wool.—Stocks have greatly decreased. Owing to the fall in French exchange, exports to France have much diminished. There is a demand for Italy, Austria, and Germany. Price here is P.E. 21½ the kilo.

Cotton.—Each bale of cotton weighs about 130-150 ks. Price, P.E. 15 the kilo.

Skins.—There is an active demand for Austria. Climatic conditions are favourable to pasturage, and are facilitating the raising of sheep.

STAMBOUL, February 28.

Manufactures.

Demand is lacking, and holders of manufactures are unable to find buyers at present prices. At Manchester there is a marked increase in prices, and some consignments are being returned from our market to places of production.

Produce.

Sugar.—Prices are higher in consequence of the strong demand here and the lack of good quality sugar. The increase has been accentuated by the fact that prices are maintained in America and Java. Quotations are:—£108 to £111 the ton for sugar in transit; £T57 to £T58 the 100 kilos for sugar in customs. Some consignments are expected from America.

Coffee.—A marked set back compared with the prices of last week. The market is quiet and merchants are holding their hands in view of the arrival here of several consignments of coffee intended for Russia.

Rice.—There has been a brisk market in rice from the Caucasus, which is in strong demand because of its price, which is much lower than that of other qualities. The price is from Ps. 27-Ps. 30 the oke.

Oil.—The considerable arrivals this week—25,000 cases American, 60,000 bidons, and 7,000 cases from Batoum—have resulted in a certain decline in prices, which are £T7.10 to £T7.30 the case, as against £T7.40 to £T7.50 last week.

Opium.—There is no change in prices, which remain weak with a tendency to all. Sales of the week, 40 cases Karahissar at £T9.50, 40 cases Druggist at £T9.

Cereals.—Prices were weak at the commencement of the week, but recovered later. Prices: Wheat Tender Extra, Ps. 15½ the oke; I., Ps. 14⅜ the oke, II., Ps. 13½ the oke. Wheat, hard, I., Ps. 14½ the oke; II., Ps. 13½ the oke. Barley Extra, Ps. 7. Arrivals of the week from Anatolia: wheat, 189 wagons; barley, 37 wagons.

Silk.—Broussa.—Market quiet, price unchanged, but firm at £T29½ to £T30 the kilo. Syrian.—Stocks are almost completely lacking. Some lots exist in poor qualities.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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TRADE PROSPECTS IN ALGERIA.

The best prospects for exporters in the United Kingdom, says H.M. Acting Consul-General at Algiers, in a report on the economic position in Algeria, lie in coal, of which there is still a great shortage, both for bunkering and for domestic consumption. Later on, if oil is produced in large quantities, the coal imports may be affected, but this is a matter for conjecture. Owing to the difficulties encountered in obtaining coal from the United Kingdom, several cargoes of American coal were imported in the autumn of 1919. They could not, however, compete in price with the British product, and American coal is only likely to be imported in the future if British coal is unobtainable.

There would also seem to be a good market for cotton goods. France in 1913 supplied Algeria with two million pounds' worth of these, and there is now an opportunity for Lancashire to compete. Considerable quantities of British cotton goods were exported to Algeria early in 1919, but the venture was not a uniform success, since it led to speculation amongst the buyers and caused a sudden slump in prices. This market requires great care in the selection of agents.

Prospects in other lines are good for machinery (agricultural, mining and general), motor-cars, sulphate of copper (for spraying vines), groceries, soap and candles, stationery, paints and oils, and, indeed, in any kind of goods for which there may be a demand in Algeria, for there is no question as to the popularity of British manufactures. In this connection it may be mentioned that it is hoped that the French Chamber will this spring pass a law authorising the extension of the harbour of Algiers, which will involve the doubling of the present port. This should present a great opportunity to British manufacturers of articles in any way connected with harbour works.

In regard to getting trade, which before the war went to Germany, there seems no reason why the trade in coal, chemical produce, machinery, and rubber goods—the four principal items should not fall into British hands. As to exports from Algeria to the United Kingdom, a need may be found for a share in the Algerian production of grain and animals which formerly went almost entirely to France. An experiment might also be made in buying potatoes, tomatoes, peas and beans, oranges, grapes and figs, and shipping them direct for the early market. Wine will probably continue to be shipped to France for mixture there with French products, and so find its way indirectly to the United Kingdom.

To sum up, largely owing to the excellent crops and vintages of the war years, Algeria is, from a commercial point of view, on a better financial footing than she has ever been before, and general confidence for the future prevails.

NEW COMPANIES.

Mahawale Rubber and Tea.

The Mahawale Rubber and Tea Company, Limited, was registered on March 16 with a capital of £160,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of cultivators of and dealers in rubber, coffee, tea, coconuts, gutta percha, and gums of all kinds, etc., and to adopt an agreement with the Mahawale Rubber and Tea Company, Limited (incorporated in 1897), and the liquidator thereof. The first directors are:—L. F. W. Davidson, Huntly Lodge, Huntly, Aberdeenshire; A. Fairlie, Hillhouse Lodge, Fenwick, Kilmarnock; J. McEwan, Carisbrooke, Enfield. Solicitor: J. Ballantyne, Dock House, Billiter Street, E.C.

Madras Electric Tramways.—Final dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax at 6s. in the £, for 1919, will be paid (coupon No. 16) on March 31, 1920, at the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited, 2, Princes Street, E.C.2. Transfer books will be closed until March 31.

THE NEW YUGOSLAV CURRENCY.

The withdrawal from circulation in the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes of the stamped kronen notes of the Austro-Hungarian Bank and the issue of crown-dinar notes of the National Bank of the triune State is now proceeding throughout the whole kingdom. The order was put into operation early in February in Serbia and Montenegro, where notes of the denominations of 20, 50, 100, and 1,000 kronen were replaced by the new dual notes—the conversion in the other provinces now forming the S.H.S. State was to be completed by March 16, after which date kronen notes of these denominations cease to be legal tender. Ten, two, and one kronen notes will, however, continue in circulation for the present. Creditors will be legally bound to accept the new crown-dinar note of the National Bank of S.H.S. in discharge of all debts, whether originally contracted in dinars or crowns. Crown-dinar notes of the National Bank to the full value of the crown notes of the Austro-Hungarian Bank will be issued when the latter are presented for exchange without any deduction. It will be recollected that when the krone notes were recently submitted to be stamped a deduction of 20 per cent. of their face value was made, and it is now intended that the receipts then given in respect of the retention of this percentage of their value will shortly be cashed by the State when the conversion now proceeding is completed.

ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

There has been a good deal less doing this week, and the market closes to-night with rather a dull tendency. The fresh depreciation in the franc has caused weakness in Egyptian Government stocks, in which a very fair amount of business has been put through. Egyptian Unifieds, after being up to 76, are closing 1¼ down at 74½, while the 3½ per cent. Prefs. are half a point down at 62.

In Bank shares, Nationals have receded 5-16 to 23, and Agriculturals 1-16 to 5⅜. There is a drop of half a point in both the bonds of the Agricultural Bank, to 67¾ and 69¼ respectively. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have lost ¼ at 19¾, and Land Banks are 1-16 down at 6 1-16.

In Land shares, Aboukirs, in spite of the excellent report and dividend, making 18 per cent. for the year and showing 28 per cent. earned, are 1s. easier at 44s. 6d. Consolidateds have shed 1½d. at 3s., and Delta Land are 9d. down at 19s. 3d. New Egyptians close only fractionally easier at 36s. Sidi Salems and Union Foncieres both lost ⅛ at 2⅞ and 5⅞ respectively. Sudan Plantations, on the new issue of shares, have been a weak spot, and are closing ⅜ down at 7⅜.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinians are 6d. lower at 11s. 6d., and Salts and Sodas have dropped 1s. 6d. to 57s. 6d.

Amongst Greek securities, the 1881, 1884, 1890, and 1893 Loans are all a point down at 55, after having been up to 57½. The 1887 Loan is also one point down at 47. The 1902 Loan has dropped 2½ points to 50. The 1910 Loan is a point down at 42, and the 1914 London issue has receded as much as 5 points to 55. Turkish 3½ per cent. 1894 Bonds are half a point down at 58½.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptian B have further receded ⅛ to 4, but Roumanians are 1-32 higher at 22s. 9d.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended March 6 amounted to £7,452.

The directors of the National Bank of Roumania have declared a dividend of 235 lei per share for 1919.

The transfer books of the Eastern Bank are closed until April 8.

The ordinary general meeting of the Port Said Salt Association will be held at Rue Toussoun, No. 5, Alexandria, on March 26, to receive and consider the adoption of the directors' report and accounts for the year ending December 31, 1919, and to declare a dividend.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put export advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price March 15	Price March 22
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28	28
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	66	66
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	75⅜	74½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	62½	62
Greek 5%, 1881	56	55
Do. 5%, 1884	56	55
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	48	47
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	50	50
Do. 5% 1890	56	55
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	56	55
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	52½	50
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	43	42
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	60	55
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	75	74
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69½	69½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	59	59
Do. 4% Unified	32	32
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5 7/16	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6 7/16	6 7/16
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	68½	67⅜
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	70¼	69⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	20	19¾
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7⅜	7
Bank of Roumania	5½	5½
British Trade Corporation	9 9/16	9 9/16
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10¼	10¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	9⅜	9 7/32
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	6 1/16
London County and Westminster	14⅜	14 9/16
National Bank of Egypt	23 3/16	23
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	71	71
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅞	9⅞
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	47½	46
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	41	35
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66¼	66¼
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	45/6	44/6
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	17/6	17/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	3½	3½
Béhéra Co.	21½	21½
Do. Pref.	3½	3½
Building Lands of Egypt	32/-	32/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/5 paid)	3/1½	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	20/-	19/3
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1 6	1 6
Do. and Foreign Trust	17/-	17/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	4	4
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	31/3	31/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	7
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	72	72
New Egyptian Co.	36/3	36/-
Sidi Salem Co.	3	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	7⅜	7⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	6	5⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	12/-	11/6
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	32/6	32/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	59/-	57/6
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	99⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/10½	19/6
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	19/6	19/6
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	101	100
Chinese 4½% 1898	62½	59½
Do. 5% 1896	74½	74½
Argentine 5% 1890	76½	74½
Do. 5% 1907	84	87½
OIL.		
Algerian	4/3	4/1½
Anglo-Bulgarian	8 7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	4⅛	4
Anglo-Persian Pref.	23/-	23/1½
Do. 5% Debs.	23½	82½
Anglo-Roumanian	7/4½	7/4½
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/9	4/10½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	10/4½	13/9
Roumanian	22/1½	22/9
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	6/3	6/6
Trajan (Roumanian)	10/1½	8/6

The directors of the Rangoon Para Rubber Estates recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. actual in respect of the year 1919, carrying forward £6,012 (subject to audit and usual adjustments). Tax will be deducted at the rate of 6s. in the £.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Feb. 12. Rs.	Feb. 19. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	60½	60⅜
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	298
Bank of Bengal	1900	1765
Bank of Bombay	2500	2480
Bank of Madras	1800	1800
Bank of India	134½	141
Tata Industrial Bank	57½	51½
COAL.		
Baraboni	15½	14⅜
Bengal	800	800
Burrakur	45¾	44¾
East Indian	40	40
Equitable	42½	42
Pench Valley	350	335
Raneegunge	63	61¾
Standard	71	66x
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	490	480
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	3300	3660
Bowreah	950	880
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	750
Cawnpore	210	210
Century	1085	1100
Central India	3875 / 1937½	3830 / 1915
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	2600	1800
Khatau Makanji	—	750
Muir	286½	254x
New Ring	700	700
Phœnix	1050	1110
Svadeshi	3880	3900
JUTE.		
Alliance	800	730
Barnagore	168	160
Budge Budge	650	615
Clive	295	280
Dalhousie	533	505
Delta	660	620
Fort Gloster	1020	1000
Gourepore	1300	1325
Howrah	47¼	45¼
Kamarhatty	918x	875
Kanknarrah	745x	720
Khardah	560	550
Kinnison	1100	1030
National	440	410
Standard	684	675
Union	870	850
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	700	700
Burn and Co.	350	300
Carew and Co.	91	91
Cawnpore Sugar	360	352
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	350	350
Howrah Oil Mills	38½	32½
India General Steam	155	155
Indian Iron and Steel	113¼ / 53½	107½ / 47½
Marshall Sons and Co.	11⅞	11⅜
Titaghur Paper	338	318

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INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Mar. 15	Mar. 22
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	55⅜	54⅞
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½% * Redeemable.	66	61¼
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		98½	98½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1903-10, 1939-40		70	70
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		68½	68½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		86	86½
Eastern		8 1/16	8⅛
Mercantile of India A		43⅜	43⅜
National of India		62¼	62¼
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		9/6	9/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		14/6	14/6
Burma Corp.		12 7/16	11 13/16
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		11/-	11/4½
Champion Reef Gold		4/0⅜	3/7½
Mysore Gold Mining		19/-	18/9
Nundydroog		16/6	13/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		18/1½	18/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		23/4½	24/4½
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		48/1½	43/9
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		42/6	37/6
Brit. Burmah		4 3/16	4⅜
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		18⅛	17⅞
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 5% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅜	9⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		49	48½
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		139	137
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		49½	49
Bengal-Nagpur		115½	115½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		104⅛	104
Burma Railways		111	109
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13½	13½
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13	13
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		13½	12¾
Madras and S. Mahratta		112	110
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		127½	127½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		83	82
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		—	—
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		84⅜	84½
Do. Deferred		571	567
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		64	63¾
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16	16
British Indian Tea Ord.		8	8
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15⅞	15⅞
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		12/6	11/-
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		67/6	65/7½
Consolidated Estates		47/8	48/9
Darjeeling Co.		19/9	19/-
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon, Ord.		3⅛	61/10½
Dooars Tea Ord.		60/3	53/9
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		19/-	18/4½
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		67/9	67/6
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		34/6	33/6½
Hewagam Rubber Co.		24/4½	24/4½
Jhanzie Tea Association		11 3/16	10⅛
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		22⅜	20
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		18/1½	17/-
Lanka Plantations Ord.		29/6	29/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		22/3	21/9
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		44/6	42/6
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		12½	12½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		30/-	29/4½

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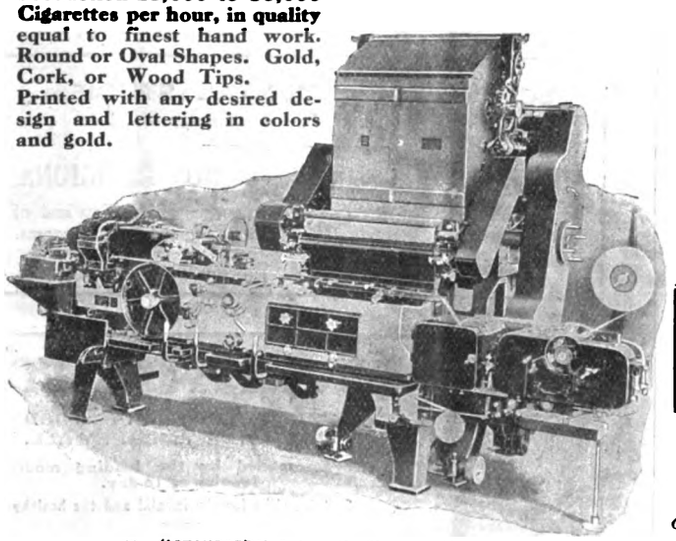

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 465.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The subject of the Turkish settlement has again been given the honour of a field day in the House of Commons, but it would be difficult to say whether any interests were actually furthered by the discussion. Mr. Asquith ventured upon a number of definite suggestions in regard to the future of what was formerly the Ottoman Empire. His remarks on the Khalifate revealed an imperfect grasp of the question in all its ramifications. He advocated the "Vaticanising" of the Sultan; in other words, that the Sultan should retain his spiritual and religious attributes, but be deprived of his temporal power. This solution would satisfy Moslem opinion as little as ejection of the Sultan from Constantinople, and still offers no alternative to the Sultan's temporal power, beyond the vague statement that "responsibility for government and for policy" should be in the hands of the Great Powers, or preferably of the League of Nations. If the opponents of the retention of the Turkish Administration in Constantinople could only realise that the intrigues which they dread under an Ottoman régime would be equally rampant under any form of international control, we should hear less of these unpractical references to the government of the city by the League of Nations. President Wilson in this matter is a conspicuous offender.

In view of Mr. Asquith's position in the political world and the necessity imposed upon him of suggesting alternative policies to those adopted by the Government, it is perhaps superfluous to inquire too closely into his various proposals. One, however, was so prejudicial to British interests, as well as to the interests of the native population, that it cannot be ignored. He definitely recommended that Great Britain should withdraw from the vilayets of Mosul and Baghdad and restrict her "obligations" in Mesopotamia to the zone of Busreh. He based the need for this policy on financial grounds, and endeavoured to support it by misrepresenting the shores of the Black Sea or the Caspian as "the only natural boundary of this vaguely defined geographical unit," to which we should be driven sooner or later to advance. Mr. Asquith would probably justify this particular piece of rhetoric by an allusion to recent trouble with the Kurds; but the mistakes of individual officials do not necessarily prove the unsoundness of the policy of which they happen to be the inadequate interpreters.

The criticism of our Mesopotamian policy was taken up warmly by Mr. Lloyd George. By emphasising the "great possibilities" of the Mosul vilayet, he laid the British Government open to the charge that it is, as usual, taking good care to secure all the "plums" that may be obtainable. It may be true that the possibilities are there, but it would be a mistake to suppose that they are already in hand or in sight. An article which we publish in this issue referring to a recent report on the future of Mesopotamia serves as a corrective to extravagant hopes regarding this country. Development—and substantial development—is possible, but only if it be pursued in a painstaking and scientific manner, and will mean outlay rather than income for many years. The Prime Minister was on surer ground in insisting that to free Mesopotamia from the withering despotism of the Turk and then to hand it back to anarchy and confusion, by evading responsibility for its development, would be an act of folly quite indefensible.

Mr. Lloyd George was emphatic in stating that it would be a mistake to abandon Mosul and Baghdad, and he laid down the lines on which it was proposed to cooperate with the Arabs when the mandate was formally given to Great Britain. The Government is to be Arab, the country thus governing itself, with the British "advising, counselling, assisting." We shall, perhaps, do well not to imagine that the two things to which Mr. Lloyd George referred are quite as "clear" as he implied. As he stated them, they were that the Arab population "do not want Turkish rule again," and "want British supervision." Now present grievances are always apt to appear more formidable than those which there has been time to forget, and it is open to question whether the average Arab does not regard British ideas of sanitation, municipal hygiene, and kindred matters as as bad as the worst inflictions of the Turks. Moreover, unless extreme care is taken in the selection of officials and in instructing junior officials of the Army as to the difference in status of sheikhs and baggage-porters, there is a risk of the very elements among the Arabs who would appreciate the advantages of British supervision being alienated by avoidable mistakes.

What was established by the Prime Minister was that the delay in the Turkish settlement was deliberately incurred by the British and French Governments in order not to lose the *beaux yeux* of the United States. It may be, as Mr. Lloyd George stated, that it was better to face the delay and the consequences, rather than "create suspicion in the United States that we were quite willing to take United States' help, but

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that, whenever there was any question of dividing the mandate over these undeveloped territories, we instantly took advantage of some little political difficulty in America in order to divide the whole thing among ourselves." But if so, it would be well that the facts of the case should be appreciated in the United States. A great deal of advice, ecclesiastic, telegraphic, and ecstatic, is reaching this country on the subject of the Turkish settlement; but it is inadequately realised that the intransigeance of Mustapha Kemal and the massacres in Cilicia were made possible by the failure of the United States to take their share in the settlement of the Near and Middle East. A more deliberate attempt to prejudice the situation would seem to have been made by the action of the American Asiatic Association in despatching to these territories an agent whose mission apparently is to sow as much anti-British seed as possible among the peoples for whose political development Great Britain may have to be responsible owing to the defection of the United States.

As the attitude of the organ of the American Asiatic Association is reflected in a considerable section of the United States Press, we shall not be laying undue stress on an isolated phenomenon. An attempt is made to gloss over the American defection by the following contention:—"It is not responsibilities toward backward peoples which America shuns., It is rather that we shun unreasonably complicated relations towards impenitent imperialisms," and accordingly British Imperialism is held up to opprobrium at every turn. In the spirit of this friendly conviction the Association's emissary has apparently made a tour of Transcaucasia instilling political poison wherever he goes. He purports to reproduce a conversation alleged to have taken place in the War Office last spring between the Chief of Staff and "a certain British official"—the allusion is clearly to Sir Percy Cox—which is represented as reflecting the determination of the British Government to hold "the line of the Caucasus mountain range from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea" as "the natural defence line" of the British Empire, "as it is also the natural boundary line of Russia." All that has happened since in Transcaucasia is made to fit in with the emissary's *idée fixe*. The Armenian appeal for help, he suggests, was stage-managed for Great Britain's purposes. "The British have fostered the desire of these people (Georgians, Armenians and Azerbaijanis) to throw off Russia permanently. . . . It will have become apparent, I feel, that the British are not in the Caucasus as unselfish champions of the three Republics." Anyone who has the least acquaintance with British politics to-day will understand the fatuous nature of these insinuations. They would be comprehensible if the United States had shown the least inclination themselves to assume the rôle of mandatory in Transcaucasia and the Near East; but as things are, they are the lucubrations of a prejudiced mind, ready to perpetuate the world's unrest, if only he can contrive to throw a cloak over a policy which, in comparison with the rarified atmosphere of the Fourteen Points, plumbs the lowest depths of cynical selfishness.

It is a matter for regret that a body of the status enjoyed by the American Asiatic Association should have lent its honoured name to deliberate anti-British propaganda; and we can only infer that American financial interests have been perturbed by the ground lost in the Near East since the Armistice. The value of the assertions in the Association's organs can be gauged by the tenour of Mr. Lloyd George's remarks in the House of Commons on the subject of the Armenian Republic. Its future, he said, depended on whether the Armenians themselves were prepared to protect their independence. They were capable, if they had the will, of raising an army of forty thousand men, and Great Britain, or one of the Allies, would assist them in the matter of equipment. Then he added: "Instead of always casting themselves upon other countries and sending supplications and appeals, let them defend themselves"—a strange reproof to come from the Prime Minister of a country that is supposed to be seeking an excuse to occupy Armenian territory with its troops in the interest of "impenitent imperialism."

The President of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, now in London, has issued a denial of the statement that a military alliance was concluded last October—or before or since—between his Government and the Turkish Government. If, therefore, any document has been signed in Constantinople purporting to bind the Republic of Azerbaijan to Turkey, it is clear that it need not be regarded as having any validity. The political situation in the new Caucasian States is sufficiently indeterminate to make it possible that one party or another should arrogate to itself authority to which it has no real claim. In this issue we publish two interesting letters from correspondents in Transcaucasia, which throw a different light on the Azerbaijan question. As was suggested in THE NEAR EAST last week, the problem is not to lay stress on past mistakes, but to help the new States to lead a well-ordered and useful life in the future. They need, therefore, all the help that can be given them; and we find it difficult to believe that the Allies, especially Great Britain, will wish to withhold their practical sympathy and support from the Transcaucasian Republics at a time when all the forces that the Allies can command in these territories need to be consolidated with a view to resisting the "Red" advance.

The Supreme Council of the Allies or its *locum tenens* will need all the tact that it can muster to find a suitable solution of the Syrian problem, and it is to be hoped that the British Government will recognise the difficulties under which the French are labouring and not leave too much of the burden on their shoulders. At the outset the French Government was assured that it had not grasped even the rudiments of the situation in Syria; but it refused to believe the statement, and proceeded to act as if it had to deal with Morocco or Indo-China. The truth has been borne in upon them by successive stages, and is still far from palatable. They are, therefore, inclined to offset against it the manifestoes of a small community which is more French than the French. This way danger lies, which will embarrass not only France, but Great Britain as well, and there is no reason why the latter should be made to suffer from French obstinacy. The difference between Egypt and Syria is that one was British territory (in all but name) before the war, but the other was not French. Both the Egyptian Nationalists and our French Allies are making mistakes by not recognising this very obvious distinction.

The administration of Roumania continues to be subject to kaleidoscopic changes, with the inevitable accompaniment of political "alarms and excursions without." Dr. Vaida-Voivod was the victim of a most unfortunate *contretemps*. His Cabinet in his absence chose to throw down a constitutional challenge to the King, not, as far as can be judged, on any vital question, but on a comparatively small point of which it wanted to make use to bolster up its position in the country. The King stood by his constitutional rights, and the Cabinet had to resign, while Dr. Vaida-Voivod, who had been no party to the strange proceedings, was still absent from the country. General Averescu, the new Prime Minister, has had to dissolve Parliament, and it is to be hoped that the interval before new elections will be used to straighten out the tangle into which the politics of Greater Roumania have worked themselves. With *lei* at 250 to the pound sterling, personalities clearly ought not to count as much as policies, and what is wanted is a Government which will help the country to set to work again, and by increasing and continually increasing production enable Roumania to rehabilitate herself.

At the present juncture it would be dangerous to say anything about Indian affairs without a frank recognition of the limitations imposed on our knowledge by the condition of the cable service. When, as happened

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last week, some messages take the full fortnight and others come through within the week, it is almost impossible to get the true perspective, and one cannot help fearing that some item of great importance may be delayed on the way. The irregularities are all the more serious because we have to recognise that, while India is at all times full of combustible matter, the number of firebrands at large just now is rather greater than usual; almost every topic of the moment, from Khalifate to Currency, seems to afford scope for language which is certainly dangerous, and which old-fashioned people would regard as openly seditious; and while a country advancing towards self-government may fairly claim increased latitude of expression, the latitude needs to be co-ordinated with the advance, or the immediate result may turn out to be retrogression.

The messages regarding the organised demonstrations on behalf of the Khalifate are so far satisfactory that they tell of no actual disturbance on the appointed day, but the events of last year serve to remind us that the results of violent language are not necessarily obvious at the moment, and, for all that we can tell, the wild talk about a Jehad or a revolution may have fired some time-fuse which will produce an explosion later on. The same consideration arises in the case of the agitation conducted in Bombay against the currency policy of the Government. We read that a dangerous racial note has been sounded, and that means that people who are still suffering from economic stress are being told that their sufferings are being exploited in the interests of British merchants and producers. In both cases there is sentiment which deserves sympathetic consideration, but it is all the more necessary to distinguish carefully between the sentiment and the agitators who play upon it, and who may succeed in turning it into blind fury, not for the benefit of the people, but in pursuit of sinister and interested motives.

If these messages stood alone, we should have to regard the situation as exceedingly serious, remembering that the report of Lord Hunter's Commission is shortly to be published, and that from the present point of view its tenour is practically immaterial, because the extremists, having discredited it to their own satisfaction in advance, will in any case use it only as a peg on which a new and violent agitation can be hung. The brighter side is, however, apparent in the growing sense of responsibility displayed by the real leaders of public opinion. The statesmen gathered at Delhi have shown their resentment at the language used in Bombay, and Nationalist journals of position, while expressing sympathy with Moslem feeling, have been outspoken in their condemnation of the excesses in which some of the agitators have indulged. We expect to see this tendency increase as time goes on; the day has now passed when earnest politicians were condemned to a perpetual unanimity of opposition, and henceforward the vast bulk of sane and reasonable opinion will come to count for more and more. There are better times ahead, but India is not yet out of the wood.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

Politics and Persons.

The first shots of a new war were fired this week—a political "war to the knife and fork." Mr. Asquith, at the National Liberal Club, sneered at the Coalition Government as "an organised hypocrisy"; Mr. Lloyd George retaliated at the same luncheon table a couple of days later by referring genially to "dull and pompous" speakers, and suggesting that Mr. Asquith and Mr. Runciman were ashamed of their "war babies," the Paris Resolutions.

The difference between the Prime Minister and the ex-Prime Minister is frankly personal. In principle, Mr. Asquith's speeches echo the Coalition view, but he and his band (and some add, their women-folk—a matter of importance in these days) can never forgive Mr. Lloyd George for 1916. The ex-Premier is the typical heavy father in politics, a veritable Polonius; the Premier is the unrepentant prodigal, and so far he has had much the best of the exchanges.

There is a movement afoot to drum him and the Coalition Liberals out of the National Liberal Club, but it is hardly likely to succeed. For one thing, he has a considerable following in that institution; for another, the drumming-out process would mean the loss of a large membership, which can hardly be a matter of indifference to the Committee. Several clubs have recollections of the unhappy vendetta of 1886 between Liberals and Liberal Unionists, when the former blackballed the latter, and the latter blackballed the former, with the result that no new members were elected for months: and that course is frankly recognised as suicidal, especially in these days of high establishment expenses for the great clubs. The National Liberal Club as a home of the "Wee Frees" would be a wilderness inhabited by the lost tribes of Israel, which is not a very happy prospect.

The miniature General Election appears to be shaping well on the whole for the Government, although they expect to lose one or two out of the seven seats at issue. But in the multiplicity of candidates anything may happen. There is frankly not the same enthusiasm for Mr. Runciman (who is contesting an Edinburgh division) as there was for Mr. Asquith; the former President of the Board of Trade is an able enough man, but he hardly shapes as a leader, and I believe that the Independent Liberals would still prefer Sir John Simon, who, however, will probably rest awhile after his defeat at Spen Valley.

There are some grumblings among the rank and file of the faithful at Mr. Asquith's continued ineffectiveness. People still come to listen to him, but he arouses no enthusiasm, and his speeches indicate no constructive policy. A mere negative is useless in these days; and the fact that both Mr. Lloyd George and his Labour opponents have a constructive policy means that the Independent Liberals will get no following from the young men who enter politics. One hears a good deal of the revival of Liberalism at the Universities, but I doubt whether there is very much in it.

More Votes for More Women.

When women over thirty were given the vote it required no inspired prophet to foretell that it would not be long before they were placed on the same footing as the nominally superior male, who is allowed to vote at twenty-one. Some discussion has arisen on the question in Parliament, and, with an eye to the next election, hardly a single member objected to the proposal to equalise the franchise. The change will probably be made before the next general appeal to the country, and it will not only add several millions to the electorate, but will place women in an electoral majority, so that we shall be nominally under petticoat government.

Both Labour and the Coalition, of course, hope that the young ladies will vote for them; but the real difficulty of dealing with women in politics, according to candidates on both sides, is that the sex is refreshingly impartial in its dealings, voting one way at one election and diametrically the opposite way at a by-election a

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few months afterwards. The explanation is that women vote for the person, not the party—a fact which is not welcomed by the headquarters of the party organisations, who like to foist their own candidates on the constituencies.

An Exploded Rumour.

The *Westminster Gazette*, of all papers in the world, suddenly announced last week that a General Election was probably imminent. The prediction was laughed at on all sides; it seems a pity that a paper with a good reputation should go out of its way to make itself ridiculous. Fortunately, Mr. Spender is now back from Egypt, and seated once more in the editorial chair; one may, therefore, hope that wild rumours of this kind will henceforth be excluded from his columns.

The Miners Again.

The negotiations between the Government and the miners for an advance in wages continue. At the moment of writing the Government appears to have the best of it. They have flatly refused to endorse the exaggerated claims of the South Wales miners, which are not supported by men in other mining districts; with the result that the sacred solidarity of the Miners' Federations appears to be in jeopardy.

An attempt was made to jockey the miners and to mislead the public by only reading half a letter from the Prime Minister to one of the delegates, which conveyed a very different impression from the whole message; the "misunderstanding" has now been rectified, but it called forth some sharp comments as to the policy of the extremists who are out for a strike. And the bad taste which this incident left in the mouth was not diminished by a story published by the official Labour paper, the *Daily Herald*, to the effect that arrangements were being made for troops to surround the mines. The story has been denied as being utterly without foundation.

Fortunately, the miners at present seem to be in more moderate mood than their leaders, a ballot showing a decisive majority against a strike. But we are by no means at the end of our troubles in this matter; the miners and their leaders seem definitely to have become the *enfant terrible* of the Labour Party, and there is no doubt that these continuous sectional demands, coupled always with a recollection of the miners' strike in 1915 at one of the worst moments of the war, are a serious loss of potential strength to the Labour Party.

A Teachers' Strike?

The London Council school teachers are the latest body to threaten a strike. They are not particularly well paid, but I doubt whether their demands make much impression on the public, which brutally remarks that anybody who has a safe job, two months a year holiday, and a pension cannot have much to grumble at. That, however, is not the full state of the case, for their work must be very trying, and how anybody can teach a class of fifty or more children day in day out year after year passes comprehension. The nervous strain must be enormous, and there seem to be some indications that it has reached breaking-point in the rather hysterical way in which the teachers' conferences and negotiations have recently been conducted, and the fact that they howled down a meeting at which Mr. Fisher, the President of the Board of Education, was to make an important speech on Saturday. One would have thought that a teacher's strong point would have been discipline; let us hope the children do not retaliate.

University Sport.

I do not know whether the Cambridge victory in the Boat Race was popular with the crowd, for the Londoner on the towing-path seems to have some mysterious way of changing his colours to the winning side at the last moment. But Cambridge were certainly the better crew, although neither could compare with the great crews of some past years. But, then, after five years' cessation of the race, not one member of either crew had rowed in the race before, and thus each side had to start entirely without the ballast of past wisdom in the boat.

The usual hilarious scenes were enacted in Piccadilly later, both crews and their supporters going to the London Pavilion, where policemen were embraced and commissionaires were kissed as usual. (I do not quite know why it should be such fun to kiss a commissionaire. The son of a bishop told me some years ago that once in a hilarious moment he had kissed the hall-porter of the Wellington Club after dinner, but that the pleasure was exaggerated, and since then he had never kissed any man but his father.) The Boat Race is still a thing *sui generis*; if the University chess teams marched down Regent Street to a music-hall nobody would care a jot.

Many good judges had expected Oxford to win the Boat Race and Cambridge the University sports, which were held the same day; but Oxford rather unexpectedly gained the honours at the sports, just winning by 5½ events to 4½. The most notable event, the Quarter-Mile, ended in a dead-heat in the very good time of 49 3-5 sec., between Butler, of Cambridge, and Rudd, the Oxford President, who took part altogether in four events, by winning the last of which, the Half-Mile, he gained the victory for his University.

Mrs. Humphry Ward.

Somehow Mrs. Humphry Ward, who died last week, never quite repeated the success of "Robert Elsmere," that unlucky curate who lost his way thirty years ago in the eternal controversy between science and religion. But there was always a public ready for every fresh novel from her pen, and her name will not easily be forgotten. If the gods had only given her a sense of humour she might have gone very much further in literature; but that seems denied to women writers, since nobody could accuse the Brontës or George Eliot of comedy. Apart from writing, Mrs. Ward played a notable part in social work; she will be remembered as a resolute opponent of woman suffrage before the war.

The Week's Books.

The most important book of the week is Mr. J. M. Robertson's "Short History of Morals" (Watts and Co.)—and it is not so very short, either. It is practically a history of ethical thought, and both in manner and temper it is excellently done. Mr. Robertson, it need hardly be said, does not write from the point of view of a Platonist; but he is generally fair to those with whose ethical views he disagrees. Most ethical books are amazingly dull, with a sort of faint flavour of virtuous humbug exuding from them, but I cannot say that I have found a preliminary journey through Mr. Robertson's latest work at all tedious. His style, too, seems lighter and easier than it was, and I can only congratulate him on his defeat at the last general election when he devotes his leisure to such good purpose.

Mr. G. H. D. Cole, who is said to be the brains of the Labour Party, and is a great advocate of Guild Socialism, has written an account of the new world as it should be in "Social Theory" (Methuen). It is one of the books which I have an uncomfortable feeling that I ought to read, and a still more uncomfortable feeling that somehow I shall contrive to evade reading. No doubt the omission will be a capital offence one of these days, but we all have to run risks in unquiet times.

A different class of reader will be attracted by Sir Martin Conway's "Mountain Memories: A Pilgrimage of Romance" (Cassell), which tells of travels in the Alps, the Andes, the Himalayas, and Spitzbergen.

Some time ago Sir H. H. Johnston had the curious idea of writing a sequel to "Dombey and Son," and he now seems to have formed a habit of carrying on other people's ideas, for he has just published "Mrs. Warren's Daughter" (Chatto and Windus) as a continuation of Mr. Bernard Shaw's work, "Mrs. Warren's Profession." It is to be hoped this fashion will not spread; a continuation of "Kipps" by Sir J. M. Barrie might lead to confusion, and I doubt whether a third "Jungle Book" by, say, Sir Leo Chiozza Money would be very successful.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 8.

The Milner Mission.

On Saturday the Milner Mission issued a notice to the effect that, having completed its investigations in Egypt it had adjourned, and would meet again in London after Easter in order to proceed with the preparation of its report. Thus has come to an end another episode in the present political situation, and the scene of activities is now being transferred from Egypt to London, where, if the Egyptians care, they still have time to open up discussions with the Mission before it presents its report to the British Government. The Mission has been in Egypt almost exactly three months, its arrival having taken place on December 7, and Lord Milner having left Heliopolis for Palestine on March 6. During all this time it has been fully occupied, very closely investigating the situation, inquiring into the administration of the country and studying the various problems, political, economic, and others, which at present confront the British and Egyptian Governments.

The Extremist clique has been pleased to decree a boycott, and in order to make it effective has resorted to all manner of devices for bringing the Moderates and its own less ardent supporters to heel, and to prevent the members of the Mission from getting into touch with the mass of the population. To attain this end it has not been above making use of students and schoolboys, and has encouraged a campaign of intimidation in the vernacular Press. The spectacle has certainly not been edifying, and the world at large may well ask whether it would have been necessary to resort to such expedients and strain every nerve to isolate the Mission from the mass of the population, intelligenzia as well as fellaheen, if it had not been feared that the Mission might otherwise hear views and gain an impression entirely opposed to that which the Extremist clique desire to convey. The Milner Mission has nevertheless managed to meet Egyptians of every class and of every shade of opinion, and there is every reason to believe that it has succeeded in obtaining a very shrewd idea of the true state of affairs and that it has gained an insight into the real *desiderata* of the situation which will enable it to give sound advice to the British Government. The Extremists are at great pains to show that the Mission has failed in its task, but it were well to wait until the Home Government pronounces on the report, which it will receive some time in May, and which will most probably be found to contain statements which do not square with the asseverations of our Extremist friends.

The Judicial Reorganisation.

Meanwhile the discussions with regard to the judicial reorganization are making steady progress, and the draft laws embodying the reorganization scheme—in securing the exclusive publication of which *L'Egypte Contemporaine* has achieved a decided "scoop"—have now been published. From the references made thereto in the European Press, and from what one can gather from conversations with those directly interested in and affected by the reforms, they are being very favourably received and are being discussed in an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual desire to meet objections half-way. This augurs well for a successful termination to the conversations, which in the near future will take place with the Powers.

The Ministerial Question.

The difficulty in connection with the resignation of Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha has now been overcome, and Mohammed Shafik Pasha has accepted the portfolio of Public Works, War and Marine, whilst retaining provisionally that of Agriculture. At the same time the Council of Ministers has issued a statement that work on the Sudan barrages will not be started until the Commission has delivered its report and the schemes have been approved of, that anyone who wishes may see the plans and detailed schemes, and that any Egyptian engineer who applies will be given permission to visit the sites where these irrigation works are to be erected.

The Nile Commission has left for the Sudan, spending a day on the way at Aswan, when it inspected the dam. It is being accompanied as far as Khartoum by Sir William Willcocks, who has gone there on its invitation. The Commission will carry out its investigations without an Egyptian member, as Hussein Wassef Pasha has declined his nomination on grounds of ill-health, whilst other Egyptian engineers have declined to sit on the Commission for political reasons. It is a great pity that after having their request for an Egyptian member granted the Extremists should have made it impossible for any of their compatriots to serve. At any rate, they have had the opportunity and so cannot complain any longer.

The Press Censorship.

Since Saturday the Press censorship has been re-established. The object, as set out in the notice to the editors, is to exclude from the Press all matter liable unduly to excite public opinion and prejudicial to the orderly government of the country. Matter discrediting the British Government, the British Army, the Egyptian Government and Allied Governments, matter liable to excite religious or racial animosities, alarmist or false reports calculated to disturb public tranquillity, and news or other matter intended to promote strikes or to encourage public servants to neglect their duties for political reasons, are indicated as features which are particularly objectionable, and the publication of which will be prevented.

The reimposition of the censorship has been forced on the authorities by the glaring manner in which a certain section of the Extremist Press has taken advantage of the freedom accorded to it since last summer, and has gone out of its way to excite the public and encourage opposition to the authorities by the publication of inflammatory articles and personal attacks on officials and on all those who have in any way shown a desire to assist in the government of the country or in the settlement of the political and economic problems that have arisen. It is extremely unfortunate that the more reasonable members of the local Press should have to suffer from the shortcomings of their colleagues; that is, however, a matter which cannot be helped. But there is every reason to believe that the censorship will be directed particularly against those whose action has necessitated this restrictive measure, and that, provided the rest of the Press continue along the lines which they have followed, it will rest very lightly on their shoulders.

The reimposition of the censorship has quite naturally aroused criticism. Many of the critics, however, publicly recognise where the blame lies, but the Extremist Press, not content with protesting, has decided not to appear for three days. Since their columns have hitherto been filled with matter which is now prohibited this rest will no doubt give their editorial staffs the opportunity of finding something more acceptable to substitute, whilst at the same time their action cannot be unwelcome to those who have to apply the censorship, as the reduction in the number of papers to be dealt with in the early days will give them time to complete their organization.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, March 19.

A Political Peacemaker.

Internal politics have occupied a preponderating share of attention in Belgrade since the beginning of last summer, when the Coalition Cabinet broke down owing to the incompatibility of temper between M. Stoyan Protitch, President of the Council, and M. Svetozar Pribitchevitch, leader of the Croat Union party, and

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then Minister of the Interior. The crisis dragged out its weary length for months, until finally a Cabinet was formed by a fusion of the Democrats with the Socialists, who governed until recently without Parliament, thus incurring the charge of being autocratic, while they on their part maintained that there was no other remedy owing to the Parliamentary deadlock due to equally balanced parties. About a month ago M. Protitch, the veteran Radical, returned to power, with a "mandate" from the Regent to govern with Parliament. The early days of the new Cabinet, in which the Radicals combined with the Croat Nationalists, were by no means without incident, and on March 13 the Government found itself without a quorum, owing to the abstention of the Opposition. Its position was becoming untenable, and the country was getting heartily sick of the political squabbles, when there appeared a new figure upon the scene in the person of a prominent Dalmatian, Dr. Joseph Smodlaka, who formed a small group of independent followers, and issued an appeal to all parties to sink their differences and combine once more to form a Coalition Government, which should include all shades of opinion, forget party passion and advantage, devote their energies to the summoning of the Constituent Assembly, and unite for the good of the country.

This statesmanlike appeal did not fall upon deaf ears, and neither great party dared reject it. Negotiations were opened, and dragged on for a week or more. Various modifications to Dr. Smodlaka's proposals were made on both sides, and the Press of both Radicals and Democrats, though rather cautiously, accepted the principle, which the more independent Press welcomed. The Government paper *Samouprava* recently forecasted the acceptance of the scheme, and it really seems now that the peace-making efforts of Dr. Smodlaka and his supporters will bear fruit.

Towards a New Coalition.

The Radical Club invited M. Pashitch to return from Paris. It is stated that recently there has been a growing coolness between M. Pashitch and M. Protitch, both veteran Radicals, which the Democrats interpret as an artful move on the part of the former to rid himself of the odium of failure by shifting it upon his lieutenant's shoulders, and to wait to reap the fruits at a suitable opportunity, by reappearing as the heaven-sent leader of the Radical party.

Meanwhile, the chief obstacle to Dr. Smodlaka's attempt to save the country from chaos is the selection of neutral men as President of the Council and Minister of the Interior. According to one account, M. Protitch would retain the presidency, while M. Pribitchevitch would return to his old post at the Interior. This would be, to all intents and purposes, a restoration of the Coalition of last spring, and would be virtually foredoomed to failure. A second proposal is that M. Vesnitch, Minister in Paris, should be President of the Council, while the portfolio of the Interior should be given to M. Milorad Drashkovitch, recently Minister of Communications in the Democratic Government, an energetic and respected statesman. But the most probable solution will be the exclusion of all *difficile* politicians, such as M. Protitch, M. Pribitchevitch and Dr. Koroshets, in which case probably Dr. Smodlaka would accept the presidency himself, as a non-party man, a rare phenomenon in this country.

The Regent hurried back from a rest in the country, and has been receiving prominent politicians, and yesterday received M. Protitch in a lengthy audience. The Premier announced his failure to form a quorum, the attempts at mediation of Dr. Smodlaka, and the formation of a committee of three to carry out the negotiations. The three are M. Protitch, representing the Government, M. Drashkovitch, representing the Democrats, and Dr. Smodlaka himself. This committee has come to the following conclusions:—That it is necessary to form a coalition Cabinet representing all shades of opinion, that the new President of the Council, and also the Minister of the Interior, shall be non-party men, that the remaining portfolios shall be divided so that the Radical-Croat group have one more than the Democrat-Socialists, but may not have an absolute majority in the Cabinet, that the new Government shall carry out the elections for the Constituent Assembly, pass the budget and ratify the peace treaty, and otherwise deal only with vital national questions, such as the Adriatic problem. This is the most refreshing political news that we have had for a long time.

A Royal Visitor.

King Alexander of Greece has been expected on a visit to the Crown Prince, but the meeting was postponed owing to the difficulty in finding accommodation for his suite. It is now stated that King Alexander will come in May.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 12.

Peace with Russia.

It is reported from Warsaw that a conference was held there on March 3, under the presidency of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with a Finnish delegation. The Roumanian envoy, M. Florescu, has received a provisory mandate to represent Roumania at the Peace Conference with Russia. A Lett delegation will shortly leave Riga for Warsaw.

The Government has accepted the proposals of the Soviet Government for an exchange of Russian and Roumanian prisoners.

Polish Mission to Southern Caucasia.

A special diplomatic mission from Poland left Bucharest on March 8 for Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. At the head of the mission is M. Titus Filipovi, formerly Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. The Minister Plenipotentiary from Poland to the Southern Caucasus, M. François Shapski, left Bucharest at the same time, to enter upon his duties.

Army Pensions.

At the Ministry of Finance strenuous efforts are being made to draw up the budget for war pensions. Up to the present 80,000 applications for pensions have been received from ex-soldiers of the lower ranks, besides a considerable number from other soldiers. To give some idea of the burden upon the Treasury represented by the pension scheme it is stated that, while hitherto the annual sum paid in pensions has been about 34 millions, the next budget will show an expenditure of 150 millions. In view of these figures, which are more or less representative of the whole financial position in Roumania, it is encouraging to read that the Bill proposing an increase of direct taxation will be laid on the table of the Chamber in the course of this week.

Visit of Cardinal Dubois.

Upon his arrival from Rustchuk Cardinal Dubois was met at Giurgevo by an aide-de-camp of the King, Colonel Starcea, and the Assistant French Military Attaché at Bucharest, M. Monicault, and conducted to Bucharest. During his stay here he was the guest of the King, and was given a banquet at the palace. He was also entertained to dinner by the French Legation. It will be remembered that the King of Roumania is a Roman Catholic. The Queen is of the Anglican creed, but all her children belong to the Greek Orthodox Church.

Miscellaneous Items.

The two warships purchased by Roumania in Italy in 1915 have just arrived at Galatz. These two vessels, which were purchased for the national fleet, were seized by Italy at the time of her entry into the war.

Hitherto Bucharest has possessed no State opera company, and there have been no regular opera performances. Now, however, a company has been formed under the patronage of the Queen. The season will begin with "Aida" on March 17. There are one or two good male voices at least in the cast, and the famous Viennese conductor Felix Weingartner is coming to conduct the orchestra, so the first season seems to promise well.

A delightful fortnight of spring weather ended three days ago in heavy storms, and a return of the icy winter wind, and to complete the discomfort it is to-day accompanied by heavy rain.

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BUCHAREST, March 19.

The Cabinet Crisis.

For several weeks a little group of Dr. Vaida-Voivod's Cabinet have multiplied their activities in an attempt to keep the work going on in all the Government departments which were bereft of their political heads by the storm of resignations. These men undoubtedly hoped to keep the Cabinet in being until Dr. Vaida-Voivod's return from London; but their efforts were not successful, and last Saturday the King called on General Averescu to form a Cabinet. Parliament has been adjourned for ten days, and the interval is being used in a strenuous endeavour to arrange a Parliamentary majority for the new Ministry.

The present situation is altogether extraordinary. No precedent exists for a Cabinet resigning in the absence of its chief, and no doubt the return of Dr. Vaida-Voivod would have been more or less patiently awaited had it not been for two new laws, both Government measures, inasmuch as they were sponsored by Ministers. One of these was a new Expropriation Act, and the other a Restriction of Rents Act. There was by no means unanimity in the Cabinet about these measures, and there was violent opposition amongst the propertied classes, who, while they do not at the present moment possess sufficient representation in the Chamber to make their sentiments effective, can bring pressure to bear in other ways.

According to the Roumanian Constitution, legislation originating in one House must have the King's signature before being presented to the other House. As it was probable that the King might see fit to withhold his signature temporarily from any measure which appeared hastily conceived or likely to prove unpopular, these two laws were to be presented simultaneously to both Houses. It was thus anticipated that, thanks to the majority that the Cabinet commanded in both the Chamber and the Senate, the laws would pass.

General Averescu has promised to bring in bills on both these questions. As far as expropriation is concerned, the King's approval has been obtained to a measure which will abolish the *Obstii*, which are the peasant groups actually holding the expropriated land for the benefit of the peasants. Under the new law the land will be divided up amongst the peasants individually. Up to the present the peasant has shown no eagerness to cultivate the land held collectively, and the decision to split it up into small holdings was inevitable.

It still remains to be seen whether General Averescu can get together a majority in the present Chamber. The Ministers representing Bukovina and Bessarabia have joined the new Cabinet, and will bring a certain number of Bukovinian and Bessarabian deputies with them, and the Liberal Party has announced its intention to support General Averescu "in his effort to restore order to the country." Presumably any other activities would demand negotiation. Possibly enough individual deputies can be detached to form a new majority, as the parties composing the "bloc" are not well organised. The present Cabinet surrounding General Averescu is generally conceded to be temporary, and it is said that M. Take Jonescu will join the Government later. If this prove true, it is difficult to imagine the Liberal Party supporting a Cabinet of which M. Take Jonescu is a member. So we should have to have new elections.

Demobilisation.

The general demobilisation of the army has been ordered, and will begin immediately. This is the most important step towards the reconstruction of the country that has yet taken place, and thousands of peasants will return to work in the fields just at a moment when the shortage of labour was making itself most severely felt. Although spring sowings do not appeal to the Roumanian peasant, because of the relatively small yield, many will sow now who were prevented from cultivating their fields in the autumn owing to the fact that they were still under arms.

Silver Smugglers.

Silver money having disappeared from circulation in this country, it is often asked what has become of it. On Monday four thousand lei in silver were discovered hidden among the cushions of a sleeping-car which was just about to leave for Paris. Somebody has apparently been doing a roaring trade in the export of silver money. Each Roumanian silver leu was sold in Paris for two French francs, and these in turn were exchanged for eight Roumanian paper lei.

Arrest of a Prominent Socialist.

The arrest of M. G. Bujor in Bucharest has given rise to a good deal of newspaper discussion, largely directed against the ex-Minister of the Interior, Dr. Lupu. George Bujor had been condemned to death as a deserter by a Roumanian court-martial, and it is stated that he was a member of the revolutionary tribunal at Odessa before which the Roumanian refugees arrested there had to appear. It is further stated that this tribunal only liberated, or agreed to the liberation of, those who could pay the price demanded, while in the end it was only due to the courage and enterprise of Colonel J. W. Boyle that any of them escaped when they did. Bujor has been known since 1911 as an advanced Socialist, and is now accused of being an avowed Bolshevist; consequently the papers are thirsting for his trial, in the hope that it will produce incriminating evidence against the pro-Socialist party in the late Government. It is, perhaps, doubtful whether he is a man of sufficient influence for his arrest to stem the progress of labour unrest, and it may for the time have the contrary effect.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, March 11.

The Question of Thrace.

The recent announcement made by the French Press that the London Peace Conference has decided to allot the greater part of Thrace to Greece, though not yet officially confirmed, has greatly alarmed the people here, and has excited much indignation among all classes of the community. The surprise is general, because everybody thought, after the signature of the Peace Treaty with Bulgaria, which expressly provides for an international administration of Thrace, that the fate of Thrace was already settled. Government circles are much perturbed over the matter. Should this announcement prove true, it is generally anticipated that the Government will protest more energetically than previously. And the London Conference ought to know that the Bulgarian nation will never be reconciled to a decision which cuts the country off from the Ægean Sea.

The Electoral Campaign.

All political parties are making feverish preparations for the Parliamentary elections which are fixed for March 28. The Communists and Moderate Socialists have already commenced to hold public meetings. So far no coalition between parties has been arrived at, save that between the Radoslavists, Tonchevists, and Petrovists, whose leaders (except Radoslavoff, who succeeded in making a timely flight to Germany with the withdrawing German troops in October, 1918) are at present under strict arrest, being regarded as responsible for the catastrophe that has befallen Bulgaria. Events in the provinces are much more lively than here in the capital. Last Sunday the Democratic party opened the electoral campaign at Gornya Djoumaya with great enthusiasm.

The Communist Leaders.

The Attorney-General at the Sofia Field Court-martial has suspended the prosecution of the members of the central committee of the Communist Party, D. Blagoeff, V. Kolaroff, G. Dimitroff, Chr. Kabactchieff, and A. Peneff, who on December 15, 1919, signed an appeal urging all State functionaries to revolt. 50,000 levas are demanded from each of them as a guarantee that they will appear before the law courts when summoned, otherwise they will be arrested immediately. Their party, which now disposes of large funds sent by the

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Russian Bolshevists, has put down the required sums without difficulty.

M. Stambolisky in the Provinces.

Last week the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, was able to allow himself a brief leave of absence for two days to pay a short visit to his parents. He visited also Tatar Pazardjik, where before a crowded audience composed of people of all shades of thought he opened the electoral campaign. His speech, which lasted six hours, was full of a strong patriotism, and it created a deep impression both on the peasants of the neighbouring villages and on the citizens of this Communist stronghold. The crowd was quite satisfied, since the speaker was categoric in his statements. At the conclusion of his speech he appealed for unanimity, requesting the peasants to lend their help to the towns, which to-day are suffering from lack of articles indispensable to subsistence. He declared that the State functionaries ought to be supplied with cheap bread, and that land production must be increased. M. Stambolisky was most heartily greeted by all those assembled before him.

The Agrarians and Communists.

Since the opening of the electoral campaign, five of the seven Agrarian Ministers in the present Cabinet have been in the provinces, visiting every town and village throughout the whole kingdom, and propounding the reforms which the Agrarian League intends to introduce into the next National Assembly. M. Stambolisky, who, being at present in the capital, is responsible for the Ministries of his absent colleagues, has ordered the formation of labour brigades for the repairing of the State road Sofia-Kakarel, and of all the other main roads in the country.

The courts-martial are beginning their huge task of punishing those responsible for the catastrophe of the war. These courts are intended to disinfect the corrupted public atmosphere.

The Prime Minister is well satisfied with the results of the electoral campaign. Everywhere Agrarian speakers have been heard with great attention, and it is hoped that the Agrarian League, under the leadership of M. Stambolisky, will attain a signal victory over the anarchistic elements. The fight in reality is between the Agrarian League and the Communists; in fact, it is one for life and death, and everything points to a victory for the former party. M. Stambolisky declared in the last Chamber that the task of the Agrarian Government is to preserve the present social order, based on private property, by reforming and improving it; the new Socialistic and Communistic reforms they would endeavour to bring about through State properties. In this connection, the summoning of males to obligatory public service is a beginning, but they will not stop at this. They intend to organise according to Socialist methods all those who give evidence in the forthcoming elections that they desire Socialism as the social system. In those villages in which part of the population have declared themselves adherents to the Socialist or Communist cause, their personal property will be confiscated on behalf of the community, and these Communists will be isolated in places specially set apart by the State for the organisation of a Communistic economic life. To them thus separated a chance will be given to apply their Communistic ideas, and the whole Bulgarian nation will be able to see and judge which social order is better. In the towns, where many youths—sons of various captains of industry and wealthy people generally—have declared for Communism, a large part of their parents' estates will by a special law be confiscated.

SMYRNA.

March 10.

Yesterday news reached Smyrna of a battle fought between the Greeks and Turks near Sardes, in the Hermus Valley. The Greeks admit having been driven back by the Turks, but claim that in a counter-attack, in which they used their heavy artillery, they severely defeated the Turks, and have driven them back to Salihly. In fact, it is rumoured in Smyrna that the Turks will retreat to Alasheir (ancient Philadelphia), which was their base before their recent forward movement down the Hermus Valley. It is very clear, however, that severe fighting now takes place the full length of the Hermus Valley, and that the trains dare not run beyond Menemen, which is only one hour's ride from Smyrna. This determined fighting on the part of the Turks seems to bear out their claim that they will not under any circumstances consent to be put under the Greeks.

SYRIA.

Beyrout, March 15.

The Emir Faisal.

The recent political excitement that attended the coronation of the Emir Faisal has reflected on him the lurid light of Arab chauvinism, and made public opinion at a distance rather misjudge his Highness. Nothing is better calculated to correct such an impression than the following literal translation of the Emir's address delivered on that memorable occasion.

"Gentlemen,—Now that the Turkish question is about to be settled definitely at the Peace Conference, I find that I have to convene you once more to decide the fate of the country according to the wishes of the inhabitants, who have seen in you the fitness to represent them on so momentous an occasion. The Peace Conference has promised to consider the wishes of the peoples; nay, it has taken upon itself to decide the fate of each nation according to its own wishes, in fulfilment of the sublime principles for which the Allies went to war. President Wilson, in his speech at Mount Vernon on July 4, 1918, laid down the following clause:—'Every question, whether of territory or suzerainty, economic, political, or international, must be settled on the basis of the free choice of the people directly interested in this question, and not on that of the material interests and benefits of another people or nation for safeguarding its foreign influence or domination.' Other heads of Allied Governments made declarations as to the independence of nations no less clear than that of President Wilson. Our Allies, England and France, published a proclamation on February 7, 1918, wherein they confirm to us the independence of the Arabs.

"As this was a war of liberty and independence, which the nations waged to defend their political existence, my father, his Majesty the King, joined the Allied ranks, after covenanting with the Arabs of Arabia, Syria, and Al Irak, who put up a fight which the greatest political and military men of Europe testified to and lauded, and their valiant acts will be recorded in the history of the great war where the Hejazite, the Syrian, and the Irakite fought side by side in heroic fashion. I am confident that the Arab nation will get what the other victorious Allies got. This victory was not only military, but also a political victory, for it was the victory of right over might—a war against tyranny. The idea of independence permeates now all the nations, and so fills their hearts as to be dissipated no more. The Arabs have earned their liberty and independence by the pure blood which they shed and by the hardships which they endured. The Arab nation will not now accept servitude, and I am convinced that there is no nation that wishes to enslave it. My official visits to Europe and my interviews and the correspondence I exchanged with its statesmen have left no doubt in me as to the goodwill of their governments.

"We do not ask of Europe what we have no right to. We only ask of her to sanction our plain right which she has recognised as being due to us as a free nation, wishing to live a free and completely independent life, and on terms of the utmost loyalty and sincerity with the civilised nations. Its policy will be a policy of peace based on mutual confidence—in short, a policy compatible with the interests of the nation and universal peace. The Arabs do not shrink from the exchange of mutual interests between them and the civilised nations, and do not refuse the friendship of those who desire their friendship, provided this does not touch their honour and interfere with their complete political independence.

"Gentlemen, your mission and your function to-day are grave. Europe's eyes are set on us, and its verdict will be for or against us, according to the political plan we shall lay down and pursue, and the deeds we shall do. Our new Government, whose foundations were laid on the patriotism of its noble sons, has to-day to establish its form and frame a constitution defining the rights and functions of each of us, the rulers and the ruled, in the new life, which I trust will be full of earnest action and diligent progress. And before I close this memorable meeting I wish to remind you of our brethren of Al Irak, who finely fought with you for the freeing of the Fatherland, and of our duty to work hand in hand with them, so that we may all live a happy and strong life. I wish you the real Arab

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salaam and pray for your success and prosperity in all your patriotic endeavours."

When one compares this address with the wild declarations of some members of the Conference, and the no less wild speeches of certain extremists, it appears by contrast very moderate in tone. The extremists repudiate every foreign intervention, even of a financial character, and, by clamouring for general conscription, reveal a militarism entirely out of keeping with the spirit of the new world settlement. That the Emir does not approve such an attitude is proved by the disputes that are said to have broken out between his adherents and the extremists.

TANGIER.

TANGIER, March 17.

The Future Administration of Tangier.

From articles that are appearing in Spanish and French papers, it seems probable that the future of Tangier is at last being seriously studied. Naturally Englishmen here are wondering whether the fact that the British Diplomatic Agent, Sir Herbert E. White, has left for England, apparently considerably sooner than was expected, has anything to do with these negotiations. The settlement which Britons, many non-British (not excluding some French) commercial men, and a very large number of influential natives would like to see has been often expressed and is well known. It may be that such a result is too much to hope for, but so long as British interests which are centuries old are not lost sight of and England at least retains an adequate share in the administration of the zone, it will be a great advantage to have at long last a definite settlement. There are many towns under much worse administration than Tangier, and no doubt things could go on as they are for a considerable time, but the uncertainty that has been hanging over Tangier for so many years has militated against her advancement in every way. It is very curious to note how little the two nations which have been the most strenuous in propaganda work regarding Tangier have done to propitiate the subjects of other nationalities. One would have thought their desires, so often and so strongly expressed, would have led them to do everything to make a good impression in their official dealings with others, but one might almost say that they have acted in a quite contrary manner. While with France and Spain the question of Tangier is chiefly a political one, Englishmen regard it principally from a commercial point of view, and they can hardly be accused of unreasonableness for doubting the effect which a preponderating influence of France, at least, might have on their commerce.

Without in the least questioning the *intention* of recent enactments in the French zone, it may be said that "equality of opportunity" for all appears to have been rather overlooked, and indeed it would seem that if they came into force under the conditions which have been published, they would severely handicap commercial activities in general, though some of them would only affect non-French commerce. This is not calculated to encourage hopes of an absolutely fair treatment for British trade if Tangier came under the influence of the same power, even with the limitations supposed to exist in their Moroccan protectorate. Favourable and special treatment by officials are always difficult of proof, but complaints of all these have appeared in French Protectorate papers, and if French commercial men have good grounds for these complaints it may be fairly concluded that other nationalities have suffered to at least an equal degree.

Apart from the question of Tangier, there are several matters, which have been mentioned in the columns of THE NEAR EAST and in other journals interested in Morocco, upon which the British Agent should have some useful criticisms to make. These, it is hoped, will receive full consideration. It is difficult to speak of these matters without laying oneself open to an accusation of being "anti-French," but none of the criticisms by British subjects of the administration of the French zone are dictated by any feeling against the French—any other nationalities would have been equally criticised, and if any of the actions complained of had been due to a British administration the criticisms would have been far less moderate. Recognition of all the French have done in Morocco, and well-deserved admiration for General Lyautey and his work here, have been ably expressed by many writers in British journals, and these feelings are shared by all our countrymen in Morocco, who believe that many of the actions complained of are not due to the Resident-General or his higher officials; indeed, it is believed that for at least some of them the home Government is responsible. As has been so often repeated, all that the British commercial man asks is freedom to carry on his business and equal opportunity. When these are threatened he claims his right to criticise, and when they have so often appeared in jeopardy in the French zone he quite naturally fears the same trouble would arise if Tangier were given over to the same power.

Personal.

Amongst visitors recently arrived here are the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, Captain Sir Douglas Hall, Major A. C. F. Luttrell, Mr. and Mrs. Glynn Williams, Colonel P. B. Taylor, O.B.E., and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Bruce, of Sydney, Mr. Hugh Spencer. Sir Herbert E. White, K.C.M.G., H.M.'s Agent and Consul-General, left for London on March 7 via Gibraltar.

March 18.

The London papers just arrived give at last an official statement that Tangier is *not* governed internationally. In the House of Commons on March 11 Sir H. Greenwood, in reply to a question, said: "It is not correct to say that Tangier was administered by an International Commission." How often has this been insisted upon in the columns of THE NEAR EAST? Perhaps now we shall have an end to those letters to the papers holding up Tangier as the terrible example of the failure of international government, and as a warning that, with such a failure in evidence, international government could never be a success anywhere.

Failing (from a British point of view) a better solution of the present situation, by all means let Tangier try a well devised international statute, but, to give it every chance of success, and to avoid as much as possible suspicion of undue influence, it would be a good thing if it could be found possible to persuade the Sultan to delegate, as completely as he has done in the Spanish zone, his powers in the international zone to someone to be approved by all the Powers interested.

The fact that it is definitely stated that the question is now under discussion has given rise to hopes that a settlement may be expected before many months have passed, and although the final result must necessarily bring keen disappointment to some, there seems little doubt that, when it is decided, and all uncertainty has disappeared, those who are genuinely interested in Tangier will settle down to make the best of the situation, and work together to give her the brilliant future to which her situation, her climate, and her natural beauties entitle her.

CYPRUS.

Undated.

A small detachment of Zaptiehs (military police), in charge of the Chief Inspector, Mr. S. Te'evantou, has been taken to Egypt, to learn the arts of the farrier. On their return they will carry out the work required for the mounted branch of the force. The present strength of the Cyprus police is about 730, including 240 troopers and 400 privates, and excluding about 80 prison warders.

Rumours are, as usual, abundant. The principal one is that Cyprus is to be placed under the Egyptian command, and that, as soon as the Turkish prisoners are released from the Famagusta internment camp, the British garrison is to return to its old quarters, which were, both in winter and summer, in the Limassol district.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TURKISH SETTLEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I congratulate you on your issue of March 25? The articles are full of interest, to say nothing of your extracts from the Press and "Notes of the Week." I quite agree with you that the Indian Delegation lost rather than gained from their interview with the Prime Minister, and their endeavour to dictate a policy was certainly "a rash experiment." It only wanted a little special pleading to show that the case for the Turk was in reality the case for the British Empire, a far more effective argument than mere religious fanaticism. It might, too, easily have been urged that it was Lord Salisbury's change of policy followed by our occupation of Egypt that drove the Turks into Germany's arms, and was eventually the cause of their coming into the war against us. It was no question of treachery on their part, simply the natural instinct of self-preservation. Again, it was up to the Delegation to point out to Mr. Lloyd George that the principles applied to Austria-Hungary were by no means the same as those which governed the treatment proposed for Turkey. For instance, there never was any idea of removing the Austrians from Vienna; neither can the dissolution of that Empire into its component parts be compared with the appropriation of slices of Turkey by foreign Powers which has been going on for years, and still continues. Further, it might have been argued that the small States that it was proposed to create out of the remnants of the Turkish Empire could *never stand alone* without the protection of some Central Power, and when all was said and done the Turks had been that controlling authority for 500 years and more. In the future who is to play the policeman in Asia-Minor? If we are to have half a dozen policemen, each looking to a different Government for support, will the friction and intrigue we have heard so much about be any less? Altogether the Delegation had a very strong case, but failed, I fear, to make the most of it.

The recent debate in the Commons does not enlighten us much, except that the Powers have been hoping against hope that the Americans would relieve them of this burden, and even now they are fearful of American public opinion as to their disinterested motives. A guilty conscience makes cowards of us all!

As regards our interests in Central Asia the series of articles contributed to THE NEAR EAST by Colonel A. C. Yate show us how the chaos in Turkey and the break-up of Russia is reacting on the Moslem States, and not unlikely to cause further trouble in India. Your leader "Transcaucasia" urges France and England to take a more active part in that region; yet Major-General Sir F. Maurice, in his article in the *Daily News*, quoted by you, is clearly of opinion that even with Mesopotamia on our hands we have bitten off more than we can chew! Mr. Lloyd George, too, plaintively argues in the Commons that we cannot police the whole world. Nevertheless, we must retain Mosul in our keeping on account of the oil, the Arabs being left much to themselves. I fancy this means that we have already learned that the Arabs do not mean to pay taxes for a Coalition Government! Poor Turks, they learned much the same thing, but unfortunately had no money to exploit oil wells! In plain English, we are drifting without any very definite policy; are, in fact, asking for trouble all around.

Surely a sane policy points to the reform of the existing Turkish Government rather than the dismemberment of the Empire. In my letter to you of March 1 (published on the 11th) I ventured to suggest how such a reformation could be accomplished. I still consider that this scheme offers the best solution of the problem. But will the British Government be magnanimous enough to share and share alike with France? Alas! I have my doubts.—I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

Ruishton, Taunton,
March 28, 1920.

THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of January 2, which has just reached the Caucasus, your correspondent R. Mareau writes *inter alia* about "the inclination of the Caucasian Republic to lend itself to the intrigues of the Young Turks and German adventurers," etc., etc., etc.

May I say, first of all, that if there is one thing that surprises us out here more than another, it is the astounding ignorance that people at home have regarding the Caucasus and things Caucasian? The gist of my own personal correspondence from England is that fears are expressed for my safety, etc. One day I hear from home that we are surrounded by savage Turks; another day the fear is that Bolshevists are all around us, and that we may all be murdered in the streets. For some reason—enemy propaganda, most likely—the rumours are all anti-Georgian and anti-Azerbaijan. And this, at the present time, is very unfair and very unjust.

Your correspondent claims that he is well acquainted with the history of these regions—but his knowledge is evidently far from up-to-date. My claims are simply these: I was appointed official war correspondent with the forces in Mesopotamia. After the signing of the Armistice I proceeded from Baghdad to Baku, arriving in the latter town in the first week of December, 1918. Since then I have been continuously in the Caucasus, and I claim that I am entitled, perhaps more than anyone else, to speak of the present situation in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The enemies of the Azerbaijan Republic—Armenians and such—have recently spread many false reports regarding the alleged pro-Young Turk tendencies of the Azerbaijan Government. They have even gone so far as to say that there has been a secret agreement between the two parties. The Azerbaijan Government has published an official statement in contradiction of these lying tales, and, quite apart from this official Government refutation, I know, and every British officer and civilian here knows, that the Azerbaijan Republic is sincerely and gratefully pro-Ally to-day, and that the Azerbaijan Government is the very first to condemn the intrigues of the Young Turks and of any other Turkish or German adventurers.

That there are Turkish and German adventurers in the Caucasus is only too true. They are everywhere in the Near East, scheming and plotting and carrying on their cunning propaganda—usually co-operating with the agents of Soviet Russia. But they are working secretly, as Azerbaijan and Georgia are not "inclined" to suffer them.

Finally, it is ignorant and unjust to accuse Azerbaijan of being pro-Turk. The people are pro-Mussulman. There is a difference. Indeed, I have consistently written that it is all in our interests to be pro-Mussulman, too. We British have been very good friends of Azerbaijan, and the Azerbaijan Mussulmans, like the millions of their brethren throughout the British Empire, will prove themselves good and faithful friends of ours. Heaven knows that the young Trans-Caucasian Republics, cut off from the outer world for nearly six years as they have been, have a difficult struggle before them. They have successfully driven out the Bolshevists, but the Bolshevist menace still remains. Let us sympathise with them—let us help them—and let us throw no stupid, false accusations at them. On the safety of the Caucasus depends the safety of the Middle East. Azerbaijan and Georgia are our Allies. We should treat them as such.—I am, etc.,

SCOTLAND LIDDELL.

Tiflis, February 28, 1920.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of January 2, which has just reached me, there is a letter by a certain R. Mareau regarding "the new Republic that has arisen out of the ruins of the Tsarist Empire of Russia, and which now aspires to the name of Azerbaijan." This correspondent goes on to say that "the assumption of the name of Azerbaijan by the Province of Baku . . . is a manœuvre of the Young Turks," etc., etc., etc.

The other remarks of your correspondent are all equally stupid, so I will pass them by as unworthy of comment. But with your kind permission I would like to state a few facts regarding the right of the new Trans-Caucasian Republic to the name of "Azerbaijan."

In the Persian province of Azerbaijan the fundamental mass of the population at present are not Persians, but the same Azerbaijan Turks who form the fundamental population of the Baku and Gandja (Elisavetopol) districts and of the southern part of the Erivan district. There are in Persia over two and a-half millions of Azerbaijan Turks. For more than eight centuries Persian Azerbaijan has been a Turkish region, and not in the least an Iranian home.

The Azerbaijan Turks inhabit completely the whole of the territory on one side from the southern declivities of the Caucasian chain to the southern border of Lake Urmia and to the Kurdistan frontiers, and, on the other side, from Bortchalu and Ararat to the northern part of the Lenkoran district. In Bortchalu they inhabit the district up to the borders of the Akhalkalaki district separating the Armenian population of the southern part from the Georgian population of the north-western part. The southern part of the Tiflis district with Karaiazy, and of the Signakhski as well as the whole of the south of the Erivan district from Erivan to Julfa (the Nakhitchevan and Sharuro-Daralaghez districts) are also inhabited almost entirely by Azerbaijan Turks.

The separate colonies of other nationalities do not break the continuity of this territory. Amongst these are the colonies of the Iran Persians (Tats) on the Apsheron penin-

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sula and in the Kubinski district: the colonies of the Kurds —in the southern part of Karabagh: of the Mountaineers (Lesghians and Udins) in the Zakataly region and Nukha district: of the Armenians in the chief town centres, in the environs of Shemakha and Nukha, in the mountainous region of Karabagh and Kazakh, and also in the different valleys of the southern part of the Erivan district. Lastly, the Russian, German, Ukraine, Greek and other colonies dispersed in the different parts of this territory like small islands.

The Turks called their country "Azerbaijan." When one part of them received independence and formed an independent republic it was quite natural that this republic should be called after the name of the country where it was formed; although, perhaps, it did not unite all the Azerbaijan Turks in a whole.

In historic as well as in ethnographical respects the new Republic has a full right to the name of Azerbaijan.

I am, etc.,

(Dr.) Alexander Schepotieff

(Formerly Professor in the University of Moscow).

Baku, Azerbaijan, March 1, 1920.

TURKISH ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have just learned that in a letter which appeared in The Near East of January 29 your Constantinople correspondent quoted a statement of *Alemdar* to the effect that I had taken part in a conference held at Lausanne under the auspices of the Turkish Committee of Union and Progress. I would call your attention to the fact that this statement had already been contradicted by me in a communication to *Alemdar* published in that journal on January 14. My words were:—

"The information regarding my participation at a conference of the Union and Progress in Switzerland is absolutely false. I have nothing to do with any conference or branch of the Union and Progress in Switzerland or elsewhere. For several years past I have ceased to belong to the Union and Progress, towards which my attitude is that of every Armenian."

I am, etc.,

B. Haladjian.

Berne, March 20.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report —

Albania (Italian Military Forces). Syria. India: Reforms Act.—Transport Facilities (Homeward).—Germans (Repatriation).—Army Officers (Pensions). Cilicia (Threatened Massacre of Armenians). Egypt (Constitutional Reform). (March 22.)

Russia: Kuban Cossacks. Turkey: Armenian Massacres, Cilicia.—Disturbances at Marash. British Army: Afghan Frontier Campaign. Egypt (Lord Milner's Commission). (March 23.)

India: Mohammedan Population (Census).—Government of India Act (Regulations).—Committees of Inquiry (Composition).—Lord Hunter's Committee.—Deportation (B. G. Horniman).—Tribal Militias.—Indian Volunteer Force.—Lajpat Rai.—Mohammed Ali.—Revenue (India Taxation).—Indian Army Reserve. Khalifate Delegation. Asia Minor. Egypt (Lord Milner's Commission). Mesopotamia and Palestine (Army Expenditure). Anglo-Persian Oil Company. India: Army Officers (Pensions).—Constitutional Reforms (Lord Hardinge). Export Credits Scheme (Bulgaria). (March 24.)

Peace Treaties: Turkey, Montenegro. Government of India Act (Rules). (March 25.)

The Victoria and Albert Museum has lately received an important loan from Mr. George Eumorfopoulos, consisting of two specimens of English work of the 15th century. One, a panel representing St. George, and formerly in the collection of the late Mr. Lewis F. Day, belongs to the first quarter of the century. The other, a roundel of the Annunciation, and formerly at Ditton Park, Bucks, is slightly later in date, and was probably made about 1450. It is a charming piece of work, and thoroughly English in character.

It is stated in *Nature* of March 25:—A project for systematic exploration in Mediterranean oceanography was started at an international conference recently held at Madrid. The States represented were France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Monaco, Egypt, and Tunis. A commission was founded, with headquarters at Monaco, and the Prince of Monaco as president. This commission will consider the methods to be adopted. Ships for the work are under construction, or being planned by France, Italy, Spain, and Monaco. A beginning will be made this spring, France and Italy working in the Dardanelles and Monaco and Spain in the Straits of Gibraltar. The secretary of the central commission is Dr. J. Richard, Musée Océanographique, Monaco.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Britain and the Middle East.

In the *Scotsman* of March 19 Major Glyn has put into an article called "Asia Minor and the Middle East: the Parting of the Ways," the thoughts of the average Englishman upon the Ottoman Empire and British responsibility in those regions. He says:—

It is obvious that the British public are not fully informed of the new responsibilities that must devolve upon us in accepting the mandate for Mesopotamia; and unless the Turkish settlement can be so adjusted in proportion to the limited funds that Parliament allots for defence, the task we are faced with may prove too much with the means at our disposal to properly maintain the prestige of British arms or to prevent the sacrifice of gallant lives endeavouring to carry out duties too great to be borne. Our policy should be either to accept the responsibility with its attendant financial burdens, or else to refuse to take up a position that it will be difficult to maintain. But to refuse means that we as a nation are no longer prepared to continue our traditional policy of protecting backward races and leading them forward to social and economic development. We are at the parting of the ways. India under British guidance now claims the right to exercise the power of self-government. To the British Dominions the affairs of Asia make but an indirect appeal, and their attitude and that of the United States is very similar. Why should they accept the extra financial obligations inseparable from assuming part of the load of "the white man's burden"? And, therefore, unless our own people in these islands, being made aware of all the facts, decide to have no further part or lot in promoting civilisation in the more backward parts of the world, we must accept the responsibility with all that it entails. Never were times more difficult in which to urge the continuation of the historic British foreign policy. At home each person is chiefly interested in his or her own struggle to obtain the best material results of increased financial gain and social progress. Abroad the enemies of our country, jealous of the position we have gained in the Great War, are busy sowing discord in the United States, in India, even amongst our Allies, and on account of Ireland in our own Dominions. Throughout the Middle East and Asia there is a great "anti-occidental" wave of feeling spreading amongst all Orientals and on account of the great part Great Britain has played in the past this hostility is chiefly directed against us. From a common centre this campaign is guided: and every care is taken to use each opportunity. Affairs in Ireland, in the United States, in Turkey, in Persia and India are all symptomatic: internationalism is destructive of patriotism, just as mad Imperialism is a betrayal of true patriotic sentiment. We have no desire for more territory; the map of the world is red enough and almost more than enough. This is a time for great decisions, and fearlessly should the issues be explained. I for one am confident that the innate wisdom of the British people will rise to the occasion, but let us not act without the clear consent of the people.

The Skupshtina.

The *Morning Post* of March 23 has a quite amusing description by its Belgrade correspondent of the Yugoslav Hall of Assembly:

The Assembly is declared open and the fun begins. An Opposition member stoutly maintains that there is no quorum present. Persuasion has no effect on him, and there is nothing for the Chamber but to count itself. The list of Deputies is read over, amid much noise, much ringing of the President's little electric bell—he himself, poor man, has no voice with which to master such a rowdy crew. It seems there is occasionally some difficulty in ascertaining whether a member is actually in the hall or not. One weakly imagines that such a simple physical fact would admit of no discussion. One is wrong. In the Balkans all is disputable, even the data of sense. The truth is the Opposition is in something of a quandary. It cannot rag M. Protitch without being present, but it cannot be present without swelling his quorum. So it adopts the plan of sitting still and not answering to its name when called. One member even loudly denies that he is here at all: but that is really too subtle—his name, in spite of protest, is promptly added to the growing list. At last the reading is finished. Results are checked, counter-checked, handed to the President. There are, it appears, 147 present—just two more than the minimum necessary to make proceedings valid. . . . Government stands, if on somewhat tottering legs. Then M. Protitch gets up and roundly tells the House that though he has his quorum to-day it is quite possible he will not have it to-morrow. Some little alteration in the quorum-law might be advisable. A hundred, for example, would be a good round number.

But he is not to ride off so easily. Opposition has got its bone and is going to worry it. In this astonishing country, it seems, no one exactly knows how many deputies are entitled to sit—how many, therefore, a quorum, which is one more than the half of them, really consists of. . . . Some one gets up and outs with a long calculation to prove that a quorum, properly considered, is not 145 but 149; so that 147 instead of being two too much is two too little. Apart from that he knows (*a priori*) how many members were *not* present: standing on that purely rational basis, he demonstrates very philosophically that, in defiance of appearances (notoriously deceptive), not more than 143 deputies could possibly have been in the House at the

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moment of counting. And so (to summarise his complex mathematico-metaphysical argument) Government, child of Beelzebub (he does not exactly call it so, but that is the general effect of his remarks), convict of falsification, or under-estimation, or both, has no manner of quorum to bless itself with. Follows thunder and lightning, on this side and on that Speaker intervenes upon speaker, with mutual injuries. Bits of plaster come fluttering down from the ceiling—it is the ballroom where of old Milan and Alexander held revel, and somewhat out of repair. Into the midst of the uproar, M. Protitch manages to spatchcock his programme for the next sitting. And the Assembly closes.

Syria and Palestine.

Palestine, of March 27, devotes its main article to the problem of the Near Middle East. There is a temptation, it says, to concentrate on the day and leave the morrow to take care of itself, and a yielding to this temptation would be absolutely disastrous.

There may be people who will say that the Peace Conference might dispose of the whole matter by a little legal fiction. Why not allow an Arab Empire nominally embracing Palestine and Mesopotamia, but having no authority at all in Palestine and Mesopotamia? Life does not like legal fictions, and nominal authority is either something or it is nothing. If it is nothing, then let it have the name of nothing; if it is something, then it is a potential danger. There might very readily be a conflict between the Power claiming real and the Power claiming nominal authority, and every element of discord and sedition would have a flag under which to work. So far as Palestine is concerned the whole task of effecting harmonious co-operation between Jew and Arab might very well be imperilled. The proper relation between Jewish Palestine and Syria is that of equals and colleagues, friendly in all things and co-operating at all times. The subordination of Palestine to Syria is not the true relation; it is not a possible relation; it is not a fruitful relation. There is no conflict between Arab Nationalism and Jewish Nationalism, but a conflict between Arab Imperialism and Jewish Nationalism would be only too probable. In the interests of both Jew and Arab that must be avoided.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that the Allies must distinguish between Imperialism and Nationalism. Arab Nationalism is sacred; Arab Imperialism is as little sacred as British or French Imperialism, and very much less able to realise itself. To Arab Nationalism the Allies have the duty of being both just and generous. That duty remains, although Damascus has lately made its performance exceedingly difficult.

Constantinople and Mesopotamia.

The *Morning Post*, of March 27, deals with the question of the Khalif in its usual outspoken way. This is how it sees the problem of Constantinople:—

Constantinople has always been a difficult question for Europe. And mainly for this reason—that it commands the vast interior trade commanded by the Black Sea. In the old days before the Turk, Venice and Genoa, if we remember our history aright, disputed for the control of the Byzantine Government, not, indeed, in order to protect the Armenians—which is the sole motive actuating the modern mind—but because the Venetians and Genoese depended upon the Black Sea for timber, hemp, wheat, flax, and other necessities of their seafaring life and trade. Then the Turk came exactly like a robber Baron, planted himself down upon this and other roads between East and West, and for centuries drew huge revenues and vast power by taking toll of the exchange between Russia and the Mediterranean and between Europe and Asia. As to his Caliphate, it is chiefly nonsense, for the Turk was only a convert to Mohammedanism and had no more title to be head of the Mohammedan faith than Barbarossa to be head of the Christian Church. He was a very powerful convert, who fought the Christians and protected the Holy Places, and he assumed the Caliphate much in the same way as the German Kings assumed the title of Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire. When Moslems in India make a fuss about Constantinople on religious grounds they are not sincere: they are thinking of politics. And that is shown very clearly by their sympathy with the Young Turks, who were a gang of atheists and unbelievers.

Turning its attention to Mesopotamia, it says:—

As to Mesopotamia, it might be remarked that by every great war England gains a new Empire and loses an old one. In the French Wars we lost the Thirteen Colonies and gained Canada and the Cape of Good Hope, to say nothing of the Antipodes. In these recent wars we have gained Mesopotamia, but seem in a fair way to lose India. As far as we can see Mr. Montagu has so arranged matters that the destruction of the magnificent British system in India is only a matter of years. But if we are to lose India, then there is the more reason why we should take a firm hold upon Mesopotamia, which once blossomed and may again be made to bloom like the rose. We admit that the frontier is very long and cumbersome; but a large part of it is desert; and desert, as Napoleon said, is the best of frontiers. If, however, it could be shortened and readjusted without substantial loss of good territory, so much the better.

The Army in the Holy Land.

Mr. Percival Phillips, in the *Daily Express* of March 24, gives a quite vivid picture of the life of our soldiers in the Holy Land. He writes from Acre:—

White tents beside the walls of Acre. A broad bay of deepest blue, fringed with golden sand; purple mountains capped with snow; warm sunshine and a lazy offshore breeze that scarcely ruffles the placid sea. I thought of London in the grip of winter. Who wouldn't be a soldier in the Holy Land?

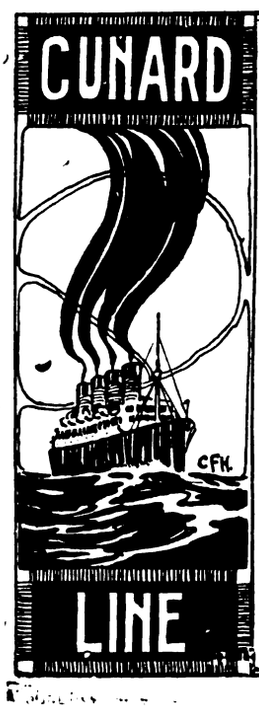
I said something of the sort to an officer of this British frontier force as we strolled along the beach towards Haifa. "I suppose the men like it," I added. "Like it," he repeated savagely, "they hate it. Every mother's son of them would rather go through a winter of trench warfare in France. There they had intervals of rest in warm billets, plenty of warm food, and any amount of recreation. They were never out of touch with civilisation. Here they are at the mercy of the weather; cut off from the rest of the world; preyed upon by the nimblest thieves east of Suez, and cursed with a surfeit of bully beef. And they think they're forgotten." Even as he talked the scene changed. Fat black clouds rose above the headland of Ras en Nacoura beyond Acre, and sped across the bay. The wind freshened ominously, and white caps flecked the sea. Five minutes more and a rainstorm was lashing the palm trees; waves broke viciously over the rocks in Haifa roadstead, and the Arab boatmen scurried to port. "Look at it," said my companion; "who wouldn't be a soldier in the Holy Land?"

Tommy is undisguisedly fed up. He lives a kind of hand-to-mouth, makeshift existence in tents—a drab, dull life, which does not seem to have a single redeeming feature. The antiquities of Acre and Elijah's associations with Mount Carmel are not adequate compensation for the loss of football, and cinemas, and other simple pleasures that go to make his life endurable. Twice this week the canvas-covered garrison by Acre (pronounced "Akka") awoke to find itself drenched, with a forty-mile gale howling across the sandhills. Those by the sea literally have been washed out. The grim slopes of ragged rock behind offer scant opportunity for making camp. One must use the bits of ground that are available, even at the risk of being shipwrecked. A single thread of railway, a thing which is the sport of wind and rain, feeds this force in Palestine. It runs northward from El Kantara, the great base camp on the Suez Canal, through the desert by Gaza to Ludd. Ludd is a kind of Clapham Junction. One line swerves north-west to Haifa; the other climbs the mountains to Jerusalem.

Whenever the line breaks Tommy in Palestine is left in mid-air. He gets no letters, or papers, or supplies. Jaffa and Haifa, the two British-held ports, offer little in the way of steamship facilities—Jaffa, indeed, has of late been living up to its reputation as the worst roadstead in the world, and steamers pass by shudderingly, giving its toothed rocks a wide berth. Then Ludd becomes a cursed place, where desperate officers bent on a week's leave in Cairo haunt a desperate R.T.O. and gloomily eat hard-boiled eggs in the miserable shed miscalled the "buffet." Ludd is a vile swamp when it rains, and a dust-hole when the sun shines. Yet it is a metropolis compared with up-country stations, where Tommy foils the thieving native, and re-reads tattered papers by the light of a lantern. Foiling the native is more than a pastime—it is a serious business. The Bedouins easily take first prize as skilful thieves. No article is safe from them, even when nailed down. They crawl into camp at night with incredible daring and persistence, and lift whatever property their hand touches in the darkness. They have been known to loot an inhabited tent without waking the occupants. An officer awoke the other morning to find all his clothes, even his shaving tackle, boots, and Sam Browne gone. The sentry saw nothing, heard nothing. Remained only the footprints in the soft earth to prove that the visitor had come and gone.

Article to Note.

"Constantinople." By the Very Rev. Canon William Barry, D.D., in the *Nineteenth Century*. (April).



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MUSICAL NOTES.

It is easy to decry the merits and to minimise the achievements of small countries, and I believe that few countries have been more often described as possessing no attributes of greatness than Wales. But that country has at least one distinction: its children can scarcely be surpassed for purity and natural beauty in song. This delightful clearness of voice and tone was always manifest in the vocal recital which Miss Gwladys Naish gave at the Wigmore Hall on March 18. But she has in addition high technical ability, and her *coloratura* singing is as unusual as it is unfashionable. She is at her best, however, in simple lyrics (such as those of which Hubert Parry and Stanford have written scores), and in traditional songs in her native language. For her Italian and French diction I did not greatly care, and for her singing of Brahms and Schubert in so-called English translation I cared still less. (Singing songs in German is a question where all argument lies on one side and much sentiment on the other, and to be *doctrinaire* about it is absurd. But it does seem to me that the necessity of singing them at all is not so great as the necessity, when it has been decided to give them, of singing them in German, and not in the wretched French or English translations which mar so many programmes to-day.) In Irish lyrics Miss Naish failed, owing to her English pronunciation of Irish brogue; she apparently is not made for dialect singing. But all her faults were absent in a priceless old Welsh song, "Y Gwcw Fach": in this the words fell from her lips as naturally and as effortlessly as from a bird's. It may be added that she had the advantage of the universal experience and general skill of Mr. S. Liddle as accompanist.

To count British male singers who scorn the royalty-ballad and yet retain some popularity is not much trouble; but there are happy signs that their number is being increased from artists of the younger generation. Among such new artists can be placed Mr. Douglas Marshall, who, excellently assisted by Mr. Aubyn Raymar at the piano, gave a song recital at the Æolian Hall on March 19. The artistic value of his programme can be gauged at once when it is said that only songs by Louis Aubert, Fauré, Ireland, Scott, Alec Robertson, and a cantata by Bassani were included in it. Mr. Marshall is certainly an artist, not yet finished, but one who surely knows and loves his art. He takes his song as a whole, and it is only by accident, as it were, that some of the details are not right. He understands both the musical and the literary worth of the phrase he is singing; so closely, indeed, does he interlock the utterance of his words and their content, that when you criticise his musical ability at the same time you criticise his power of literary appreciation. This, of course, is as it should be. But it would be wrong not to mention that in dramatic lines Mr. Marshall has a slight leaning towards an unnecessary nasality, and that a hint of a rasp in heavy passionate phrases does not help the ear and mind. Also it may be constated that, howeyer good Aubert's setting of "La Lettre" by Henri Barbusse may be, the words are not worth the music; that it is very doubtful whether Mr. Marshall will care, say, in ten years' time to illumine the combined decadence in which Mr. Ireland and Mr. Arthur Symons have indulged in a song called "The Rat"; and that Sir Rennel Rodd's poem on Greece (called "An Idyll") deserves a more fitting setting than that which Mr. Alec Robertson has given it. But despite minor differences with Mr. Marshall, one places large hopes on him. For in his recitals aristocratic taste and individual judgment (two different things!), and not ochlocratic desire and financial consideration, are the controlling factors.

Vocal recitals during the past week have been plentiful and of rather more than ordinary interest. At the Wigmore Hall on March 22 M. Louis Dornay, a Dutch singer, made his first appearance in this country. From an operatic point of view he has a quite notable voice, delivering almost to perfection the Italian method of declamation. His enterprise was shown by the fact that he sang in tolerable English the whole of Schumann's "Dichterliebe," but the differences in this cycle he made, not by distinct interpretations, but by distinct methods in detail—a policy that scarcely succeeded. Outside his operatic style he was best in two songs of movement by Poldowski, the first, with words by the French-Greek poet, Jean Moréas, being particularly noteworthy. The old Dutch folk-songs which he sang were poor things and bare; they seem to have derived from their country a stale flatness.

Miss Ursula Greville's second song recital at the Æolian Hall on March 25 did not prove her possession of more virtues and vices than were noticeable at her first recital. As I have said before, I do not believe that she has a future in operatic singing, but there is no doubt that she sings a lyric uncommonly well. Of Mr. Rutland Boughton's "Triumph of Civilisation" (first performance) she made a very fine thing; and in some unaccompanied songs, especially in Brahms' "Dustman," and in the old French "L'Heureux Vagabond" she sang with delightful freedom and proper reserve. At present it may be said that Miss Greville's taste is better than her voice; whether these two things will draw together or separate still further is not easy to say. The fact that she was assisted at this recital by Miss Dorothea Walwyn (violinist) it is possible to mention only if the verb be understood in its original sense.

To his deserved fame M. Mischa-Leon recently added, by his recital of German song, an unsought notoriety. It was not, I know, by way of making atonement for this that he gave a British song recital at the Æolian Hall on March 25, but, all the same, this recital was a mistake. M. Mischa-Leon is a very fine singer indeed, but English is the language in which he sings least well, and in English music his judgment plays him most unhappy tricks. The compositions of Mr. Josef Holbrooke seem to have become an obsession with him; and in a programme representative of British song the names of Willie B. Manson, Landon Ronald, and Harold Craxton are far from being essential. But in the few songs where the words were poetry and the setting was music M. Mischa-Leon showed himself really a consummate artist; such songs were "Desolation," by Granville Bantock; "So Perverse," by Frank Bridge; and "The Eve of Crecy," by Julius Harrison, the last of which he sang with perfect worthiness. Madame Donalda also sang at this recital, but she served chiefly to show that M. Mischa-Leon was an artist as opposed to (her) the singer.

The finest concert so far arranged by the London Chamber Concert Society was that given at the Wigmore Hall, on March 23, by Messrs. Murdoch (piano), Sammons (first violin), Reed (second violin), Jeremy (viola), and Salmond ('cello) in a concert devoted wholly to the music of Elgar. The Quartet, the Quintet, and the Sonata for Violin and Pianoforte were played, and they were played by masters worthy of the composer. The Quartet and Quintet are wondrously and marvellously beautiful, and the appreciation with which a very large audience listened to them is a sign of the times which other nations, who scoff at the English as being the most unmusical nation on earth, should note well. In the violin Sonata Mr. Sammons played with a richness of tone that I know no other British artist to possess; but while he was at home in every phase of it, Mr. Murdoch was rather a long, long way from it, and seemed content to let the violinist bear the brunt of the interpretation. In the Quintet, however, the pianist made the *amende honorable*; his vigour, precision, and co-operation generally were beyond reproach. Taken all round, this concert was the most enjoyable of its kind given this season.

The concert which Miss Murray Lambert gave at the Queen's Hall, on March 23, with the New Queen's Hall orchestra, under Mr. Hamilton Harty, was noteworthy for one thing only—Mr. Harty's conducting of Strauss's "Don Juan." Although this work is supposed to represent the complete conversion of Strauss to the school of programme music, it is happily only the spirit (and not the details) of Lenau's poem that is depicted in it, and the result is a symphonic poem which is far in advance of a line-for-line representation like "Tod und Verklärung." The spirit of "Don Juan" was most admirably caught by Mr. Harty, to whose whimsicalities the music strongly appealed. He introduced one of his own compositions—"Fantasy Scenes from an Eastern Romance," which, with its clever, never-lagging movements and its almost complete lack of real Eastern music, will probably be ruined by popularity. Concerning Miss Lambert's playing, I do not know whether it was a false patriotism or merely bad judgment that induced her to begin with Max Bruch's "Scottish Fantasy," but to listen to a medley of Scottish traditional airs as conceived by the brain of a German Jew was a woeful experience for an English audience. Glazounow's Concerto in A minor for Violin and Orchestra was a better choice, but even this did not give Miss Lambert, whose playing, if not distinguished, is very pleasant, sufficient scope. Before praising or writing otherwise of Miss Lambert, one must hear her again in things of more moment.

ANDANTE.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"FROM PERSIAN UPLANDS." By F. Hale. (London: Constable and Co. 10s. 6d.)
II.—"WHERE'S JOSEPH?" By Charles W. Hopper. (London: Collins. 6s. net).

I.—PERSIA DURING THE WORLD WAR.

Count Beugnot, who administered the Grand Duchy of Berg under Napoleon I., remarked that nothing was more stimulating to an inditer of despatches than the fancied presence of a great man. Mr. F. Hale has made a similar discovery. During a prolonged residence in Persia he kept an English lady at home informed of all his experiences, and drew inspiration from her sympathetic replies. His correspondence with this Egeria forms a volume which stands in refreshing contrast with the majority of records describing Eastern travel.

Mr Hale left Askábad, in Russian Transcaspia, in August, 1913, and two months of leisurely progress through North-Eastern Persia brought him to Birjand, the capital of a province conterminous with Afghanistan. In this backwater he lived for three and a-half years, and although he had no official status, his intimate knowledge of the beautiful Persian language brought him into close relations with natives belonging to every class. Absolute government favours the growth of individuality; there is a delightful variety in the human types described by our author. Amir Shaukat-ul-Mulk, who governed Birjand, stands out in high relief as a man of marked personality. The head of an ancient ruling family, he administered in patriarchal style, and was universally beloved, while his devotion to lawn tennis, bridge, and hospitality rendered him equally popular with the small European colony. Of the Persians as a race, Mr. Hale formed a favourable opinion. Ages of oppression and neglect have, indeed, left their mark on its character, but every class retains the stamp of an ancient civilisation. Stupendous is the labour involved in the system of irrigation seen at work everywhere: by means of a series of wells connected by tunnels it is capable of bringing water from a depth of 750 feet. The carpet industry is not less remarkable, providing exquisite designs from hand-looms, and revealing an innate artistic sense, which is very rare in European communities. The Birjandis are less sophisticated by foreign influence than their fellow-subjects of the western provinces. Their art and technical knowledge have been inherited from remote antiquity, and their crafts are extremely simple, but they possess a far wider knowledge of the economic side of life than denizens of the West.

Our commerce is so multifarious that only those engaged in it know anything about it; our arts and industries are founded on such an array of sciences that only those who have made them a special study can understand the processes involved. We organise exhibitions to teach people how things are made; and we stock museums with everything under the sun; but people resort to exhibitions for other reasons, and none of us will admit that he has visited a museum. Is it not so? We are boastfully and stupendously ignorant.

The quick intelligence shown by Persians of every degree, their keen sense of humour, and personal charm, make sojourn amongst them a perennial delight. In Mr. Hale's opinion, they are more highly gifted than Indians, and, given a fairly efficient Government, they would take a high place in the scale of nations.

News of the outbreak of war stirred sleepy Birjand into unwonted excitement. The dominant feeling throughout Persia was a paralysing dread of Russia, which had occupied her rich northern provinces, and threatened to divide the entire empire with Great Britain. Persian diplomacy had striven, with indifferent success, to produce friction between the two Powers; but the Anglo-Russian Alliance rendered such manœuvres nugatory. The situation was further complicated by the advent of a swarm of German emissaries, in the guise of peaceful traders, who lavished money right and left in the hope of securing adherents. Yet tenser grew the atmosphere when Turkey threw in her lot with the Central Powers. Although there is no love lost between Persian Shias and Osmanli Sunnis, the fact that both nations venerate the Prophet encouraged the self-styled Democratic Party to preach Pan-Islamism, and proclaim their bitter hostility to the Entente. Opinion at Birjand was summed up by an old Mullah's remark: "Let the Christians devour each other; the Turk is a fool!" A crisis came when the fall of Kut called a halt in British operations in Mesopotamia, and when the complete paralysis of trade with India caused acute distress—patiently borne by a population inured to suffering. Amir Shaukat-ul-Mulk had the greatest difficulty in maintaining a benevolent neutrality, and he resented the arrival of troops sent from Russia and India for the protection of foreign interests. The capture of Bagdad brought considerable relief to the British exiles, and was a signal for the retreat of the Turko-German hordes which had harried Western Persia.

In June, 1917, Mr. Hale quitted Birjand, and retraced his steps by way of Meshed, Askabad, Krasnovodsk, and Baku, which he found in the temporary occupation of a small British force. Thence he travelled by steamer to Resht, on the Caspian, dogged at every step by the chaos which Bolshevism produces. "Soldiers' and workmen's delegates," he writes,

Have sown the seeds of anarchy among the troops, and committees are busy with revolutionary and subversive propaganda. The heart of the army is gone; it is merely a thing of arms, legs, and hungry mouths, and can hardly be called a fighting force.

After a short stay at Teheran, Mr. Hale reached Kermanshah, the goal of his wanderings, in April, 1918. He found the European colony celebrating the discomfiture of its enemies by libations of home-made wine and the zealous pursuit of golf on a nine-hole course. High prices were, indeed, a fly in the Kermanshah ointment. Tea cost ten shillings, and sugar four shillings and sixpence per pound, while the bill for food in a British household was not less than £1 per diem. The natives fared infinitely worse: they died like flies from sheer hunger, and cases of cannibalism were reported from the town of Hamadan. Mr. Hale left Kermanshah in February, 1919, and reached Marseilles, viâ Resht, Baku, Batum, and Constantinople on March 11. His book gives Western readers some notion of Persia's elusive atmosphere, but the absence of illustration detracts in some measure from its value.

F. H. S.

II.—THE MASTER FROM THIBET.

Here is a novel which it is much more fitting (and much easier) to read than to review. We mean this in no cynical sense, but merely in the sense that it is impossible in a word or two to give the outline of the story, so crowded are its incidents. However, we may point out that Joseph is a little dog who has come all the way from Thibet to England to fill his unconscious mission of pairing off for life (at least we hope so) several light-hearted and amusing people, including actresses, artists, maidservants, and policemen. All the persons wait breathlessly, and all the events are delayed, until Joseph shall show them what to do or how things are to be done. In other words, human destinies depend on a canine fate, and though the motives of the various people in this book are human enough, being concerned largely with love, the illusion that the little dog (his presence or absence) is essential to their lives is successfully created. Having said this, to any reader not too seriously minded and with an hour or two to fill, we can recommend this pleasant little novel. Especially to those with a light dramatic sense will "Where's Joseph?" appeal, for its nature, both internal and external, seems to us more suited to a play than to a novel. Seeing it as a play, indeed, we can imagine suppressed mirth writ large over the stalls and upper circle, while from the back of the pit would come, especially over the best character in the book, a housewoman with the onomatopœic name of Mrs. Puddephat, the long and irresistible laugh that results from the recognition of oneself.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"David Urquhart." By Gertrude Robinson. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 25s.)

"Some English Philhellenes: Lord Byron." (London: The Anglo-Hellenic League. 3d.)

'The Bridge of Time: A Romance." By William Henry Warner. (London: Eveleigh Nash Co., Ltd. 7s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. April.	1920. March.		1338. Rajab.	5680. Nisan.
1	19	Thursday	12	13
2	20	Friday	13	14
3	21	Saturday.....	14	15
4	22	Sunday	15	16
5	23	Monday	16	17
6	24	Tuesday	17	18
7	25	Wednesday	18	19

The Roumanian Crown Prince left Cairo for India on March 21.

Princess Marie of Roumania arrived in London on March 28 from Ascot.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, returned to London on March 29 from Brighton.

Viscount Allenby left Cairo for Palestine on March 25, and was expected to return to Cairo on March 28.

Major Sophocles Venizelos, Assistant Military Attaché to the Greek Legation, left London on March 22 for Paris.

Colonel Arion, formerly Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, left London on March 24 for Bucharest.

Mr. Scott, who is replacing Sir Milne Cheetham as Counsellor of the British Legation in Cairo, arrived at Cairo on March 20.

His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala has consented to bear all expenses incurred by him during the course of his war service.

The Maharani of Baroda, accompanied by her suite, has left London for Paris, where she proposes to remain until after Easter.

Miss Flora Sandes, who is said to be the only British woman who has served in the Serbian Army, has arrived in London on a year's leave.

The Shah of Persia has arrived at Paris from the South of France. He will remain about three weeks in the strictest incognito, and return to Persia at the end of April.

M. V. Voukicevitch, Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes at The Hague, has concluded his mission to London and left town on March 26 for Paris.

A telegram from Busreh says that Lieutenant-General Sir J. A. L. Haldane, the newly-appointed Commander-in-Chief of the troops in Mesopotamia, arrived there on March 20.

Yesterday Dr. Dickinson Berry described her recent visit to Serbia and the Balkans. The lecture, at which lantern views were shown, was given at the Lyceum Club, of which Dr. Berry is chairman of the Executive Committee.

A memorial service for Mr. Poska, late President of the Esthonian Peace Conference, was held on March 28 in the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Sophia. Besides the Esthonian colony, the Foreign Office, the French, Italian, and Spanish Embassies, the Polish, Ukrainian, Georgian, Greek, Czecho-Slovakian, and Azerbaijan Legations, and many others were represented.

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent states that on March 27 the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, a sister of the late Tsar, left Constantinople for Serbia, *en route* for Denmark, where she intends to reside permanently. She arrived in a British refugee ship from Novorossik with her husband and her two sons.

Miss Helena Schilizzi, a Greek lady well known in London, has secured from the Marquess of Waterford the remainder of the lease of 51, Upper Brook Street. The lease extends to seventy-five years. Miss Schilizzi has offered the house to the Greek Government as the official residence of the Greek Minister in London. The offer has been accepted. M. D. Caclamanos, the Greek Minister, will move to the new premises in June next.

The matinée organised by Lady Mainwaring, and given at the Royal Court Theatre on January 9 for the benefit of Roumanian children, realised £528. The expenses amounted to £78, leaving a balance of £450, which has been forwarded to the Queen of Roumania.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (March 19):—

Lieutenant Colonel Poillon has now taken up his post as Military Attaché in Bucharest, in succession to Col. Yates, who has returned to America.

It was erroneously reported that Colonel J. W. Boyle had accompanied Prince Carol on his cruise abroad. Colonel Boyle is still in Bucharest.

His Excellency, Mr. Vopicka, Minister of the United States, gave a banquet and a large reception on Monday evening, the 15th ult. The King and Queen honoured the American Minister with their presence, and they were attended by M. Henry Catargi, High Chamberlain of the Court, and Madame Catargi, General Ramniceano, General Ballif, Colonel Tenesco, Madame Mavrodi (Mistress of the Robes), and Mesdames Simone Lahovary and Irène Procopiu. There were also present the Ministers of Russia, Belgium, Holland, Poland and Czecho-Slovakia; Mr. Rattigan, the British Chargé d'Affaires, and Mrs. Rattigan; M. Cambon, French Chargé d'Affaires, and Mme. Cambon; and many other distinguished guests. After dinner a circle collected round their Majesties, and the company was entertained by an excellent dancer of Spanish dances. Later in the evening dancing began, and continued till a late hour, the dancers refreshing themselves at a buffet which was described as "des plus exquises."

A delayed Reuter telegram from Delhi, dated March 16, states:—

"The Hon. Joan Thesiger, the Viceroy's eldest daughter, was married to-day to Captain Alan Lascelles, a nephew of the Earl of Harewood. The Viceroy gave his daughter away, and the Bishop of Lahore officiated. The bride and bridegroom returned from the church to the Viceregal Lodge in a carriage drawn by six grey horses, with outriders in scarlet livery and a special escort. A reception followed at the Viceregal residence. The bride received special presents from the Army Headquarters and the civil secretariats, and the whole ceremony was a brilliant success. Captain and the Hon. Mrs. Lascelles proceeded to Kashmir for their honeymoon.

THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The final list of appointments to the Order of the British Empire is said to contain some 6,000 names. In the three higher grades of the Order the following are among the names associated with the Near or Middle East:—

G.B.E.

Sir Alexander Baird, President, Permanent Arbitration Board, Egypt.

Sir John Denison-Pender, Managing Director of the Eastern Telegraph Company.

Sir Henry Babington Smith, C.H., K.C.B.

K.B.E.

Robert Waley Cohen, Esq., Petroleum Adviser to the War Office.

Stephen Demetriadi, Esq., Partner and Managing Director of Ralli Brothers.

C.B.E.

James Anderson, Esq., Divisional Manager, Eastern Telegraph Company, Athens.

Alexander William Keown-Boyd, Esq., O.B.E., Sudan Civil Service.

John Edwards Cresswell, Esq., M.B., Principal Medical Officer Government Hospital, Suez.

Alexander Granville, Esq., C.M.G., M.R.C.S., Commissioner for Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, British Red Cross.

Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Wolseley Haig, C.S.I., C.M.G., Consul-General, Ispahan.

Arthur Bradley Kettlewell, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the British Minister, Athens.

Major Æneas Ronald McDonnell, O.B.E., Vice-Consul, Baku.

James Hamish MacMurray, Esq., O.B.E., Manager, Imperial Bank of Persia, Hamadan.

Kathleen Mary, the Hon. Mrs. Wilfred Thesiger, services in connection with the influenza epidemic at Adis Abeba.

Frank Tobin, Esq., Chairman Liverpool Centre Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Frederick Edwin Whittall, Esq., Near Eastern Adviser to the Intelligence Service H.M. Forces.

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OBITUARY.

We are indebted to a Serbian correspondent for the following particulars concerning the late Hon. Mrs. Haverfield:—The news of the sudden death, through illness, sustained whilst ministering to the needs and comforts of those who have suffered through the war, of the Honourable Evelina Haverfield, is announced from Serbia. To all those many people whose great privilege it was to have known and worked for the late Mrs. Haverfield, it will come as a very painful shock to learn the sad news. Mrs. Haverfield was truly a noble woman. From the very earliest days of the war she devoted every second of her precious time, every ounce of her energy, all her fortune, and her unlimited devotion to the sacred cause of the poor and helpless Serbians. In her efforts, no sacrifice of health or personal liberty was too great. By her unselfish work and disinterested endeavours, Mrs. Haverfield became loved—nay, worshipped—by all, by her patients as well as by her fellow-workers, by those good people who have helped to further her cause, as well as by those many members of the large public gatherings who have heard her voice the claims of the weak and distressed on public platforms. To have known her is in itself a real source of pride. Through the long corridor of time one sees here and there monuments erected to the memory of great people; but to Mrs. Haverfield will be given what was given to great heroines like Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry, and Edith Cavell, the crown of immortality. Her name, her personality, her good works, her martyrdom, will become known and remembered for all time. Her dying wish was that her work be carried on under Dr. Elizabeth Ingram, of Bania Bashta, in Serbia. May her life work flourish!

THE EAST: PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS

At the Goupil Gallery, Regent Street, Messrs. William Marchant and Co. are showing an interesting series of paintings and drawings, entitled "The East," by Sydney W. and Richard Carline. The pictures consist of scenes from Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India. These two brothers were sent out to record for the Imperial War Museum the military aspects of these countries; but in these pictures they have happily avoided set works done at dictation, and have put down their own impressions of the native life and characteristics of the East. Their work is, we think, still developing, and, for the most part, it can be called attempt rather than achievement. Although their methods are similar, their differences are obvious. In precise line, strength, and certainty of detail (such as there are in an oil painting, "Selling Wares in Aden Harbour," No. 40), Mr. Sydney Carline is better than his brother; but in the effects of light particularly and in colour generally Mr. Richard Carline's work is superior. In sunlight pictures Mr. Richard Carline shows much originality and a boldness that does not shock, and three pictures like "Sunlight in the Courtyard of an Arab House" (No. 30), "Mid-day Sunlight in the Corridor of the Great Mosque, Damascus" (No. 63), and "Mount Alvend After Sunset, Persia" (No. 118), we count as very fine efforts indeed. Both artists are more successful in water colours than in oils and drawings, but even in these it is doubtful whether they have given sufficient attention to the richness of colour and to the mysterious atmosphere of the East. However, the series of pictures is extremely interesting to those who have been to the places painted and drawn, and its apparent deficiencies are not so much a matter of art as of difference in personal impression from the artists.

Lord Meston has rejected the 'non-Brahmins' claim for a majority of seats on the Provincial Council at Madras.

A change in the form of the prayer for the Sultan offered in mosques on the occasion of his birthday has caused excitement in Cairo.

The Chotani sawmill, in Bombay, with an immense quantity of timber, has been destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at fifteen lakhs of rupees.

Sittings of the Commission appointed by the Government to investigate questions affecting Asiatics in the Union have opened at Cape Town. The Indian Government is represented by Sir Benjamin Robertson.

It is announced by the Foreign Office that a military permit is no longer required for landing in Egypt. British subjects travelling to Egypt must be in possession of passports issued or endorsed for that country by the Passport Office.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

WIDOW of planter seeks post chaperon, social companion, governess, nurse, to lady going East (India or Egypt preferred).—"G," 111, Albert Road, South Norwood.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1920.

BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

With the return of Lord Milner's Mission the moment is opportune to take stock of the situation in Egypt as revealed by the recent course of events. The outstanding features admit of no doubt: they are, on the one hand, the agitation, to which the bulk of the *intelligenzia* is committed, for "complete independence," and on the other hand, the impossibility of Great Britain's acceding to this request. In support of the agitation we have had riots, outrages which have happily failed of their purpose, the boycott of the Mission and a more or less successful interference with the normal course of government. The British attitude in its turn is indissolubly linked up with the maintenance of the Empire, has the tacit support of all Allied countries, and finds additional justification in the excesses of the Egyptian Nationalists and their proved lack of any constructive policy. Such are the opposing forces, and it rests with the Nationalists to decide how long they will continue to challenge the integrity of the British Empire, whether with dialectical quibbles or by more forcible means. So long as their arguments are merely shouted into the air or printed in the public Press they cannot complain if they receive no serious attention from the British Government. A year or more ago it was open to them to say that they could not obtain a hearing in Egypt, and that they must, therefore, shout to enable their voice to carry to England. The justice of the contention was in large measure conceded when the decision was taken to send out a special mission. It was the equivalent in diplomacy to an answer from the British Government: "There is clearly truth in what you say; we must hear more about this subject." Such a reply would necessarily be based on the supposition that the people who were raising their voices in Egypt were men and not fractious children. But the event has proved the supposition wrong. Let us suppose for the sake of argument that wisdom and understanding are with the Nationalists alone, and that the British Government is the mouthpiece of barbarians. The former in seeking something from the latter would naturally use a medium of communication suited to the inferior intelligence. Consequently when, on the despatch of the British Government's representatives to learn what Egypt wanted, the Nationalists resorted to excesses, boycotted the Mission, and prepared an elaborate organisation to prevent the delegates from coming into touch with individual Egyptians, and in particular with the fellaheen, the British public in common with the rest of the civilised world could only interpret the action in one way, their own, that is to say, as an expression of the weakness of the Nationalists' case and of their fear of a close investigation, and above all as an acknowledgment that they spoke (or rather shouted) for a relatively small section of the people and not for the great majority of the Egyptian nation. If this is a wrong interpretation of their case, the Nationalists have only themselves to blame. We can assure them with the utmost confidence that no other interpretation will ever be placed on their present tactics, however loud or subtle the arguments which they may exchange among themselves. As for the more forcible means of endorsing their arguments, these too have a different effect from that intended, owing no doubt to the perversity of the British nature; but it is this nature that the Egyptian Nationalist is "up against."

If the present situation continues, Great Britain will have to make up her mind to deal with it as best she can on provisional lines. At its worst it means, for Egypt, much shouting and some unrest—both showing a tendency to diminish—but possibly with real suffering in the matter of food supplies as a direct result of the agitation and the Government's preoccupations; for Great Britain, a modification of the scheme for self-government in Egypt to fit the proved political immaturity of the people, and the maintenance for a longer period of the Army of Occupation. As we understand the position, the matter will remain an open question until the Mission has drafted its Report, say, a month hence. The appointment of the Mission meant that the Nationalists had virtually won their case. A reasonable attitude on their part, with an adequate marshalling of evidence, must have left not only the delegates but also the British public as a whole entirely converted to the necessity of the most liberal form of self-government, always, of course, within the Empire. To-day it would be foolishness on Britain's part to go so far as to summon, under any safeguards whatever, a Chamber that could be relied upon to abuse the Government's confidence. The Nationalists have deliberately based their challenge on the continued integrity of the British Empire, and such a narrow issue admits of no compromise on Great Britain's part. Neither bluster nor quibble will alter that fact. For a month the opportunity is offered them of transferring the issue to different ground. They need fear no loss of face in so doing; the British are acquainted with the methods of Oriental bargaining, although in certain cases they refuse to lend themselves to the practice. Certain it is that just as the Nationalists have spoilt their own case, so only they can rehabilitate it in the eyes of the world.

Unless then the unexpected happens in Egypt or in the Paris Councils of the Egyptian Nationalists, the Report of Lord Milner's Mission must content itself with the recommendation of improvements in the existing machinery of administration in Egypt, and leave for the future any elaborate charter of self-government. This limitation, however, would afford no reason why special attention should not be paid at once to the larger question of British responsibilities to Egypt and to the whole Arab world. The mistakes that have been committed in our administration of Egypt during recent years are neither denied nor forgotten because they are omitted from this analysis of the existing situation. They have arisen from lack of knowledge and from a lack of co-operation between the British Government and the Egyptian Administration. The strain and stress of war may be admitted as an excuse; but there is no indication that the position, if existing conditions are perpetuated, will be improved in the ordinary times of peace. Great Britain's relations with Egypt and the Arab world have become too important and too complicated to be treated as a "side-show" of any one Department of State. They require now to be the special concern of a separate Ministry. There is much to be said against the indiscriminate multiplication of Ministries; but the test must be the Empire's obligations. The Arab world forms a peculiar entity of its own; its relations with Great Britain fall wholly neither within the scope of the Foreign Office, nor within that of the Colonial Office. It occupies far too important a position strategically in the British Empire to be allowed to fall between two stools. A Ministry devoted to the affairs of the Near and Middle East, with a High Commissioner of the Middle East in close touch with it, would have obviated many of the mistakes from which Egypt is now suffering, and might prevent Mesopotamia from repeating Egypt's experience. Without this Department the discharge of our responsibilities in Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Arabia, as well as in Egypt, will suffer from the inevitable lack of co-ordination and consistency.

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THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA.

The possibility of reviving the ancient glories of Mesopotamia appeals so strongly to the imagination that we may forgive the enthusiasts who tell us that, given adequate development on modern scientific lines, it is destined to be the "world's chief granary"—even if we harbour a suspicion that on this question there is some confusion of thought in their minds as to what they believe and what they would like to believe. This question of the development of Mesopotamia has now become a matter of enormous importance to the country charged with the responsibility for its administration by the mandate of the League of Nations, and it is a sign of the times that people are beginning to approach the subject in the spirit of the practical business man where they have hitherto been content to view it from the standpoint of the sentimental idealist. They are hungry for facts, and the questions they are asking at the moment are, first: "How much will it cost us to run Mesopotamia?" and, secondly, "How much revenue can the country be expected reasonably to produce now and in the future?" The publication of Mr. A. B. Buckley's report on "Mesopotamia as a Country for Future Development" could not therefore have been better timed; it is admirably compiled, and it is to be hoped that it will be widely circulated not only among the official classes, but also among the general public. From it much can be learnt that we have hitherto been left to guess at by an all too reticent Government, and while we are far from suggesting that knowledge will in this case produce disillusionment, we are satisfied that it will go far to dispel the legend of the lion's share in the form in which it has been so eagerly swallowed by our friends in America and on the Continent. There is no use in attempting to disguise the fact that for the moment our popularity among our Allies and associates has suffered an eclipse, and that the feeling that, as usual, Great Britain has succeeded in grabbing all the best bits is widely prevalent. Mesopotamia is held to be the best bit of all, and our Continental friends, who have not yet all learnt to disconnect the Imperial idea from the sordid business of the exploitation of subject territories, are firmly persuaded that from the wealth we are destined to extract from the revived Garden of Eden we are going to pay off most of our National Debt and re-establish our financial supremacy among the nations. Mr. Buckley's report is not calculated to support this view of our gains at the expense of the truncated Ottoman Empire, and it is for this reason, apart from any others, that we hope it will receive the widest possible publicity.

Mr. Buckley accompanied Sir John Hewett in his mission to Mesopotamia in December, 1918, as engineering member of his staff, and he tells us that in that capacity it fell to his lot to visit and investigate every district in the country between Busreh and Mosul, finally making his exist from it by motor to Aleppo via the Euphrates valley. As Director of Irrigation in Egypt, he was of all living experts the one best qualified for the service, of which his admirable report is the record, and even if some of the matter contained in it is calculated to evoke the criticism of some other experts who have investigated the subjects of which it treats, we doubt whether many of them will be prepared to question his general conclusions. The report opens with some remarks regarding the ancient canals of Mesopotamia, which are calculated to shake popular faith in the legend that "there were giants in those days." Mr. Buckley points out that "rivers which are subject to heavy fluctuations in the course of the year require in modern times to be provided with weirs to maintain their levels within the limits necessary for the alimentation of the irrigation canals, while the latter require to be provided with narrow head works for the regulation of their supplies. Had such works been in existence in Babylonian times it seems probable that their remains would be found to-day." They are not, and so he concludes that the ancient canals, of which so many traces exist, were "in reality inundation canals excavated to a level suitable for drawing water from the rivers during the flood season and used for irrigation of a millet or early summer crop. The wheat crop, the principal crop in Mesopotamia in ancient times, must in all probability have been sown as a rain crop just as the bulk of it is at the present time." He thinks that the conditions in Mesopotamia are distinctly favourable for the cultivation of cotton, and suggests that if the possibilities of the country in this direction are adequately developed everything points to the probability of the crop coming up to the Egyptian average in yield and quality. This should be of interest to Lancashire faced with the prospect of a yearly shrinkage of its vital supplies of raw material unless, by the systematic development of the cotton growing possibilities of the Empire, we are able to make good the American deficiency.

The extent to which rice is cultivated in Mesopotamia, to the exclusion of other, more profitable, crops, is deplored in the report, but Mr. Buckley seems to think that with extended irrigation the expansion of the area producing dry summer crops would be possible without reducing the amount of rice-growing land. He is also of opinion that improved methods of agriculture on the part of the inhabitants would alone suffice greatly to increase the productivity of the soil, and suggests the importation of a limited number of Egyptian fellaheen, either as settlers, to show by example the advantages of growing cotton, or as "instructors, drafted into the villages and given a financial interest in the crop." It is a question, however, whether the Arabs would at first appreciate the presence of these colonist instructors in their country. Governments cannot afford to disregard the factor of human perversity in their measures of reform, and one fears that sudden death might in only too many cases overtake the industrious Egyptian imported by a benevolent administration for the agricultural uplifting of the degenerate Arab. In proportion as our rule in Mesopotamia is improving, it will most assuredly be expensive, and if imported Egyptian or Indian agriculturists find they can only till the soil in danger of their lives, inevitably will they demand protection. Hence employment for the warriors of Mr. Winston Churchill's "new model," and much expense possibly for the British taxpayer.

But there is this to be said for Mr. Buckley's suggestion for utilising the Egyptian rather than the Indian in this business of agricultural education in Mesopotamia: the former speaks Arabic, the latter does not, and we agree with him that this, apart from any other, is a weighty consideration. If we are to do anything with Mesopotamia, the study of Arabic, both in England and in India, must be taken up much more widely than it is at the present time. In this connection we may commend most earnestly the opportunity afforded to would-be students by the London School of Oriental Languages.

In the short period covered by our military occupation of Mesopotamia an efficient Irrigation Department has already been organised, and as the total strength of its establishment only amounts to 228, of whom only forty-four are British officials, the authorities appear to have done their best to keep down expenditure. The section officers are principally Indians, but among them there are already a few Arabs, and for the latter a training school has been established at Baghdad. The canal overseers are all Arabs. Mr. Buckley considers that the irrigation districts established by the military administration are rightly arranged in accordance with the canal systems as they are. Of the irrigation works existing in the country the more important were established under "the blasting tyranny of the Turk," notably the great Hindia Barrage, and the subsidiary works interrupted by the war were restarted by the military administration within a short time of the effective occupation of the country. All the works constructed and under construction in the Tigris and Euphrates areas are very fully described in the report.

It is, however, in Mr. Buckley's proposals for the improvement and development of irrigation in Mesopotamia that the chief interest in his report will be found, and it is necessarily in their financial aspects that they will be most closely studied. A total expenditure of £30,000,000 is contemplated, but since it is proposed to spread it over a period of fifty years, the adoption of the scheme does not appear likely to put any very excessive financial strain on the country in the near future. Dealing with this subject, the report tells us that the financial problem presented itself to Mr. Buckley as follows: "It is difficult to arrive at the exact amount of expenditure incurred in Egypt in converting its cultivated areas in their primitive condition to their present state of development; the work has been done

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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in conjunction with maintenance, the development has been gradual, and was initiated without any very definite scheme for future development other than a general intention to develop the country, irrespective of any possible final scheme. The cost per acre may, therefore, amount to considerably more than ought to be incurred in Mesopotamia, which should benefit by having at its disposal the experience gained in Egypt during forty years. . . . The conversion of 400,000 acres depending on the Asyût Barrage involving the construction of main and branch canals and irrigations works resulted in an expenditure of £12 per acre. This does not include the cost of the Asyût Barrage." For the development of Mesopotamia the writer proposes a rate of £10 an acre. "The development of an area of 3,000,000 acres would therefore involve an expenditure of £30,000,000, which it is supposed would be distributed over a period of fifty years." For the purposes of his estimates, Mr. Buckley reckoned the population of Mesopotamia as 2,000,000 A census since taken sets it down at over 2,800,000. If, therefore, the Egyptian rate of increase were attained, Mesopotamia might have her required population (1.5 per acre of the cultivated area) in less than twenty-five years.

Mr. Buckley's detailed estimates are given in the report, and he thinks that if the scheme he favours is adopted, we might reasonably expect the revenue of Mesopotamia from all sources to amount to £10,500,000 in fifty years' time; but he adds that he has been unable to get any statement or estimate of the *present* revenue of the country, although he has heard it amounts to about £3,000,000. On this basis he considers that "present resources and reasonable expectations should, therefore, provide sufficient guarantee for the programme of development outlined."

Experience in Egypt and in India has amply demonstrated that as a general rule irrigation works are self-supporting, and there is little doubt that this will prove the case in Mesopotamia. But the indirect benefits accruing to an agricultural country from an enormous increase in its cultural area must not be left out of the scale when the pros and cons of a scheme such as is presented in this report are weighed in the balance. It is desirable that the development of the resources of Mesopotamia should be speeded up as far as possible, and with this object in view it is a question whether a scheme somewhat bolder on its financial side than Mr. Buckley's might not be justified. It seems desirable that railway construction and irrigation development in Mesopotamia should be proceeded with in the spirit in which the cutting of the Isthmus of Panama was undertaken by the Americans, if only with the object of giving the maximum amount of employment to the people not only of the country itself, but of other provinces of the Ottoman Empire, where the confusion and unrest resulting from the demobilisation of the Army can best be combated by a demand for labour on great public works. A loan secured on the Mesopotamian revenue and guaranteed by the British Government, of sufficient amount to finance a great irrigation and railway construction scheme, is a practical business proposition which deserves the attention of the Government.

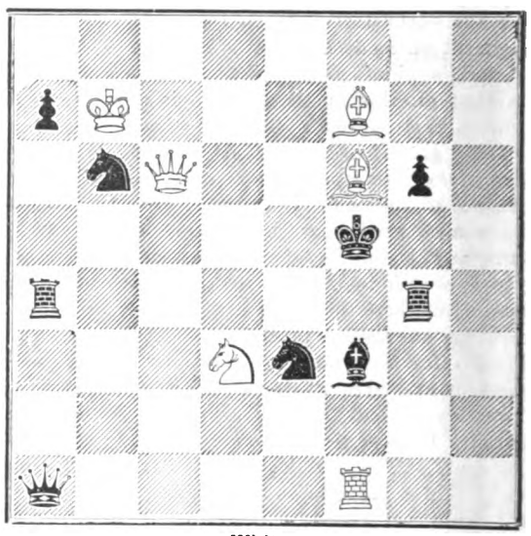
The title of this report was not perhaps very happily chosen, unless we are to assume that in Mesopotamia future development and irrigation are to be regarded as synonymous terms. In a section dealing with overland communication between Baghdad and the Mediterranean, we are reminded that by the Euphrates-Aleppo route Baghdad is nearer to Cairo than is Khartoum. No reference is made to the railways constructed in Mesopotamia during the war by the military authorities, but on this subject the admirable map compiled by the geographical section of the general staff, and appended to the report, gives the necessary enlightenment. How much has been extracted from the British taxpayer for the construction of these railways, for the Busreh harbour works, for road-making, and a hundred other adjuncts of the costly Mesopotamia campaign he has yet to learn; but it must be apparent to him by this time that millions have already been sunk in the country, and the British dislike for leaving a job half done will, we think, suffice to make him take broad views in this matter of Mesopotamian development. Alone among all the people involved in the great war, the Arabs of Mesopotamia have reason to bless the day it broke out. It has brought them efficient administration, improved communications, agricultural development, and much actual wealth. Their future is also provided for, since they are now in the happy position of having behind them the still considerable financial resources of the British Empire. Of all the peoples who excite the benevolent activities of the League of Nations, it behoves them most to take to heart its kindly injunction to be good. If they do, the garrison we are pledged to provide for their country could be cut down to very modest limits, and the money available for civil administration would be proportionately increased. That, we think, really sums up the Mesopotamia question of to-day.

E. H. B.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 18.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

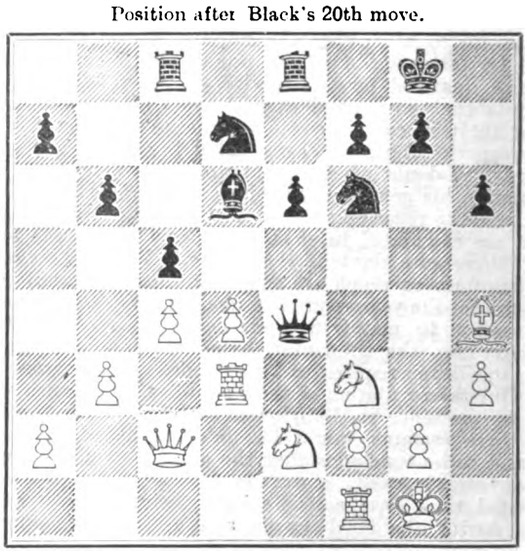
The above problem by A. Bottacchi took one of the prizes in a recent competition of the *Brisbane Courier*.

The issue in the City of London Championship has now been narrowed down to two competitors, Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. R. C. J. Walker. Both these players are two points down, but while Sir G. A. Thomas has finished his games, Mr. Walker has an unfinished game with Mr. E. G. Sergeant.

The University teams concluded their tour last week with matches against the Insurance and the Imperial Chess Clubs. Both matches were lost, that against the latter club by a substantial margin, and thus the Universities for the first time within my recollection have failed to win a single match in their annual week in London. Undoubtedly one cause of this result is to be found in the fact that a comparatively small contingent of past members was called upon for the matches. It was also clear that the members of both teams were playing much below pre-war form. From a casual glance at the results I gather that only one undergraduate did really well in the matches, and that was the Cambridge reserve, who won all his games.

The following game was played at board No. 3 in the University match between Mr. D. M. Morrah and Mr. C. M. Precious, the former having the move: 1. P—K4, P—QB3; 2. P—Q4, P—Q4; 3. Kt—QB3, P x P; 4. Kt x P, B—B4 (1); 5. Kt—Kt3, B—Kt3; 6. Kt—B3, Kt—Q2; 7. B—K3 (2), P—K3; 8. B—Q3, B x B; 9. Q x B, K Kt—B3; 10. 0—0, B—Q3 (3); 11. Kt—K2, Q—B2; 12. P—QB4, R—Q; 13. Q—B3, P—QB4; 14. QR—Q, 0—0; 15. P—KR3 (4), P—QKt3; 16. Q—B2, Q—B3; 17. B—Kt5, P—KR3, 18. B—R4, R—B; 19. P—QKt3, KR—K; 20. R—Q3, Q—K5.

Position after Black's 20th move.



21. B—Kt3, B—B2; 22. Q—Q2, Kt—R4; 23. B x B, R x B; 24. R—K, Q—Kt3; 25. P—Q5, P x P; 26. P x P, Kt—B3; 27. Kt—B3, R x R (ch); 28. Q x R, Q x R; 29. Resigns.

(1) Much inferior to Kt—B3.

(2) The proper square for the Bishop is B4.

(3) Taking advantage of the undefended diagonal.

(4) This move simply weakens White's position. There was no danger in Kt—Kt5, which would be met adequately by P—Kt3.

CARO-KANN.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Some particulars of the position with regard to the Serbian copper mines at Bor were given in a recent issue of the *Yougoslovenski Boursa*. At the present time the output of these famous mines is going to France and America. One smelting works is being operated, 1,500 workmen being employed, while two others, which were dismantled by the Germans, who exploited the mines during their occupation of the territory, are being reconstructed, and it is estimated that as soon as this is completed the output of copper will be increased to 100 tons a day.

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The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields has succeeded in its claim for damages against the Crown for the destruction of its oilfields in order to prevent their falling into the enemy's hands. The company's claim was for £1,225,513, and Mr. Justice Darling came to the conclusion that the company had proved that the envoy of the British Government, Colonel Norton-Griffiths, did promise it compensation, and that on that promise the company allowed him to destroy its property. He further thought it was a term of the contract that the valuation should be based on the audit of the company's books by Messrs. Harmood Banner and Son. As to the amount of compensation, he did not think he was in a position to deal with that.

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The figures of the Egyptian Budget for 1919-20 showed a great advance on previous estimates, but they, in their turn, are easily surpassed by those for 1920-21. The estimates for revenue and expenditure this time both amount to £E40,271,000, an increase of £E12,971,000 as regards revenue and of £E11,421,000 as regards expenditure on the totals for the previous year. Last time provision was made for an excess of expenditure over revenue. That this time revenue and expenditure are budgetted to balance is in the prevailing circumstances not without significance, suggesting as it does the belief in the continuance of the remarkable prosperity that Egypt has enjoyed in recent years.

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Turning to the details of the estimates, it may be noted that the principal increases anticipated are £E2,390,000 from the Customs, £E2,356,000 from the sale of land, £E2,000,000 from the new cotton tax, and £E1,650,000 from tobacco. On the expenditure side the chief increases are £E2,745,000 for increased pay to meet the cost of living, £E2,878,000 for irrigation (slightly more than half of which is for new construction), £E2,238,506 for the railways, and £E2,000,000 for the estimated loss on the distribution of wheat among the urban population. In regard to some of the items on the expenditure side of the account, it is probable that the estimates will prove to be in excess of the requirements, and on the other hand, given settled conditions, it would not be too optimistic to expect that the revenue will be much in excess of the forecast, and that at the end of the year there will be a considerable balance in Egypt's favour.

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An excellent report is forthcoming for the past year from the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China. The net profit amounted to £447,300, an increase of £38,100, and this amount, with the balance brought forward of £168,483, gives a disposable surplus of £615,800, as against £576,400. It is proposed to maintain the distribution by way of dividend and bonus at last year's figure of 20¼ per cent., to place £100,000 again to the reserve fund, making it £3,000,000, to increase the officers' superannuation fund by £25,000 as before, and to write off premises account £75,000, as against £40,000, leaving £172,830 to be carried forward. The bank increased its capital by £800,000 at the commencement of last year, and this sum, with the premium of £800,000, ranked for interest from the dates of payment to December 31 at the rate of 5 per cent., free of tax.

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It is very satisfactory to learn that the British Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople has extended the sphere of its activities to Sofia, where a branch was recently opened. There never was a time when there was greater scope in regions like the Near East for bodies representative of British traders, particularly in countries like Bulgaria, where commercial relations with Great Britain were before the war very restricted. As Captain W. B. Heard expressed it in his speech at the opening ceremony, "The opening of this Chamber marks an important stage in the commercial relations of the two countries."

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In his address at the annual general meeting of the Eastern Bank Lord Balfour of Burleigh said that the past year, from an exchange banker's point of view, had been a very eventful one. In this connection he referred to the rise during the year of silver from 48 7-16d. per ounce to 76d., of gold from £3 17s. 9d. per ounce to just over £5, while the rupee, in which, he remarked, they were so greatly interested, rose from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 4d. This was reflected, he pointed out, in the figures of the balance-sheet, which were based upon the rate current on December 31, though, after taking this fact into due consideration, a large and satisfactory increase was shown on all counts. He explained that charges in the year under review were naturally higher in view of the larger number of branches and of the increase in salaries to meet the present exceptional conditions. "Since the date of our last report," he added, "we have opened three new branches of the bank—at Mosul, Basrah City, and Colombo. This may be taken as an indication of our intention to enlarge the sphere of our operations, and we hope in due course to extend still further afield."

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The comparatively poor opposition which General Denikin has been able to offer to the Bolshevist advance in South Russia left little hope that he would be able to regain his lost ground in that region, and in the circumstances the news of the fall of Novorossisk, his last base on the Black Sea, will occasion little surprise. The development means among other things the occupation by the Bolshevists of the oilfields of the Caucasus—a contingency which had long ago been discounted—and that, so far as can be seen, the relief of the congestion at Constantinople by the reopening of the South Russian market can only take place if and when trade relations are established with the Bolshevists. As to this it can only be said that trade with South Russia was very precarious, and it is difficult to feel very hopeful about the prospects of transactions with the Bolshevists.

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A feature of the Foreign Bondholders' Report, which calls for further reference, is the great improvement in Greek finances, on which I touched last week. Greece has been the only Balkan State to pass through the war comparatively unscathed, and, as my readers are aware, the position of Greece with regard to the Near Eastern theatre of operations, led to a period of considerable prosperity for the country. The improvement that has taken place is reflected in the fact that now, for the first time since 1893, full interest will be paid on all the older Greek loans. This has been made possible by the remarkable increase in the revenues, the surplus of which goes to provide the interest on the loans. Thus the receipts from monopolies last year amounted to 50,468,063 drachmæ, as compared with 36,264,961 drachmæ in 1918, while the returns from the Customs in 1919 amounted to 50,376,884 drachmæ, an increase of 19,000,000 drachmæ on the figures for the previous year.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 12.

A Bear Raid.

For nearly a week the wireless service has omitted to transfer the daily exchange quotation from Paris, and local speculators have been greatly agitated in consequence. The optimistic affirm that the leu has risen to 35 centimes, while the gloomy souls whisper that it has fallen to 16. A brief raid on the street market lopped a few hundred lei per share off some of our more speculative ventures, and there was the usual accusation of a deep-laid plot to rob the honest outsider of his hard-earned gains when all was over.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, March 19.

Currency Reform.

One hears less of the currency problem nowadays. The new notes are in circulation, and the old kronen have almost entirely disappeared. Although the Croat Nationalists pressed for parity between the krone and the dinar, there is a general feeling that the owners of kronen have not done so badly, for the Yugoslav krone, bad as it is, is better than the Hungarian, and double as good as the Austrian, or at least was until the recent slump, and probably still is considerably better in spite of it. Rather unexpected difficulties are arising. It is reported from Prizren that the Albanians will not accept the new 20 dinar-80 kronen notes, nor the 10 dinar-40 kronen at any price, because there is no reference on them to the law punishing forgery. The *Politika* rather quaintly comments that nobody would be likely to forge these low values when it is far more profitable to fake 1,000 kronen notes, which has recently been done on so large a scale that the banks have declined to accept notes of this value at all.

Belgrade is quite inundated by an influx of refugees from General Denikin's army and the Bolshevist advance. There is a large proportion of well-to-do people among them, and one hears almost as much Russian as Serbian spoken in the shops and on the trams. Some appear to have some money to spend, but these are probably divesting themselves of their jewellery in return for depreciated dinars. Anyhow, even to-day the dinar is better than the rouble.

SYRIA.

Beyrout, March 15.

Syria is now confronted with a problem which, if not readily tackled, may become fraught with grave consequences. It is the beginning of wholesale emigration which, to a country already depopulated by the war, may mean economic paralysis until these emigrants, and others who had left before the war, are induced by a nascent prosperity to return to their country. The Allies, who have liberated Syria, can save it from this danger by deciding quickly its political fate; for the two chief causes—the excessive dearness of living and conscription in the Arab zone—will be removed as soon as the present political tension is relieved.

In order to enable the reader to form an idea of the outrageous cost of living a few comparisons between pre-war and present prices of articles of prime necessity may be given, the prices in every case being per rottle (about 2½ kilos):—Mutton, which cost PT18, has risen to PE156; beef has risen from PT12 to PE102; flour from PT4½ to PE17½; fish from PT24-48 to PE120-144; sugar from PT5 to PE30; and cheese from PT18-24 to PE144-160. Taking into account the difference between the Turkish and Egyptian piastres the average increase in such articles has been more than fivefold.

MOROCCO.

Tangier, March 17.

New Coinage Rumour.

I have referred in my correspondence to the matter of the native (Hassani) money. Anxiety with regard to this revived lately on the rumour that a change was to be made, and new coinage to be introduced; rumour went so far as to state that coins had been minted, and had already arrived in Morocco. Produce exporters have been for some time trying to gather together sufficient Hassani money for their engagements with the natives during the harvest, and any sudden change might have a very serious effect.

Increased Sugar Duty.

The "Droits de Consommation" on sugar in the French zone has been increased, by a decree dated March 6, from 20 francs to 40 francs per 100 kilos. Every increase in the cost of sugar tends to reduce the quantity of tea consumed.

Port Conditions at Casablanca.

A Dahir has just been published establishing compulsory pilotage for the port of Casablanca; there are also new anchorage tariffs and charges for mooring at the quays and anchoring in the new small port. All these charges will greatly increase the port charges, and the pilotage tariff seems very high for a port so easy to enter as Casablanca. It is considered rather a drastic measure to make pilotage compulsory—there are many British and other captains, especially the former, who know the port like the palm of their hands.

The pilotage is chargeable on all vessels entering and leaving, and for all movements in the port, and one wonders what is to be done when a captain, under certain weather conditions, finds it wise to put to sea for safety. Must he wait for a pilot, keep one aboard, or seek safety without one, and still pay pilotage?

CYPRUS.

(Undated.)

The agricultural outlook, which was all that could be desired, has been altered by a too great prolongation of the severe cold. Carob trees (locust bean) are now found to have suffered considerably, the blossom being nipped, and the branches of many trees dried up. The leaves in this case turn a red or brown colour. The tree, an evergreen, though apparently very hardy, suffers acutely from extremes of climate. It is anticipated that next summer's yield will be very seriously diminished in most areas of cultivation. Barley crops have also suffered largely. In many parts potatoes have been destroyed, and pulse much damaged. The winter has been a quite exceptional one. Figures now show that in the remarkable rainfall of last December the quantity gauged in Kyrenia was 14.36 inches (the total average annual rainfall given in pre-war Consular reports), while at Nicosia it was 4.21.

The mountain ranges have been for weeks under snow. Work in the asbestos mines on Mt. Troodos is perforce suspended, and is not likely to be resumed till April.

PIRÆUS HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT.

A definite project has been approved for the improvement and extension of the Piræus harbour works. According to this scheme, the port of Piræus will be completely reorganised by the construction of moles, quays, railway lines, and large warehouses for the storing of merchandise. It will be provided with the latest mechanical devices and installations for facilitating the loading and unloading of merchandise. Depots for coal and inflammable material will be erected in Parama Bay, which offers a good anchorage for vessels, and to which access is possible for large ships, such as those serving the Far East.

The total length of the new quays and moles to be constructed will be some 8 kilometres, and will suffice for a movement of some five million tons of goods. The plans have been made in such a way that, in case of need, these port installations can be extended on either side. A free zone will be established either near the floating docks or near the quarantine station, where the ground is flat and suitable for the erection of industrial establishments. Every part of the port will be linked up by electric railways, which will have as their terminus the present Larissa railway station. The execution of the works will naturally be adjudicated to that firm which makes the most advantageous offer, and it is hoped that the work will begin during the present year.

EXPORTS TO YUGOSLAVIA.

The Department of Overseas Trade understand that the Roumanian Government have given instructions to allow the free transit of all goods destined for the Serb, Croat, and Slovene State which arrive at Danubian ports. It is, however, essential that the ship's manifests, bills of lading, etc., as well as the packages themselves, should be clearly marked "Transit pour la Serbie," as otherwise they are liable to detention by the Roumanian Customs Authorities at the port of arrival.

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THE NILE CONTROL WORKS.—III.

THE PROBLEM OF THE SUDD.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The note points out that it is obviously useless to accumulate large volumes of water in Lake Albert and not to ensure their delivery in Egypt where and when they are wanted. The total waters in the Nile during the very low, but not the lowest known, year will be about 62,000 million cubic metres, and would therefore in the future—viz., in 1955—apparently just suffice for the irrigation of Egypt and the Sudan, whose requirements will then be 56,000 million cubic metres. Though the works on the Blue and White Nile accomplish all that is possible by way of distributing the available waters in accordance with the demands of agriculture, yet waste of water will still be occurring, thus reducing the amount apparently available for irrigation and making the waters of very low years inadequate to meet the calls upon them. The works in question must, therefore, be supplemented, and much more so must this be the case when an exceptionally low year like 1914 recurs with its total volume of only 41,000 million cubic metres.

Wastage takes place in two directions—viz., to the sea and by spills in the Sudd region. The wastage to the sea is almost entirely due to the waters coming from the Blue Nile. At present it is considered that these cannot economically be put under further control than is ensured by the proposed Upper Blue Nile dam, and even in the lowest of years some of this waste will continue. It therefore remains to devise some means for eliminating the wastage in the Sudd region. This region, which begins at Mongalla, continues down river for about 700 kilometres. It is mainly the water from Lake Albert that spills out of the river and produces the swamps of the sudd district, with the result that only a fraction of the water that enters the sudd at Mongalla leaves it at Malakal.

Waste in the Sudd.

The annual waste has been as low as 9,000 million cubic metres, and observations have shown that the amount varies in proportion to the size of the flood. If, as may well occur, the waste should form to less than this quantity this would mean that larger storage would be required. In ordinary low years the elimination of waste in the sudd region would augment the available summer water to the required extent, but part of the volume saved must of necessity be stored in some reservoir until needed. In very low years, however, the total waste will be insufficient to meet the shortage; therefore in such cases additional water must be supplied from a store held in reserve from previous years of good supply. In average years the waste provides more than is required, and enables a reserve to meet the demands of low years to be built up by storing the excess. In very low years all the waste and more will be required for irrigation, while in some other years the greater part will be wanted for irrigation, and the remainder used to build up the reserve against very low years. Consequently, proposals that contemplate a continuance of waste in the sudd region in all years in order that a fraction of it may be recovered by gravitation or pumping need not be considered.

The Effect of Works in the Sudd.

The necessary elimination of waste can obviously be accomplished by providing a definite channel through or round the swamps, and by controlling the quantity flowing into them by the Lake Albert dam. But as soon as such a channel is provided, the question arises as to its action in the case of a very high flood. At present the dam acts as a safety-valve, through which vast quantities of flood water escape and are lost. They must be allowed to continue to exercise this useful function in high floods, though in low ones not a drop of water must be wasted. This can easily be effected by constructing a regulator and escape in the sudd channel. When enough water has been accumulated in Lake Albert to meet the needs of the following summer, and to form a reserve in case the year after that again should be a low one, the escape will be open, and the remainder of the flood water, if any, allowed to flow into the swamps.

Thus the sudd channel and Lake Albert dam combined will have a fourfold effect—viz., waste in the sudd region will be entirely stopped in the years of low flood, and partially stopped in other years; water formerly wasted there will be retained in Lake Albert, to be passed through the sudd channel later in the same year, or held in reserve for a following year for use in Egypt; an escape will be left for excess water from high floods; and it will be possible to keep flowing down the valley a stream the volume of which can be varied according to the seasonal need of cultivation, whilst, incidentally, the swamps will probably be greatly reduced in area.

By the time the construction of Lake Albert reservoir becomes a necessity, accurate longitudinal sections of both banks, and frequent cross-sections of the Gebel El Zaraf river, should be available, and a decision can then be reached on the advisability of developing either of these rivers or adopting any other alternative route, of which there appear to be more than one. Whichever route is selected, it must be treated as a canal fed from the Lake Albert reservoir. In view of the rarety of the occurrence of a bad year like 1913-1914, it remains to be seen whether it is economical to design these works to the dimensions required to meet such a bad year if it recurs after 1955, when Egypt has completed her development, or whether it may not be better to design them to meet normal requirements, and, if such a year recurs, meet it by restriction of the rice area and retardation of Sharaki watering.

Outline of Possible Future Developments.

In conclusion, an outline is given of further developments that may well take place in the future. As already shown, in some years the sudd will be entirely deprived of the water that enables the various growths therein to flourish, and it will be only the surplus of other years which will be spilled into this swamp. The sudd region is of enormous extent, and consists of land which, owing to its position, its climate, and its rainfall, is too valuable to consecrate in perpetuity as a malarial marsh. In the future, a large proportion of it may be drained by making the Lake Albert reservoir large enough to hold the excess water from even the highest flood.

The capacity to accomplish this drainage might be increased at that date not only by heightening the Lake Albert dam, but by regulating on Lake Victoria, so that the waters of this enormous lake could be prevented from flowing into Lake Albert at the crucial period. It is pointed out that a very trifling rise in the level of Lake Victoria corresponds to the storage of many milliards of cubic metres of water, and a skilful combination of the two lakes would render it possible to absorb all the water that now has to be wasted into the sudd in years of high flood, and thus abolish it permanently. This area might then become productive, and in the future it may be a thriving pastoral, agricultural, or timber country, instead of the deadly swamp it is to-day, where nothing flourishes except papyrus or mosquitoes.

The directors of the Wanarajah Tea Company of Ceylon announce a final dividend of 20 per cent., making 40 per cent. for the year.

National Bank of India.—The transfer books of the bank are closed until April 12.

Aboukir Company.—Coupon No. 17 in respect of the dividend of 15 per cent., payable April 15 (share warrants to bearer), must be lodged at the offices of the company, 134, Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, E.C., three clear days for examination.

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ENGINEERING.

DOMESTIC APPLICATION OF ELECTRICITY

An All-Electric House.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Considerable advances have been made recently by British manufacturers of electric apparatus and appliances for domestic use. Designs have been improved and increased in number; new and more efficient types have been introduced; construction has become more substantial, and where possible efficiency has been improved.

Amongst the devices which are now coming into greater favour may be mentioned such appliances as electrically driven washing and wringing machines, electric knife cleaners, electrically driven polishing machines for cleaning glass, plate, cutlery, and boots and shoes, electric pumps for filling roof cisterns from wells so as to render available a supply of water at reasonable pressure in the event of fire, electrically blown domestic organs of suitable range, electrically controlled time-pieces, and last, but not least, the popular and highly economical heating and cooking stoves and radiators.

It will be remembered that recently an exhibition was held in London, under the title of the Ideal Home Exhibition, and in this practically every modern device which tends towards domestic economy or the saving of labour was on view. At the moment few of these concern this article, with one notable exception. This was the All-Electric House, designed and equipped by one of the largest firms of electrical manufacturers in existence. Worthy in itself of a special visit it was so crowded with visitors that special arrangements had to be made for controlling the crowd, and even then many hundreds were unable to inspect the appliances shown, even from a distance. For that reason it may be as well to give here a brief description of the goods that were shown, with some mention of their special uses. It must be understood that the list does not by any means exhaust the range of domestic electric appliances that are made by and obtainable from British firms. It may be possible, however, to deal with some of these in a further article.

The idea of having a seven-roomed house erected in the exhibition and fitted throughout with such household furniture as is necessary, with floors and walls finished as in a house ready for residing in, was distinctly novel, yet a moment's reflection will show that by no other means could the appliances be shown to full advantage. For example, an electric washing machine, shown side by side with a dressing-table fitting or an ormulu standard, is decidedly out of place and incongruous; the plainness of the one detracts from the richness of the other, and the appearance of each is marred by the contrast with its neighbour. But when each is shown in its proper place, surrounded with its usual adjuncts, the eye is better able to judge its appearance and effects and to form a correct impression regarding its value.

The All-Electric House, built in two storeys, contained a reception-room, morning-room, kitchen and pantry, with three bedrooms and landing above, with a bathroom. In all the rooms the electric lighting was planned on well-thought-out lines and suitable fittings for the rooms were installed. In the selection due regard for economy in first cost as well as in running had been taken into consideration, and the fittings, whilst thoroughly suitable for the class of house, were of an inexpensive nature.

Each room had its own electric radiator of suitable size and design; that in the reception room, for example, being far more elaborate than that in the main and servant's bedroom, which, again, were not quite so elegant as that in the bedroom set aside for the chance guest. These radiators were fitted with switches so that a graduated heat could be obtained, and one was provided with an electric accessory by means of which a kettle could be boiled. In every case the size of the heaters was nicely graded to the size of the rooms so that whilst a comfortable temperature could be obtained, there was no possibility of waste of electric energy by having a radiator burning at too great a power. One specially noteworthy radiator shown was the "Magnet" pedestal heater, which was placed in the morning or general room of the house. Owing to its special design it is instantly adaptable for toasting bread, boiling water, frying or grilling meats, cooking eggs, or preparing omelettes or stewing. The striking part about this heater is that appearance had in no respect been sacrificed for utility; the radiator is of distinctly handsome design, and has none of the inartistic lines which usually characterise appliances used for cooking purposes.

(To be concluded.)

MOTOR TRANSPORT IN ALGERIA.

Algeria before the war is said to have had as many automobiles as any French city of like population. The inadequate means of communication by railroad on the one hand and, on the other, the extensive system of fine roads throughout the colony combined to make Algeria an excellent market for motor vehicles, the number in use increasing rapidly in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of war, at which time there were close to 8,000 automobiles in the colony, says the American Consul at Algiers, Mr. Arthur C. Frost, in a recent report.

These vehicles were for the most part French, not only because of prevailingly French tastes but also on account of the nearness of the market, the absence of customs duties from France, and the ability of the French manufacturer to fill orders quickly and to supply all accessories necessary to such cars. During the war the restrictions on the use of gasoline and the difficulty in securing tyres and accessories reduced the circulation of motor vehicles to a minimum, but since the armistice there has been a rapid resumption of their use, limited only by the number on hand or which could be imported.

Unlike France, Algeria has had a very favourable balance of trade throughout the war, and large fortunes have been realised in wine, cereals, and other agricultural products and in commercial undertakings. The service on the Algerian railways, the mileage of which is very small for a country of its size, probably cannot be radically improved or extended for several years, and the revival of trade and industry will bring about a much wider employment and a constantly expanding market for motor vehicles.

Before the war some half-dozen American makes of popular-priced cars were being imported to a considerable extent. During the war imports were negligible, but in the past year quite a number of low-priced American automobiles have been imported, and further shipments are in progress. The inability of French manufacturers to make delivery within six or nine months is no doubt partly responsible for these purchases in the United States.

Italian Competition.

Italian competition has developed in this market in recent months, the sale of Italian cars being especially facilitated by the low exchange value of the Italian lira. On November 21, 1919, an entire cargo of Fiat automobiles, motor-trucks, and tractors, to the number of 158, was landed at Algiers from Genoa. Another carload of about 120 Fiats is expected at Algiers in a few days. Owing to the favourable exchange, the Italian Fiat 4-cylinder, 15-25 horse-power, can be sold at Algiers for 28,800 francs, and the 6-cylinder, 30-40 horse-power, is quoted at 35,500 francs. It would appear difficult, so long as American exchange remains high, to compete advantageously with such prices. The freights are, of course, much less on Italian cars.

Motor vehicles in Algeria are used principally by business men and well-to-do colonists. The high cost of operation, no less than the initial price, prohibits their widespread use by the middle classes. An important consideration to Algerian car users is the amount of gasoline consumption per kilometre. Gasoline is imported almost entirely from the United States, and is sold locally at several times the price prevailing there. Tyres and other supplies also come relatively high. Economical car operation is, therefore, the prime factor considered by the local trade.

As before indicated, the market for motor-trucks in Algeria is a very promising one, since they will have a large employment in supplementing rail transportation. A considerable number of French Army motor-trucks have been assigned to Algeria, and have been employed in moving the cereal crop and for other purposes. Among the French trucks are the Rocher-Schneider, Berliet, and the De Dion-Bouton. There is a large number of Fiat trucks here also, which have been turned over by the military authorities. The Berliet 5-ton motor-truck is being sold at present at 31,000 francs and the Fiat 4½-ton truck at 35,000 francs. There is a local demand for motor-trucks of larger capacity, which would be suitable for long trips into the interior.

There is quite an extensive use of motor-buses in Algeria to connect centres of population away from the railroads, and also in competition with the railroads. Several large De Dion-Bouton motor-buses have been imported recently for this service.

The exact number of motor-cycles in use is not ascertainable: they are frequently classified with other motor-vehicles, and they often circulate without license numbers. Those in use are chiefly of French or English manufacture, and the market is limited.

There is a total of about 9,000 motor vehicles in use in Algeria at the present time, according to information obtained from official sources. The number in the Department of Algiers is about 4,036, consisting of 3,939 passenger cars (including a few motor-cycles), fifty-five motor-trucks, and forty-two buses. In the Department of Oran there are registered 3,743 motor vehicles, consisting of 36,911 passenger-cars, thirty-eight motor-trucks, and fourteen buses. In the Department of Constantine there are 1,231 motor vehicles, consisting of 1,189 passenger-cars, twenty-eight trucks, and fourteen buses. These figures are only approximate, as there is more or less circulation of vehicles between here and France, the neighbouring protectorates of Morocco and Tunisia, and the South Territories.

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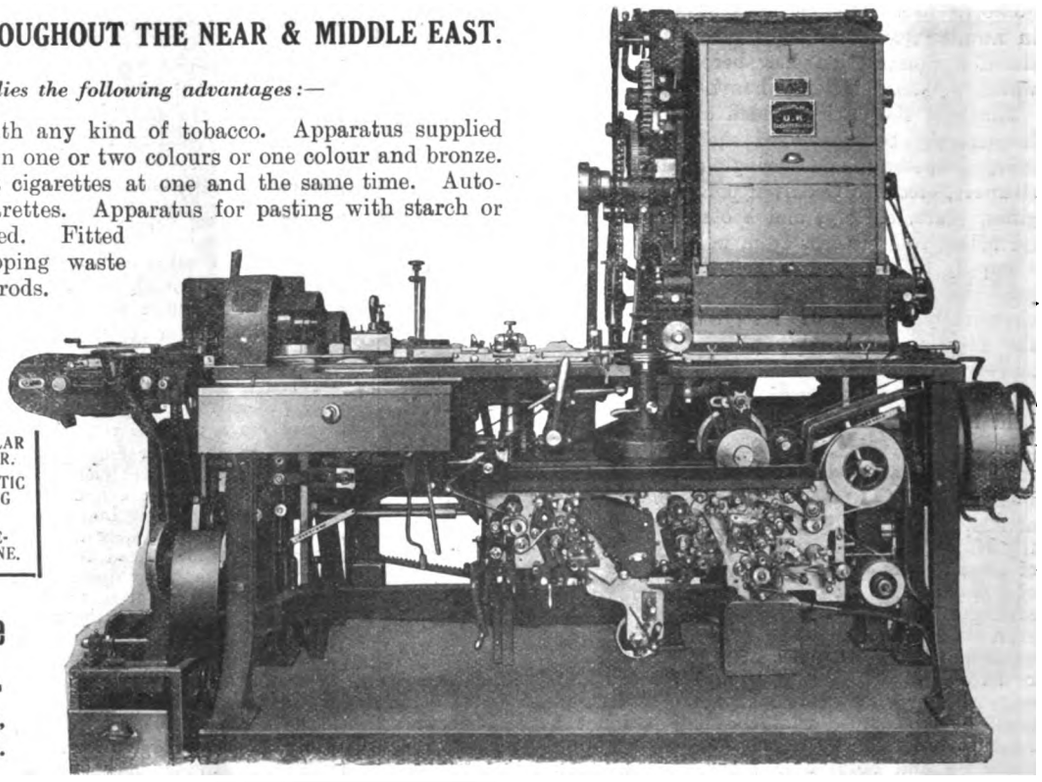

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MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

New Source of Alcohol.

Much attention has been given in recent years to the question of manufacturing alcohol within the Empire for use as motor spirit. In the current number of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute the possibility of utilising the mowra flowers of India for the purpose is discussed. These flowers possess thick, juicy petals, rich in sugar. They are used by the natives as a foodstuff, and especially for the preparation by fermentation of an alcoholic liquor called *daru* or *mohwa* spirit. A single tree will yield as much as 200-300 lb. of flowers in a year. The tree also produces a valuable oil-seed, which is exported in fairly large quantities to Europe. During the war the flowers were used in India for the production of acetone, the yield being said to be ten times as much as that obtained by distilling wood, which is the usual source of this substance. The demand for acetone in India in peace times, however, is not great, and large quantities of the flowers would be available for the manufacture of alcohol, and would appear to be an exceptionally cheap source of this material, as the yield is high compared with that from potatoes and other materials commonly used, about 90 gallons of 95 per cent. alcohol being obtainable from one ton of dried flowers. It has been estimated that in the Hyderabad State alone there are already sufficient mowra trees for the production of 700.000 gallons of proof spirit per annum, in addition to that necessary for the local liquor requirements. It is suggested that the most profitable way of utilising the flowers would probably be as a source of mixed motor spirit of the "natalite" type for use in India. That motor spirit can be produced on a manufacturing scale in India from mowra flowers has already been demonstrated, and it is stated that running trials with the spirit proved satisfactory.

A Useful Tractor.

With her quarries at Seravezza, not far from Pisa, Italy possesses the finest supply of marble in the world, and is the greatest European exporter of this stone. The Seravezza marble quarries have been in active operation since 1517, when Pope Leo X. instructed Michael Angelo to exploit these regions, and since then they have furnished material for the finest palaces and churches in Rome, Florence, and other Italian cities. From the outset transportation has been the greatest difficulty to be overcome in connection with the working of these quarries. The marble is quarried out of the mountain side, to an altitude of 4.000 feet, and roads have to be made as the work proceeds. The gradients are high, running up to 40 per cent. in many places; in addition, the turns are very sharp, and, except on the main approaches, all the roads are thickly strewn with loose stone. Until quite recently ox-teams have been made use of almost exclusively for the transportation of blocks of marble in these quarries. In an attempt to solve the transportation problem, steam locomobiles were adopted and proved fairly successful on the good roads, notwithstanding the high cost of fuel and maintenance. These locomobiles were not found suitable, however, for bringing stone from the mouth of the quarry nor for travelling over the roughest surfaces and climbing the steepest gradients. The most recent adoption, and one which has been entirely successful, is that of the Fiat 70 h.p. petrol tractor. This has been tried in competition with both locomobiles and ox-teams, and has given such good results that it is now driving out both. Its greatest advantages are speed and lower operating costs. The maximum useful load handled may be taken at thirty tons. This would entail the presence of eighteen drivers (one for each pair of oxen), and at least six men to be in attendance for applying the brakes and for assistance when on the difficult turns. With the Fiat tractor only one driver is required, and four men are quite sufficient to accompany the load over the difficult portions of the road. This means a saving of the labour of nineteen men

Weighing Machines.

Not the least important item in business equipment is the weighing machine, for the reason that the entire turnover of so many businesses passes over its weighers. It is during this passing that the trader's calculated profit is turned into actual profit wholly or in part, according to the precision of the weighing. An error of the weigher, therefore, cuts directly into the profit-end of a trader's calculations. Mistakes in weighing cannot be rectified as can mistakes in book and account keeping, because they are not recorded.

Errors in scales, as is well known, occur mainly as a result of wear, and the error, resulting from the stiffness or sluggishness of the scale, is always against the seller. On a legal 14-lb. scale a seller may give away 1-14th of his total sale, or 7 per cent. If his calculated profit were 10 per cent., his loss would be 7-10ths of his total profit, even if his assistants gave meticulous care to the weighing.

From this it will be realised that every effective precaution against wear and inaccuracy is intrinsically worth very many times the total first cost of the instrument used. The cost of weighing on an old-fashioned, ill-designed, or "sluggish" scale, is incalculably higher than is the cost of weighing on the highest possible grade of scale, because the latter, being more sensitive, "turns" before any appreciable profit is lost.

With 150 years' practical experience behind them, Messrs. W. and T. Avery have satisfied themselves that any improvement of design or precaution against wear that trained and experience designers can suggest must be built into the scale. To this fact they owe the general recognition that their name stands for reliability, and that perfection of design and finish which alone can produce consistently accurate and sensitive weighing instruments. This firm produces every kind of weigher from the ordinary scales to the Avery weighbridge built to carry a load of ten tons, as well as counting machines, which were used particularly during the war to cope with the enormous output of soldiers' equipment.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£33,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	8,503,718
RESERVE	8,750,000

(31st DECEMBER, 1919).

Current, Deposit and other Accounts £304,547,726

Head Office .... 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.2.

Joint General Managers: F. J. BARTHORPE, J. C. ROBERTSON, W. H. INSKIP.

Foreign Branch Office ... 82, CORNHILL, E.C.3.

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ANGLO-BULGARIAN TRADE.

Establishment of Chamber of Commerce.

At a meeting held in Sofia on March 13, at which Capt. W. B. Heard (Commercial Commissioner to Bulgaria) presided, a branch of the British Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople was formally inaugurated.

In the course of his address on that occasion, Captain Heard said:—"I recognise that Bulgaria is in a difficult position at the present time. She is handicapped by an unfavourable exchange, by the uncertain outlook, by a financial crisis the end of which cannot be foreseen, and by defective means of communication; further, it must be admitted that up to the present time Bulgaria has had a very unfavourable Press that has not failed to create a hostile atmosphere which the Bulgarian nation does not now deserve. I will refrain from referring to political matters, but I can assure you that a very deep impression has been produced in my mind by the dignity of the Bulgarian nation in the hour of adversity, and its steadfast determination to rebuild its social and economic life on the ruins of the old order. I believe sincerely that the Bulgarian nation, which is freeing itself from its disastrous past, enters upon its phase of renaissance, and will serve as the model for all the countries disturbed by the war which seek to reconstruct themselves on a more solid and more stable basis.

"But before that vision of a new Bulgaria, which has already impressed those who know you here, pierces the misty atmosphere which envelops you outside, it will take some time. People are very ill-informed regarding Bulgaria abroad, and it is that atmosphere which holds back those who would develop economic relations with you. I do what I can to enable our newspapers to be correctly informed regarding Bulgaria, its economic and commercial possibilities, and its resources, which only require financial help from a disinterested country for their development. I have referred, and not for the first time, to your high commercial morality which has gained for you a reputation in the Balkans, a reputation which I am sure you will do everything possible to maintain. You have friends abroad who will work in the same way, and if Bulgaria suffers at the moment from the disastrous legacy of a régime which has passed away for ever, I do not doubt it will triumph by virtue of solid determination, and that it will end by re-establishing its reputation.

"The opening of this Chamber marks an important stage in the commercial relations of the two countries. Thanks to the energy and foresight of the honorary secretary, Major Burt-Andrews, this project, which before the war seemed so far off and so difficult to realise, is now an accomplished fact; a second stage, the establishment of an Anglo-Bulgarian bank, I have reason to hope, will be realised before long. I am convinced that British representatives will come in great numbers as soon as the industrial and commercial resources of Bulgaria are better known. Several of your compatriots have gone to visit the great British Industries Fair, and I hope that, with the improvement of communications, these visits will become more frequent. It is unnecessary to say that it will be owing to personal relations especially that our future business will be established. The lack of personal contact was one of the chief handicaps in the past. On this happy occasion I hasten to wish the Chamber of Commerce, its honorary secretary, and its members a happy future, conscious as I am of the importance of their task, and the immense services which they can render to the development of economic and other relations between the two countries."

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended March 13 amounted to £6.679.

The directors of Maisels Petroleum Trust, Limited, announce to the shareholders that they are at present negotiating for the sale of one of the company's shareholdings in another company to a financial group, and have every reason to believe that these negotiations will be brought to a successful issue at an early date.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Inactive Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The market continues quiet. There are no indications at the moment of a revival of demand, and increased activity cannot be expected until after the Easter holidays. Some uncertainty exists as to the outcome of the demand of the operatives in all sections of the Lancashire industry for an increase in wages. The operative weavers have applied for a rise of 60 per cent. on current rates, and the operative spinners and the cardroom workers are about to put in a claim for a substantial advance. Many joint conferences between the employers and the trade union officials will take place during the next week or two. An agreement may not be easily reached, but it is believed that both sides are anxious to arrange an amicable settlement. Fluctuations continue to take place in Egyptian cotton. For trade purposes the article is being a good deal neglected at the present time. Users seem to have no confidence in current prices. Egyptian yarns have been purchased sparingly. For several weeks spinners have not sold the production of the machinery, but order lists remain extensive. In cloth for Egypt only a retail business has been done. Merchants on the other side are said to be well supplied. The position in Turkey is far from satisfactory, and shippers are afraid to export more goods just at present. Cases are again mentioned of resales in Manchester. Some advices from India have been a little better but demand still drags. More trade could be done for China but for delivery difficulties. Fair lines have been put through for Singapore. Not much has been done for South America. The home trade houses continue busy. American yarns have been steady in quotation with a limited trade. Good twists command high prices for quick delivery. Rather less activity is now showing itself in shipping yarns.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard s.s. Southgate, for Piræus, Constantinople, Galatz, and Batoum, will close for cargo at Swansea on April 10.

The Cunard s.s. Maindy Manor, for Piræus, Constantinople, Galatz, Braila, and Batoum, will close for cargo at Antwerp on April 8.

The Ellerman s.s. Austrian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will leave Liverpool on April 17.

The Ellerman s.s. Asturian, for Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on April 23.

The Moss Line s.s. Assiout, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, transhipping to Moroccan ports and Cyprus, will leave Liverpool on April 10.

The Anchor Line s.s. Elysia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on April 8.

The Bibby Line s.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on April 7.

The directors of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company announce a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares, less tax, for past half-year, payable March 31.

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE.

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HIGHEST REFERENCES.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.—Rather more business has been done, and the indications point to a steady development of interest in the near future. The imports of currants in February amounted to 1,135 tons, as against 7,992¾ tons for the corresponding month last year, and 511¼ tons in 1913. The figures for home consumption for the month were 3,405¼ tons, as against 8,137¼ tons in February, 1919.

Sultanas.—There is little of interest to report. A moderate amount of business has passed, but on the whole the market has been subdued.

Sugar.—There has been an increased demand for home refined at the control rates. A steady tone has characterised the free market, rather more business taking place.

Coffee.—The better qualities have been in strong demand, and prices have been maintained, but rates for other grades have been weak, owing to the poor outlook as regards exports to the Continent. The futures market has been inactive. Quotations are: May, 124s.; July, 124s.; September, 117s. 6d.; December, 114s.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their weekly report, state:—The question of exchange seems to dominate the situation in coffee, and it is strange to see the various ways in which it exercises its influence. In this connection, we find France making cheap cost and freight offers, and it is difficult to understand the wisdom of such a policy when her stocks stand at such a low figure. The explanation, however, appears to be that the French bought a considerable amount of Brazilian Government sales some time ago, and now their exchange having rapidly depreciated, they are able to put forward these tempting offers. When they come to replace these stocks later on they may find this a very expensive operation. With the vagaries of exchange, such as instanced above, it is difficult to forecast the immediate future of the New York market, but we still believe that purchases at present levels will show fair profits in the long run.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been a weak spot. La Plata February-March Hull has been done at 42s., the March-April quotation being 41s., and that for April-May 40s. Both rapeseed and cottonseed have been featureless. Rapeseed has come to business at 53s. for Guzerat, and 48s. for brown Cawnpore, while Egyptian cottonseed has been done round about 23s.

Oilcakes, etc.—There has been a fair demand for linseed cake at 500s. Business has also been brisk in coconut cake at 270s. Cottonseed cake has come to business at 260s. for Indian, and 280s. for the Egyptian variety. Oils have been quiet on the whole, linseed closing 117s. spot, 113s. March-April, and 99s. 6d. May-August. Rape oil has been inactive, with refined at 135s. and crude at 120s. Cotton oil has been featureless. Turpentine has been steady round about 220s. spot.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended March 13:—The sales this week on our market amount to 22 cases, at prices ranging from 860 piastres to 875 piastres for low grades, and 950 for rich manufacturing qualities, equal 15s. 6d. to 19s. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange is 412 piastres per pound sterling for cheque on London, and 0.88 dollars per one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,506 cases against 200 at same date last year.

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SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the C.E.B. report for January:—

Gum.

The exports during January were as follows:—Via Port Sudan, 1,521,381 kilos of hashab of the value of £E71,441, 11,385 kilos of bleached of the value of £E588, and 45,601 kilos of talh of the value of £E1,135; via Halfa, 56,890 kilos of hashab of the value of £E2.645, and 31,783 kilos of talh of the value of £E931.

Kordofan Province, January.—11,837 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during January as against 13,448 kantars during the same month last year, at an average price of £E1.386 m/ms. per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 13,930 kantars as against 6.905 last year. The amount of gum sold at Um Ruaba was 3,105 kantars as against 5,631 kantars last year, the average price being £E1.400 m/ms. per kantar. At Rahad 5,601 kantars were sold as against 5,395 last year, at prices varying from LE1.500 m/ms. to £E1.280 m/ms. per kantar.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province, January.—Tokar.—The cotton looked very well, but would do better with more sun instead of the cloudy weather experienced the last few weeks. There is every likelihood of the crop being over 32,000 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned).

Berber Province, January.—At Saadabia, cotton, which has interplanted with dura, is now coming on.

Dura and Dukhn.

Sennar Province.—937 tons of dura were exported by rail during December. Very little dura is being put on sale.

Berber Province.—January.—Dura crops seem to be good everywhere on the pumping schemes and sagias. Grain prices continued high, though they have fallen slightly, white dura to P.T. 360 and feterita to P.T. 306 per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos). At Saadabia there was good "Butuk" dura. At Darmali there was very fine dura, with a little asal on it, but too late to do serious damage.

Halfa Province, January.—The price of grain has increased from P.T.11 to P.T. 15, and 15½ per ruba (360 rottles an ardeb).

Wheat and Barley.

Halfa Province, January.—Satisfactory reports have been received from all districts as to the barley and wheat crops.

Dongola Province, January.—The price of wheat was P.T. 600 per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos). The price of barley was P.T. 312 per ardeb of 300 rottles.

Berber Province, January.—At Darmali there was some promising barley. Other experimental wheats were doing better than the Australian.

Maize.

Berber Province.—A January report states the crops of maize seem to be good everywhere on the pumping schemes and sagias. The price of maize was P.T. 300 per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos). At Saadabia there was good maize; and there was a fine experimental maize interplanted with sesame.

CONDITIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Favourable Crop Prospects.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following information from the Civil Commissioner, Baghdad:—Good rains have at length fallen in Mesopotamia with heavy snow in parts of Mosul Villayet and even near Abu Kemal [on the Euphrates]. It has fallen too late for spring sowings in some places, but has saved most of the crops. There is no change in the situation on the Upper Euphrates. The route from Aleppo to Baghdad is insecure and all through traffic has ceased. Elsewhere in Mesopotamia all is quiet. Tobacco cultivators in Kurdistan anticipate an unusually good crop and grain prices are lower than they have been since 1915. Municipal councils are developing into useful public bodies. The completion of the Busreh-Baghdad line threatens to deprive towns on the Tigris of their ancient profits, and a movement is on foot to induce the Government to retain the Kut-Baghdad Railway, which has brought such prosperity to Kut and to the districts on the Hai.

A later communiqué states:—Further heavy rains have fallen during the week, and the agricultural situation is greatly improved. Arab tribes have made further raids on British convoys on the Upper Euphrates, and caused casualties, but general situation is unchanged. Anxiety has been expressed in commercial circles in Mesopotamia lest sale by Ministry of Munitions of river craft in Mesopotamia through agency of Lord Inchcape at Bombay at short notice should prejudice chance of Mesopotamia firms to bid for these craft, considerable numbers of which are required in this country for commercial purposes. News that sale has been postponed, and that sealed tenders will be received by local representatives of Ministry of Munitions Disposals Board up to noon, March 10, has given widespread satisfaction, and has disposed for the time being of question which threatened to arouse much feeling. No unfavourable developments have occurred elsewhere in Mesopotamia.

Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways—Transfer books of the ordinary shares will be closed from March 25 to April 7 inclusive.

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YUGOSLAV RAILWAY TARIFF.

With reference to transport regulations in the Serb, Croat, and Slovene State, the Department of Overseas Trade are informed that the reductions of 25 per cent. and 50 per cent. which were made in October, 1918, on the pre-war tariff rates of the Serbian Railways, with the object of facilitating the transport of certain articles chiefly for relief purposes, are no longer accorded. The new general transport tariff which is not on the zone system, will be ready about May. It is understood that the proposed increase in the tariff will not be great.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Chartered Bank.

The report of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, for the year ended December 31, states that there is a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £615,830 6s. 10d., inclusive of £168,482 11s. 1d. brought forward from the previous year. The interim dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £84,000. The amount now available is therefore £531,830 6s. 10d., and the directors propose to pay a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum together with a bonus of 25s. per share, making 20¼ per cent. per annum for the whole year, free of income tax; to add £100,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £3,000,000; to add £25,000 to the officers' superannuation fund; to write off premises account £75,000, and to carry forward the balance of £172,830 6s. 10d. Interest on instalments of new capital (£800,000) and premium (£800,000) from dates of payment to December 31, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum free of income tax has been paid. The new shares will rank equally for dividend with the old shares as from January 1, 1920. It is proposed that Mr. J. M. G. Prophit, already a provisional member of the board, be formally elected a director. Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Thomas Cuthbertson, the directors who now retire by rotation, present themselves for re-election. The auditors, Mr. David Charles Wilson, F.C.A., and Mr. Henry Croughton Knight Stileman, F.C.A., again tender their services. The dividend and bonus will be payable on and after Friday, April 16. Meeting, 38, Bishopsgate, E.C., April 9, 2 p.m.

Rangoon Electric Tramway.

The report of the Rangoon Electric Tramway and Supply Company for 1919 states that the total receipts from the tramway service were Rs. 12,15,440, an increase of Rs. 1,35,866, or 12.58 per cent. In the private lighting and power department gross receipts amounted to Rs. 10,87,116, an increase of 11.87 per cent. Gross receipts of the house wiring and supply department amounted to Rs. 1,52,279, the profit realised being Rs. 26,250, as compared with Rs. 20,173 for previous year. Gross profits for the year were £89,357; add transfer fees and interest on deposits and investments in London, £2,756, making £92,113. Interest on debenture stocks absorbed £12,113, provision for redemption of Four and a-Half per Cent. debenture stock £7,664, depreciation on sundry assets in Rangoon £1,974, transfer to reserve for renewals account £15,000, transfer to special reserve for cables, etc., £10,000, provision for income-tax and excess profits duty £14,120, fees for directors, managing director and trustees and expenses in London £2,921, employees' provident fund £1,017, leaving net profit £27,303, which with £4,447 brought forward makes £31,750. The directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares of 7 per cent. for the year, free of tax, carrying forward £4,360.

Jibutil (Anantapur) Gold Mines.

The report of the Jibutil (Anantapur) Gold Mines for the year ended September 30 states that during October, 1918, a final clean-up at the reduction works was made, when 450 oz. of gold were produced, which realised £1,908. The receipts on revenue account for the year, including rent, interest and transfer fees, were £2,100 and the costs £7,355, leaving a deficit of £5,255, and after writing off £4,434 for depreciation, the debit to mining and general expenditure is increased to £54,441. Shareholders were advised in the directors' last report that Mr. C. H. Richards, the superintendent of the Nundydroog mine, who had inspected the Jibutil property, had expressed the opinion "that there was not sufficient hope of permanent and improved values in the ore bodies recently worked to warrant the expenditure necessary to reopen the mines," and that there was no alternative but to cease underground operations on the property. It was, however, mentioned that as the No. 1 prospect shaft centre had shown an improvement at the 400 ft. level, the directors had decided, should sufficient funds be realised by sales of machinery and plant, to further test this section of the mine by driving the 500 ft. level north of this shaft at least far enough to ascertain the length and value of the ore body at that horizon. Mr. Henry C. Taylor, one of the managers, who is now in India, is giving his personal attention to this matter, and it is expected that his recommendations will shortly be received. There is at present an experienced prospector at the mine, carefully examining the reefs at surface, along the whole length of the property, and making certain tests with a view to ascertaining whether the prospects at any other section justify further work being undertaken. The company is retaining in India sufficient funds out of the money received from local sales of machinery and plant to meet the costs of the proposed mining work at No. 1 prospect shaft and the prospecting at surface, thereby avoiding loss through adverse exchange.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 17:—

Widespread rain in Northern India and local rain in Central Provinces, Malabar, and Upper Burma. General crop conditions good. Second Crop Forecasts.—Rape and mustard, 3,563,000 acres; linseed, 2,323,000 acres; wheat, 27,553,000 acres. Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good Broach April-May Rs. 502. Piecegoods market quiet. Calcutta jute market inactive. Prices nominal. Hessians dull with declining prices. Heavy goods quiet. No change in Bank Rates.

Dated March 10 (delayed).—Rain nearly general in North-Eastern India and North Punjab. Local in North-West Frontier, United Province of Agra and Oudh, Central Provinces, Mysore, Malabar, and North Madras Coast. General crop conditions good. Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good Broach April-May Rs. 499. Piecegoods market quiet but firm. Calcutta jute market dull. Hessians weak. Heavy goods dull. No change in Bank Rates. Notification issues March 13 removing prohibition of importation of dyes into India.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

STAMBOUL, March 5.

Manufactures.

Owing to the high level in places of production our market has improved a little. All the same, the recovery is purely illusory; business becomes more and more limited. It had been hoped to despatch a large part of these goods to the interior and thus to relieve our market. Unfortunately, however, Anatolia has of late almost completely ceased to import, which only accentuates the difficulty of the local market for manufactured goods.

Produce.

Sugar.—The market is strong owing to the lack of supplies, particularly of good quality. On this account prices have increased during the course of the week by £5 to £6 per ton, notwithstanding numerous favourable offers received from America, Java, Trieste, and Holland. Prices are £118 per ton for sugar in transit. £110 per ton for sugar c.i.f. Constantinople, £T59 to £T60 the 100 kilos for sugar in customs.

Coffee.—Despite the high prices in Europe and in countries of production, our market remains quiet, and prices have not undergone any change during the week owing to the large stocks existing which were destined for Russia. Rio in transit is quoted at Ps.62 to Ps.70 the oke, and Santos at Ps.70 to Ps.79.

Rice.—Arrivals from the Caucasus have been insignificant.

Oil.—The important arrivals of the previous week and also of the present week have led to a fall in the price. The case of two bidons is sold at Ps.675 to Ps.700, for merchandise in customs, large bidons of from 25 to 50 kilos (Russian consignment) at Ps.19 to Ps.20 the oke; and large bidons (Roumanian) at from Ps.13 to Ps.14 the oke.

Exports.

Opium.—The market has been quiet because of the lack of supplies and also of demand.

Mohair.—Prices are maintained, especially for extra qualities, which are in particular request for America.

Wool.—The market has been better than in the previous week, and there has been some slight activity. Arrivals from Anatolia, 480 bales. Sales, 150 bales at Ps.60 the oke.

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Branch

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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NEW COMPANIES.

Levant Company (Roumania).

The Levant Company (Roumania), Ltd., was registered as a private company on March 18 with a capital of £40,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To take over the business and assets of the Levant Co., Ltd., in Roumania, and to carry on the business of brokers, merchants, agents and exporters from and importers into Roumania and elsewhere. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—Miss E. M. Booker, 11, Chatsworth Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex; J. F. Cooke, "Melrose," Whitworth Road, South Norwood, S.E.; S. A. Boyd, 3, Pournall Road, Fulham, S.W. The first directors are: A. G. M. Dickson, A. Henderson, G. Locock, R. G. Perry, and J. H. McGaffin. Solicitor: L. H. Grundy, 57½, Old Broad Street, E.C.

British Oil Bunkering.

The British Oil Bunkering Co., Ltd., was registered as a private company on March 22 with a capital of £1,200,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To provide oil, coal, and other fuel installations at the main ports on the principal trade routes of the world. The subscribers (who are also provisional directors) are:—Lord Inchcape, 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C.; C. Greenway, chairman, Anglo-Persian Oil Company; F. W. Black, director of Anglo-Persian Oil Company, 23, Great Winchester Street, E.C.; F. J. Leathers, 52, Mark Lane, E.C., director of Wm. Cory and Son. No share qualification required. The holders of (a) shares Nos. 1 to 400,000, and (b) shares Nos. 400,001 to 800,000 may each appoint two directors, and the holders of shares Nos. 800,001 to 1,200,000 may appoint four directors, each group being treated as a separate class of shares and entitled to hold separate meetings. Registered office: 23, Great Winchester Street, E.C.

Anglo-Danubian Association.

The Anglo-Danubian Association, Ltd., has been registered, with a nominal capital of £10,000 in £10 shares. The objects are: To investigate the economic position in Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and elsewhere in Central Europe, and the practicability of establishing business relations with manufacturers. The first directors are: The Right Hon. F. Huth Jackson, Sir Edmund W. Smith, C. V. Sale, H. A. Andreae, A. G. M. Dickson, and L. E. Meinertzhagen.

Mysore Rubber and Coffee.

Mysore Rubber and Coffee Plantations, Ltd., was registered on March 10 with a capital of £60,000, in 2s. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of cultivators of india-rubber, gutta-percha, balata, and other gums, coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, etc.

TURKISH DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders communicate the following information with regard to the gross receipts of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, on account of the Unified Debt and Lots Turc:—Provisional receipts, 11 months (March, 1919, to January, 1920), £T6,816,569 paper; definitive receipts, 11 months (March, 1918, to January, 1919) £T4,442,350 paper. For the same period in 1913-14 the definitive gross receipts were £T4,650,990 gold. The above receipts do not include interest on the reserve fund, Tripoli contribution, Treasury account, etc.

INDIA'S CURRENCY POLICY.

In the House of Commons on March 29 Mr. Bennett asked the Secretary for India if he had any information showing that the currency policy recently adopted by the Government of India was stifling the export trade of that country.

Mr. Fisher: "The introduction of the new policy, which owing to the low level of American exchange in February entailed a steep rise in the sterling exchange value of the rupee, was, not unnaturally, attended by considerable dislocation in Indian trade; but the Secretary of State has no information to suggest that the export trade is suffering to the extent that would be implied by the last words of the question. The situation is being carefully watched, and recent indications point to a material improvement in the position.

ON CHANGE.

Business Small, Tone Dull.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Business has been on a much reduced scale this week, and, on the whole, the tendency has been dull and prices lower.

In Government Stocks Egyptian Unifieds have dropped 1¼ to 73¼, and the 3½ per cent. Prefs. are ¼ lower at 61⅜. In the latter case, sellers have been very scarce, but a fair amount of business has been done in Unifieds.

In Bank Shares Nationals are ¼ lower at 22⅜, and Agriculturals are 1-32nd down at 5.11-32nds. Agricultural Prefs. have receded 1-16th to 6⅜, and Anglo-Egyptian Banks have been a particularly weak spot and have dropped back £1 to 18¾.

Amongst Railways, Delta Lights have receded 3-16ths to 6⅜.

In Land shares Aboukirs are 1s. down at 43s. 6d., Béhéras have dropped one point to 20½, Consolidated Lands are 5¼d. lower at 2s. 6⅜d., and Delta Lands have receded 1s. 9d. to 17s. 6d. Gharbieh Lands are nominally ¼ down at 3⅜. New Egyptians have shed 1s. at 35s., Sudan Plantations have dropped ¼ to ⅞, and Union Foncières ⅛ to 5⅜.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinian Corporations are 1s. down at 10s. 6d. Associated Cotton Ginners have dropped 5s. to 27s. 6d., and Salts 2s. 6d. to 55s. Khedivial Mails are also easier, the Ordinary being 1-16th down at 5.9-16ths, and the Preference ⅛ lower at 3½. Morums are 6d. easier at 19s.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B, after dropping to 3½, closed only 1-16th lower at 3.15-16ths. Roumanians at 24s. are 1s. 3d. better on the favourable decision in the Courts regarding their claim against the Government.

Among Greek securities an improved tone has been in evidence. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are both one point up at 56. The 1890 and Funding Loans have risen three points to 58, and the 1902 Railway Loan one point to 51. On the other hand, Monopoly are one point down at 46, and the 1910 Loan one and a-half points down at 40½. Bank of Athens shares have dropped a quarter to 3.

RED SEA PORTS.

In the ports most of the commercial activity is concerned with the exports of local products, and the importing and distributing of piece goods, general hardware, and other goods suitable for the simple manner of living of the natives in the outlying districts, says the American Consul at Aden in a report on trade conditions in the Aden market. Aden is the centre of the exporting and importing business for a Red Sea commercial district made up of the political divisions of Makalla, Yemen, Asir, Hadjaz, Eritrea, Abyssinia, and French and British Somalilands. It is the port of call in the district for foreign shipping. Aden importing and exporting firms have agencies or other forms of representation in practically all the small Red Sea ports, principally Makalla, Hodeida, Jiddah, Massowah, Jibouti, Bercera, and outlying trade centres. It therefore follows that Aden is the place in which to begin to establish business connections for operations in this Red Sea commercial district. Aden is a free port, excepting for a small tax or duty on alcoholic liquors or preparations, intoxicating drugs, and arms and ammunition. There is an excellent harbour into which large ships come, but the handling of all cargo is by means of lighters, because of the lack of docks or wharves suitable for the use of steamers.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

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Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

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It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price—March 22	Price—March 29
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28	28
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	66	66
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	74½	73½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	62	61¼
Greek 5%, 1881	55	56
Do. 5%, 1884	55	56
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	47	46
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	50	50
Do. 5% 1890	55	58
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	55	58
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	50	50
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	42	40½
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	55	55
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	74	73½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69½	69½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	59	59
Do. 4% Unified	32	32
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅞	6⅞
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	67½	67½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	69½	69½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	19½	19½
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	60/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7⅛
Bank of Roumania	5⅛	5⅛
British Trade Corporation	9⅛	9⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10⅜	10⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	9⅞	9⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅞	6⅞
London County and Westminster	14⅛	14⅜
National Bank of Egypt	23	22½
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅛	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	71	71
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅜	9⅛
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	46	46
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	35	35
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	44/6	43/6
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	17/6	17/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	3⅜	3⅜
Béhéra Co.	21⅛	20⅛
Do. Pref.	3⅜	3⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	32/-	32/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/5 paid)	3/-	2/6½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	19/3	17/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	17/-	17/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	4	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	31/3	31/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61⅛	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	7
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	72	72
New Egyptian Co.	36/-	35/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅞	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	7⅜	7⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	11/6	10/6
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	32/6	27/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86⅛	86⅛
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	57/6	55/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	99⅛
Khediv al Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅛
Levant Co. (fully paid)	19/6	19/6
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	19/6	19/-
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	100	100⅛
Chinese 4½% 1898	59½	59⅜
Do. 5% 1896	74½	75⅜
Argentine 5% 1890	74⅛	74
Do. 5% 1907	87⅞	83½
OIL.		
Algerian	4/1⅛	3/9
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	4	3⅛
Anglo-Persian Pref.	23/1½	23/-
Do. 5% Debs.	82½	82⅛
Anglo-Roumanian	7/4⅛	7/4½
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/10½	4/9½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	13/9	13/9
Roumanian	22/9	24/-
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	6/6	5/7½
Traian (Roumanian)	8/6	8/1½

Imports into British India during February increased by £4,409,000, as compared with February last year. Exports showed an increase of £3,624,000. Raw cotton accounted for approximately £3,000,000 in the increased exports.—*Reuter.*

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Feb. 19. Rs.	Feb. 28. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	60⅛	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	298	300
Bank of Bengal	1765	1765
Bank of Bombay	2480	2350
Bank of Madras	1800	1700
Bank of India	141	141
Tata Industrial Bank	51¾	49
COAL.		
Baraboni	14½	14½
Bengal	800	800
Burrakur	44¾	46¾
East Indian	40	37½
Equitable	42	38½
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	61¾	61
Standard	66x	66x
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	480	460
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	3660	3180
Bowreah	880	880
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	750	750
Cawnpore	210	210
Century	1100	992
Central India	3830 / 1915	3600 / 1800
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	1800	1800
Khatau Makanji	750	750
Muir	254x	254x
New Ring	700	700
Phœnix	1110	1080
Svadeshi	3900	3765
JUTE.		
Alliance	730	750
Barnagore	160	162
Budge Budge	615	625
Clive	280	280
Dalhousie	505	525
Delta	620	620
Fort Gloster	1000	1000
Gourepore	1325	1320
Howrah	45¾	46
Kamarhatty	875	916
Kanknarrah	720	744
Khardah	550	550
Kinnison	1030	1051
National	410	420
Standard	675	690
Union	830	860
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	700	700
Burn and Co.	300	300
Carew and Co.	91	91
Cawnpore Sugar	352	345
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	350	350
Howrah Oil Mills	32½	32¼
India General Steam	155	155
Indian Iron and Steel	107½ / 47½	106 / 45
Marshall Sons and Co.	11¾	11½
Titaghur Paper	318	318

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MARCH 12.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	23½
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	73
" " Div.	Frs.	115
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	10⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	21
" priv.	£	3⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	78⅜
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅝
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5⅜
Société des Immeubles	£	7⅛
Bonded Stores	£	21⅜x
Unifiée	£	76⅛
Privilégiée		63¼
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6½
Nungovich Hotels	£	11½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3½
" Ord		106/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅞
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	98
" Jouissance	Frs.	150
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		40/3
Egyptian Markets		23/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	410
" Div.	Frs.	400
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	294
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	8⅞
Egyptian Salt and Soda		57/10½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	655ex
" Fondateur	Frs.	8900
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	437½a
" 1903 "	Frs.	296⅜
" 1911 "	Frs.	281
Consolidated Land	P.T.	15
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1 33/64
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	383
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	1⅛
Urbaines & Rurales		3⅛
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4 5/32
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1 5/32

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Mar. 22	Mar. 29.
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	54⅞	66½
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	61½	63
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		98½	98⅛
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		70	69
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		68½	67
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		86½	86½
Eastern		8½	7⅞
Mercantile of India A		43⅜	43½
National of India		62½	62½
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		9/6	9/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		14/6	14/6
Burma Corp.		11⅜	11⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		11/4½	10/7½
Champion Reef Gold		3/7½	3/7½
Mysore Gold Mining		18/9	18/1½
Nundydroog		13/6	15/3
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		18/-	16/9
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		21/4½	20/-
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		43/9	40/7½
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		37/6	35/-
Brit. Burmah		4⅜	4⅛
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		17½	16⅝
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅛	9⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		48½	48
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		137	135
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		49	50
Bengal-Nagpur		115½	114
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		104	102⅛
Burma Railways		109	107
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13½	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13	13
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		12⅝	12⅝
Madras and S. Mahratta		110	107
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		127½	127½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		82	82
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		—	—
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		84⅛	84⅛
Do. Deferred		567	567
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		63⅜	64½
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16	15⅜
British Indian Tea Ord.		8	7⅜
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15⅞	15⅞
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		11/-	11/-
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		65/7½	62/6
Consolidated Estates		48/9	42/6
Darjeeling Co.		19/-	19/-
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		61/10½	65
Dooars Tea Ord.		53/9	50/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		18/4½	20/1½
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		67/6	68/1½
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		33/6¾	34/6
Hewagam Rubber Co.		24/4½	23/1½
Jhanzie Tea Association		10½	10½
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		20	20
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		17/-	15/6
Lanka Plantations Ord.		29/6	29/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		21/9	22/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		42/6	40/7½
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		12½	12½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		29/4½	30/-

H.M. Representative at Tangier in a recent report states that the railway rates on the narrow-gauge military lines in Morocco, which were thrown open for commercial use in 1917, were raised at the beginning of January. It is explained in the statement made to the Council that the great increase in the working expenses rendered it necessary to raise the tariff very considerably, as, although the Protectorate authorities did not desire to make a profit on the line, they could not afford to run it at a loss.

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POONA	9,000	April 20	—	Australia
MOREA	11,000	—	April 24	Bombay & Karachi

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NARDANA.....	7,951	April 10	—	Madras & Calcutta
NIRVANA	6,021	April 15	—	Bombay & Karachi
GAZANA.....	5,200	April 21	—	Madras & Calcutta
MORVADA	8,193	April 21	—	Bombay & Karachi
NEURALIA	9,082	April 27	—	Pt.Sudan&E.Africa
GAIRSOPPA	5,237	May 1	—	Madras & Calcutta

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CITY OF KARACHI ..	5,565 ..	March 26 ..	Bombay & Karachi
CITY OF LONDON ..	9,000 ..	March 31 ..	Bombay & Karachi
CITY OF MANCHESTER	5,551 ..	April 8 ..	Calcutta
CITY OF CALCUTTA ..	7,636 ..	April 15 ..	Bombay & Karachi
* CITY OF MARSEILLES	8,250 ..	April 22 ..	Colombo & Calcutta
CITY OF EXETER ..	9,397 ..	April 25 ..	Bombay & Karachi

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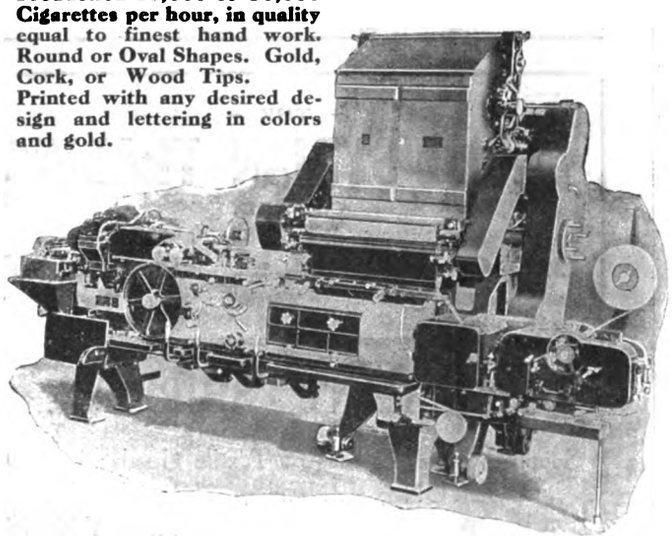

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 466.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The announcement that the Supreme Council has offered the mandate for Armenia to the League of Nations is calculated to arouse misgivings among those who look to the League to achieve some practical good in the world. Its purpose, we imagined, was to be a final court of appeal, whose judgment, if necessary, could be enforced by the combined armed forces of the nations constituting the League. At first sight, therefore, it would seem to be abrogating its high office, if it accepts a mandate and thereby places itself on a level with an individual State, by inviting comparison with the latter's exercise of a mandate elsewhere. If, for instance, the League of Nations is the mandatory for Armenia and France the mandatory for Syria, it will be inevitable that Syrians and Armenians should ultimately compare notes; the latter, if they were to consider themselves at a disadvantage, would have no court of appeal, while the Syrians could always turn to the League of Nations.

It is difficult to see how the League of Nations can perform simultaneously the functions of an executive body and a court of appeal. The object of the Supreme Council in offering the League the mandate over Armenia may be simply to divest itself of the responsibility of selecting a mandatory in the invidious position in which the defection of the United States has left it. If this should be the case, it is unfortunate that the announcement was not made in more specific terms. In some respects the Armenian mandate may prove simpler than any other. The League might consider itself justified in accepting the mandate and instructing the Armenians to "carry on"; in course of time, a number of advisers, carefully apportioned between the various Allied countries, could be drafted out to Erivan, and in the absence of actual civil war, the League might hug to itself the belief that it was doing good work. We cannot believe that any such makeshift arrangement with an international complexion is going to prove for the permanent good of Armenia. It will encourage the inevitable international intrigues that have retarded progress in the Balkans. The League can only bring mandatory States to book if it remains superior to them. For this reason it is to be hoped that the League of Nations will not allow its position to be undermined by a misreading on the part of the Supreme Council of the functions that it is called upon to exercise in the world.

The latest news from Roumania suggests that the dissolution of the Chamber has provided the best way out of a difficult situation. Political passions had been raised to fever pitch during the Acting-Premiership of M. Pop, and were not likely to be calmed by the sudden dismissal of the Cabinet and the appointment of General Averescu as Prime Minister. As the Transylvanians form the largest party in Parliament, they would naturally be critical of a Cabinet that superseded the régime of one of their own number, Dr. Vaida-Voivod. But there can be little doubt that the late Ministry, in the absence of the Prime Minister, had moved ahead of public opinion, and that the King, confronted with the necessity of an immediate decision, could not have turned to a "safer" man than General Averescu, the head of the People's Party. With the dissolution of Parliament the incentive to daily trials of party strength will be avoided, and an opportunity will be given to see how far General Averescu can command the support of all that is best in the Old Kingdom, with which the Transylvanians are anxious to co-operate for the future good government of Greater Roumania.

It is a hopeful sign that all parties in Roumania are agreed in their recognition of the services rendered to the country by Dr. Vaida-Voivod, who completely rehabilitated the Roumanian Government in the eyes of the Peace Conference and the Supreme Council; and the desire seems to be general that he should remain in charge of the Roumanian Peace Delegation until the treaty with Hungary is signed. The situation for Dr. Vaida-Voivod is naturally a difficult one; his first instinct must be to consolidate his political position at home, and if the Transylvanian party decides that a struggle for power is ahead of it, it will be reluctant to lose such a valuable asset as the late Prime Minister. Dr. Vaida-Voivod's decision must depend in large measure on the degree of finality which the treaty with Hungary has now reached. In the meantime it is to be hoped that political parties in Roumania will be able to come together in agreement over the policy of reconstruction necessary for the country. The new Cabinet has already taken some important steps in this direction. Arbitration committees have been appointed, somewhat on the lines of the Whitley Councils; and it is said that the new Minister of Finance, M. Argetoianu, is largely actuated by British economic ideals, and will abandon the more or less fanciful expedients to which the previous Cabinet proposed to resort for the purpose of additional revenue. The demobilisation of the Army, moreover, will release a large quantity of labour of which the country is in urgent need.

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Events in Cilicia offer a curious commentary upon French anxiety to include so much of the Near and Middle East within a French sphere of influence. Inability to afford the inhabitants of a country any adequate protection is not the best qualification for a mandate, and there can be little doubt that France is exposing herself to grave charges by her failure in Cilicia. Her real interests are nearer home, and clearly she has all her work cut out for her there. She has lost ground badly throughout the Near East by insisting upon Cilicia being assigned to her, and then failing to protect the Armenians. The mistake has not only encouraged the Turkish Nationalists, but will react upon the Arabs, who have been quick to realise that the present is their best opportunity for extricating themselves from French tutelage. Incidentally, the Turkish threat to Cilicia suggests the hopelessness of entrusting a mandate of any part of the East to anyone who is not prepared to support the position, if needs be, by force of arms.

Further information is needed before it will be possible to gauge the precise significance of the information received by the Allied Governments that Yugoslav forces have descended into the plains in the vicinity of the Boyana River and Scutari. When the Supreme Council offered Yugoslavia a portion of Northern Albania as compensation for any sacrifice of Yugoslav aspirations in regard to Fiume and Dalmatia, the suggestion was very rightly decried on the ground that the Yugoslav Government did not consider it a satisfactory solution to leave its own compatriots under Italian jurisdiction, and to take over in exchange unwilling Albanian subjects. It would now seem as if the Government at Belgrade had decided that, as justice is not to be enthroned in the Near East, there is no need for it to lag behind in the perpetuation of injustice. Wiser counsels, we may hope, will prevail before it is too late; but unless the Supreme Council is prepared to safeguard the integrity and independence of Albania, it will leave the Balkan Peninsula as much of a European storm-centre as it was before the war.

After a period of uncertainty by no means unusual in such cases, in Turkey as elsewhere, the Salih Pasha Cabinet has resigned, and Damad Ferid Pasha is forming a new Cabinet. It is not possible to say with any certainty whether there was any truth in the reports that an emissary was despatched to Mustapha Kemal Pasha to ascertain whether that redoubtable person would "accept" Damad Ferid as Grand Vizier, but it is at least significant that sufficient time has elapsed for inquiries of the kind to have been made and answered. In any case, it is definitely announced that a Damad Ferid Cabinet is within sight, and that it is to be supported by the Liberal Union Party. The new Grand Vizier has a very hard task before him, and if he is to have any chance of bringing Turkey through the difficulties that beset her, he will need the help not only of the best and wisest of his countrymen, but also of the Allies.

The multiplication of protests, deputations, and agitations relating to Indian affairs goes merrily on, and detached observers are beginning to ask where all the money comes from. The aggregate expenditure on these efforts is obviously increasing rapidly, but its sources are not usually disclosed, and politicians need not wonder if ignorance breeds suspicion. Already we hear hints of a "hidden hand" behind this movement or that—of Turkish gold (if the Turks have any gold left), of strikes promoted by competing capitalists, of reactionaries financing extremists in order to defeat moderate reforms; and, India being what it is, we must expect such innuendoes to become regular features of its politics, unless the antiseptic of publicity can be vigorously applied. The various political organisations could, of course, establish their reputations by the simple process of publishing full accounts, guaranteed by independent audit, and showing the names of subscribers in detail, but they are not likely to take this step without some external pressure, and we are decidedly of opinion that it is a case where the Government should take the lead.

A suitable opportunity presents itself in the Illegal Practices Act, which the Government is bound to pass this year. If that Act should provide for publicity of all campaign accounts, every candidate in the elections would be able to know the real forces against which he would have to fight, and the whole standard of politics would thereby be raised. It is a thoroughly democratic measure; it has been adopted with excellent results in the United States, it is now being clamoured for in Canada, and it is only the opposition of the old party machines which has hitherto prevented its adoption in Great Britain. That fact should serve as a warning of the dangers of delay. If India starts on her new career with a régime of secrecy, the attendant evils will flourish in a fertile soil, and purification will become more and more difficult as time goes on. She has now a chance of going into politics with clean hands, and employing from the outset the one great antiseptic which Western democracies have learned by bitter experience to be indispensable.

The return of the leave season in India is again marked by bitter complaints of the impossibility of securing passages home, but happily there are signs that things are returning, however slowly, to the normal. For one thing, the passage difficulty on this side has already become seasonal instead of chronic; the waiting list has almost disappeared, and in the coming slack season passengers should be able to get a berth about the time they want it, though there is certain to be pressure next autumn, as, indeed, was usual in the autumns before the war. Again, there is the long-delayed advent of the big "N" liners of the P. and O., two of which are advertised to sail this month, while the surviving "M's" are getting back to regular work. Size and design count in this business, and the large ship built primarily for passengers is worth more than a number of cargo-boats pressed temporarily into the service.

The Royal Asiatic Society is now definitely installed in its new house at 74, Grosvenor Street, which was opened last week with a reception given by the President and Council. Some of the older members are doubtless conscious of a feeling of sentimental regret for the familiar rooms in Albemarle Street, but there can be no question of the substantial advantages of the change. There is room now for serious work as well as for those social amenities by which serious work may be so effectively promoted; the library is accessible, the pictures can be seen, and even a cursory inspection shows that there are good grounds for the hope expressed in the last number of the society's Journal—that in its new surroundings the society, which is now approaching its hundredth anniversary, may be looked upon as the natural centre of Oriental studies and Oriental interests in London. We hear, too, that the Council is considering various practical schemes for bringing workers in particular branches of study into closer contact than has hitherto been possible, and, whatever steps may be taken in this direction, there is no doubt that the society is very much alive.

Of course, there is a skeleton in the cupboard of the new house. The society, like most of its members, depends on what facetious economists describe as a fixed income; in other words, an income whose purchasing power grows steadily less; and in spite of a long period of conservative finance, it has very little to spend on new developments, such as are urgently demanded by the rapid increase in our knowledge of the past. It lives almost wholly on subscriptions, and a large influx of new members would enable it to carry out many useful schemes which are at present impracticable. Here is an opening for the large number of men who are interested in Asia; many of them cannot hope to offer direct contributions to knowledge, but by joining the society they can help to supplement the resources on which the workers are dependent, and thus take a part in unfolding the story of that wonderful past which, apart from its intrinsic interest, has such an important bearing on the practical problems of the immediate future.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

Home Rule.

The three days' Home Rule debate was excellent in manner and style, and most of the speeches were on a consistently high level. Mr. Clynes opposed the Bill for Labour; his contribution was marked by its usual quiet power, but its effectiveness was a little hampered by the consciousness that he had no alternative scheme, or, at least, would not agree to the Sinn Fein alternative of separation. His nominal leader, Mr. Adamson, was less happy; but the real failure in Opposition was Mr. Asquith, whose long speech was not unfairly summarised by Mr. Lloyd George as "ponderous futility." The Liberal leaders are now fighting each other with the gloves off, to the vast amusement of the public.

Sir Edward Carson was sombrely powerful; he is still opposed to Home Rule, but Ulster will do her best to make a Parliament she does not want a success; Mr. Devlin, one of the few Nationalists left in the House, was extraordinarily witty, and his description of Lord Robert Cecil as a man "with one foot in the Middle Ages and the other in the League of Nations" will long be remembered. The Prime Minister was buoyant, pernaps a shade too buoyant, for so serious a subject the approaching holidays and the certainty of a large majority for the second reading seemed a little to affect his manner.

The division was as paradoxical as anything Irish has ever been. The minority—less than a hundred all told—was made up of Labour and Independent Liberals; the majority of Coalition Liberals and—Unionists! The Ulstermen abstained. Not a single Irish vote was cast in favour of an Irish Home Rule Bill.

It is improbable that many alterations will be made in Committee. Some of the Independent Liberals, who can still never forgive Ulster for killing Mr. Asquith's 1914 Bill, are agitating for the inclusion of Ulster in a single Irish Parliament; but these people seem nowadays to have imitated the Bourbons in their refusal to learn from experience, and the suggestion is quite hopeless. Whether the Bill will work when passed is another matter. The prediction has already been made that Ulster, which does not want a Parliament, will make a success of her legislation; while Southern Ireland, which does want a Parliament, will refuse to work the system. If that were so, it would add another tragical paradox to the Irish question, but we need not assume that matters will be pushed so far as that until there is proof.

The Revenue.

When Parliament reassembles after Easter the first important business will be the Budget. The revenue has surpassed all expectations, and some items—particularly Stamp Duties, the results of business activity and transfer of property—have surpassed all expectation. But so also has expenditure, and we are likely to hear much criticism of the Government for not having made further reductions. Unfortunately for the consistency of the critics, those who are loudest in condemning the extravagance of the Treasury are precisely those who are foremost in pressing claims for increased expenditure.

Rising Rates.

Many years ago Mr. Sidney Webb predicted the day would come when rates would rise to the figure of twenty shillings in the pound. The prophecy was laughed at, but it has come true in one quarter of London. Poplar now levies a quarterly rate of five shillings in the pound. A tabulated statement published this week shows that in the fourteen London boroughs where Labour is in a majority the rates have risen on an average by eighteenpence in the pound, as compared with an average increase of a shilling in the pound in boroughs which prefer what is called the Municipal Reform party. At the same time, it must be remembered that in the boroughs where Labour rules the ratable value is usually lower than elsewhere, and therefore the rates are to that extent higher.

Higher Tram Fares.

There was some disquietude at the threat of a tram and omnibus strike at Easter; but the concession of a five-shilling a week increase restored peace, or at least the appearance of it. As both trams and omnibuse are already run at a loss, this additional increase necessarily means higher fares all round, which again means an increase in the cost of living, and a further demand for more wages—in other words, the Labour dog is again trying to catch his own tail, while the middle-class dog has lost his tail altogether. The process, however, is nowhere near the end, for the increase in the price of bread, which becomes due in a few days, will precipitate a fresh series of crises.

The Anti-Tobacco-nist.

An obscure organisation called the British Anti-Tobacco League, which has apparently nothing to do with the Smoke Abatement Society, has published some figures as to our consumption of what Mr. Weller called "the flagrant weed." It appears that in the United Kingdom we consume 172,256,000 lb. a year, at an expenditure of £3 17s. 6d. per head; and it is stated that out of an income of £4 15s. a week the average man spends 5s. 11d. on tobacco and 13s. 7d. on drink, or nearly 20 per cent. of his income.

But these kind of deductions are usually futile. One man smokes 4s. cigars, and runs up the average; another smokes two or three pipes a day, and even in these times a good pipeful of tobacco only costs about a penny. The cigarette-smoker should be ignored in these calculations. What he smokes is paper and hope—the hope deferred of finding some tobacco in his cigarette.

There is an American society which is agitating in the United States for the abolition of tobacco, and another for abolishing tea and coffee. I do not think this form of anti-liberty league is likely to make much progress in this country; the "Pussyfoot" people have made little headway in their campaign against alcohol, and evidence is accumulating that even in America, where they are more tolerant of intolerance than we are, prohibition has merely forced up the cost of drinking, and done little to reduce the amount. But if these prohibition societies continue to propagate, somebody will have to start a new "Life and Liberty" movement for the ordinary citizen.

The Criminal Insanity Problem.

The murderer Holt, a man who shot his mistress last Christmas, is to be executed in a few days. The case is of no particular public interest, apart from Sir Marshall Hall's gallant attempt on the prisoner's behalf to obtain in the Court of Criminal Appeal a revision of the law

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relating to the responsibility of criminal insane persons. The murderer persuaded the woman to insure her life for a large sum, and to make a will in his favour; a few days later he took her life. The plan and its execution are to the ordinary man evidence of deliberate planning which, however immoral, are not necessarily insanity; but the prisoner's counsel raised the point that Holt had suffered from venereal disease, which frequently leads to insanity. In this particular case certain medical evidence was called, but it did not appear to be conclusive, and the plea was put forward that the insanity suddenly became active on the day of the murder. In that event it is, of course, difficult to bring the previous preparations within the category of insanity, and the Court dismissed the plea. There was no public sympathy with the criminal.

Government Changes.

The Cabinet changes have disappointed the party critics, who wanted wholesale reconstruction as a tacit admission that the Ministry found itself in difficulties, and a whole series of by-elections as an opportunity of snatching one or two seats. There will only be one by-election, caused by Sir Hamar Greenwood succeeding Mr. Ian Macpherson as Irish Secretary, and this seat is by general admission impregnable.

Sir Hamar Greenwood's promotion has been very rapid. He has not been in the House ten years, and has only been a minor member of the Ministry for a year, but now he is promoted to one of its most important posts. He is a Canadian with courage and confidence, and a good companion; he is generally popular except among those who envy his success. As he is a barrister by profession, the campaign against lawyer-politicians does not seem to have proved very successful.

Sir L. Worthington-Evans, who becomes Minister without portfolio—an innovation that appears likely to become permanent—is also a lawyer, but of the other branch of the profession. He is sound rather than brilliant, one of those men who never advertise, but whom everybody trusts and who slowly builds up a great reputation. He is still in the early fifties, and by the time he is sixty he will certainly be in the House of Lords. Even his political opponents find it difficult to say anything against him.

An Easter Disappointment.

Easter as a whole was a disappointment to the holiday-makers, and a typical example of the uncertainty of our climate. After a marvellously mild winter, March was as warm and sunny as the average June, and everybody arranged to go away to the seaside. The Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Easter were gloriously hot, and the weather looked settled for months, but Thursday was cold and cloudy, on Good Friday it rained, and Saturday brought hail, snow, thunder and lightning. Those spiritualists who have recently revived the theory of demoniacal possession should turn their attention to the Clerk of the Weather as a possible example of their hypothesis.

County Cricket.

The arrangements for the county cricket season, which starts on the first of May, are now complete. Last summer was practically a "trial over," and it was not very satisfactory, the two-day matches in particular proving an unfortunate innovation. Those who desired to hustle cricket are now convinced they were wrong, and we are to return to the three-day system, and more or less to the old method of scoring. Matches will, however, begin on Saturdays and Wednesdays, instead of Mondays and Thursdays, on account of the gate-money—a very necessary consideration in these days of high expenses. Most of the county clubs are financed on a very small basis.

It is difficult to say anything about the prospects of the play. Surrey, as champions, have apparently much the same team, but there is some difficulty about their amateurs playing regularly—in fact, there are very few amateurs who can now afford to play right through a season. The same difficulty faces most of the clubs. Yorkshire, who have never quite recovered their old form in the great days of Lord Hawke, twenty years ago, are understood to have made great preparations to regain the championship, but they are not the irresistible side they were. Sussex are the most ambitious, being the only county which has arranged out-and-home matches with all the other first-class counties and the two Universities—a very full calendar which will keep them continuously occupied from May till September.

The latter team intend to spread their matches. In the old days Brighton was the scene of most of their home engagements; this year they will play at Hastings, Eastbourne, and elsewhere. This is a sound method, as it spreads an interest in the doings of a county; but the Hastings ground, which many remember on account of the September week, with its North v. South fixture, is not always popular; and the Saffrons at Eastbourne, one of the most beautiful playing fields in the country, is a little difficult. It is inalienably associated in my mind with a match in which I saw a hit for eight run out, and four successive sixes in an over, one of which smashed a pile of plates in the Pavilion with a resounding smash.

Books of the Week.

At Easter the publishers refrain from inflicting new books on a long-suffering world, the heavier shelves at the booksellers are deserted, and the novelist comes into his own. The holiday-maker cannot do much better than put "Tatterdemalion" (Heinemann), Mrs. Galsworthy's collection of short stories, into his portmanteau, but in case he wants an alternative, "The Banner," by Hugh F. Spender (Collins) will appeal to those who like a political tone in their literary diet.

Mr. Spender made his mark in 1916 with a first novel called "The Machine," in which the business of party politics was faithfully exposed; he has improved since then, and is now rapidly coming to the front. The brother of the editor of the *Westminster Gazette*, and also of Mr. Harold Spender, who has just produced an ecstatic life of the Prime Minister, Mr. Hugh Spender evidently has writing in the blood. He has long been overshadowed by his better-known brothers, but it looks as though he would soon overshadow them.

The next two months will be a busy season in the literary world. The "Life of Kitchener" will be published in a few days; Von Kluck's "March on Paris and the Battle of the Marne" is promised; General Dunsterville's account of the "Hush, Hush Army," which occupied Baku, is announced under the title of "The Adventures of Dunsterforce." The "Life of General Maude" will shortly be ready, as will also General Willcocks's story of "The Indians in France."

Of more distinctly literary interest will be "Letters of Travel," a new Kipling book; and Mr. Percy Lubbock's "Letters of Henry James," which, with a new and complete edition of his novels which is advertised for this spring, will appeal to the select circle of readers who admire that difficult author. Personally, I am in the unhappy position of the man who said about Meredith, "If I could read him I would read him, but as I can't read him I don't read him."

OCELLUS.

DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE.

The London Zionist Organisation has received the following cablegram from Jerusalem:—Mr. Herbert Samuel has concluded his mission here, and has left for England. He has issued a statement in which he says: "The financial position is satisfactory. The economic development of Palestine depends on the solution of the political status of the country and the co-operation of all sections of the population. There are great possibilities for development, as at present the country is largely uncultivated and underpopulated. Hostility to Zionism is not deep, and is based on false ideas. There is ample room for a larger population, and the immigrants will be of the industrious and progressive type found in the Jewish colonies which have enriched the country. Zionism must recognise that the Mohammedans and the Christians are an integral and permanent element of Palestine."

LOST CORRESPONDENCE.

A number of letters which reached THE NEAR EAST offices on April 3, 5 and 6 were subsequently stolen. Correspondents whose communications ought to have reached THE NEAR EAST on one or other of these dates are asked to be kind enough to write again.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 15.

Judicial Reforms.

In connection with the scheme recently published here for the re-organisation of the Mixed Courts, my attention has been drawn to a communication made to the *Manchester Guardian* by its special correspondent recently in Egypt. This statement is in reference to the new Penal Code prepared for the Natives' Courts, and it gives a wholly inaccurate and regrettably misleading account of the manner in which that Code was drafted and presented to the community. The article in describing the procedure followed gives the impression that the Code was drafted by two or three Englishmen without consultation with qualified Egyptians or Europeans, and that in its final form it was thrown as an accomplished fact at the community at an informal meeting of a literary society. As a matter of fact, the very greatest care was taken in connection with the elaboration of this Code to obtain the collaboration of the highest Egyptian and European jurists in this country. It was studied by a special committee which submitted its views to the Capitulations Commission on which the present Prime Minister, himself an eminent judge, Adly Yeghen Pasha, the Minister of Education, Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha, the late Minister of Justice, Mr. Laloe, the Vice-President of the Mixed Court of Appeal, a French lawyer of high repute, Mr. Piola Caselli, one of the Sultania Counsellors, an eminent Italian jurist, among others had a seat, and after the general principles had been laid down it was referred for drafting to a sub-committee composed of Sarwat Pasha, Sir William Brunyate, Mr. Laloe and Judge Percival, who reported to the Capitulations Commission. The printed draft was then circulated broadcast with a request for criticism, and in order to give it further publicity, and obtain the views of the community, arrangements were made with one of the leading intellectual societies, the "Société Sultanieh d'Economie Politique, de Statistique et de Legislation," to which all the local experts belong, for the holding of conferences at which Judge Percival and one of his colleagues gave a very full explanation of the proposed Code and called for the presentation of criticisms for discussion at subsequent public meetings. These discussions would have taken place but for the outbreak of the troubles last spring, which caused the postponement of all reconstruction work.

The true facts of this case therefore show that far from wishing to thrust down the throat of the community a Code elaborated by British lawyers, those responsible for the judicial reorganisation took care to draft it in consultation with Egyptian and European experts and to call for the observations and criticism of the community itself. I call attention to this question because it is but one instance of many, where in order to bolster up their cause and arouse sympathy outside their country the extremists have gone out of their way wilfully and intentionally to mis-state facts. It is only regrettable that the representative of a usually well-informed British journal should have lent himself to the publication of such a glaring inaccuracy, and it only shows how careful special correspondents visiting a new country should be in accepting statements from one side without first ascertaining the accuracy of those statements, and what the other side of the case may be.

Russian Refugees in Egypt.

Several thousands of Russian refugees have during the past few weeks been landed in Egypt from Odessa. These wretched people have arrived here without any possessions, and in a deplorable mental and physical condition, as a result of the hardships and terrible experiences they have had to undergo at the hands of the Bolshevists. An international committee has been formed, with the object of providing for these unfortunate people, under the presidency of the Russian Minister, Mr. Alexis Smyrnow, and at its first meeting it was announced that His Highness the Sultan had generously opened the subscription list with the donation of a sum of £E500, and that the British Red Cross had contributed a like amount.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 9.

The Ministerial Crisis.

The Ministerial crisis mentioned in my last letter was solved by the nomination of Salih Pasha, who had been Minister of Marine in the former administration. While it is true that the final result of the crisis was the maintenance of the Nationalists in power, that result may nevertheless be described as a decided check to Nationalist schemes. Ali Riza Pasha's Cabinet had always been regarded as a stop-gap until the time was ripe for the formation of a Cabinet which would be more "in harmony with national aspirations," as the Unionist Press put it, and it was an open secret that it was intended that such an administration would be under the Grand Vizierate of Izzet Pasha, whether the Sultan liked it or not. Not only was the Sultan able to maintain his attitude with regard to the obnoxious Marshall, but it has since transpired that the first list of Ministers submitted by Salih Pasha was not accepted by his Majesty, and the Nationalists can claim no greater satisfaction than that of having prevented the nomination of Damad Ferid Pasha. Even that satisfaction they seem to have owed to Damad Ferid Pasha himself, for he was indeed offered the Grand Vizierate, but refused except upon condition that he was invested with powers that amounted to a dictatorship with power to suppress the Chamber, and with permission to request the military aid of the Allied Powers for the purpose of dispersing the National Forces by force. For reasons which may not be difficult to guess, his Majesty preferred to follow the line of least resistance, and nominated Salih Pasha, whose Cabinet, as finally constituted, only differs from the former by the exclusion of Ali Riza Pasha, so far as the most important offices are concerned. Nevertheless, according to the latest information, the Nationalist majority in the Chamber has decided to refuse the new Cabinet a vote of confidence, and a further crisis is expected within a week or so. This is, however, by no means certain, for the Nationalists betrayed a consciousness of the weakness of their position last week, when the possibility of Damad Ferid Pasha's becoming Grand Vizier aroused such apprehension that a number of them promptly went into hiding.

It now appears that one of the principal reasons for the resignation of Ali Riza Pasha was an Allied Note to the effect that the Nationalists in the Bozdagh area were to be ordered to retire in order that the Hellenic forces might occupy the district in question, which, be it noted, lies within the area assigned to the Hellenes by General Milne's Mission, and which had never been evacuated by the National Forces. The National Forces refused point blank to obey any such order, and the Hellenes, therefore, occupied the district by force, which event made Ali Riza Pasha's position untenable.

The Censorship.

"C'est un pays de Cocaigne," remarked a French friend of mine with regard to Turkey, and certainly there is nothing more absurd and futile than the Press censorship that is maintained at present in Constantinople. Extracts from the Turkish Press are censored when they appear in the form of a translation in the non-Moslem papers; official announcements from the Press Bureau are sometimes entirely suppressed; paragraphs that appear one day are not allowed to be quoted the next day by another paper; and leading articles are mutilated in a manner that is utterly senseless. For all the time provincial papers published by the Nationalists and teeming with lies arrive in regular shoals from Anatolia, where Mustapha Kemal reigns supreme. European papers also arrive regularly, and may be read in any club, or purchased at any bookstall. Worst, and absurdest of all, Nationalist fly-sheets reproduced by

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duplicator machines, and containing the wildest fictions, mostly of a violently anti-British nature, are being circulated in thousands in Stamboul. The censors themselves are unable to say exactly what reasons exist for their activity, but it is certain that the censorship, as it functions at present, is of material assistance to the Nationalist agitators, and is far more of a nuisance than it is worth. Further, it is being manipulated for the purposes of certain intriguing elements who are none too scrupulous as to the means by which they seek to obtain certain advantages.

Where matters of public security are concerned, or military necessity, censorship is necessary and inevitable, but in Constantinople to-day that institution has become the instrument of unjustifiable and capricious interference with the legitimate rights of reasonable expressions of opinion. Somebody once said that Gilbert and Sullivan missed a great opportunity when they neglected to include Turkey as a background for one of their operas, but they could never have conceived anything so ridiculous as the Inter-Allied Censorship.

The Peace Treaty.

The news of recent developments of English public opinion have caused something like consternation in official circles among the Turks who have not lost all sense of the realities of the situation, but among the Nationalists the result has been merely to intensify the bitter animosity that already existed towards the British. There is not the slightest doubt that popular fanaticism has been fanned up to a point when very little more would cause it to burst into flame, as has already occurred at Marash and elsewhere. It is also certain that even if the Turkish Government is forced to sign the Treaty, it will not be ratified by the Chamber, and that careful plans have been made to resist the execution of the conditions of peace. Unless the conditions coincide with those defined by the Nationalists, which I outlined in a previous letter, the Peace Treaty will not be imposed except by force. It is an utter illusion to suppose that the Young Turks differ in this respect from their Hun tutors.

Mandates.

At one time the subject of mandates was a favourite theme for speculation, but of late very little mention has been made of the matter. The opinion seems to be gaining ground, not without a certain amount of reason, that the mandates scheme suits nobody's book, for the mandatory power would be put to considerable trouble and expense, but would not have any special privileges. Hence it is believed that there is a tendency in certain quarters to relinquish the idea of a mandate in favour of obtaining special privileges of exploitation within a certain area. There may be something in the idea, and in any case it may afford a clue to certain developments of policy otherwise inexplicable.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 15.

Salih Pasha's Cabinet.

It was not until the middle of last week that Salih Pasha succeeded in organising a Cabinet, which, however, is even now incomplete, for the new Grand Vizier himself continues to direct the Ministry of Marine. Although the new Ministry has not yet appeared before Parliament, it has been rumoured that Salih Pasha has tendered his resignation, but that the Sultan refused to accept it. These rumours were probably based upon the attitude of the Nationalist party, the Felah-i-Vatan, the Saviours of the Country, which was at first favourable to Salih Pasha, but afterwards changed its attitude on account of the exclusion of Nationalist deputies from the new Cabinet. It would seem that the Nationalists demanded that the Cabinet should include at least four of their number, one of whom was Jami Bey, member for Aidin, and founder of the Smyrna branch of the Nationalist Association. Salih Pasha was unable to agree to this demand, probably on account of objections raised by the Sultan, and the Nationalists raised the question of refusing a vote of confidence, but have been unable to come to any decision upon the subject. This hesitation is largely due to the strengthening of European public opinion against the Turks on account of the Marash massacres, one of the principal causes of which was undoubtedly the Nationalist policy of appealing to the religious sentiments of the Anatolian Moslems in order to obtain their support for the National Forces. Further, the arrival of the Atlantic Squadron, the advance of the Greeks, together with rumours of the approaching arrival of more Allied troops in Constantinople, have given rise to fears of drastic action on the part of the Allies, and the advent of Damad Ferid Pasha to power. It is common knowledge that in the latter eventuality there would be very severe measures taken to suppress the Nationalists. Hence, although a number of "die-hards" insist that a Nationalist Cabinet must be formed at all costs, in accordance with the original scheme, a small majority appear to be in favour of maintaining Salih Pasha as a screen for the continuance of the Nationalist activities. On the whole, if the Cabinet lasts long enough to appear before Parliament, it appears probable that it will receive a vote of confidence, but it is far too weak to last very long, at all events in its present form. While none of its members are seriously compromised with the Nationalists of Anatolia, none of them can be accused of any hostility towards the Nationalist movement. Hence, with the possible exception of the Sheikh-ul-Islam, whose silence on the subject of Bolshevism is not without significance, the new Cabinet consists of neutral politicians admirably adapted to the convenience of Mustapha Kemal and Co., but who must inevitably be crushed between the upper and nether mill-stones of Allied pressure and Nationalist resistance.

Parliament.

The deputies who are supposed to represent the Turkish nation seem to pass most of their time in holding secret meetings, and when there is an open sitting of the Chamber it is not always easy to obtain an accurate account of what takes place, because the Inter-Allied censorship seems to think that if the account were published in the Press, there would be a pan-Islamic riot, a Bolshevist rising in Pera, perhaps an epidemic of cholera, or something equally serious. Nevertheless, the deputies themselves are not unwilling to talk, and it is thus possible to obtain the information denied to the general public. At a recent sitting of Parliament, for instance, Raouf Bey, who is member for Sivas, made an interesting speech with regard to the districts of Kars, Ardahan, and Batum. Raouf Bey reminded the assembly that, in accordance with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, a plebiscite was held in the territory concerned which resulted in a 90 per cent. majority in favour of the re establishment of Turkish dominion. The member for Sivas went on to say that, although the Turks had been obliged, by the terms of the Armistice, to evacuate those regions, they had by no means renounced their claim to them, and hoped with all their hearts that the verdict of the population itself would be carried out.

The Peace Delegation.

For some months past a Government Commission has been busy preparing a statement of the Turkish case for submission to the Allies when the time should arrive for the conclusion of peace. Now that that moment appears to be drawing near, the formation of the Turkish delegation that will have to proceed to Europe is occupying the attention of the Sublime Porte. At present the names of three statesmen only have been mentioned as practically certain to form part of the peace delegation. Tewfik Pasha is well known in England as the Turkish Ambassador in London until 1914, and also as a capable statesman of the best school of Turkish diplomacy. Nebi Bey was Minister of Foreign Affairs for a short time in the Unionist Cabinet, while Rifaat Pasha has been Turkish Ambassador in both Paris and Berlin.

The Anglican Church and the Oecumenical Patriarchate.

The message of sympathy from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Greek Patriarch arrived on Saturday during a sitting of the Holy Synod. The proceedings were interrupted, and the message was read, making a very deep impression. Prayers and hymns were sung, and it was decided to circulate the message among the Greek churches of the whole world. Yesterday the message was read in all the Greek churches in the city after morning service.

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SYRIA.

BEYROUT, March 20.

The Damascus Government.

The new Government at Damascus can now claim to be organised on the lines of a modern constitutional Government with a Cabinet of Ministers, and a representative Chamber, although there has hardly been time for the proper election of the members. A decree has also been promulgated for the constitution of a senate, two-thirds of whose members the Emir will shortly be nominating. It is rumoured that the President of the Senate will be Abdul Rahman Pasha El Youssef, a very wealthy landowner of Kurdish origin. Orders are to be issued henceforth in the name of His Majesty King Faisal (the First).

The British Diplomatic Agent at Damascus, who had an audience of the Emir on Monday and informed him of his intention to proceed to Egypt, left on the following day.

Several rumours are afloat in connection with the Coronation. One has it that His Highness received a telegram from Paris, to the effect that the League of Nations alone has the right to appoint kings and declare the independence of new nations, and that it, therefore, hopes that His Highness will soon proceed to Paris to confer on this matter.

As to the Syrian Conference, it is said that it has required:—(1) the raising of a commemorative Independence Memorial, (2) the provisional recognition of Ottoman laws for Syria, (3) the declaration of a general amnesty on the occasion of the Proclamation of Independence. These demands have, however, been rejected on the ground that they fall within the sole province of the Government.

The Lebanese have been perturbed by the sudden turn of events in Damascus, and the political attitude of the new Government towards the Lebanon. The situation has been further complicated, though to no serious extent, by the fact that a Committee was formed in Damascus of some Lebanese political leaders, who called upon all Lebanese resident in the city to attend a general meeting for the discussion of the position of the Lebanon in relation to the new Syrian Government. Meantime, the Administrative Council of the Lebanon (the vice-president and all the members) called upon General Gouraud, and are said to have presented to him a protest against that part of the Syrian Conference's decision which seemed to affect the independence of the Lebanon. A mass meeting of Lebanese is expected to take place on Monday next at Baabda, the winter headquarters of the Lebanon Government, to define the attitude of the Lebanon towards the new development of political events in Damascus.

Administration Troubles.

Political preoccupations seem to have been diverting the attention of the Arab Government from matters of administrative detail, and public security and economic stability have thereby been suffering. The price of flour has suddenly reached unheard-of figures, and produced such an outcry among the inhabitants that the Minister of the Interior had to convene the President and members of the Municipality and of the Chamber of Commerce. One proposed the prohibition of the export of wheat, but this suggestion was fortunately rejected. Instead of prohibition, the more sensible method would be the improvement of the means of supply from the Hauran close by.

Cases of assault and robbery in the immediate neighbourhood of Damascus have been so frequent of late that the Police had at last to gird up its loins and track the gang of robbers, whose headquarters seem to have been in Damascus itself. In an engagement that lasted about four hours in Deir Kharb, Kaza of Duma, one of the police and three of the robbers were killed. Finally, one of the gang was caught on his return to their hiding-place in the city, and he is said to have confessed everything.

According to news received from Alexandretta, large numbers of people in the Arab zone near Antioch have lately been leaving their homes and fleeing to the hills or to Antioch itself owing to the renewed activity of the many rebel bands. Some passengers proceeding by carriage from Alexandretta to Antioch heard rifle shots outside, and gun shots from inside the town, and learned from the fugitives that robber bands have been committing repeated aggressions, and that the military authorities were inflicting severe punishment on them. The despatch of a further force to Antioch is expected to restore order soon.

Developments at Alexandretta.

It is interesting to learn that the authorities at Alexandretta are now extending the wooden jetty from the Custom House 300 metres further seaward, so that the steamers that are expected to bring heavy loads destined for the construction of the harbour may discharge without difficulty or undue delay.

It is also satisfactory to learn that the repair of the Akiesh Bridge, which was slightly damaged by the Turkish rebel bands, will not take very long. This bridge lies south-east of Alexandretta, between Tubruk Kelat and Aintab, and is the longest on the Angora-Aleppo line. It is 90 metres long and rests on twelve arches, and it took the Germans over a year to build, in spite of the many labour battalions they had at their disposal. During the war the Turks kept armed detachments to guard it, and installed anti-aircraft guns in anticipation of air attacks. The parts of the permanent way that the Turks had destroyed are now repaired, and it is expected that the trains will run between Aleppo and Adana before the end of this month.

Another interesting item of news from Alexandretta is that the first administrative Governor appointed for the Alexandretta district after the occupation, who during his tenure of office had opportunities for studying the economic possibilities of the place, and who had since left for France, has returned as the head of a development company with a capital of thirty million francs, in which some merchants and financiers of Beyrout are said to be interested. The director of the said company is said to be now in negotiation with the Government for certain concessions, among which are the filling up of the marshy land west of the town and the erection on it of up-to-date buildings, and the lighting of the town by electricity to be generated by the abundant waters that flow at the head of the town.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, March 13.

The Deputation.

According to a decision arrived at during a meeting of the members of Council and leaders of the community, the members of the delegation, with the Archbishop Kyrillos, are to return to Paris and London, leaving Cyprus on March 16. The Greek Press urges the great importance of the mission, which will resume its advocacy of the petition for union with Greece. The *Voice of Cyprus* strongly recommends that all the members should take part. The papers are jubilant over the prospect of Greek union for Thrace and "Ionia."

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Fear of Floods.

The Pedias torrent has brought down rushing volumes of water, causing great alarm at Nicosia. There was panic in some quarters lest a worse flood than that of fifteen months ago should occur, many persons staying up all night. The Nicosia paper, the *Voice of Cyprus*, urges again strongly that the Government should lose no time in carrying out protective works, by the construction of retaining walls, or by whatever measures may be decided upon.

Officials' Movements.

Mr. A. L. Stuart, puisne judge, is proceeding to England on leave.

Mr. William Greenwood, acting local commandant of police at Limassol, is retiring after long and meritorious service in the police force in Cyprus.

MALTA.

VALETTA, March 20.

A Gloomy Outlook.

Economically and commercially things are very black. Demobilisation and dockyard discharges are proceeding at a great rate, and the prices of commodities are on the rise, with the result that all branches of the population are feeling the pinch. Many people are leaving the island to seek better conditions elsewhere, and American ships carry away some of the island's strongest and sturdiest sons. The United States appear to be welcoming heartily the Maltese as emigrants, treatment which stands out in striking contrast to the Canadian refusal. To the less enlightened of the island this contrast appears to be inexplicable, and tends to develop a high appreciation of the American flag. No doubt some who touch the land of the almighty dollar will do well, but there are likely to be many cases of sad failure. It is to be hoped that those emigrating will not tend to form themselves into isolated communities. This grouping has in the past done a great deal to render our emigrants undesirable as far as some countries are concerned.

Suggested Remedies.

Many are the projects brought forward to attempt to secure equilibrium in island conditions. Perhaps one of the most feasible is that of establishing a Maltese shipbuilding industry. This subject was brought before the Council of Government by the Hon. J. Zammit. The opinion of the Government is set out in the reply of the Lieutenant-Governor; whilst approving the general idea of granting concessions, it is pointed out that the matter requires very careful handling. The Government, in answering the charge that nothing had been done by them in the past, placed the onus on the Admiralty, who used Malta as a base for building and repairing naval ships only. Nevertheless, the fact remains that in the past ships have been built, and well built, in Malta; and, with a view to supplying the surplus population with employment, every encouragement ought to be given to any suggested project of this nature. It is to be hoped that this scheme will not end in words only, as matters in Malta generally do.

Price of Gas.

The price of gas in London is, we are told, 2*s.* 6d. per thousand cubic feet; in Malta it is 11*s.* 1d., and naturally the public are clamouring to know the reason of this vast difference. The local company is a private enterprise, but it is rightly argued that it is a company in which the community is strongly interested. The Press has taken the matter up, and hard things are being said about this monopoly. The company claims a loss of 33 per cent. of the gas consumed. This, however, it is urged, is not the fault of the public, but of bad installation, and why, it is asked, should the public pay?

A Language Drawback.

The Air Commodore commanding the Mediterranean, in a letter to the Governor, speaks very highly of the Maltese carpenters who have been enlisted in the Royal Air Force, and who have been drafted to Mesopotamia and Egypt. He comments upon their proficiency and zeal as workmen, but adds that, owing to a lack of a knowledge of English, a disability is met with which will prove a serious obstacle to permanent employment in the Royal Air Force.

Foreign Squadrons.

A portion of the Japanese Training Squadron is in the harbour, and the usual "at homes" are in progress. The Vice-Admiral and officers entertained society on H.I.J.M.S. Tewika. There is also alongside the Australian destroyer Anzac. The United States Navy is also represented by several craft, but it is significant that the Grand Harbour is singularly free from British fighting craft, all having gone eastwards.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BRITISH SPHERE IN MESOPOTAMIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—As *The Times* of March 27 has, editorially, laid it down in the most dogmatic fashion that we should lose no time in reducing our prospective mandate for "Mesopotamia" to the shadowy dimensions of a farce, I shall be indebted to you if you will allow me to try to demonstrate, according to my lights, why the sweeping evacuation of that territory, which *The Times* advocates, is at the present moment unthinkable. To start with, *The Times* poses as being in agreement with Mr. Asquith's views. Now, the word "Mesopotamia," so far from having proved, as it fell from the lips of Mr. Asquith, a boon or a blessing, has been the very reverse. It was barely ten days before Sir Charles Townshend fought the most gallant, but Pyrrhic, battle of Ctesiphon, that Mr. Asquith told the House of Commons that in no theatre of the widespread war was success more assured than on the banks of the Tigris. There and then well-informed and capable ex-officials of our Eastern Empire rose up and told the House wherein our Army of the Tigris was defective, and, therefore, in peril; but neither Mr. Asquith, nor Mr. Chamberlain, nor, indeed, the House, would give heed to them. We all know what followed; and if we find to-day *The Times* patting Mr. Asquith on the back, and urging Mr. Chamberlain to denude Mesopotamia of British troops, and save the British taxpayer's pocket—well! we have very good reason for believing that *The Times* could not possibly give the nation worse advice.

Owing to the defection of the United States of America, the British Empire stands forth as the one champion of peace and order in the great Middle East. We will merely express a hope that France, Italy, and Greece will all give us their honest and ungrudging support in reducing the Turk, from the Sea of Marmora to the Taurus, to a becoming state of subordination. Let us rejoice that Mr. Lloyd George has sent away that Moslem Delegation from India with a flea in its ear. On that point at any rate *The Times* is at one with us; and for months we Anglo-Indians have been watching, with more amazement than amusement, Indian Moslems, who are neither Sunnis nor Shi'ahs, stoutly contending that the temporal power of the Sultan and the religious prestige of the Khalif are indissolubly blended, and that their only possible joint home in the eyes of Islam is Constantinople. That is a question which will in due time settle itself. Rumour hath it that President Wilson is about to interpose his volition in this matter. We will naturally ask ourselves what right the United States—who have thrown the Europe of the Allies over and have refused the mandate or mandates offered them—have to come interfering in affairs which are, consequently, now outside their sphere.

The British Empire then stands alone to accept and exercise the mandate for the great Middle East, under which term I include Afghanistan, Persia, and Armenia, along the northern front, with Mesopotamia, Arabia, Palestine, and Egypt to the south of it. I use the term "British Empire" advisedly, for I believe that our Overseas Dominions will help us in the future, should trouble arise, as in the past.

In the article on "Central Asia After the Peace," which you have been so good as to publish recently, I have urged that Britain and Afghanistan should renew friendly relations. You will remember that a month or two ago the Afghans were reported to have occupied Merv. More recently, Delhi, under date March 12, reports that the Bolshevists are attacking the Afghans at Kushk, formerly the most advanced Russian military post, sixty miles north of Herat, and connected by rail with Merv.

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The withdrawal of British troops from Badghis a year or more ago has been deplored by many; but over that spilt milk let us shed no tears. We have General Malleson, a Consul-General, and some troops at Mashhad, a railway from Nushki to Duzdab (in Persia), or even beyond, and a motor-road from Duzdab through Birjand and Kain to Mashhad. We can place troops in the north-east angle of Persia, threatening the Trans-Caspian railway between Dushakh and Merv, and flanking a Russian advance on Herat, if we think fit.

However, I have taken up my pen now to show that Mesopotamia is at present needed by the British Empire as a base from which to fulfil the mandate which, as Mr. Lloyd George said, Britain will claim when the Treaty of Peace with Turkey has been finally decided. Friendly relations between Britain and Afghanistan will certainly simplify the fulfilment of this mandate, but for all purposes of co-operation against Bolshevism India and the Persian Gulf, and not Mesopotamia, are the bases from which Britain would act in alliance with Afghanistan. Mesopotamia is the base which gives us access to Persia, the Caspian, the Caucasus, Kurdistan, and Armenia, and whence we can support France in the obviously arduous task that awaits her in Syria and Cilicia. That Britain and France stand shoulder to shoulder in the settlement of Europe and Asia is a pact as yet unshaken, however other Powers may fall off.

It has very recently been well pointed out that now is the time for Persia to re-establish her rights of navigation and of maintenance of naval power on the Caspian, which Russia forced her to renounce after the treaty of Turcoman-Chai in 1828; and, as the Black Sea is at this moment dominated by the British and French fleets, the maintenance of communication across the Caucasus between the Black Sea and the Caspian is of vital importance. To ensure this an alliance between Persia, Armenia, Georgia, and the Tartar Republic of Azerbaijan is needed. The wisest of us cannot foresee the issue of events in the Caucasus, but it would seem to be quite certain that if the Asquithian abandonment of the province of Mosul, which *The Times* advocates, is carried out, the three Republics of the Caucasus, whose alliance with Persia we desire, will be forced to make terms with Bolshevist Russia. Supported as they can be by British troops operating from Quetta by the Nushki railway, and from Baghdad by the Khanikin-Hamadan route, and by naval power on the Caspian organised from the Black Sea, it rests with the Persians to mobilise their troops and guard their northern frontier from Sarakhs to Tabriz.

The British troops in the provinces of Mosul and of Baghdad strengthen that line of defence from Batoum across the Caucasus to Baku, which we aim at maintaining; they equally dominate the Kurd on the one side and the Turk on the other, and afford at least some protection to the Christian (Nestorian, Chaldean, or Armenian) communities which since 1914 have been so frequently the victims of Moslem intolerance. We have heard of battalions of these Christian peoples doing good service during the war, and, under our auspices at Mosul, the same good service may be repeated now.

When we turn our eyes westward and south-westward from the conveniently central position which we occupy at and around Mosul, the reflection can scarcely fail to generate in our minds that that position forms a good solid backing to the French in Syria and Cilicia. One of the most essential points which has to be provided for in the coming settlement of eastern Asia Minor is fair access for the various antagonistic races and communities to the ports of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. That is a problem which presents as many thorny points as does that of the eastern coast of the Adriatic. That the naval and military power of Britain should be brought forcibly to bear on its settlement both from the sea and land side is most advisable, and our presence in the province of Mosul adds to that power.

We may well ask those who advocate an entire withdrawal from Mesopotamia and Arabia to look back upon the very remarkable events and achievements of the past six years, and then ask themselves why the fruits of those six years is to be abandoned. Our civil administration of Mesopotamia is as yet in its infancy, and yet we know that municipal reform, agriculture, transport, commerce, and engineering have made important strides in advance. If we abandon Baghdad, what becomes of the railway from Kasr-i-Shirin to Teheran and to Enzeli on the Caspian? Is an Arab Government competent to promote that? Ever since the Armistice the aeronauts of Europe have been showing of what value Egypt and Arabia are as central stations on the air routes from Europe to India, Australia, Japan, the Dutch Indies, and South Africa. Is the development of such stations to be abandoned to the as yet imperfectly tutored Arab?

This is but the imperfect effort of one who has never visited either Arabia or Mesopotamia to protest against the policy which *The Times* has attempted to justify. Two distinguished authorities on Arabia, Commander D. J. Hogarth and Mr. H. St. J. Philby, are at an early date to address the Royal Geographical Society on their experiences, and I can hardly conceive that they will endorse the views of *The Times*; and, further, having heard Captain Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., address the Central Asian Society, in February last, on "The Proposed New Department for Dealing with British Interests and Responsibilities in the Near East," I am still less disposed to think that he will show any sympathy with the suggestion that the early abandonment of almost the whole of Mesopotamia will benefit the British Empire. The difficulties and dangers of the problem in the Middle and Near East which faces our Empire have month by month been growing more and more apparent; and it is bitter to reflect that the race which declines to stand by us at this juncture is the other great branch of the Anglo-Saxon race. The only "blood," the consistency of which seems to have survived the crossing of the Atlantic, is the Irish.

The Times endorses the assertion of Mr. Asquith that, if we maintain our hold on the vilayet of Mosul, "we shall sooner or later be driven to advance to the shores of the Black Sea, or even to the Caspian." *The Times* refrains from any attempt to depict the chaos and the appalling scenes of massacre and misery which may take place if we fail so to strengthen the governments of Afghanistan and Persia, and of the three new Republics of the Caucasus, that they may constitute a barrier from the Upper Oxus to the Black Sea against Bolshevist Russia. If it lies in our power, it is our duty to save Denikin from the fate of Koltchak. We trust that our naval forces in the Black Sea, acting in co-operation with the Caucasus Republics, may stem the Bolshevist advance at the great Caucasus range. To that end the Batoum-Baku railway route must be open, and Persia must, under our guidance, organise such naval forces on the Caspian as will sink or expel any Bolshevist fleet that may issue from the Volga. The telegrams, respectively from Baghdad and Teheran, which *The Times* of January 15 and February 16 publishes from its own correspondents, distinctly advocate the maintenance of this northern frontier line from the Black Sea across the Caucasus and the Caspian to the Perso-Afghan frontier. If the reported attack by Bolshevists on the Afghans at Kushk is true, there is an opening for such a co-operation of British, Persian, and Afghan forces as would render the Bolshevic tenure and use of the Trans-Caspian railway impossible, and thus once again place Krasnovodsk in Anti-Bolshevist hands. This would fairly well paralyse Trans-Caspian Bolshevism and possibly encourage the Turcoman and Khiva and Bokhara to throw off the Bolshevic yoke.

Finally, when our Prime Minister demurs to abandoning "some of the richest natural resources of any country in the world," *The Times* confronts its readers with the absurd gibe:—"The moon contains riches also, but the difficulty is to tap them." *The Times* must have studied to little effect the great history of British commercial and maritime adventure and enterprise, if it thinks to persuade its fellow-countrymen that the art of tapping riches is in the twentieth century lost to them. If we ever reap the just reward of all that we have done for the well-being of the Near and Middle East, we shall both tap those riches, place the Christian communities of Armenia and Kurdistan in a strong and safe position, throw open the ports of the Black Sea to the Persian and the Armenian, and those of the Mediterranean to those countries and peoples whose well-being and development depends on them, and thus in all respects do justice to that mandate which, as Mr. Lloyd George has said, we shall claim, when the Turk has been reduced to his proper level.—I am, etc.,

A. C. YATE.

Beckbury Hall, Shifnal,
March 28, 1920.

THE ROAR OF THE BRITISH LION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It was with great interest that I read Miss E. Blyth's "Moslem Tales," which appeared some time ago in your paper. It may interest your readers to know that the second tale—*i.e.*, the one about Haroun-al-Rashid and the pauper woman who fed her children with boiled stone water (*vide* your issue of January 9)—is not exactly a folk tale in the proper sense of the word, it being based on the record of Arab chroniclers. This pretty story has now passed into more than one Arabic school reader, and therefore really belongs to Arab literature and legend, and not folklore.

The last portion, referring to the English language as

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being considered by that good Caliph as that "of lions," must be comparatively a modern idea, as Englishmen and their speech were practically unknown in these parts of the world before the Levant Company started its operations a couple of centuries ago or thereabouts. "*English as she is spoke*" certainly did not exist in the days of old Haroun (circa 786-809). At any rate, how gratifying it must sound to the patriotic soul of that Anglo-Saxon who wrote as follows:—

Greek is like a lyre, sweet and clear;
Latin sounds its trumpets without fear;
Italian rings her bridal bells;
Spanish like an organ swells;
France plays her sprightly fiddles;
But English is the tongue of man!

or something like that!

When the king of animals roars, we understand that "all the Asses and all the Wee Beasties" scatter in deadly terror; but in this case one assumes, of course, that the description was meant to be a complimentary one and not hinting at any frightfulness of language. That, one is given to understand, is more in the line of the Germanic tongue.

It would be interesting to know whether this opinion—to wit, the similarity of the tongue of the lion to that of the Briton, who, by the way, generally likes to picture himself as a hefty bull-pup—is common among the Arab-speaking races of Syria and Palestine, for in that case it would not improbably be associated with Richard the Lion-Hearted, who played such a proud part in the Crusades, and whom the Arabs under Saladin knew only too well. We are told also that brave old Richard was addicted to a—er—tempestuous temper; this would still enhance his leonine reputation!

Is it not more likely, though, that the real begetter of the idea is the deep impression left upon the native mind by the recent prowess of the British arms in Palestine?

Perhaps Miss Blyth can enlighten us? In any case, we look forward to seeing some more folk tales from her pen.

I am, etc.,
THEO. MOGHABGHAB.

Famagusta, Cyprus.
March 8, 1920.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report —

PEACE TREATIES: Albania. ARMENIANS (SUPPLY OF MUNITIONS). INDIA: Homeward Passenger Traffic.—Provincial Legislative Councils.—Currency Policy.—Unemployed Officers (Pay).—Indian Army (Educational Facilities). (March 29.)

PALESTINE: Jewish Colonies. EGYPT (BRITISH PROTECTORATE). CILICIA (POSITION OF ARMENIANS). INDIA: Pensioners (Death Rate). (March 30.)

VISIONS OF GREECE.

An exhibition of paintings by M. Michel Economou was, under the above heading, recently held at the Twenty-One Gallery, Durham House Street, Adelphi. M. Economou, who is a Greek by birth, and is at present in Paris, was educated as a mining engineer, but very wisely, as these pictures prove, forsook science for art. Although in his work there are no bizarre modernism and no slavish devotion to one form or lack of form, his methods, especially his colour schemes, are quite original. In place of a classical beauty, such as one might expect from one of his nationality, there is a dignity which, though neither stark nor rugged, is elemental, and belongs directly to the seas, the cliffs, the columns, and the other things of Greece which he paints. M. Economou is a fine artist; his conceptions are always excellent, and the composition of his pictures nearly always worthy of them. For instance, in a picture which is called "Soir Athenien," in a small piece of ground on which lie broken boulders and from which grow tall trees, he has contrived perfectly to create the filmy haze of even. The old buildings of Greece, such as mills and ancient houses, he has drawn most faithfully, yet with a quite original mosaic of colour. The changing hues of the Ægean and Ionian Seas he has reproduced almost to life. But we have no space to enumerate his different merits. Suffice it to say that three pictures alone proclaim M. Economou as a new master—an "Old Church," which is beautiful in the grey detail of its cloistered gloom; the "Acropolis—Twilight," which is the most arresting picture of the exhibition; and "Mount Rodini at Delphos," where from violet masses of hills the painter has achieved a fine result. This exhibition was one of the most interesting we have seen for a long time, and its merits will we imagine, be universally recognised. For this is the supreme advantage which M. Economou enjoys: he talks in a language that all can understand, but which no one hitherto has expressed.

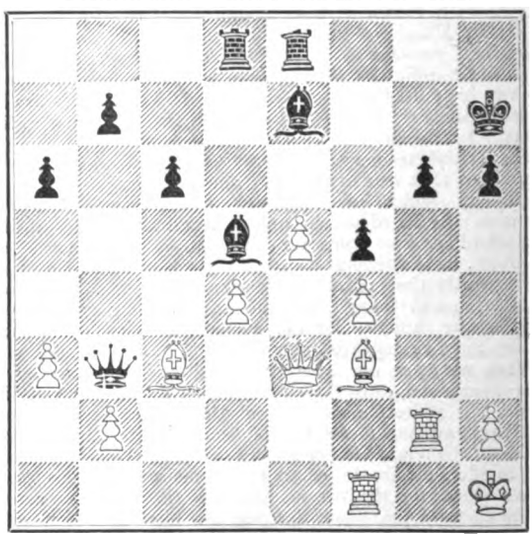
CHESS.

Mr. E. G. Sergeant won his unfinished game with Mr. R. C. J. Walker in the City of London Club championship, but the competition is not yet over, as both Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. R. C. J. Walker have to play Mr. W. Winter. Sir G. A. Thomas's score is 8 out of 10, while Mr. Walker's score is 7, and I think we may assume that the former player will once again win this event. He has already, it may be noted, won the Hampstead Club championship, in which his opponents included Mr. R. C. Griffith, a former holder of the English championship.

In the championship tournament of the Metropolitan Chess Club Sir G. A. Thomas has brought his score up to 8½ out of 10, as against Mr. E. E. Colman's 9 out of 11, and it seems very probable that he will achieve the record of winning the three premier London competitions in one season. In his latest game in this tournament, which is given below, it will be noted that he adopted a variation of the Fianchetto Defence to the Ruy Lopez.

1. P—K4, P—K4; 2. Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3. B—Kt5, P—QR3; 4. B—R4, P—Q3; 5. P—Q4, B—Q2; 6. P—B3, P—KKt3; 7. Kt—Q2, B—Kt 2; 8. Kt—B (1), Kt—K2; 9. Kt—K3, 0—0; 10. 0—0, P—R3; 11. P x P (2), P x P; 12. Kt—R4 (3), Kt—B; 13. P—KKt3 (4), Kt—Q3; 14. B—B2, Kt—K2; 15. P—KB4 (5), P x P; 16. P x P, Kt—B3; 17. Kt—B3 (6), B—R6; 18. R—B2, Q—B; 19. B—Q2, Q—K3; 20. P—K5 (7), Kt—B5; 21. Q—K2 (8), Kt x Kt; 22. Q x Kt, QR—Q; 23. K—R, B—B4; 24. B—Kt3, Q—K2; 25. Kt—Q4, Kt x Kt; 26. P x Kt, B—K3; 27. B—B2, Q—Q2; 28. B—B3, R—K; 29. P—QR3, K—R2; 30. QR—KB, B—B4 (9); 31. B—K4, B—B; 32. B—R3, P—QB3; 33. R—Q, Q—K3; 34. R(B²)—Q2. Q—B5; 35. B—K2, Q—Kt6; 36. B—B3, B—K3; 37. R—KB, B—K2; 38. B—K4, P—B4; 39. B—B3, B—Q4; 40. R—Kt2 (10).

Position after White's 40th move R—Kt2.



40. ...R—KKt; 41. R(KB)—KKt (10), B x B; 42. Q x B, R x P; 43. R x. P (11), R x R; 44. R x R, K x R; 45. Q—Kt2 (ch), K—B2; 46. B x R, Q—Q8 (ch); 47. B—Kt, B—B4; 48. P—K6 (ch), K—B; 49. P—K7 (ch), B x P and wins.

(1) A device which is coming into increasing favour, as it is now held to be better to keep the rook on the square to which it goes by castling on the ground that its real utility is to support the advance of the K.B.P. When castling precedes the Kt manœuvre the rook, of course, goes to K square.

(2) This exchange of pawns serves to hinder any attempt on Black's part to advance by P—KB4.

(3) As it turned out, this move achieved nothing except the weakening of White's position. Kt—K would, however, have been little better, and would, indeed, probably have been regarded by Black as an invitation to play P—B4.

(4) The alternative to withdraw the Knight to B3 would have been unthinkable.

(5) Probably it would have been better to play Kt—Kt2 first.

(6) Q—K followed by Q—Kt3 and P—K5 looks tempting. The text move is simply defensive, and enables Black to open his game somewhat.

(7) There was no alternative to this awkward move, which, however, proves stronger than it looks.

(8) If B—Kt3, Kt x Kt; 22. B x Kt (not B x Q, which loses the exchange), Q—B4 or K2; 23. Q—K2 with an open game.

(9) Forced, for Black could not permit P—B5.

(10) A fatal oversight. B x B should have been played when White would have had nothing the worse of the game.

(11) White wins the pawn back, but only temporarily.

CARO-KANN.

Several functions attended by women only have recently taken place at Baghdad in connection with medical and educational institutions. There was notable cordiality and willingness, says *The Times*, to co-operate actively with the administration in these and other directions, particularly amongst Mohammedan women of good family who were present.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"Time and the Turk."

Some of the very thorny questions surrounding the Turkish problem of to-day are discussed by the *Morning Post* (March 31) in a leading article with the above heading. We quote from the latter portion of the article, in which the relations of the Arabs with their French and British allies are touched upon:—

Mr. Lloyd George has made it perfectly clear that Great Britain has no intention of withdrawing from Mosul, much less from Baghdad, and has refused to accept the suggestion entertained in some Arab circles and supported by Mr. Asquith that we should confine our direct obligation to the Basra zone. That is all to the good, and there should not be much difficulty in reconciling our interests in Mesopotamia with the legitimate ambitions and rights of the Arabs. But the problem of Syria is much more serious, as the information which we publish to-day concerning the Emir Feisul's proposals to the French makes evident. Claims which demand the withdrawal of France from Beyrout and the whole Syrian littoral will obviously involve anxious and prolonged negotiations between the Syrians and the Quai d'Orsay. For that reason we hope that the Allies will ask Turkey to disinterest herself at once of the whole future of Arabia and leave the constitution of these former portions of the Ottoman Empire to be settled among themselves. . . . And what applies to the German applies even more to the Turk. In the East a day's delay may mean the turmoil of a century. Warnings there soon lose their potency, and hesitation gives rebellion its chance. Therefore let us give the Sultan with all speed the Allied terms, and let us tell him at the same time that the settlement of Arabia and Armenia is not his business, and will be arranged among the Allies. Having done that, let us then do what we can to give the Turk a chance for developing his many sterling qualities to the good of himself and the world at large.

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Constantinople and Anatolia.

Mr. H. Charles Woods, in reviewing generally the Turkish Treaty in the *Fortnightly Review* of April, puts forward what he deems an additional argument in favour of the maintenance of the Sultan at Constantinople. He says:—

I venture to think that the scene of primary importance has now been transferred from the Bosphorus to the interior of Anatolia, and that although Mustapha Kemal may be glad of support from the Central Government, his movements and actions can be no more controlled by that body than could those of the Salonica Section of the Committee of Union and Progress be regulated from Stamboul for several years after the re-establishment of the Constitution. If this be the case, it is safe to assume, whereas some months, or even weeks, ago a material influence might have been brought to bear upon the general situation by Allied pressure in the capital, and whereas such pressure may still prevent communications between that city and the Nationalist headquarters, that for to-day, and certainly for the future, the Ottoman Government is practically powerless to act against this new and dominating force—a force which at any moment may join hands, if it has not already joined hands, with those sections of the Arabs who are far from contented with the attitude of the Peace Conference, and particularly with the suggested French domination in Syria. However this may be, too, it would seem that Allied control, which should have been both real and practical at Constantinople for months, does not recently appear to have achieved any amelioration of the situation in the interior. This proves to my mind that in the interests of the local inhabitants, as well as of the Allies, it would have been better to decide, immediately after the Armistice, to maintain the Sultan at Constantinople and to support any authoritative and non-Committee form of Government which could be established there. The adoption of that course would probably have prevented the development of a situation in which the Supreme Council may be placed in the position of employing the Greek forces at Smyrna for the purpose of dealing with Mustapha Kemal—a course which would correspond to the writing of "Alice in Wonderland" in blood—of undertaking extensive and costly Allied operations in Asiatic Turkey, or of risking the tearing up of the Treaty and the obliteration of the Armenian and other non-Turkish peoples during a discussion of terms with Ottoman Ministers, who have no force behind them.

The Moslem Claims.

The *Outlook* of March 27, in dealing with the claims made by the Indian Caliphate Delegation, points out that the Moslem religion is in no wise hurt by the proposed partition of the Ottoman Empire. In addition, it states that we have duties to many peoples besides the Mohammedans of India.

We and our Allies have duties to perform to Europe as well as to Asia. For geographical reasons, the Turkish question is more a European, and even more a world, problem than it is an Asiatic problem. India is less affected by the Turkish hold on important lines of communications than is any European Power, or, for that matter, the United States of America. The Turk may stay at Constantinople, but he must not control the Straits, and, wherever his boundaries may be fixed, he must not be in a position to threaten the Suez Canal or to dominate the Red Sea. These important waterways have a special interest to the British Empire, but they are in a sense the property of the whole world, and for the sake of the world they must be adequately protected. The Turk is not judged as a Mohammedan, but as a bad and inefficient ruler, as a nuisance to his neighbours, and an oppressor of subject races. In the task of governing the territories which will be left to him his capacities will be taxed to the utmost. It would be doing him no favour to allow him to undertake again responsibilities in which he has calamitously failed, or to put in his path temptations to go astray once more with some adventurous Power.

Montenegro.

Special pleading is writ large over an article in the *New Europe*, by Mr. R. W. Seton-Watson, on the Montenegrin question. "For some time past," it begins, "there has been a systematic campaign in this country in favour of the ex-King Nicholas of Montenegro." Other observers might be inclined to challenge this statement on the ground that the movement to which Mr. Seton-Watson refers is in favour of fair play for the Montenegrin people as a whole, to whom should be left the decision whether Nicholas of Montenegro is King or ex-King. In the interest of strict accuracy the assertion that the Montenegrins are to the Yugoslavs what Cornishmen are to England cannot be passed unchallenged, for the reason that Cornishmen have not maintained five centuries of independence under their own rulers while the rest of England was under the heel of an invader. The crux of the problem is not the villainy or sainthness of this or that Montenegrin, but whether any non-Montenegrin, be he Scottish or Continental, has the right to dictate to our Montenegrin allies how they should arrange their internal affairs. In regard to the position in Montenegro to-day much turns on the legality of the Podgoritza Assembly, by which the King was "deposed." On this point Mr. Seton-Watson writes:—

"It would be absurd to suppose that no irregularities of any kind took place, but these elections are known to have compared favourably with any previous elections under the régime of King Nicholas."

Fortunately, Great Britain was not required to adjudicate upon the results accruing from the other elections to which reference is made, but she is within her rights in noting the irregularities of the Podgoritza Assembly and in refusing to recognise its decisions. Only in the penultimate paragraph does Mr. Seton-Watson touch upon the kernel of the Montenegrin question:—

"It has been an irony of history that while every other Balkan race has had to look for its king abroad, the Serbs have produced no less than three native dynasties—the Petrovitch, the Obrenovitch, and the Karageorgevitch. The jealousies of these three families have been one of the chief handicaps upon the development of the Yugoslavs during the past century. It took a hideous crime to rid them of the one, and they paid a just but heavy price in the disapproval and prejudices of a foreign public which knew nothing of the acute and prolonged provocation."

Precisely; and the recollection of the drawbacks arising from two rival dynasties has made some of the people determined not to run the risk of a repetition of that experience. That is where the Serb comes in. One result of an outsider espousing the cause of the end justifying the means is that what was a "hideous crime" in one case becomes a "kind fortune" in the other, because the "scandal" is not "similar." The fact is that once again "the stable is too narrow for the two horses." One has, therefore, to be sacrificed, and the means adopted will be whatever the occasion requires. But while the candid Ivan Petrovitch attributes the fate of the old horse to the defects of the stable, the *New Europe* devotes more than a third of one issue to convincing itself that the stable is perfect, and that it was solely the defects of the old horse which caused it to be spirited away by a "kind fortune" without any action on the part of the owner.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

Commander D. G. Hogarth's lecture before the Royal Geographical Society on March 29 shed light on a point that had puzzled me, as it doubtless puzzled a good many other people, for some time. How, I wondered, did it come about that the Germans belonging to the notorious "Emden" were ever able to get into Arabia? Our blockade there was always reported to be a very strict one, and a party of Germans about fifty strong could hardly be smuggled in in disguise—at least, one would suppose it would be very difficult. But Commander Hogarth explained that the party had the luck of the brave—for brave they undoubtedly were—in that they got into the Red Sea at a time when our blockade was suspended "for political reasons." So what was to me a mystery is now solved in a simple, if not quite satisfactory, fashion. But I believe that the "political reasons" referred to in this case were very sound ones, and quite above suspicion, which can hardly be said of a similar excuse advanced for a certain blockade-that-should-have-been nearer home.

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Another extremely interesting part of Commander Hogarth's lecture was that dealing with the surveying and charting of the very dangerous eastern shore of the Red Sea, which, said the lecturer, was hardly better known before the war than the shores of the Antarctic continent. This was due to the forbidding triple line of coral reefs which had kept the coast inviolate, although in sight of one of the most used waterways of the world. Our patrol officers, in spite of all the other hard work they had to do—and it *was* hard work, for the artless Arab *nókador* showed a pretty talent for blockade running at times—still found time to survey and chart these waters and this tricky bit of coast; and in future the Arab smuggler, whether of guns, hashish, or "black ivory," is likely to find his difficulties considerably increased. Personally, I can conceive of less exciting occupations than smuggling, or chasing smugglers on this coast; but the game has always had its followers; and I suppose it still will have them, even with the added difficulties.

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I have from time to time devoted some space to the subject of the Egg, especially the Egyptian Egg and the Balkanic Egg, which—as you may remember—have incurred my displeasure by their exceeding smallness. No, I will *not* gibe at the quality of these unfortunate embryonic poultry; for the hens that laid them cannot be held responsible for the delays on the road, which too often result in chemical changes ere the egg reaches our breakfast tables. But in regard to size, or lack of size, I do feel entitled to abuse the Balkan and Levantiney fowl. It was therefore with a certain satisfaction that I read a few days ago that Egyptian eggs which had reached this country are being sold at 2d. apiece. That ought to teach the degenerate Pharaonic fowl her real insignificance. Even at this season, when eggs are—or ought to be!—cheap, the British hen's production fetches from 3d. to 3½d.

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But I gather from a Belgrade correspondent that the Yugoslav hen's output fetches even less than the Egyptian's. To be accurate, in Belgrade you can just now buy six eggs for twopence, and apparently eat them without any particularly evil result. That seems to me truly humiliating, and if it were my hard lot to be transformed by some magician into a hen I should pray that I might not be compelled to live in Yugoslavia. For all that, the Gippy fowl need not get swelled head on the strength of her Yugoslav sister's misfortune. Let her mind her own business, which should be to produce *large* eggs!

***

I was intensely interested to read in the *Morning Post's* "Way of the World" column the other day that General Averescu, who lately formed a new Roumanian Cabinet, is credited by his soldiers with the possession of miraculous powers of healing. "During the war," says the writer, "scenes have been witnessed on the battlefield, when he met his soldiers, which recall the Middle Ages. Surely this is the first Prime Minister to be credited with powers hitherto assigned only to kings and saints." If Mr. Lloyd George reads the *Post*—and I shouldn't be surprised if he does, even now!—he will, I fear, be consumed by jealousy. But that is by the way. The interesting thing to me is to find the same spirit which in England is driving so many people to dabble with Spiritualism, making the Roumanian peasant turn to what we used to know as "faith healing." For I take it that it *is* the same spirit—the same craving for something "out of the common." And I for one should be at least as ready to believe in a "cure" by General Averescu as in any "spirit" called up by a professional (paid) medium.

CORSAIR.

MUSICAL NOTES.

Prior to the war the reputation of Miss Isolde Menges was wide, but it is yet higher now, for she has improved very considerably since last I heard her. It is claimed for her that her technique is quite flawless, and though this is not quite true, her finger work being sometimes a little too hard, there is no doubt at all that she is in every way one of the most accomplished violinists now in this country. In her recital at the Wigmore Hall on March 25 she included Bach's Chaconne (for violin alone). This chaconne, which is much more familiar than the sonata from which it is taken, is only for great players, and is for them a sign of triumph or a confession of failure. With Miss Menges it was a triumph all the way: nothing was missed and nothing was marred, whether in the themes or in the ornamental work. Her craftsmanship, in fact, was worthy of Bach, the most exquisite of joiners. All styles come easily to Miss Menges, for with equal facility and charm she played Brahms-Joachim, Chopin-Wilhelmj, and Debussy. She has not the richness and breadth of tone of Kreisler, Ysaye, or Sammons, but in other respects she falls little short of these masters.

The Modern Trio, who gave their third concert at the Wigmore Hall on March 24, are not yet a trio of authority. The leaping passion which burns in the violinist M. Melzak is different from the rich suavity of the 'cellist M. Mannucci, and still more different from the unruffled hardness of the pianist Mr. Krish. Individually they are all very capable players, but the admixture of them is unequal. This fact was very obvious in a Trio in G by Hurlstone, a composition in which a facile invention of melody scarcely compensated for the lack of harmonic colouring—the melodies were for the most part merely thrown from one instrument to the other, and were seldom played alike. The Trio's wisdom was at fault in playing John Ireland's Phantasie in A minor, for early Ireland is as dull as late Debussy. The thing which saved (and indeed advanced) the Trio's reputation was Dvorak's "Dumky" Trio; in this they played with a pulsing energy, and communicated their enthusiasm to the audience.

In the playing of Countess Helena Morsztyn, the Polish pianist, there is a gratifying absence of professionalism. At her recital at the Wigmore Hall on March 29 she showed a freshness which, though scarcely ever reaching individuality, never descended into rashness, and rather informed than deformed her efforts. It may be said that while her conception of orthodoxy is certainly her own "doxy," she is both near enough and far away from traditional interpretations always to hold one's interest. But I did not like her playing of Beethoven and Schumann (Les Adieux Sonata and Etudes Symphoniques); in the first it was ponderous where it should have been of a massive nature, and in the second it lacked the broad dignity that Schumann needs. It is wrong to interpret Beethoven's might by strength, and unless you give Schumann a sufficient number of pauses for breathing you have him broken-winded long before the end. Chopin Countess Morsztyn treated with great deference. It seems the fashion among modern pianists to play Chopin without that caressing warmth which such masters as Pachmann and Moiseiwitch employ, and to me it is a fashion as unholy as it is unhallowed. Countess Morsztyn's rendering of his "Berceuse" would have lulled no one to sleep, for the cradle simply didn't rock. However, in Bach, Scarlatti, and Debussy she did very well, and for such composers as these she would always be worth hearing. Her playing is never less than cultured, and her mistakes are those of judgment, not of taste

The solid food which Mr. Arthur Shattuck, an American pianist, served up at his recital at the Æolian Hall on March 31 was quite indigestible; but the trifles and the slightly more substantial food were delicious. Among the last were Glazounoff's "Prelude and Fugue," Debussy's "Reflets dans l'eau," D'Albert's "Scherzo," and Rebikoff's "Three Silhouettes," which, in spite of all their popularity, still retain their charm. These things Mr. Shattuck played with precise daintiness, and it is through such things, I presume, that he has made his reputation. In bigger things by Brahms and Tschaikowsky he was not nearly so good; and the famous Liszt-Busoni Polonaise sounded as if it had been written by Chopin—Saint-Saens. The Tschaikowsky Sonata which he played should never be inflicted upon an audience: it is a work of outrageous length, with hideously frequent repetitions. And its paucity of ideas is equalled only by the effrontery with which it prefers them. Generally speaking, Tschaikowsky's piano music should, in the interests both of a great composer and of public sanity, be kept as quiet as possible. It was Rebikoff's "Three Silhouettes" alone that gained Mr. Shattuck a partial forgiveness for having planted Tschaikowsky's Sonata upon us.

ANDANTE.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

PAN-ISLAM. By G. Wyman Bury. (Macmillan and Co. 6s. net.)

CROSS AND CRESCENT.

Mr. Bury's book appears at an opportune moment, when Europe and, to a less degree, America are keenly interested in certain developments in the Moslem world, and when a number of Moslems are quite clearly bent on presenting the "Pan-Islamic Peril" in the most terrifying light possible. Unfortunately, it must be added, it comes also at a time when fanaticism on both sides is inclined to run riot. It is a pity that the fanatics—on both sides again!—cannot be compelled to read and re-read it, and to weigh carefully the views put forward by the author, which are supported by sound reasoning and a solid array of hard facts. The book is fair and sane, and Mr. Bury has a remarkable knowledge of his subject, acquired by personal observation of Moslems in many lands and sympathetic study of their manners, customs, and beliefs. It will prove interesting not only to those who want to know what Pan-Islam is and what bearing its potential growth may have upon the political situation in the near future, but also to others who, though possibly caring little for politico-religious developments in the Orient, like to read of the every-day life of its peoples. We get, too, many curious sidelights on the War, in which the author played a useful and frequently exciting part as an intelligence officer; and though the connection of these things with the main theme is not always quite clear, he would be a captious critic indeed who resented their inclusion in the book.

What *is* Pan-Islam? We have heard various definitions of it, but for practical purposes we like best that given by Mr. Bury in his first chapter: "It is really the practical protest of Moslems against the exploitation of their spiritual and material resources by outsiders." And then:—

Pan-Islam, as its name implies, is a movement to weld together Moslems throughout the world regardless of nationality. The ethics and ideals of Islam are more attainable to ordinary human beings than those of Christianity. . . . Islam, with its easier moral standard and frequent physical discipline of attitudes and observances connected with obligatory prayer, enters far more into the daily life of its adherents than Christianity does with us. Hence Pan-Islam is more than a spiritual movement; it is a practical, working proposition which has to be reckoned with when dealing with Moslems, even in secular matters.

Pan-Islam is no new thing—it is as old as the Hejira, and then helped to knit together Moslem Arabs against their Pagan compatriots, who were persecuting them. In the palmy days of the Abbaside Caliphate it was quiescent enough, and men of all creeds were welcomed at Baghdad for their art, learning, or handicraft when we were massacring Jews in London as part of a coronation pageant.

Mediæval Moslems never fanned the movement into flame as long as they were let alone, and even now tribes living beyond the scope of missionaries and traders prefer the Christian traveller whom they know to the Moslem stranger from the coast, whom they usually distrust. . . .

But if Pan-Islam is as old as the Hejira, it was not until quite recent times that it showed any signs of becoming dangerous, and then only because the late Abdul Hamid sought to turn it to his own purposes. And, as Mr. Bury observes, "it remained for a Christian nation to put Pan-Islam on a business footing." Germany set about the work in a characteristically methodical, painstaking way; but, on the whole, she can hardly have been satisfied with what she achieved. Are the Bolshevists and their friends likely to do any better? They may, if the situation is mishandled in the West.

Mr. Bury is of opinion that pan-Islamic activities of the last decade or two teach us that "countries which are mainly Moslem should have Moslem rulers, and that Christian rule, however enlightened and benevolent, is only permissible where Islam is outnumbered by other creeds." Lack of space forbids our attempting even to outline what he has to say in regard to the future of Syria, Mesopotamia, and Arabia in this connection, but it will repay careful study in the original.

To many readers by far the most interesting chapter in the book will be that on "Moslem and Missionary," in which the scales are held very evenly. For instance:—

Missionaries would have us judge Islam by the open improprieties and abuses which occur at Mecca, Kerbela, and other great Moslem centres. How should we like Christianity to be judged by the public behaviour of certain classes in London or other big towns?

And again:—

Tact and expediency are just as necessary in religious as in secular affairs—at least, so St. Paul has taught us; but the modern missionary is too apt to regard these qualities in Christianity as insincerity and the lack of them in Islam as fanaticism. Missionaries and their supporters will doubtless find these sayings hard, but if they will read the chapter through dispassionately they will be unable to accuse the author of unfairness or prejudice. Moreover, he provides them with an argument for the restoration of Sta. Sophia to Christendom which should surely gladden their hearts. This is summed up in the sentence: "According to the orthodox tradition of Islam, once a church always a church"; and the argument is supported by historical examples. Admirers of the Armenians may be surprised to read that:—

The more enlightened individuals of that harassed and harassing little nation admit that the Armenian character could be considerably improved, and that, though their hideous persecution is indefensibly damnable, their covetous instincts and parasitic activities are an incentive to maltreatment.

And particulars given of the activities of the Jews and certain Syrian Christians in Palestine and Syria "which did much to accentuate the appalling distress" caused by the War serve to remind us that in Turkey, at any rate, there are black sheep outside the Islamic fold as well as within it. The details given of mission work in Moslem lands, and of results achieved, are intensely interesting, if not encouraging from the mission point of view. Mr. Bury is not unfriendly to the missionaries; he recognises the self-devotion and gallantry shown by so many of them; but he questions the wisdom of attempting to proselytise among Moslems. His attitude may be made clear by three extracts from his last chapter, "A Plea for Tolerance":—

Missionaries afield are usually justified by their works; it is the aggressive policy blazoned abroad from mission headquarters which does so much mischief. Islam was never intended to overthrow Christianity, but to bring back pagan Arabs to the true worship of God. Mission policy clamours for attack on it as if it were an invention of the devil, and then complains of Moslem fanaticism. . . .

It is time some protest was lodged against this policy if only on behalf of Christian Administrations in Moslem countries, which are always being attacked by it and urged to give more facilities of spiritual aggression. . . .

There was never a less desirable movement for unchecked religious exploitation than now, when the war-worn nations of Christendom are trying to reconstruct themselves, and the world is seething with unrest and overstocked with discarded weapons of precision.

If we have emphasised one side of the book, it is because the subject dealt with is of such extreme importance at the present time; but, as we have said above, the author writes of many things besides the differences between Islam and Christianity, and he is always interesting. His criticism of the Turk, whom he likens to "a bitter wolf who will turn and rend without ruth or warning," will find an echo in many hearts to-day. His remarks on the "extraordinary and fungus-like growth of 'Arabian experts'" produced by the war will be equally appreciated, though by a smaller audience. And his stories of spies and spying, of blockade work in Arabian waters, and of the extraordinary fascination exercised by the Turk over many Egyptians, all make excellent reading. "Pan-Islam" is a book not to be missed by anybody at all interested in the Nearer Orient, and to be enjoyed by all who love adventure and have any real knowledge of Moslems and Islam.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Robin Hood and His Merry Men." By F. Gudgin. 1s. 6d.

"Hereward's Last Flight." By Charles Kingsley. 2s. (Oxford Story Readers for Serbians. Nos. 2 and 3. Oxford: Clarendon Press.)

"Australia in Palestine." (London: Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

"From an Eastern Embassy: Memoirs of London, Berlin, and the East." With illustrations. (London: Herbert Jenkins, Ltd. 16s. net.)

"The World After the War." By Charles Roden and Dorothy Frances Buxton. (London: Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 7s. 6d. net.)

"Kostes Palamas: Life Immovable." Translated by Aristides E. Phoutrides. (London: Greek Bureau of Foreign Information; and Cambridge: Harvard University Press. $2.)

"Social and Industrial Reform," Eighth edition (enlarged). By Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart. (Manchester: Sherratt and Hughes. 8s. 6d.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. April.	1920. March.		1338. Rajab.	5680. Nisan.
8	26	Thursday	19	20
9	27	Friday	20	21
10	28	Saturday.....	21	22
11	29	Sunday	22	23
12	30	Monday	23	24
13	31	Tuesday	24	25
14	April. 1	Wednesday	25	26

Lord Sinha will leave India for England on April 17.

General Nourri Pasha, the Envoy of the Emir Faisal, has arrived in London.

Mr. Herbert Samuel has concluded his mission in Palestine, and has left for England.

Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy, arrived at Bombay on March 27 on a three-day visit.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania, accompanied by M. Stefanesco, arrived on March 31 at Folkestone, where he spent Easter.

Ali-Mardan Bey Toptchibacheff, President of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, left London on April 4 for Paris.

M. Gennadius, the honorary Greek Minister, and Mme. Gennadius, who have been spending Easter at Bournemouth, returned to London on April 6.

Sir Henry and Lady McMahon have entered into occupation of 5, Wilton Place, S.W.1, which is now their permanent London address. (Telephone, Victoria 5,662.)

The Crown Prince of Roumania was expected to arrive in Bombay on April 6. During his stay, which will probably be for a month, he will visit Jeypore, Agra, Delhi, Simla, and other places.

Lady Barrymore has made a good recovery after the recent severe operation on the eye, which was completely successful. She left London on March 30 with Lord Barrymore for a short stay at Brighton.

Admiral the Hon. Sir Somerset A. Gough-Calthorpe, who has just been appointed Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, was Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean, 1917, and High Commissioner of Constantinople, 1918.

M. Gavrilovitch, the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London on April 6 for Paris. M. Gavrilovitch will be away for about two weeks, and during his absence M. Ilitch will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

The marriage arranged between Gordon Tyndall, youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Tyndall, of Glenloch, Ceylon, and Constance, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Roper, of The Shrubbery, Exeter, will shortly take place.

Princess Marie of Roumania, attended by Mme. Catargi, Lady in Waiting, left Victoria on Thursday morning for Paris. Prince Antoine Bibesco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires; Colonel Rosetti, head of the Roumanian Military Mission; and the personnel of the Legation were present at the station.

On April 13, at 4 p.m., Mr. H. St. John Bridger Philbey, C.I.E., I.C.S., will give a lecture before the Royal Asiatic Society, 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1. His paper is entitled "Notes on the History and Doctrines of the Wahabis of Central Arabia," and the lecture will be presided over by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Reay, K.T., P.C., G.C.S.I., LL.D.

Lord and Lady Byng of Vimy spent Easter with Lord and Lady Stamfordham at Windsor. They will leave London for good next Saturday and will return to Thorpe Hall. It is announced that rumours to the effect that Lord Byng intends to retire from the position of chairman of the United Services Fund are quite incorrect. He has no intention of relinquishing his connection with the fund.

Dr. Veverka, the Czecho-Slovak Chargé d'Affaires, and Mme. Veverka entertained at dinner at the Legation, 9, Grosvenor Place, on March 31, M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, M. A. de Fleuriau, Minister Plenipotentiary and Counsellor of the French Embassy; M. Gavrilovitch, Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; M. Caclamanos, Greek Minister; Prince Antoine Bibesco, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires; Sir Eyre Crowe, M. Markantonakis, M. Hodac, Mr. Leeper, Dr. Seton Watson, Mr. Wickham Steed, and M. Tillar.

OBITUARY.

Reuter's Belgrade correspondent, writing on April 3, states:—The semi-official Press Bureau announces that M. Pavlovitch, President of the Skupshtina, died at eleven o'clock this morning at his residence in Belgrade. The State funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon. The Regent has ordered that extraordinary military honours shall be paid to the deceased statesman, and the Prince himself will attend the funeral.

Mr. Eustace Kynaston Corbet, C.M.G., died on March 21 at Rock House, Boughton Monchelsea, near Maidstone, at the age of sixty-five. He became in 1885 English Secretary to the late Khedive of Egypt, a post he filled for six years, when he was appointed Judge in the Native Court of Appeal at Cairo. He was afterwards Procureur-General, and for five years Director of the Egyptian Educational Mission in England. Mr. Corbet was made a C.M.G. in 1905, and had the Grand Cordon of the Medjidieh and the Second Class Osmanieh.

The death has occurred of the Right Rev. Edgar Jacob, D.D., Bishop of St. Albans from 1903 till the end of 1919. About fifty years ago he went out to India as domestic chaplain to Dr. Milman, Bishop of Calcutta, and Metropolitan of India, but his career in that country ended in 1876, when his Bishop died at Rawal Pindi. His experiences in India left their mark on all his subsequent work.

The death is announced of Major-General Sir John George Ramsay, K.C.B. He joined the 24th Punjab Infantry in 1877, and with the corps he was present at the action of Kandahar in 1880, and took part in the Kabul-Kandahar march. He also took part in the Hazara Expedition, the North-West Frontier campaign, and the Malakand campaign. After service in China he took part in the Mohmand Expedition. He was placed on the retired list in 1912.

The death took place at his residence in North Wales on March 31, of Major-General Hugh Sutlej Gough, C.B., eldest son of the late General Sir John Gough. He served in the Navy from 1862 to 1865, and afterwards entered the Army as cornet in the 10th Royal Hussars, being promoted to field rank in 1881, Colonel in 1888, and Major-General in 1900. He was A.D.C. to the Commander-in-Chief, India, 1876-1881, and served in the Afghan War, 1878-79, the Egyptian campaign, 1884, and the Bechuanaland campaign, 1884-85, where he raised and commanded the 3rd Mounted Rifles. He was Assistant Adjutant for Cavalry at Headquarters, 1893-98, and afterwards held several important posts at home.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

President Wilson has nominated Mr. Morgenthau, ex-Ambassador to Turkey, to be Ambassador to Mexico.

M. Van Den Bosche, Belgian Judge on the Mixed Tribunals of Cairo, has been appointed Procureur-General.

Mr. Hampson Gary, the American Consul-General at Cairo, has been appointed United States Minister to Switzerland.

The King has appointed Lieut. the Hon. Alexander Henry Louis Hardinge, M.C., Grenadier Guards, to be an Equerry in Ordinary to his Majesty, and also to be Assistant Private Secretary to his Majesty, *vice* the Earl of Cromer, resigned.

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THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(From Our Social Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 8.

The Milner Mission.

The Semiramis Hotel assumed quite a pre-war appearance last Tuesday, when the Milner Mission gave a farewell reception to those whom they had met during their stay here. Lord Milner, who was looking wonderfully well in spite of the strenuous time which he has had, especially during the past three months, received his guests at the entrance of the beautiful ballroom, which, together with the large dining-room, was thrown open for the occasion. His colleagues were in close attendance, as also were the two indefatigable secretaries, Messrs. Loyd and Ingram. An excellent orchestra played during the afternoon. The High Commissioner and Lady Allenby arrived early and stayed late, as indeed did most of the guests, who found the afternoon a most enjoyable one His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Roumania was also present, and the other guests included Sir Milne Cheetham, Sir Valentine Chirol, Sir William and Lady Brunyate, Air Commodore and Mrs. Groves, Monsieur and Madame Lefevre-Pontalis, Sir Gilbert and Lady Clayton, Sir Murdoch MacDonald, Sir Paul and Lady Harvey, Sir Frederick and Lady Rowlatt, Lady Stradbroke, Lady Palmer, Sir Reginald Oakes, Brigadier-General and Mrs. Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. Langley, Colonel Symes, Mr. Maudslay, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Merton, Mr. and Miss Devonshire, Miss Peebles, Mr. Ross Taylor, Sir George Macauley, Watson Pasha, Mr. and Mrs. Hooker, Dr. and Mrs. Phillips, Dr. and Mrs. Madden, Sarwat Pasha, Ziwer Pasha, Shafik Pasha, Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Home.

The members of the Mission have now scattered. Sir Owen Thomas and Mr. Hurst have already left for England; Sir John Maxwell has gone to Luxor with Lady Maxwell, who has recovered from her recent illness, but is still in somewhat indifferent health; Mr. Alfred Spender, who met with a most unfortunate accident whilst visiting the Sakkara Tombs, has also left for home; while Sir Rennell Rodd, with whom are Lady Rodd and Miss Rodd, is staying here a little longer.

Lord Milner is now in Jerusalem, where he is the guest of the Chief Administrator, Sir Louis Bols, at the German Hospice on Mount of Olives. He made the journey to Palestine on a Handley Page, and had as escort two D.H.'s and a Bristol Fighter. The voyage took just over four hours, the departure taking place at 11.30 a.m., and the planes arriving at a little before 4 p.m. at Ramleh, whence the journey to Jerusalem was continued by car. Lunch, it is interesting to note, was partaken of during the flight.

Charity Fete.

A very successful fête was held at the Kursaal last week in aid of that most deserving of charities, "Lady Cromer's Dispensaries for Sick Children." In the afternoon there was a monster bazaar and art exhibition, with some excellent side-shows consisting of waxworks, Spanish dances and children's frolics, and an admirable performance of a scene from "The School for Scandal." Lord and Lady Allenby were amongst the early attendants, and H.R.H. Prince Carol was an interested visitor and generous purchaser. The stallholders, headed by Lady Allenby and including Countess de Serionne, Mme. Lefevre Pontalis, Lady Harvey, Lady Oakes, Mrs. Jellicoe, Mrs. Phillips, Lady Rowlatt, Mrs. Devonshire, Hon. Mrs. Home, Mrs. Greg, Mrs. Walton, Mrs. Spong, Mrs. Gregory and Mrs. Molesworth, did a very brisk trade, and the art exhibition arranged by Mrs. Mackintosh, to which well-known Anglo-Egyptians contributed, produced an unsuspected display of talent.

In the evening a most enjoyable costume ball took place. The Dispensaries must have reaped a golden harvest, thanks to the energetic committee who, together with all who contributed to the organisation work, are to be heartily congratulated on the success which crowned their efforts.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

MINING ENGINEER, M.I.M.M., open to any proposal. Can interest capital. Knowledge interests in Near East. Box No. 156. NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

GOVERNESS-COMPANION desires POST (abroad preferred). Usual English subjects; French (acq. abroad); Music; Art (Art Teacher's cert.); needlework. £80—£100.—M. MCG., The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, W.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

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THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1920.

THE FUTURE OF FOREIGN ADMINISTRATION.

The possibilities and prospects of foreign administration are of so much practical interest at the moment to large portions of the East that it may be well to direct attention to some striking object-lessons furnished to the subject by the experience of the past few months. That experience discloses two groups of phenomena which at first sight appear to be in direct conflict. On the one hand we have had exuberant, but perfectly sincere, expressions of gratitude to the foreign administrators who have rescued this country or that from anarchy or organised oppression; on the other, we have heard insistent demands for the curtailment or abolition of foreign administration in regions which have enjoyed it for a longer period. Why, it may be asked, is Egypt restive, while Mesopotamia is grateful? Is the explanation to be found solely in the varying efficiency of different administrations, or is some more general cause at work? We believe that a general cause exists, and that its nature and operation should be clearly understood by every Power which aspires to receive a mandate over any of the backward portions of the world. In other words, we believe that the conflict of which we have spoken is apparent only, and that a nation which administers another must expect a steadily diminishing return of gratitude, however efficient, and however disinterested, its work may be. The men who have to establish the elements of administration out of chaos have a comparatively easy task, and are reasonably certain of their reward; there are abundant examples to show that chaos can be cured by a handful of British subalterns, while the immediate benefit is so obvious to the subject race that, for the time being, subalterns and subjects remain on the best possible terms. Memories, however, are short, and when the elements of security have once been firmly established, these friendly relations are destined to become obscured. The administration develops rapidly, and its complexity soon becomes irksome; professional and scientific officers replace the amateurs who laid the foundations, and bring their theories with them; taxation tends to increase; and friction becomes manifest where at first everything went smoothly. The old anarchy is quickly forgotten, benefits are accepted as matters of course, restrictions, however desirable, give rise to resentment, and any failure to maintain the highest theoretical standard becomes a grievance to men whose fathers were at the mercy of casual robbers and organised oppressors. The change is accelerated by the spread of education, which in these days must be one of the first cares of every foreign administrator; eventually a point is reached where the subject-race, or at least that portion of it which has reaped the chief benefit of foreign intervention, becomes convinced that intervention is unnecessary, and that it can do for itself all that its foreign rulers are trying to do on its behalf; national self-consciousness appears upon the scene, and the governing power is confronted with a situation widely at variance with its earlier experience. What view should be taken of this change?

At first sight it may be regarded as a breakdown. Foreign administration has brought not peace but a sword, and, if its object be defined as the contentment of the subject-nation, we must agree that the object has not been secured. If, however, the object be defined as advancement rather than contentment, a different verdict will be brought; the appearance of a national self-consciousness must then be regarded as a concrete achievement, signifying that the ward is growing up, and it must be accepted as a clear indication that the time for a change of methods has arrived. The British Empire has pronounced definitely for the latter view; Mr. Montagu's visit to India, and the Milner Mission in Egypt, are precedents which no other Power can afford to disregard, and while the future of both these countries may be uncertain, and many perplexing questions may remain for disposal, the outstanding fact of the situation is the clear recognition of the principle that foreign administration is essentially a temporary expedient. With us the old ideal of economic exploitation has long been dead, the ideal of placid contentment which succeeded it has now gone the same road, and the accepted function of a ruling Power is to bring new nations into existence, and to train them for the management of their own affairs. It is not too much to hope that in this matter the dearly-bought experience of the Empire may in time be taken as decisive by the world at large. We cannot yet claim that the principle is universally established, for even now the dream of exploitation is not entirely absent among the aspirants to mandates for various portions of the East, but Britain still leads in the region of political ideas, and the new Indian constitution, whatever be its ultimate result, must stand for all time as a beacon which indicates the true course, though it may not suffice to ensure safety from all the reefs and shoals by which that course is beset. We are confident that, in the future as in the past, the best minds of other countries will follow closely the developments of British action, profiting by our inevitable mistakes, improving on our pioneer measures, but recognising that the thing we have tried to do is right.

What, then, are the mistakes which other nations will do well to bear in mind? We may admit that they are many, that some of our difficulties have been created by ourselves, and that, where trouble has arisen, all the original sin has not been on one side. It would serve no useful purpose to recapitulate the list of recent errors in Egypt, nor need we dilate upon the blots on our Indian administration; but it is important at the moment too lay stress on one omission in particular, which has contributed very materially to the bitterness of the present situation, not merely in Egypt but in some strata of progressive Indian thought. We have allowed the subject-peoples to forget the past, and to dream of a mythical golden age which can be restored by the simple expedient of thrusting out the foreign intruders. It will be many years yet before we have reaped the full harvest of this disastrous crop, but already we can estimate its volume from the widespread racial feeling which is undoubtedly the most disquieting feature of the present situation. It is not good that nations should forget the pit whence they were digged, and, in the light of our experience, every ruling Power should recognise a primary obligation to keep the true past plainly before the subject's eyes. There would be much less bitterness in India to-day if the people who talk and write had been taught to realise the miseries of their country in the centuries when they honestly believe that it was great and prosperous; the knowledge is there, but it is for the most part buried in costly folios or inaccessible records, and merely for the want of it, even leaders of Indian thought indulge in visions of which a schoolboy ought to be ashamed. But the past, though it is important, is not everything, and it is not less urgent to tell the subjects of the future which lies before them. Here again we have been at fault in India as in Egypt; we could have set before the peoples a true and worthy object of endeavour, but we left them too long without a guide, and we must not complain if some of them have been misled by false or phantom lights. The nations who have to follow in our footsteps will be well advised to learn by such mistakes as these, and to realise that the successful accomplishment of their task requires the political education of the subject-races, an education which shall look forward as well as back, which shall show them both what they were and what they may hope to be, and which shall train them up in the methods by which those hopes must find their realisation.

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SOME WAR-TIME REMINISCENCES OF PERSIA.—I.

By BERNARD SOUTHAM.

I was in Teheran in August, 1914, when Reuter's telegrams arrived bringing the news of the outbreak of the European war. Persia was in its usual state of general insecurity, roads infested with brigands, a bankrupt and currupt Government, and the general situation of affairs offering no inducement whatever to private British concerns to stake their money on any pretentious enterprises.

The happenings in France in those early days of the war had a bad effect on British prestige in Persia, and when Turkey dared to declare war against Great Britain it fell to nothing. The Germans employed clever agents all over the country, who gradually turned the sympathy of the bulk of the people against us, and after the fall of Kut in the spring of 1915 the situation of the Allied subjects in Persia was anything but comfortable. By the autumn of that year public feeling had gone so much against us that in several places in the provinces outrages were committed against British firms. Violence and sabotage were freely indulged in, and were openly planned and organised by Persians at the instigation of German agents. The general situation became so bad in November that it became necessary to bring in Russian troops to protect the lives and interests of the Allies in Persia. Troops were landed at Resht and moved across to Koum by a line which passed about thirty-five miles south of Teheran—a march of some twenty days.

November 15, 1915, will never be forgotten by those who were in Teheran. Upon receipt of news of the Russian advance towards the capital the Germans, Austrians, and Turks were seized with panic. Led by their diplomatic representatives, they left Teheran in the morning and halted at Shah-Abdul-Azim, some five miles south of the town. They pleaded with his Majesty and his Ministers to leave with them, urging his Majesty to throw in his lot with them and transfer his capital to Ispahan. At Shah-Abdul-Azim the staffs of the German and Turkish Legations waited all day in full uniform for his Majesty to join them; they were supported by several hundred Persian gendarmes under Swedish officers. The bazaars closed and immense crowds thronged in front of the Palace, watching for the trend of events. Finally, towards sunset, and thanks entirely to the efforts of the British Minister, the Shah announced his intention to remain in his capital. The Germans and Turks, together with the gendarmerie, and many of their Persian friends, then marched to Koum.

Simultaneously with the advance of the Russians, the major portion of the Persian gendarmerie, led by some of their Swedish officers, ignoring the Persian Government's orders and declarations of neutrality, organised reinforcements of irregulars, and marched against the Russians. Fighting occurred in the first instance at a spot some forty miles south-west of Teheran, and subsequently at several places on the Russian line of march. The Russians drove the Persians (who were now styled rebels by the Persian Government at Teheran) before them, and entered Koum in December, 1915. It does not lie within my province to describe the diplomatic and political activities which were going on in Teheran at this time, but every day had its excitements.

During January, 1916, the Russians advanced on Sultanabad from Koum, Sultanabad being occupied by rebel troops supported by tribesmen from Luristan. There were, of course, numerous Germans and some Swiss and Swedes directing operations. Acts of sabotage had been indulged in, such as the looting of the British Bank and the British firm of Zeiglers'.

The Russians were opposed about half way along the road at a place some thirty miles from Koum, but the rebels fell back before them and evacuated Sultanabad, which the Russians duly occupied.

Simultaneously with the events which I have narrated disturbances occurred in other parts of Persia. Successful German intrigues and bribery caused the evacuation of Allied subjects from several towns in Eastern Persia. In January, 1916, the British colony at Yezd were obliged to flee, and their only loophole to safety was a march to Teheran. This journey of about 300 miles was accomplished on donkeys, no picnic considering the rigours of the Persian winter and the brigand-infested roads.

The winter of 1915-16 was remarkable for the lack of rain and snow. This caused a shortage of water all over the country, and economic conditions became bad and food scarce. The situation in Ispahan and in southern Central Persia was all against us. Ispahan was chosen by the Germans as their main base of operations. From here they schemed and plotted to turn the tribal countries such as the Kashghais, Kuhgalu, Bakhtiari, and Lurs against us. Englishmen were openly insulted in the streets, and an attempt was even made to assassinate the British Consul-General.

Meanwhile the Russians had advanced to Hamadan, and actually crossed the Persian frontier into Mesopotamia beyond Kermanshah, thus for the time being upholding the prestige of the Allies in those parts; but unfortunately it was only for the moment. The Russian troops were ill-equipped, and were not even supplied with sun helmets. Casualties from sunstroke occurred in thousands, and they were forced to return to the higher ground over the Persian frontier.

The Turks now advanced against the Russians, and quickly drove them right back to Hamadan, some 200 miles. With the Russians thus held up, some alarm was caused in the capital, but as long as they were able to hold Hamadan there was no cause for panic. But in July (1916) the Russians were driven out of Hamadan. Their main army fell back on a mountain pass on the Kasvin Road, and the army covering Sultanabad and Koum was driven back to Sultanabad. The situation in Teheran became dangerous for the Allies, for a party of enemy cavalry could have ridden across country to Teheran unopposed, and would have been welcomed with open arms by the Persians. It therefore became necessary to evacuate the women and children. This was done, all of them being despatched in motor lorries down to Enzeli, the Persian port on the Caspian Sea, which was, of course, in the hands of the Russians. Arrangements were also made for the rest of the Allied colonies to escape, should it become necessary, by riding through the Elburz Mountains to another port on the Caspian.

As soon as this serious situation became known amongst the Armenian community of Teheran (which is a very large one), what may be described as a panic ensued. The Armenians hastily sold all their belongings, such as furniture and household effects, and many wonderful bargains could have been made. All of them left Teheran and found their way down to Enzeli, and other Caspian ports, their means of transport being carriages, horses, donkeys, and "Shanks's pony." However the Turks, chiefly through transport difficulties, did not advance any further, nor attempt a *coup de main* on Teheran, and during August the Russians were able to send up sufficient reinforcements to the front to make a further Turkish advance extremely unlikely. Consequently, in September, everyone returned to Teheran, and a little later the Turks retired somewhat and the Russians were able to occupy Hamadan again.

The position remained unchanged throughout the winter of 1916-17, but in parts of Persia a famine ensued. It was particularly bad in the tribal countries, and during this winter I was sent on a journey through the Bakhtiari and parts of the Kuhgalu countries, down to Mohammerah on the Persian Gulf. I witnessed some truly pitiful spectacles on this journey; the roads and tracks were literally strewn with dead and dying mules, donkeys and camels. The condition of the natives was not very much better; they managed to find sufficient nutriment to keep them alive from bread made from acorns, which abound, and fat and milk from goats. This bread resembles a mixture of peat and mud, baked into a tough cake. Needless to say, I carried my own rations, and managed to shoot something every day to augment my tinned fare. It was a significant fact that whenever I was the guest of the various chiefs, their castles were the acme of luxury and comfort, and good food was plentiful.

In some of the villages the poverty was so great that clothing among the natives was scarce. Persia depends entirely on her foreign imports of cloth, etc., for clothing; imports had of course long since practically ceased, and the cost of cottons and cloths had risen to such a high price that they were beyond the reach of these tribesmen. I noticed, however, whenever we struck a particularly poor village that the men were always pretty well-dressed with patched-up clothing, and that the women seemed worse off, and, in some instances, almost naked. It was no uncommon occurrence to arrive in a village almost buried in snow, to be at once surrounded by almost naked women, imploring us to give them clothing, money, or food.

II.

A short description of the military operations which were taking place in Western Persia at this time may be of interest. From September, 1916, to March, 1917, military operations by the Russians were carried out in a most inefficient manner. No real attempt was made to smash the enemy, who used to attack the Russian position at Sultanabad about once a week. On the alarm being given the Russians would go out at their leisure, and after two or three hours of grotesque long-distance rifle firing, and now and again a few shots from guns on both sides, the combatants would retire for a week. This little game went on for months. On New Year's Day, 1917, the Russians did

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advance, and occupied the large and important town of Doulatabad, on the borders of Luristan, but they were promptly driven out by the Turks on the same day, and came hurtling back to Sultanabad, some fifty miles, without stopping.

I think it was on Tuesday, February 20, 1917, that news was received by the Russian commander at Sultanabad of the recapture of Kut and the wild retreat of the Turks towards Baghdad. The Turks were now bound to clear out of Persia. The Russians did not move out of Sultanabad until Saturday, the 24th, and then took forty-eight hours to reach Doulatabad, some fifty miles, and, of course, found that the Turks had long since left. They remained there until Wednesday morning before continuing the "hot pursuit" of the enemy. The Turks were able to evacuate Persia in perfect comfort and at their leisure, instead of being very badly smashed up, as they should have been.

The Russians behaved very badly towards the Persian peasants, looting and ill-treating them disgracefully. Their discipline was worse than lax, looting being looked upon as a good joke; and their guns, rifles and accoutrements were so badly kept that they resembled old scrap iron.

The rains failed again this winter, and general famine became a certainty. No real attempt was made by the Persian Government to combat the inevitable famine; on the contrary, most of the rich Persians commenced speculating, by buying up and cornering wheat and barley. By December, 1917, starvation prevailed, and the Persians were dying in thousands. An epidemic of typhus broke out and spread all over the country. It is quite beyond my power to describe the horrors and miseries of the winter of 1917-18 in Persia; suffice it to say that the streets of Teheran, in spite of the efforts of the police, were never clear of dead people. Dead camels, mules, and donkeys were immediately seized and devoured raw as they lay, where they had fallen exhausted. I saw a dead camel lying some four miles away from the town, and the smell of its putrefying body had evidently reached the noses of the starved, for it was surrounded by some twenty or thirty people who were tearing away its putrified flesh with their hands and eating it ravenously. Cannibalism also took place, particularly in Western Persia; but I have said sufficient about the horrors of this famine.

In February, 1918, a soup kitchen was opened in Teheran, and food was purchased and cooked, chiefly with funds subscribed by the British in the city. It was under British management, and between its opening and May some 250,000 doles of food were made to the starving poor. Similar soup kitchens were opened in most of the big towns in other parts of the country.

During the winter of 1917-18 the safety of the Allied subjects in Teheran again became threatened. Owing to the Russian Revolution the Russian Army had long since disappeared from Persia. Germans and Austrians had again appeared in Teheran, and a Persian Cabinet openly hostile to the Allies reigned supreme.

In January, 1918, a spark of British prestige was kept alight by the arrival in Teheran of a British aeroplane from Baghdad. This was to all intents and purposes the first aeroplane seen in Persia, although some years previously a Russian did attempt to give an exhibition—he flew about a mile and then crashed. The British machine landed in Teheran and flew back to Baghdad again. Before coming to Teheran the pilot had left his machine-gun behind, for it was said that had an armed British plane landed in Teheran it would have been interned by the Persian Government. This event caused a good deal of excitement and interest among the Persians.

A very considerable force of Jungali tribesmen congregated at Resht; they were organised and equipped by Germans. The Turks again advanced into Persia, this time from the Caucasus, and occupied Tabriz, which town was promptly evacuated by the Allied subjects. In the early spring the British Consul at Resht, also a British officer travelling to Teheran, and the manager of the British bank, were made prisoners by the Jungali tribesmen. The tribesmen then advanced towards Teheran as far as Kasvin. Our position in Teheran now became desperate. The British force was already on the way from Baghdad, but it appeared very doubtful whether it would be able to arrive in time to save the situation. However, an advance column arrived at Kermanshah in April, and joined hands with some Russian volunteers. This force moved forward, and in May British military headquarters were established in Kasvin.

Abundant rains and snows fell during this winter throughout the country, but owing to the scarcity of grain for seed purposes, not nearly sufficient grain could be sown to meet normal requirements. The grain sown in 1917 for the rain crops (crops not artificially irrigated) failed owing to the lack of rain to germinate, and remained in the ground dormant for two years, and then actually germinated in 1918. This, I imagine, was a very extraordinary occurrence.

(To be continued.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Pashitch has arrived in Belgrade.

Serbia has decided to reopen diplomatic relations with Germany.

A law has been promulgated in Cairo declaring aerodromes a State monopoly.

Arrangements have been made at Delhi to celebrate the King's birthday on June 5.

Mgr. Cherubini, the Apostolic Nuncio to Serbia, arrived at Belgrade on March 27.

Thirty thousand Russian refugees from the Red terror have now arrived in Yugoslavia.

The Legislative Council at Delhi has passed a Bill creating a Red Cross Society in India.

Hungarian troops have begun an advance into the territory evacuated by the Roumanian Army.

Orders for the demobilisation of the Yugoslav Army were given on March 22 by the Belgrade Government.

The Commission of Inquiry into the Nile Projects sitting in Cairo has been authorised to take evidence on oath.

Arab tribes have made further raids on British convoys on the Upper Euphrates and have caused some casualties.

According to an official statement, out of eighty-six labour strikes in India, twenty-eight have occurred in Bombay.

Fifteen well-known Moslems have been prohibited from speaking at or attending public meetings in Rangoon for two months.

In view of the urgent need to restrict the consumption of coal, the Egyptian Government has decided to suppress Sunday railway traffic.

As a sequel to the demobilisation of the Roumanian Army, the Averescu Government has dissolved the Roumanian General Headquarters.

Legation Counsellor Kahn, formerly the German Controller of the Egyptian Public Debt, has been appointed German Chargé d'Affaires in Rome.

According to a telegram from Jamshedpur received in Bombay, the strike at the Tata Ironworks has been settled, all the men having resumed work.

Enormous quantities of arms and ammunition seized from the Turks in Constantinople were recently discharged at Malta by the British steamer Mercedes.

Our Malta Correspondent informs us that the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese nobility has been formed, with the Rt. Hon William Henry John Baron North as Hon. President.

In the elections for the Sobranje (Bulgaria) the representation of the Agrarian Party is reduced from 113 to 110, the Communist Party increased from 48 to 50, and the Progressives from 7 to 8.

Complaints have been received from British troops in Constantinople to the effect that the home mails posted in England on January 11, 13, 19, 21, 22, and 25, were not delivered until February 20.

A message from Rangoon states that four Buddhist monks, who were accused of a murderous assault on a European party at Weindawya Pagoda, Mandalay, have been sentenced by the Sessions Judge to terms of imprisonment varying from 10 years to transportation for life.

Seven large stone figures have just been placed in niches above the north porch of Exeter Cathedral. They are the gift of an anonymous donor in thanksgiving for the conclusion of the war. They represent saints of Allied countries, namely:—St. George of England, St. Denis of France, St. Joseph of Belgium, St. Vladimir of Russia, St. Ambrose of Italy, St. Cyril of Serbia, and St. Methodius of Roumania

There has just arrived in this country the first postage stamps issued by the Armenian authorities. The set, consisting of twenty-nine different stamps from the 2-kopecs to 10-roubles, are the ordinary Russian adhesives, over-printed with an Armenian device, said to represent H. and P., the initials of the Haygagan Post—i.e., Armenian Post—enclosed in a frame These provisionals were issued from Erivan, the capital, and it is understood that a permanent set is being prepared in Paris. Some of the values are imperforate, and many exist with the design inverted.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following communiqué, dated March 13, from Mesopotamia:—"Bin Rashid, who has recently secured a notable victory over the Ruwalla, and has captured the towns of Jauf and Sakaka, has sent an emissary to Baghdad in order to inform the Mesopotamian Administration of the new turn that events have taken and to discuss his future relations with His Majesty's Government. Arab officials in Deir-az-Zor have made a number of forced loans from merchants, and trade between Mesopotamia and Syria, which was until recently flourishing, has practicaly ceased."

Lady Sykes has received a letter from General Gouraud, High Commissioner of the French Republic in Syria and Cilicia and Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Levant, expressing his pleasure at being associated in her work for the relief of the Chaldean people. The Chaldeans have, he says, special claims on the gratitude of the Allies, at whose side they fought with such courage during the war, and to succour them in their distress is to crown charity with justice. The General adds the hope that it will be possible for French charity to co-operate with English, and promises his own support so soon as means are found for transmitting the funds collected. He states, in conclusion, that he is already making inquiries as to suitable persons to carry out the distribution on the spot, and will communicate the results of his investigations as early as possible.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Very satisfactory results are shown in the report of the National Bank of India for the past year. The balance-sheet this time totals at £42,366,947, as against £32,707,668, substantial increases being recorded in respect of every item. Current and deposit accounts now figure at £35,164,356, as against £27,517,994, discounts and loans amount to £11,885,665, as against £10,259,738, while the strength of the bank's position is emphasised by the increase in cash on hand from £5,872,613 to £8,211,702. The net profit for the year amounted to £452,200, an increase of £48,400 on the figures for the previous twelve months, to which has to be added £123,400 brought in, making the available total £575,600, as against £543,500. It is proposed to maintain the dividend at 20 per cent. free of tax, to place £150,000 to the reserve fund, and to carry forward £135,600. The allocation to reserve is less by £50,000 this time, but during 1919 that fund was increased by £450,000, including the addition of share premiums, and the fund now amounts to £2,000,000, as compared with a paid-up capital of £1,500,000.

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The financial position of Yugoslavia as shown by this year's Budget proposals adds further emphasis to what I have said in these columns regarding the paramount necessity for rapid progress in reconstruction. This year provision is being made for an expenditure of three times the amount of the receipts. Various measures are stated to be under contemplation to increase the revenue, such as the extension of the Serbian system of taxation to the whole of Yugoslavia, an increase of perhaps five times the number of the existing taxes, a substantial increase in the amount of various taxes, and an entertainments tax. But the position is not to be solved merely by the imposition of fresh taxation. That way lies even more serious difficulties than those with which the authorities are confronted. The real trouble is the lack of progress made in the reconstruction of the normal life of the various countries now constituted into Yugoslavia.

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Egypt's present economic position is reviewed in the recently issued Note on the Budget for 1920-21, by the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, Sir Paul Harvey. The predominant features of the situation, it is stated, are the enormous increase in the country's accumulated wealth and the greatly increased cost of certain commodities and housing accommodation. Egypt's foreign investments made since 1915 are estimated at £E152,000, while the growth of private deposits from £E6,500,000 before the war to £E35,500,000, and the reduction of mortgage loans from £E40,000,000 to £E28,000,000 are also instanced as showing the great increase in the country's wealth. The resultant prosperity, it is pointed out, has not, however, been evenly distributed, and the poorer classes here suffered severely from the high prices. "The situation," it is added, "cannot be viewed without considerable anxiety. The disturbing factors are mainly beyond Government remedy, but no effort will be spared to devise means for reducing the suffering entailed thereby and to hasten the adjustment of local conditions thereto."

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It is explained that the high prices are probably mainly due to increased purchasing power applied to a restricted supply, and the difficulty has been accentuated by the tendency to extend the cotton area at the expense of cereals. The Government hoped to ease the position by obtaining a reasonably cheap supply of certain articles, chiefly wheat and flour, which are the staple food of the inhabitants, and it has secured wheat and maize sufficient to last until the harvest. The estimated loss of £E2,000,000 on the sale of wheat at a reasonable price will be met by the new cotton tax, which the Financial Adviser remarks, places the burden where it can best be borne—namely, on the cotton producer. While the Government's present policy is limited, it is stated, to the above measures, and while it is reluctant to use any arbitrary powers, nevertheless it will not hesitate, if it is necessary, suitably to act to protect the community against speculation. It is hoped that it will be possible to meet the country's cereal requirements by imports, but it might prove necessary to take steps to secure that an adequate area is sown under wheat, and this would depend on the world's next grain harvest.

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The possibility of obtaining coal from Asia Minor to relieve the fuel problem in Italy has been much discussed in the Italian Press of late, particular attention being devoted to the Heraclea field, where some Italian interests exist. It was pointed out in a recent article in these columns that there are immense reserves of coal in that field. One estimate, indeed, puts the figure at not less than a billion tons. The coal is, however, of poor quality, and as its cost in Constantinople is only slightly less than that of Welsh coal it would seem poor economy to look for supplies in that direction, seeing that it would mean paying the price of good coal for an inferior product of very limited use. Still, in view of the coal problem, Italy might consider that worth doing as a temporary expedient.

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The position with regard to the cable services seems much the same. There may be some improvement, but it is not very visible on the surface, and complaints are still far too numerous regarding delays in the service. One case cited recently is that of cables despatched from Bombay and Karachi respectively on March 11, both of them reaching their destination in London on March 24. For a cable between this country and India to take something like thirteen days is surely beyond a joke. The position is much the same both ways, and it is not surprising that business should be hampered, and that traders should have sustained serious losses in the process. I have no reason for thinking there has been any great improvement in the position with regard to the Near East as a whole, though cable communications with some of the countries concerned are apparently approaching the normal.

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The question of the resumption of commercial relations with Russia is referred to in an article on "The Co-operative Movement in Russia," in the current issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States. Our contemporary expresses grave doubt whether the promises of the Bolshevists can be relied upon, and remarks that it is difficult to tell how we are to safeguard the interests of merchants who are brave enough to do business with the Soviets. "If trading in South Russia was a gamble," says the *Journal*, "what is it going to be in Bolshevist Russia?" and it advances the view that the British merchant will be well advised "not to attempt anything serious in that direction, at any rate, not until such a time as his own Government is prepared to furnish substantial guarantees securing his personal interests." Unquestionably, there can be little prospect of the resumption of trade except under conditions which impose no more than the normal commercial risks upon the trader, but given satisfactory assurances on this point it is to be hoped that traders in this country will not be lacking in enterprise, for unless trade is begun with the Bolshevists there would seem to be no prospect of the resumption of commercial relations with Russia.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

Cairo, March 15.

The Economic Situation.

The Government appear to be taking very extensive measures to deal with the economic situation. The Supplies Control Board, which was created in the spring of 1918, has been dissolved, and replaced by a Department of the Control of Supplies, under the direction of Mr. R. E. Monteith-Smith, who was formerly a member of the Egyptian Government Supplies Commission. The new department will depend directly upon the present Minister of Agriculture, Mohamed Shafik Pasha, himself an expert on local economic questions, and will have an advisory board consisting this time not only of Government officials, but also of representatives of the non-official element, which after all probably knows more about supply matters, and is in closer touch with the people than the bureaucratic element.

Arrangements are being made to import considerable quantities of wheat and maize from now onwards until the end of the year, and flour, in which a certain quantity of maize will be mixed, will be issued at prices very much below the cost price, the loss being met by the proceeds of the recent tax on ginned cotton. Already the appearance of Government flour has had an influence on local prices, and there is every hope that the profiteers, both mercantile and fellaheen, will before long be forced to unload their hoards for fear of a further substantial drop.

A very laudable effort is being made to form co-operative societies all over the country. These societies are to work with capital supplied by rich Egyptians, and with the profits they make are to reduce the sale price of foodstuffs to the poor. Whilst this effort deserves every assistance and encouragement—for in a country like Egypt co-operation is the panacea for most of the economic troubles from which it has been suffering and will suffer—it will be necessary, for obvious reasons, on which there is no need to dwell at the present moment, for a very close control to be exercised over the development and activities of this movement.

Inland Transport Problem.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining coal, the question of inland transport promises to be very critical. Already the Railway Administration has intimated its intention of considerably reducing the number of trains, as the quantity of coal available is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the present train service. It is to be hoped that arrangements will be made during the next two or three months to obtain an adequate supply of coal for Egypt, otherwise the ginning and moving of the coming cotton crop will be seriously interfered with. It is no use crying over spilt milk, it is true, but those who for years have advocated State encouragement for water transport and the conversion of railway engines from coal to liquid fuel consumption are now being fully justified.

CYPRUS.

Stocks of Carobs.

March 13.

Again there have been heavy rains. Large quantities of carobs (locust beans) of last year's crop remain unsold, the price asked not having been realised. There must be 40 to 50 thousand tons awaiting shipment. The price for the best beans is about 36s. 6d. the kantar. The price of kibbled beans, now largely used as food for cattle and horses, is about 7½ piastres (9 piastres equals 1s.). It is still too early to offer any forecast regarding the cereal harvests, but considerable damage has been done by the extreme cold to many fruit trees and crops.

MALTA.

Malta, March 20.

British Empire Exhibition.

The Government of Malta does not propose to participate officially in the above exhibition, which is to be held in 1921, or to afford any financial assistance or guarantee, but in the event of local manufacturers wishing to send exhibits the Government has intimated that it will give all reasonable facilities.

Farmers have been greatly relieved by a copious rainfall. With summer near and a rainfall much below the average matters were beginning to look serious.

AGRICULTURE IN CYPRUS.

The first part of an interesting article on the Agriculture of Cyprus, by Mr. W. Bevan, Director of Agriculture in the island, appears in the current issue of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute. The subjects dealt with include live stock, dairy produce, cereals, fruits, nuts and vegetables.

The Messaoria Plain is the great corn-growing area, and in ancient times the island produced sufficient wheat to supply all the needs of its population, which then numbered over a million, the annual production amounting to about 10,000,000 bushels. At the present time, with a population of a little over a quarter of a million, only about 2,000,000 bushels of wheat are being produced, but the yield could be greatly increased by better methods of husbandry, by the use of improved implements for cultivating and reaping, and by the use of threshing machines. The methods practised have changed little for ages. The old wooden plough is still used, whilst the threshing-floors are practically identical with those of Biblical times, consisting merely of a levelled piece of ground, sometimes paved with flag-stones. A stout board, studded on the underside with sharp flint stones (the *tribulum* of Virgil), is drawn over the spread-out sheaves by mules, donkeys, or oxen. Large quantities of barley are grown, the production in 1918 amounting to over 3,000,000 bushels. Most of this is used locally for feeding cattle, but some is exported to England for malting purposes.

The Sudan Plantations Syndicate announces that 150,000 shares of £1 each are to be offered at £3 per share to the shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every share held on April 17. The right of renunciation will be given.

The Roumanian Press Bureau in Paris announces that the Government of Bucharest has taken steps to have the Roumanian coupons that have not been met for three years owing to the war paid in Paris.

It is announced that the name of the London County and Westminster Bank (Paris), Ltd., has been changed to the London County Westminster and Parr's Foreign Bank, Ltd. In all other respects the arrangements remain as before.

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FIELD FOR BRITISH PIANOS.

Opportunities in the Near East.

An opening in the Near East markets of which little or no advantage was taken by British manufacturers before the war was that for musical instruments. There was no question of doubting the prospects in that region—as a matter of fact, the majority of firms probably did not even trouble to consider whether or no it was worth their while to enter the Egyptian, Turkish, or other Near Eastern markets—it was, indeed, merely the old story that firms were content with existing markets, where the demand was sufficient and stable enough readily to absorb their output. Enterprise would have dictated an attempt to enter new markets with a view to a larger turnover; but of this there was no sign, this trade, in common with so many other branches of industry, being content to adopt in the main a *laissez faire* policy until driven to another course under the stress of competition.

As in so many other cases, Germany profited at the expense of our manufacturers, and was gradually laying the foundations of a substantial trade in the Near East. In Egypt, for instance, out of imports of pianos, organs, etc., valued at £E13,955, Germany's share was £E10,112. Turkey's imports for the same period were valued at rather less than £T50,000, and of this total imports valued at just one half that amount came from Germany. In regard to other countries, much the same tale could be told, and the markets, it must be emphasised, were growing in importance; and, but for the war, Germany, the first in the field, would in due course have reaped the benefit from the increased trade. Now, of course, the position is quite different. Once again—to lapse into metaphor—the competitors are at scratch together, and British manufacturers of pianos, gramophones, etc., have an excellent chance of introducing their goods to the Near East in most favourable circumstances. By a little display of energy, they can, if they choose, take the place formerly occupied by Germany, and in making their decision it is to be hoped that they will keep carefully before them the fact that in the future this country will not be in a position to ignore promising markets. If they harbour illusions on that point they invite a rude awakening.

It is not unnatural to suppose that the Egyptian market should make a particularly strong appeal to these firms, conditions there being so greatly in favour of the British manufacturer. Undoubtedly that market presents one of the most promising openings for the industry, in view of the greatly increased purchasing power of the inhabitants as a result of the country's immense prosperity during the last few years. Turkey is another market which offers undeniable scope. The position in regard to this country is the subject of an interesting article in the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States. Reference is made to the recent formation of the new piano-makers' association, one of the objects of which is to secure for the British pianoforte manufacturing industry a dominating position in the world's markets, and our contemporary continues:—

The Constantinople Market.

Now, what is the Association or its individual members prepared to do to capture this market? One of the associate firms exhibited a grand piano, which created quite a sensation at the recent Athens Exhibition. The writer was told on good authority that the instrument was of quite exceptional merit even for its well-known makers. The same firm has now appointed an agent for Constantinople, who, armed with a single copy of their catalogue displaying some six models, including a concert grand and one player-piano, may expect to set the Bosphorus on fire, but of this we have our doubts.

Excepting in the homes of a few members of the British community, who have brought their instrument from home with them, the British-made piano is practically unknown in this country. Articles *de luxe* find a ready sale at present amongst those who have made money during the war. Pianos are almost unobtainable on the market; nevertheless, to imagine that it is possible to meet any portion of the demand by sales from catalogue is absurd. A prospective buyer would be willing to pay more for an instrument that he can see and hear sooner than order from a catalogue. What is wanted is a showroom of British pianos, from the boudoir grand to the small upright, also player-pianos, which, we are certain, will find a sale. A few reed organs, but not of the mirrored dummy-stop type, would also find buyers. Our schools require practice pianos, and would undoubtedly favour the British-made instrument; furthermore, there is a decided preference for everything English amongst the purchasing public since the war. Will the association or its individual members consider this market seriously? The present is an opportunity of introducing the British article, but this cannot be done by catalogue.

As to the suitability of the British piano for this climate, we are tempted to quote from a letter received by another member of the combine from a gunner in the R.G.A., reading as follows:—"Dear Sirs,—I have great pleasure in sending these few remarks regarding your instruments, as to how they have stood the excessive climate and rough transport used by His Majesty's Forces in Mesopotamia. For twelve months I was appointed tuner and repairer out there, and I have also had twenty-three years' experience of the profession in England. I always found your make one of the best pianos for keeping in tune, no matter how far it had to travel. Your actions were perfectly made for that part of the world, being well screwed and riveted and preventing all risks of the excessive heat interfering with the different parts. I can recommend anyone who is going East to buy one of your pianos if they wish for an instrument which is reliable and which will give every satisfaction in tone and touch for years to come."

The dumping scare which loomed high a few months ago, when both in the London and provincial Press there appeared paragraphs to the effect that 40,000 German pianos were ready and waiting to be dumped into the United Kingdom, would appear to have had little foundation in fact. The latest advices state that conditions in the German labour market are very similar to those obtaining elsewhere, manufacturers in all trades being more short of raw materials and parts than our own manufacturers, and while the piano trade is waking up, owing to the increased prices of all commodities, the prices are very high.

There is also no reason why British player-pianos should be behind those produced in any other country, seeing that they have many sterling points which claim attention. One British manufacturer at least has for several years been making an entirely metal player. The action being built on a metal "cradle," which is fixed in the ends of the piano, so that when the instrument has to be tuned or any repairs done, the entire action is simply swung to the top of the piano, thus obviating the necessity of removal. The valve sytem and tubes are manufactured of non-corrosive metal not susceptible to climatic influences. The action is on the unit system, whereby to every note there is a separate metal unit. In case of any obstruction or repair, it is possible to remove the unit corresponding to the faulty note, again without dismantling the whole action. These are the outstanding features, the keynote of which is simplicity—a quality much sought after in players.

As regards this country's trade, before the war quite one-half of the pianos imported were of German make. Even in the cheapest models, which had the largest sale, attention was paid to the demand for a showy case, with highly decorated panels and elaborate sconce, generally four in number. In the cheaper grades particularly Germany held the market. The higher grades sold on their merits.

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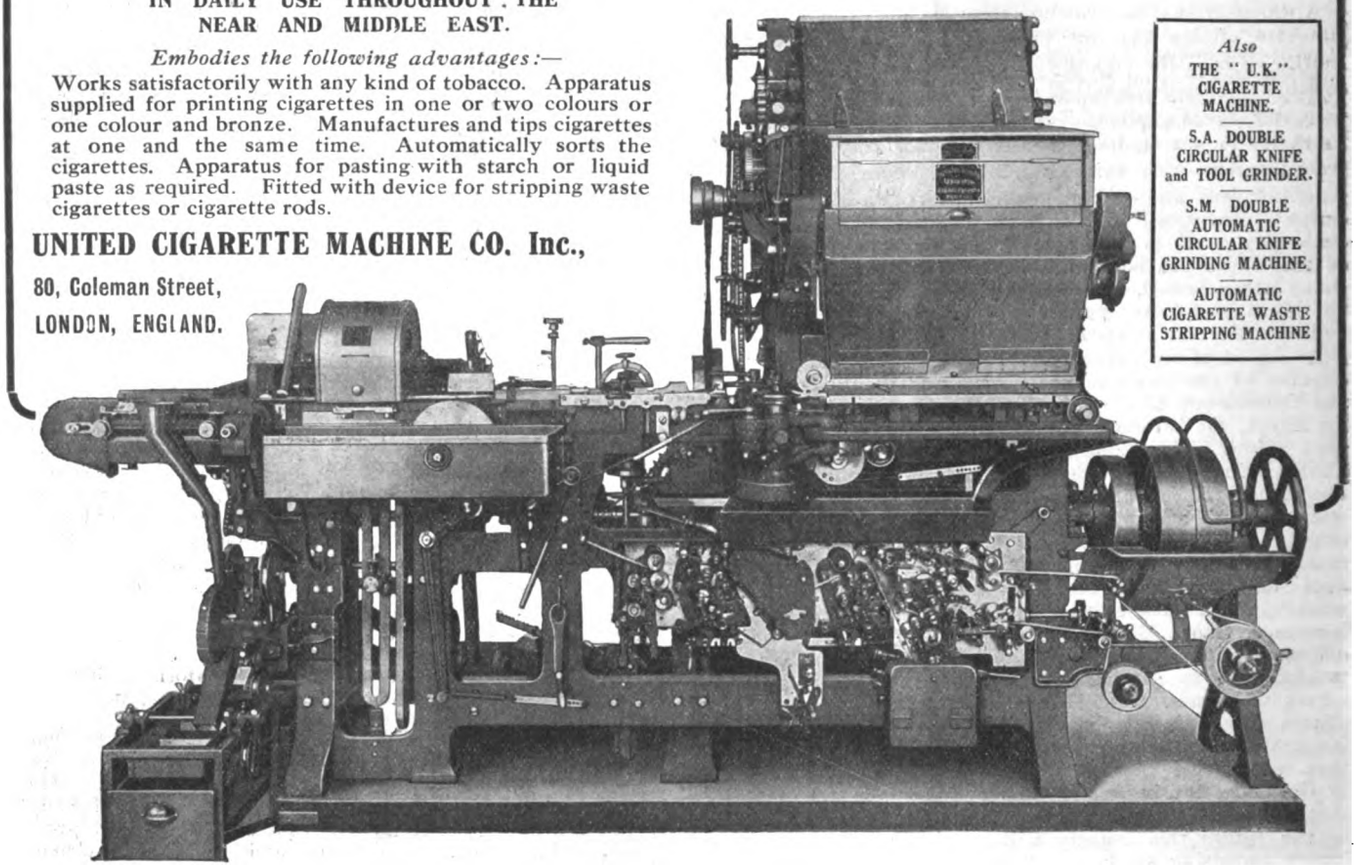

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NEAR EAST COAL RESOURCES.

VI.—THE MIDDLE EAST.*

By John Kirsopp, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

Abyssinia.

Although practically an unknown country, coal deposits are known to exist in several places. Near Adis Abeba a deposit is worked for fuel by the inhabitants, but the quality, extent, and thickness of the seams are unknown. Coal deposits are also reported to occur at Gondar, north of Lake Tsana, and upon the island of Derke in that lake; also in the valley of the Didessa river, about 31¼ miles from its junction with the Blue Nile. In 1904 an expert reported on the occurrence of coal at Chelga, about 18¼ miles north of Lake Tsana, and west of Gongar, and about 68¼ miles from Gallabat, the district lying in the valley of the Goang river, near its source, the coal beds being exposed over an area about 8⅓ miles long and 1¼ to 1⅞ miles wide. The deposits lie in a trough basin surrounded by igneous rocks, are of Tertiary age, and in an exposed section of 256 ft., seven beds of good lignite varying in thickness from 6 ins. to 1 ft. 9½ ins., and four thinner seams occur. From analysis of the samples these deposits were regarded as worth working to supply the local need for fuel in the Sudan and Abyssinia.

Arabia (Oman).

There are no coal resources in the portion of Arabia under British influence except those of Oman. The coal occurring near Soor has been declared by expert opinion to be unworkable at a profit in present circumstances owing to its unfavourable situation at a distance from the coast, and for other reasons. Coal also occurs at Masweh and Fisao, twenty-one seams varying from 1 ft. 6 ins. to 4 ft. 6 ins. in thickness being proved as extending over an area of one-quarter of a square mile. The coal is bituminous in quality, the estimated reserve being 250,000 tons.

Persia.

Coal is mined at many places, but in a very primitive way and on a very small scale, shallow shafts being sunk, which are abandoned as soon as the crude hoisting apparatus (hand windlass and bucket) is unable to cope with the inflow of water.

The Teheran Coalfield.—The Teheran-Kazvin valley contains an area of about 1,000 square miles, covered with alluvium, and bordered on the north by the Elbury range, largely built up of coal-bearing rocks, which are considered to underlie the alluvium, and to contain at least an aggregate thickness of 2 ft. of coal, which it is estimated would contain a possible reserve of 1,858 million tons of coal. In the north-west coal district the annual output in 1890 was estimated at about 11,000 tons, the following coal occurrences being worthy of mention:—At Sapidaran and Kelinrul five seams are known. At Feshend, the thickest seam known is 19 in., with a shale parting, the coal analysing 7.08 per cent. of ash. At Abyek, two seams occur, 2 ft. 2 in. and 1 ft. 6 in. thick respectively, the coal of excellent quality analysing 1-2 per cent. of ash in the thicker and 1.9 per cent. in the thinner seam, all the known coal seams above water level having been mined. At Agachah and Chamburek, in the neighbourhood of Hiv, coal has also been worked, at the former locality a seam 2 ft. 6 in. thick having been worked down to water level and three lower seams occurring, the chief one 2 ft. 6 in. thick. At Chamburek six seams ranging from 4 ft. to less than 2 ft. in thickness occur. At Khur the coal is much crushed. In the north-east of this coalfield the annual output in 1900 was estimated to be about 4,000 tons. Since then it has been greatly increased. At Shamsek, situated about thirty-three miles north-east of Teheran, three seams are known, the main one 3 ft. thick with a parting, the coal analysing fixed carbon 72.21 per cent., volatile matter 16.65 per cent., ash 11.14 per cent. At Vergedar two seams 10 in. and 20 in. thick occur, the coal being very earthy and brittle. At Gil-i-Gach the output is 325 tons yearly, the coal being very similar to that at Safidab, where six seams are found ranging from 5 in. to 30 in., the coal, suitable for gas coke making and domestic purposes, burning with a clear flame, and the annual output amounting to about 490 tons. At Piazek the mine is situated at an altitude of 7,000 ft., the seam being 30 in. thick, the yearly output being 325 tons.

At Div-i-Siah a 20-inch seam of good coal is mined; as also at Bastan and Fil-i-Zamin, the annual output aggregating 350 tons. At Alasu Valasu 30 tons a year is produced, at Yunesar 325 tons; and the combined yearly output of the mines at Garmabdar, Lalun, and Rudek is about 1,300 tons. Coal also occurs at Khatun Bargah.

The Khorasan coalfield.—The coal in this district was mined on a very small scale from ten to fifteen years ago, and the mines are now all abandoned, the shafts having been flooded in most cases. The coal is of good quality, but the seams are thin, and the total output during the period it was worked amounted only to a few hundred tons.

Astrabad, Shahrud, Bastam, and Semnan Districts.—Coal has been reported from many places in these districts, but little is known as to the extent and thickness of the seams. In the Shaver district east of Tash, at Shahkuhbala, there are said to be seams of coal; and at Tash there was a mine which had been worked for some time, the coal being carried to Gez to supply the Russian steamers. At Pir-i-Khan a seam 12 ins. thick is known; the coal is bituminous, of good quality, light, and hard. At Tazerich four seams of good coal occur, 1 ft. 10 ins., 6 ins., 5 ft., and 2 ft. in thickness respectively.

Mazanderan District.—Coal is reported from several places in this district. At Gabugah three seams are known, 1 ft., 2 ft., and 3 ft. respectively; the coal here is of poor quality. Coal also occurs in the districts of Ispahan, Shiraz, Ahwaz, and Azerbaijan, but the area, thickness of seams, and quality of the coal are not stated. Anthracite of good quality, but in thin seams, is said to occur in the districts of Kerman and Yezd.

The Sudan.

Nubian sandstone covers the northern half of this country, but, so far as its geology is known with certainty, there is little chance of finding large deposits of coal. At the town of Dongola, in Dongola Province, a thin bed of lignite 9 centimetres thick, at a depth of 9 m., was found in 1903, while sinking a well near the river bank, but London mining experts searched the district in the following winter season and sank several diamond drill bore holes, but were unsuccessful in finding any beds worth working. It is rumoured among the Arabs that coal or lignite exists at Darfur, but nothing definite is known.

* The previous articles of this series appeared in "THE NEAR EAST" on October 10, November 7, November 28, January 9, and March 18.

ATHENS HOUSING EXHIBITION.

The Department of Overseas Trade are informed that the Greek Ministry of National Economy has organised at Athens an exhibition of houses whose parts can be assembled. The exhibition is open until the end of December, 1920, but could be prolonged, should important firms declare in time that they wish to take part. Firms taking part in the exhibition must send their model houses complete and ready for use. The types of houses required are destined principally for workmen in towns and the middle classes generally, but also for the mountain population and the country people. The houses must be offered at a reasonable price, and be provided with necessary conveniences. They may be composed of one or more storeys. It is necessary that the ceilings should be high and the roof not too steep in the types destined for the population of the plains. Firms may also send buildings for schools, barracks, hospitals, public meetings, baths, etc., as well as villas and other luxury buildings for the well-to-do classes.

The cost of transport of the buildings for exhibition must be borne by the exhibitors. However, the importation of models consigned to the Ministry of National Economy will be facilitated by the dispensation of import duties and the unrestricted sale of models to private purchasers will be allowed after the close of the exhibition. A special commission will be appointed to select suitable models for the Government, who will buy them for various public bodies. The shortage of houses all over Greece, above all in Athens, Pirræus, Salonika, etc., is so considerable that the buildings exhibited, which are not subjected to import duties, should sell easily amongst the large numbers of buyers. For detailed information application may be made to Le Ministre de l'Economie Nationale Section de la Prévoyance Sociale.

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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ¾ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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ENGINEERING.

DOMESTIC APPLICATION OF ELECTRICITY*

II. Electric Cooking Appliances.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The electric cooking appliances in the kitchen were of the latest pattern and type, and a complete range is obtainable which will prepare a dinner for a family of average size at an extremely low cost. These cooking ranges will not only take a good-sized joint and pastry in the oven, but will also accommodate three or more saucepans and steamers on the top. Other means of providing hot water, as by a side or top boiler can be provided if required. It is hardly necessary to say that an electric cooking stove neither gives off fumes nor smells, and provided the oven door be shut it is impossible for anyone to tell by smell that the oven is at work. Smaller pieces of cooking apparatus such as grillers and toasters were also in use in this exhibit, and by means of these it is possible to prepare a meal in a few moments. With these there is no bother about laying a fire or waiting for the oven or stove to get warm; the heat is immediately available and the electric heating element is at work instantly.

A number of appliances in the nature of accessories were also on view, amongst these being the familiar hot plates, as they are termed, which are steel or cast-iron plates kept at a fairly high temperature by an electric heater, and on which cooked meats, pastry, vegetables, plates and dishes can be kept hot and ready for use at a minimum expenditure of electric energy. These, in the small sizes, are useful in a dining room, and instead of being at all out of place in such an apartment, most people who have bought electric cooking appliances, find a particular charm in using them in the living rooms, a procedure which is possible by reason of their perfect freedom from fumes and smell.

A dish-washer, driven by a small electric motor of pocket size, and in which the water was kept at a little below boiling point by means of an electric heater, attracted a good deal of attention, and an exceptional sale for it seems assured. Side by side with this was a boot-polishing machine and a small buffing wheel for cleaning plate. Each of these was electrically driven, and required no attention so far as the electric part is concerned. All that has to be done is to switch on when the machine is required and to switch off as soon as its task is done.

The wash-house contained an application of electricity which does all the work of a washing day in practically only a few minutes, after which it is ready to undertake the wringing and drying, ready for ironing. The machine looks after the washing and wringing, an electric fan dries the clothes, already wrung almost bone dry by the electric wringer, and it is possible to obtain a very large range of electric irons, from the ordinary domestic iron, as used in a bedroom for handkerchiefs, to the big iron for pressing tweeds and other heavy cloths. An electric iron takes only a few seconds to get sufficiently hot for its work, after which it remains at a steady temperature as long as it is required for use. There is no time lost in re-heating, and no fear of either under- or over-heating the ironing surface.

In the living room of the house was a small electric toaster which toasts bread or biscuits very quickly, and enables a meal to be prepared without trouble. There were also electric kettles of various sizes, the range being shown to give an idea of the sizes obtainable. These range from dainty little kettles holding half a pint or so to big concerns suitable for a family party. In the living room, and also in the hall, was an electric cigar lighter of the familiar type, in which the act of taking the lighter off a hook switches on the current and the act of replacing it switches the current off again. There was also an electrically-driven sewing machine of the self-contained type, by which is meant that the motor and the sewing machine were in one, and current was brought to the motor terminals by means of a suitable flexible cord which could be attached to any lamp-holder, after removing the lamp, as required. In other types the motor is fixed on a bracket on the wall or on the floor, and the sewing machine is driven by a small belt. The new method is far preferable and also far safer, as there is no risk of clothing being caught up in the moving belt. All these downstairs rooms were, of course, warmed by electric radiators and lighted by electricity.

Upstairs, a number of useful and novel appliances were to be found. Every room had its radiator and its lighting fitting or fittings, as the case may be, and it may be mentioned here that some particularly neat and handy switching effects were to be seen in the rooms and corridors of this electric house. In regard to the radiators shown upstairs, it may be mentioned that each of these was of a type which would permit of the lighter forms of cooking being done in case of illness. In the room which in the absence of a guest might be used as the nursery was an electric milk warmer and a small immersion heater for warming a child's bath water. In all the rooms electric curling tongs were on the dressing tables, and another useful but masculine device was the electrically heated shaving mug. This heater brings the water to the correct temperature in exactly 60 seconds.

The All-Electric House was provided with an electric vacuum cleaner, and in the bathroom was an electric towel dryer and airer. There was also a gown rail, electrically heated, for drying clothing or for airing large linen or woollen goods, and an electric "calorifier" provided a constant service of hot water. It may be mentioned that this is automatic, regulating its own heat. It is temperature-controlled, a switch being provided which closes the heating circuit as soon as the temperature of the water falls below a certain level, which can be decided upon by the user. A master-switch cuts the whole appliance out of action any time it should not be required.

Altogether, the exhibit was most comprehensive, and not only showed what immense strides British manufacturers of electric appliances have made in the past few years, but also demonstrated more than any showroom could do the many possible applications of electricity in the modern home.

* The first part of this article appeared in The Near East of April 1.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

A Submersible Motor Pump.

One of the most interesting, and at the same time one of the latest, developments of electricity is the construction of an electric motor-driven pump in which the whole apparatus can, if necessary, be submerged without any damage being done.

It is common knowledge that submersible motors have been made before, and have been used in diving work, in pumping, in graving-dock work, and for emptying pontoons; but in the great majority of instances these motors have been of the watertight type, constructed with totally enclosed cases and with the current-carrying connections carried into the motor through indiarubber or other watertight packed glands.

Now, however, we have a departure from the ordinary and a watertight motor is at work which is not watertight at all in the ordinary way. So far from depending on any metal enclosure, the water enters freely into the entire casing, and in no way does this interfere with or impair the efficiency of the action. Naturally this type presents many advantages, and in flooded mine work in particular it should prove most useful. The invention is a British one, and both pump and motor are made by a British engineering firm. A special feature of the combination is its robust construction, which at the same time is not such as to make the whole arrangement too heavy or bulky to allow of being moved freely. As a matter of fact, the pump and motor are quite light in comparison with their capacity. Experiments have recently been carried out with the combination, and a disused mine shaft, which had been allowed to fill with water, was pumped clear in a very short time.

The plant which carried out this work comprised two four-inch pumps, each of which had a rated output of 370 gallons of water per minute at an 89 feet head. The delivery side of one pump was coupled to the suction side of the other pump, thereby forming the equivalent of a two-stage centrifugal pump which was capable of lifting the water 160 feet. The power was supplied by a portable electric generating plant consisting of an engine and dynamo. The plant was given a most exhaustive test, and ran for 37 days, during 19 of which one set of pumps ran continuously for twenty-four hours a day. There is thus no doubt that not only are the pumps well made and strongly constructed, but that the motors also will do all that is claimed for them in connection with submersed working.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Business very Restricted.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Thursday.

The market has continued to present a very quiet appearance. Business, of course, has been disorganised by the Easter holidays. Nothing has occurred to stimulate buyers to greater activity. Although demand has been slow for several weeks, prices in yarn and cloth have been well maintained, but there are indications of some spinners and manufacturers being more prepared to consider offers. Some very interesting statistics have been published by the International Cotton Federation. It is important to note that since 1914 the number of spindles in Lancashire engaged on Egyptian cotton has increased by 2,750,000. On February 1 last stocks of Egyptian cotton in the hands of Lancashire spinners amounted to 146,916 bales, against 126,850 bales on March 1, 1914. The figures may be considered satisfactory. Although there have been fluctuations in Egyptian cotton rates during the week, the tone has been fairly steady. Buying, however, has been very restricted. According to private advices from Alexandria there is a possibility of a record acreage for cotton in Egypt for next season, and recently there has been a slight improvement in the weather conditions. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton have moved off slowly. Most of the demand has run on coarse counts for tyre cloths. A slow demand has been met with in piece goods for the Near Eastern outlets. The situation on the other side is not very bright, and there is a disposition to stop shipments and resell goods in the Manchester market. Operations for India have been very limited, although a little more inquiry has been mentioned in light fabrics such as dhooties. China has bought bleaching descriptions to a moderate extent. American yarns for home consumption have been sluggish, and the commoner qualities are now being offered more freely. Export bundles have been quiet for all outlets.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Pensacola, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on April 9.

The Cunard Line s.s. Southgate, for Piræus, Constantinople, Galatz, and Batoum, will close for cargo at Swansea on April 10.

The Prince Line s.s. Norman Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian coast ports and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on April 15.

The Moss Line s.s. Siptah, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Alexandria and Beyrout direct, will close for cargo at Liverpool on April 10.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Austrian, for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on April 17.

The Ellerman line s.s. Asturian, for Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on April 23.

The Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on April 21.

The Anchor Brocklebank Line s.s. Makalla, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta, will leave London on April 13.

Shipping Notes.

The trial trip took place at Stockton-on-Tees on March 24 of the steel screw steamer Gazana, built by Messrs. Craig, Taylor and Co., Ltd., for the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., and proved highly satisfactory. The dimensions of the vessel are: 412 ft. 6 ins. by 52 ft. 3 ins. by 31 ft. moulded to upper deck. She is built to the highest class in Lloyd's Register, and is equipped with patent steam windlass, with quick warping ends, steam steering gear, ten steam winches, electric light, wireless installation, and all the latest improvements.

The s.s. Narkunda, a passenger and mail steamer of the highest class, with a gross tonnage of 16,600, which has been built on account of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., underwent successful trials recently, and left Belfast for the Thames on March 30. The vessel is 605 ft. long by 69 ft. 3 ins. beam, and has accommodation for 426 first class and 247 second class passengers. The various public rooms and state rooms are furnished and decorated in a style well in keeping with the traditions of this famous line. The general design of the first class dining saloon is after the style of the Georgian period. A handsome and stately dome surmounts the saloon, and in the upper part of the well there are fine oil paintings illustrating the seasons of the year.

MOROCCAN MARKET FOR SHOE LACES.

The demand for shoe laces in Morocco is very limited, owing to the entire absence of shoe factories, says an American consular report. All boots and shoes sold in Morocco are imported ready-made and supplied with laces. The trade is therefore confined to the renewal of laces. No marked preference has been shown for any particular manufacture, and boot and shoe laces, of whatever origin, would find sale provided the cost price to the distributor were acceptable.

There are no statistics available regarding the small import trade of Morocco in boot and shoe laces. There are approximately 100,000 Europeans residing in the Shereefian Empire. Of these about 50,000 are of the poorest working classes, who either dispense with footwear entirely or are accustomed to wear, winter and summer, the rough canvas shoes (alpargatas) of Spanish manufacture, for which shoe laces are not required. On the supposition that each of the remaining 50,000 European inhabitants requires four pairs of boot or shoe laces per annum, we arrive at a sale of 200,000 pairs per year. The average cost price at the present time is two cents per pair, so that the annual sales of this article for the entire country would not exceed £800.

The colours preferred are black and light and dark brown. There is also a small demand for gray and white. Cotton shoe laces are sold in packets of 144 pairs, or in cardboard boxes of three to six dozen pairs each. Laces of mixed silk and cotton, or of mercerised cotton, come in pieces of 100 meters, and are made up locally into the required lengths. Coloured laces are quoted about 10 per cent. higher than black and white.

All cotton, glazed cotton, artificial or wood-fibre silk shoe and corset laces imported into Morocco are subject to an entrance duty of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem*. Pure silk laces are subject to only 7½ per cent *ad valorem* duty. Articles composed of combinations of silk and other materials are taxed proportionately.

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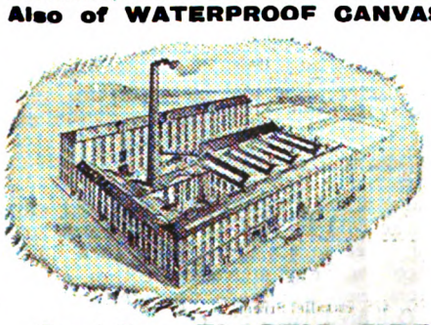
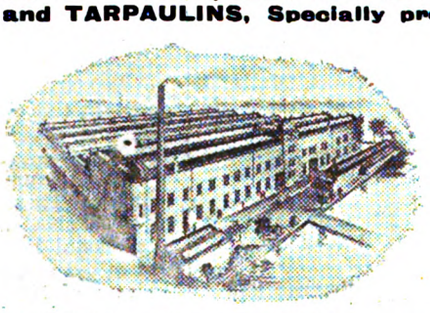
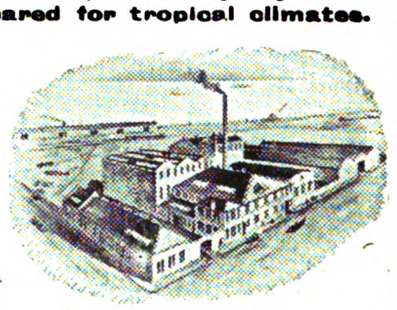

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.—There is little to add to the previous report. Owing to the holidays, the market has been more than usually quiet. It is to be noted that stocks are gradually being reduced.

Sugar.—There has been a good demand for home refined at the official rates. A quiet tone has characterised the free market. White Mauritius is quoted 113s.-114s. spot, white Java the same, West Indian crystallised 103s. to 106s., while American granulated has been done at 114s.

Coffee.—There is little change to report. New Costa Rica realised high prices at last week's auction. The futures market has been exceptionally quiet. Brazilian has been done for June at 123s., for July at 122s., for September at 119s., and for October at 118s.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their weekly report, state:—The spot market is steady, and although sellers occasionally evince a willingness to meet buyers, the latter show indifference. The adverse foreign exchanges have caused an entire cessation of all export demand. Brazil does not press offers, and appears at present to be suffering from troubles common to us all, and is wrestling with labour unrest. Information on the subject is very meagre, but we gather that some of the railroads have been affected by strikes, and the movement of coffee consequently restricted. The cheap Brazilian offers of new crop, July-September, are not without their influence on the general situation, these having been in evidence lately as low as 110s. f.o.b. So long as the absence of foreign demand continues we must look for dull and easier markets; but on the other hand it must not be forgotten that 110s. f.o.b. shows a big discount on recent prevailing rates—viz., 130s. f.o.b. for September. The price to-day is still quoted about 125s. to 127s. f.o.b. prompt shipment, so that at 110s. there would seem to be some inducement to buy, in view of the fact that the statistical position of the article remains as strong as ever.

Oilseeds.—Transactions have been very limited. Linseed: Calcutta April-June has been done at 44s. 9d. Rapeseed has been steady with Toria Hull March-May at 43s. 6d., and yellow Guzerat February-March at 45s. 6d. Cottonseed has been quiet with Egyptian-London f.a.q. at 23s.

Oilcakes, etc.—Linseed cake is in rather short supply, and prices tend to firmness. Egyptian cottonseed cake is also a firm spot. Oils have been fairly firm. Linseed has been done at 108s. spot, 106s. March-April, and 100s. May-August. Turpentine has been steady at 220s. spot and 168s. May-August. Rape oil and cotton oil have been quiet.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following are further extracts from the C.E.B. report for January:—

Sesame.

Sennar Province, December.—A good quantity of sesame is coming on the market. 1,097 tons of sesame were exported by rail during the month.

Kordofan Province, January.—Sales in El-Obeid market in ardebs of 330 rottles (148 kilos). 507 ardebs at an average price of £E5.500 per ardeb.

Nuba Mountains Province, January.—Good exports of sesame are reported from Talodi, Eliri, and Kadugli.

Ground Nuts.

Nuba Mountains Province, January.—Good exports of groundnuts are reported from Talodi, Eliri, and Kadugli.

Kordofan Province, January.—Sales in El Obeid market in ardebs of 210 rottles (94 kilos); 354 ardebs at an average price of £E3.100 per ardeb.

Sennar Province, December.—Fourteen tons were exported by rail during the month.

Dates.

Halfa Province.—A January report states the crop has now been completely sold by the producers. However, a great part is not yet moved, owing to transport difficulties. As a result of the increase of camel rates, many tons of dates are being consigned via the Dongola Reach to Kararia, and thence by rail to Halfa. The prices are in Halfa market per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos):—Barakawi (from Mahas and Sukkot districts), P.T.420 to P.T. 430; Barakawi (from Dongola), P.T.395 to P.T.410; Gondeila, P.T. 555 to P.T. 560; Gorguda, P.T.340 to P.T.360.

Dongola Province.—The market price during January is reported as P.T.312 per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

Berber Province, January.—At Shadabia dates are doing well.

Livestock, Hides and Skins.

Berber Province.—Animals sold in Damar market totalled 6,776 sheep and goats and 776 cattle. Prices were good, cattle averaging P.T.840 and sheep P.T.181.

Darfur Province, December.—657 cattle imported from the west passed through El Fasher. Average prices for the month:—Bull, £E5.400 mms. (tending to drop); sheep, £E0.600 mms.; goat, £E0.500 mms. A fair number of skins have been sold in the market during the month

Red Sea Province.—Twenty-nine cattle and forty sheep were expected viâ Port Sudan.

THE WORLD'S CROPS.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have received from the International Agricultural Institute at Rome the following information on the yield of crops in certain countries in 1919-20:—The total yield of wheat in Argentina, Uruguay, and Australia was 141,364,000 cwt., which is 97 per cent. of the yield in 1918-19 and of the average of the five previous years. The oat crop in Argentina and Uruguay amounted to 16,812,000 cwt., or 30 per cent. above the 1918-19 figure, and just over the five years' average. The yield of linseed in Argentina and Uruguay was 21,387,000 cwt., or 50 per cent. above the previous year's production and the average. The yield of rough rice in British India is estimated at 1,100,062,000 cwt., or 145 per cent. of last year's figure and 112 per cent. of the average. The condition of winter cereals is reported to be good in Belgium, France, and India, and average in Italy, Japan, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunis.

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ROUMANIAN MARKET FOR MACHINERY

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest, in a report on the Roumanian market for machinery, states:—In 1913 Roumania imported steam engines, agricultural machinery, hydraulic machines, gas engines, petrol engines, electric dynamos, electric motors, telegraph and telephone apparatus, electric cables, electric light apparatus and bells, etc., sewing machines, etc. The total of such machines imported was 59 million lei, divided in the following proportions: — Germany, 35,215,000 lei; United States, 10,226,000 lei; Austria-Hungary, 7,566,000 lei; Great Britain, 3,061,000 lei.

A large proportion of Roumanian implements have become worn out as a consequence of the war; either they have been destroyed during the enemy occupation or they have suffered from intensive usage. In any case, it is considered that at the present time they have no great value. The petroleum industry, the timber industry, milling industry, the railroads, telephones and telegraphs, port installations, and the factories of Old Roumania must be reorganised, renewed and reconstructed.

To these great requirements must be added those of the new Roumania. The industries of the new provinces are more developed than those in Old Roumania, outside of agriculture. There, in the same manner, new machines and materials of all kinds are required in order to reorganise production and to revivify the economic movement. The agrarian reforms which are now coming into operation will enable Roumania to develop her agriculture and the natural wealth of her soil.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

National Bank of India.

The report of the National Bank of India for the year 1919 states that the net profits, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £452,169, and adding £123,464 brought forward, the available total is £575,633. The directors recommend a further dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the increased capital of £1,500,000, amounting to £150,000, and an addition to the reserve fund of £150,000, raising it to £2,000,000. They propose to write £20,000 off house property account and to add £20,000 to the officers' pension fund, leaving £135,633 to be carried forward. Meeting, Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate, E.C., April 12, noon.

Samnuggur Jute.

The report of the Samnuggur Jute Factory Company for 1919 states that the accounts have been prepared on the basis of 1s 4d. sterling per rupee. The working account, including exchange, for the year shows a gross profit of £665,734. The profit and loss account, including £58,268 brought forward, and after having been debited with income-tax, excess profits duty, interest, and all other charges, shows a free profit of £403,987. The directors have appropriated against depreciation on plant £30,000, reserve fund £50,000, reserve for income-tax obligations £28,000, and for new engine and boilers installation and machinery replacements £100,000, and an interim dividend has been paid on the ordinary shares at 20 per cent., less tax. A final dividend is now recommended on the ordinary shares, including new issue, at 30 per cent., less tax, carrying forward £41,009.

Victoria Jute.

The report of the Victoria Jute Company for 1919 states that the working account for the year shows a credit balance of £407,660. After payment of excess profits duty, Indian supertax, income-tax at head office and Calcutta, and adding interest and exchange balances and transfer fees and £44,230 brought forward, the balance at credit of profit and loss is £269,793. From this there falls to be deducted interim dividends paid on ordinary shares 20 per cent., less tax, transferred to depreciation account £20,000, reserve for income-tax obligations £15,000, replacement of machinery and electric installation £60,000, reserve fund £40,000, leaving a balance of £101,434. The directors now recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares, including new issue, of 30 per cent., less tax, carrying forward £29,378.

Titaghur Jute.

The report of the Titaghur Jute Factory Company for 1919 states that the working account, including exchange, for the year shows a gross profit of £676,198. The profit and loss account, including £83,245 brought forward, and after having been debited with income-tax, excess profits duty, and all other charges applicable to the year, shows a free balance of £448,441. The directors have appropriated against depreciation on plant £30,000, reserve for income-tax obligations £30,000, replacement of machinery £50,000, and reserve fund £100,000. An interim dividend on the ordinary shares at 20 per cent., less income-tax, has been paid, and a final dividend is now recommended on the ordinary shares, including new issue, at 30 per cent., less tax, carrying forward £83,463.

Madras Electric Tramways.

The accounts of the Madras Electric Tramways for 1919 show a gross profit of £33,839. After debiting interest and London office expenses, making provision for the debenture stock sinking fund, and transferring £12,000 to depreciation and renewal accounts, there remains a balance of £14,705, and £4,820 was brought in, making £19,525. After providing for dividend on the preference shares, less tax, the directors recommend a further dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, free of tax; contribute £1,000 to a gratuity fund for the benefit of employees in Madras, transfer £3,000 to general reserve, and carry forward, subject to excess profits duty (if any), £4,944. The running account was adversely affected by the strike in the early part of 1919, which was referred to at the last general meeting. Wages and the cost of materials having continued to advance, revisions in fares were made during the year, but these have only partially met the enhanced cost of running. The traffic receipts and the expenditure in Madras show increases of 9 per cent. and 19.6 per cent. respectively on 1918. The debenture stock sinking fund now amounts to £11,306.

The Fifth International Exhibition of Rubber, other Tropical Products, and Allied Industries will be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, London, June 3-17, 1921.

The will has just been proved of Sir Ratan Tata, of York House, Twickenham, and of Bombay, a Parsi merchant, largely interested in the Tata Iron and Steel Mills, and various Indian cotton and power companies. He left estate in the United Kingdom of the gross value of £191,860 2s. 9d., with net personalty £131,661 3s. 9d. His Indian property was valued for the Indian grant at Rs.1,00,18,086.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to 31, 1920 (New Style January 14 to February 13, 1920).

		Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper & Naxos Emery	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmae.	Drachmae.
Gross receipts, January, 1920		4,771,084	4,938,259
Do. do. 1919		4,438,859	2,675,952
Estimated receipts for 1 month (Law of Control)		2,408,333	891,666
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 1 month	1920	+ 2,362,751	+ 4,046,593
	1919	+ 1,940,525	+ 1,784,285

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper and Naxos Emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos Emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmae at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—At the Ordinary General Meeting of the National Bank of Egypt held in Cairo on the 29th March, 1920, a final DIVIDEND of £1 per share was DECLARED PAYABLE on the 1st April, 1920, making 28s., equivalent to 14 per cent., for the year ended 31st December, 1919. Coupon No. 27 is therefore now payable.

Forms for listing Coupons may be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 & 7, King William Street, London, E.C.4.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—The necessary number of shares not being represented at the Extra-ordinary General Meeting convened for the 29th March, 1920, shareholders are requested to attend the ADJOURNED Extra-ordinary General MEETING, which will be HELD at the offices of the Bank in CAIRO, on Thursday, 15th April, at 4 o'clock p.m.

Shareholders desiring to be represented at the Meeting should deposit their shares at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 & 7, King William Street, London, E.C.4, not later than 6th April, 1920.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, on Thursday, the 29th April, 1920, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among other things, of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report;
Receiving the Auditors' Report;
Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1920;
Declaration of Dividends;
Election of Directors;
Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration;
And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 9th April, 1920), when cards of admission and proxy forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In Egypt—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.
In London—At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 19th March, 1920.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

STAMBOUL, March 5.

Exports.

Cereals.—The market is firm. Prices: Wheat (tender), Anatolian Extra, Ps. 16 the oke; I., Ps. 15½ the oke; II., Ps. 14 the oke. Arrivals of the week from Anatolia, 175 wagons of wheat and 31 wagons of barley. Flour is also higher. Prices: Extra, £T13½ 72 kilos; I., £T12½ 72 kilos; II., £T10-£T10½ 72 kilos; III., £T6½-£T7½ 72 kilos; Canadian, £T13-£T13½ 63 kilos. Arrivals of the week from Anatolia, 11 wagons of flour.

Silk.—Market very quiet, and prices especially low. No demand for Lyons nor for Milan, the exchange not being favourable. Broussa, £T29-£T29½ the kilo. Probable stock, 25-30 bales. Syrian, £T22 the kilo (price nominal). The quality is poor and the demand nil.

BALIKESSAR, February 24.

Produce exported in January, prices quoted, and market tendency: Barley, 45,500 kilos, Ps. 6½ the kilo; beans, 119,300 kilos, Ps 5½ the kilo; millet, 15,500 kilos., Ps. 5 the kilo; sesame, 17,000 kilos, Ps. 42 the kilo (all the above prices with a tendency to rise); olive oil, 6.000 kilos, Ps. 65 this year's produce, Ps. 90 last year's crop.

The absorption of Turkish pounds and mejidiehs by the capital continued during the month with the same intensity as in December.

The prohibition by the authorities of the export to Smyrna of cereals and of all kinds of food products still continues; the commerce of our region is much restricted.

Crop Forecasts.

This month we have had rain and snow alternately. The rains which fell during the first ten days of January caused some damage to sowings in the plain. Despite that, the general condition of the crops is satisfactory up to the present. No new factors are to be noted in respect of our market.

SALONIKA, February 20.

Imports.

Sugar.—During February about 240,000 okes were imported. Price. 3.30-3.50 drachmæ per kilo.

Coffee.—1,200 sacks from France, 580 sacks from England. Price, 5.90-6.40 drachmæ per oke.

Rice.—10,500 sacks of American; 508 from Constantinople; 2,440 from the Piræus. Price, 2.70-3.30 drachmæ per oke.

Cereals.—320,000 okes from Serbia; 4,000 tons from America. Price: Wheat, 1-1.10 drachmæ; barley, 0.90 drachmæ; maize, 0.88 drachmæ.

Flour.—18,000 sacks of American; 11,700 okes from Serbia. Price, 1.90-2 drachmæ.

Dried Vegetables.—850 sacks. Price, 1.50-3.10 drachmæ.

Condensed Milk.—5,400 cases American; 3,800 Swiss. Price, 83-103 drachmæ per case.

Butter.—165 barrels. Price, 9.80-10 drachmæ per oke.

Sesame.—500 sacks. Price, 3.80-4.10 drachmæ.

Sesame Oil.—230 barrels imported from England and 180 barrels from Italy. Price about 9 drachmæ.

Potatoes.—1,962 sacks from France; 3,000 sacks from Italy; 2,000 sacks from Serbia. Price, 0.75-1.08 drachmæ.

Candles.—280 cases from Holland; 198 bundles from Egypt; 25 bundles from England; 195 cases from France. Price, 6.15-6.40 drachmæ per kilo.

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ON CHANGE.

Prices again Lower.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

During the few days that our Stock Exchange has been open this week business has continued dull, and prices are again lower practically all along the line.

In Government Stocks Egyptian Unifieds have gone back half a point to 72⅜, and the 3½ per cent. Prefs. have dropped one point to 60¾.

In Bank shares Agriculturals are again 1-16th down at 5 9-32, and the Preference are 1-16 lower at 6⅜; but the bonds are unchanged at 66 x.d. and 68 x.d. respectively. Anglo-Egyptian Banks, after dropping a point to 18⅜, close ⅜ down at 19. Land Banks have shed 1-16 at 6, and National Bank of Egypt have continued rather a weak market closing at 21⅜ x.d.

In Land shares Aboukirs are almost ⅛ down at 2 1-16, Béhéras have fallen 1½ points to 19, and Union Foncières are ⅜ down at 5⅜. Delta Lands have receded 6d. to 17s., and Foreign Trusts are 6d. lower at 16s. 6d. New Egyptians have given way a further 1s. to 34s., but Sudan Plantations, after dropping to 7, close only 1-32 lower at 7 3-32.

Among miscellaneous descriptions there has again been a decline of 1s. in Salts and Sodas to 54s., but Morums are 3d. better at 19s. 3d.

Amongst Greek securities the 1881, 1884, and Monopoly Loans are all one point higher, the first two at 57 and the last-named at 47, whilst Larissas has dropped a point to 57. Rentes close about unchanged at 48 x.d., and Fundings finish at 57 x.d., with the 1910 Loan quoted at 39 x.d. Turkish 4's of 1891 are half a point up at 70, with a like advance in Unified Loan to 32½.

NEW COMPANIES.

Sudan Traders.

The Sudan Traders, Limited, was registered as a private company on March 26 with a capital of £125,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of traders, general merchants, importers and exporters of general merchandise, timber, raw and partly manufactured materials, food products, chemicals, and machinery, shipowners, carriers, wharfingers, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—A. J. Milnes, Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, E.C.2; E. W. Lowe, Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, E.C.2. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Solicitor: G. A. J. Smallman, 1, Broad Street Place, E.C. Registered office: Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, E.C.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 24:—

Rain nearly general in Assam, at Chota-Nagpur and Punjab Hills. Local in other parts in Northern India and Central India. Crop conditions generally good. Bombay cotton market easy, fully good Broach, April-May, Rs.484. Piece-goods market, improved demand, with prices unchanged. Calcutta jute market steady, with interest reviving. Hessians quiet, with prices weaker. Heavy goods slack, with prices steady. Manharpur Coalfield Chord Railway reconnaissance survey, 200 miles by Bengal-Nagpur Railway, sanctioned. No change in bank rates.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The transfer books of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., are closed until April 16.

Société Hellénique de Vins et Spiriteux.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Athens on April 10.

Nouvelle Société du Canal de Corinthe.—The ordinary general meeting takes place at Athens to-day.

Compagnie d'éclairage de Galatz.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Brussels to-day.

Grandes Brasseries de Bucharest.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Brussels on April 13.

Société Tramways d'Athènes, Pirée et extensions.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Athens on April 13.

The directors of the New Dimbula Company have declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent. for the half-year ended December 31, 1919.

The receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended February 10 amounted to £E13,187, making the total for the year £E336,991.

The directors of the Central Provinces Prospecting Syndicate recommend a final dividend of 8 per cent., together with a bonus of 8 per cent., making 24 per cent., less tax, for the year 1919.

Woodend (Kelani Valley, Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Company.—Transfer books closed on and after April 8 for the purpose of preparing a list of those to whom the shares in the new company are due.

Ottoman Four per Cent. Loan on the Egyptian Tribute.—Half-yearly coupons for interest due April 10 will be paid on and after that date at the banking house of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

The directors of the Barsi Light Railway Company have declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent., together with a bonus of 2 per cent. (10s. per share in all), in respect of the year ended March 31, 1920, payable April 23.

National Bank of Egypt.—Final dividend of £1 per share, payable on April 1, making 28s., equivalent to 14 per cent. for year ended December 31. Coupon No. 27 is therefore now payable. Forms for listing coupons may be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

The directors of the Ooregum Gold Mining Company recommend a balance dividend for the year 1919 of 1s. 6d. per share (less tax at 6s. in the £) on both preference and ordinary shares, payable April 24, to shareholders on the books March 30, making a total for the year of 32½ per cent. on the preference and 22½ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Egyptian Delta Land and Investment.—The annual ordinary general meeting will be held at Cairo on April 19 for the purpose of receiving the directors' report and balance-sheet for the year ending December 31, 1919, fixing the dividend, electing directors in the place of those retiring by rotation, appointing auditors for the ensuing year, and fixing their remuneration, and transacting the ordinary general business.

A daily air service is about to be started between Rabat and Tangier, in Morocco.

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THE TRADE INDEMNITY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Established with the object of assisting British Merchants and Manufacturers in developing their business by the Insurance of Accounts.

Governor: THE LORD FARINGDON. **Deputy Governor: SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I., C.H.**

Manager, A. G. M. Dickson. *London Manager*, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business.

Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price March 29	Price April 6
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28	28
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	66	66
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	73½	72⅝
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	61¾	60¾
Greek 5%, 1881	56	57
Do. 5%, 1884	56	57
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	46	47
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	50	48x1
Do. 5% 1890	58	57
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	58	57xd
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	50	50
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	40½	39xd
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	55	55
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	73½	74
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69½	70
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	59	59
Do. 4% Unified	32	32½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅞	6⅞
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	67½	66xd
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	69½	68xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	19¼	19
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	60/-	60/-
Bank of British West Africa	7⅛	6⅞
Bank of Roumania	5½	5½
British Trade Corporation	9⅜	9⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10¾	10¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	9⅞	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅞	6
London County and Westminster	14¾	14¼
National Bank of Egypt	22¾	21¾xd
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	71	71
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅞	9⅞
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	16	14
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	46	46
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	35	35½
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	43/6	41/3
Do. 6% Debs	140	140
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	17/6	17/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	3¾	3¾
Béhéra Co.	20½	19
Do. Pref.	3⅜	3⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	32/-	32/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/5 paid)	2/6½	2/6½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	17/6	17/-
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	17/-	16/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	31/3	31/3
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	7
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	72	72
New Egyptian Co.	35/-	34/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅝	2⅝
Sudan Plantations	7⅛	7⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	10/6	10/6
Alexandria Water Co.	10¾	10¾
Associated Cotton Ginners	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	55/-	54/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99¼	99¼
Khediv al Mail Ord.	5⅞	5⅞
Do. Do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾
Levant Co. (fully paid)	19/6	18/3
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	19/-	19/3
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	100½	98½
Chinese 4½% 1898	59½	59½
Do. 5% 1896	75½	75
Argentine 5% 1890	74	74½
Do. 5% 1907	83½	87
OIL.		
Algerian	3/9	4/-
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	3⅛	4
Anglo-Persian Pref.	23/-	22/6
Do. 5% Debs.	82½	82
Anglo-Roumanian	7/4½	7/4½
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/9½	4/6
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	13/9	14/-
Roumanian	24/-	23/9
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	5/7½	5/4½
Traian (Roumanian)	8/1½	7/10½

A Reuter message from Ahmedabad, dated April 3, states that in consequence of the millowners' refusal to grant the demands of the cotton spinners for thirty rupees per month for a ten-hour day, the spinners struck yesterday and a general lock-out is feared.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Feb. 28. Rs.	March 6. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	59	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	303
Bank of Bengal	1765	1770
Bank of Bombay	2350	2350
Bank of Madras	1700	1700
Bank of India	141	141
Tata Industrial Bank	49	52
COAL.		
Baraboni	14½	14½
Bengal	800	780
Burrakur	46¾	46
East Indian	37¾	37½
Equitable	38½	38x
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	61	60½
Standard	66x	64½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	460	450
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	3480	2730
Bowreah	880	840
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	750	750
Cawnpore	210	210
Century	992	1125
Central India	3600 1800	3750 1875
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	1800	1800
Khatau Makanji	750	750
Muir	254x	254x
New Ring	700	700
Phœnix	1080	1030
Svadeshi	3765	4290
JUTE.		
Alliance	750	765
Barnagore	162	161
Budge Budge	625	635
Clive	280	298
Dalhousie	525	528
Delta	620	695
Fort Gloster	1000	1025
Gourepore	1320	1320
Howrah	46	45
Kamarhatty	916	896
Kanknarrah	744	740
Khardah	550	570
Kinnison	1051	1000
National	420	420
Standard	690	710
Union	860	855
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	81¾
Bengal Timber Trading	700	700
Burn and Co.	300	300
Carew and Co.	91	91
Cawnpore Sugar	345	355
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	350	310
Howrah Oil Mills	32¼	32¼
India General Steam	155	155
Indian Iron and Steel	105 45	105 45
Marshall Sons and Co.	11½	11½
Titaghur Paper	318	311½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MARCH 19.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	23⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	73
" " Div.	Frs.	115
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	10¾
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	20
" priv.	£	4
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	80½
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 27/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5⅜
Société des Immeubles	£	7⅜
Bonded Stores	£	20½
Unifiée	£	76½
Privilégiée		64
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅞
Nungovich Hotels	£	12⅞
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅞
" " Fond.	£	440
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3
" Ord		108/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	22
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	98
" Jouissance	Frs.	148
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		39/9
Egyptian Markets		24/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	420
" Div.	Frs.	400
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	302
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	8 29/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		57/9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	650ex
" Fondateur	Frs.	9000
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	427
" 1903 "	Frs.	292
" 1911 "	Frs.	279½
Consolidated Land	P.T.	15
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1 29/32
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	390
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	1 15/16
Urbaines & Rurales		3¼
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4⅜
Gabbari Lands	£E.	1½

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Mar. 29.	April 6
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	66½	63½
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	63	62½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		98½	98½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1903-10, 1939-40		69	69
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		67	67⅛
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		86½	82½
Eastern		7⅝	7⅝xd
Mercantile of India A.		43½	43
National of India		62½	60½
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		9/6	9/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		14/6	14/6
Burma Corp.		11⅛	12⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		10/7½	10/1½
Champion Reef Gold		3/7½	3/7½
Mysore Gold Mining		18/1⅛	17/10½
Nundydroog		15/3	14/-
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		16/9	17/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		20/-	20/-
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		40/7½	45/-
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		35/-	36/3
Brit. Burmah		4⅞	4⅝
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		16⅝	19⅜
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		22/6	22/6
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅛	9⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		48	48
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		135	134
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		50	50½
Bengal-Nagpur		114	110
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		102⅛	102½
Burma Railways		107	103
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		13	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13	13
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		12⅞	12½
Madras and S. Mahratta		107	104
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		127½	127½
Nizam's Guaranteed State		82	75
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		—	—
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		84⅛	84⅜
Do. Deferred		567	561
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		64½	64
Bengal United Tea Ord.		15⅜	16
British Indian Tea Ord.		7⅜	7⅜
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15⅞	15⅞
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		11/-	11/7½
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		62/6	61/3
Consolidated Estates		42/6	41/9
Darjeeling Co.		19/-	18/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		65	61/3
Dooars Tea Ord.		50/-	50/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		20/1½	20/7½
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		68/1½	70/-
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		34/6	52/6
Hewagam Rubber Co.		23/1½	22/-
Jhanzie Tea Association		10⅜	10⅞
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		20	20
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		15/6	16/3
Lanka Plantations Ord.		29/6	29/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		22/6	21/9
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		40/7½	40/-
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		12⅜	12⅜
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		30/-	28/9

The Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., report: Hurgada production for week ending March 25, 2,507 tons (last week, 2,352 tons).

Egyptian Preference Bonds.—The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due April 15 on Egyptian preference bonds. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the dividend pay office.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take

WILKINSON'S (Estd. since 1829)

ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

"We cannot speak too highly of it."—LANCET. **SARSAPARILLA**

(The best "Pick-Me-Up")

Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

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with which are incorporated

THE PUNJAB BANKING CO., LTD.,
THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,
AND
THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Authorised Capital - -		**Rs. 1,00,00,000**
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital - - -	,,	**88,21,400**
Reserve Fund - - -	,,	**40,00,000**
Reserve against Depreciation of Govt. Paper and other investments -	,,	**11,00,000**

Head Office - SIMLA.

Branches:

Abbottabad, Agra, Ajmere, Allahabad, Amballa, Amritsar, Bareilly, Bhopal (Bhopal State), Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Dalhousie, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi (City), Delhi (Civil Lines), Ferozepore, Gwalior, Jullundur, Karachi, Kasauli, Lahore, Lahore (Cantts.), Lucknow, Meerut, Multan, Murree, Mussoorie, Naini Tal, Nowshera, Peshawar, Peshawar (Cantts.), Quetta, Rangoon, Rawalpindi, Sialkote, Simla (Town Office), Srinagar (Kashmir), Ujjain (Gwalior State).

Sub-Offices:

Barnagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Sadar Bazar (Delhi), Hapur (Meerut), Morena (Gwalior), Pachhar (Gwalior), Meerut City (Meerut), Sehore (Bhopal), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior).

LONDON BANKERS:

Messrs. BOULTON BROS. & Co., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C.
BARCLAYS BANK, LTD., 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other Branch.

Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected, Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.

Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.

The Bank undertakes Banking business of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper, Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.

Rules of Business and any further information can be obtained on application to Head Office or any of the Branches.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

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CALCUTTA	IPOH	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
CANTON	KARACHI	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
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DELHI		RANGOON	YOKOHAMA

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY and MIDLAND BANK, Limited.
THE LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER and PARR'S BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general banking business connected with the East.

DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - - £2,000,000. **Paid-up Capital - - £765,242.**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - - £1,197,468. **Reserve Fund - - £220,000.**

Branches: **BOMBAY. CALCUTTA. COLOMBO. BAGDAD. BASRA. BASRA CITY. AMARA. HILLAH. MOSUL.**

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).

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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1, 2 or 3 years at five per cent. per annum and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at two per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, KHARTOUM, PORT SAID, PORT SUDAN, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, TANTAH, MANSURA, HAIFA, JAFFA, JERUSALEM, MALTA, and GIBRALTAR.

Subscribed Capital £1,600,000 | Paid-up Capital - £600,000
Reserve - - - £710,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - £3,000,000 | RESERVE FUND - £2,000,000
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

Governor: SIR FREDERICK T. ROWLATT, K.B.E.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., — SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, — COL. THE HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O., M.P.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. — ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum. Port Sudan, Suakim, and Wad Medani.

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Tank Steamer Owners, Ship and Insurance Brokers and Merchants.

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SAN FRANCISCO.	HONG KONG.	BUENOS AIRES.	BUSREH.
"Marbrack"	"Bankline"	"Chadweiroo"	"Weir"

The Bank Line, Ltd.	**Hong Kong.**
Bank Line Transport & Trading Co.	**San Francisco.**
Houldcr, Weir & Boyd Ineptd.	**New York.**
Chadwick, Weir & Co., Ltd.	**Buenos Aires.**
Andrew Weir & Co.	**Busreh.**
Andrew Weir & Co.	**Glasgow.**
Andrew Weir & Co.	**Middlesbro'-on-Tees.**
Andrew Weir & Co.	**21, Bury St., London, E.C.3**

OWNING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

Oriental African Line.—Carrying passengers and cargo from Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore to Mauritius, Delagoa Bay, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay and Cape Town and *vice versa*. Taking cargo on thro' Bill of Lading from Japan and China.

Indian African Line.—Carrying passengers and cargo, including in its itinerary Rangoon, Calcutta, Colombo, Beira, Delagoa Bay, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay and Cape Town.

Calcutta to River Plate Ports.—Calcutta to Monte Vide o Buenos Aires, Rosario and Bahia Blanca.

Indian Chilian Line.—Calcutta, Rangoon and Singapore to West Coast of South American Ports.

American and Indian Line.—Calcutta, Chittagong, Rangoon and Colombo to Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

American and Indian Branch Service.—Rangoon, Chittagong, Madras, Madras Coast, Colombo and Malabar Coast (filling up if necessary at Aden and Port Sudan) to Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

Bombay American Line.—Bombay to New York and Philadelphia.

American and Rio Plata Line.—New York to Monte Video, Buenos Aires, Rosario and Bahia Blanca.

American and Oriental Line.—New York to Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, Philippines, China and Japan, and *vice versa*.

Persian Gulf.—General merchants Export and Import. Frequent sailings from Busreh and Bushire to U.K. and Continent.

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Baltic Exchange Buildings,
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MAIL AND PASSENGER SERVICES.

Tickets interchangeable. All sailings subject to change with or without notice. Australian tickets interchangeable by Orient Line. MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, BURMA, CEYLON, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN, MAURITIUS, EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALASIA.
PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government.)

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	Mars'lles.	Destination.
NALDERA	16,000	April 10	April 17	Bombay, Colombo, & Australia
DELTA	8,000	April 10	—	Straits, China, Japan
*POONA	9,000	April 20	—	Australia
MOREA	11,000	—	April 24	Bombay & Karachi
KARMALA	9,000	April 24	—	Straits, China, Japan

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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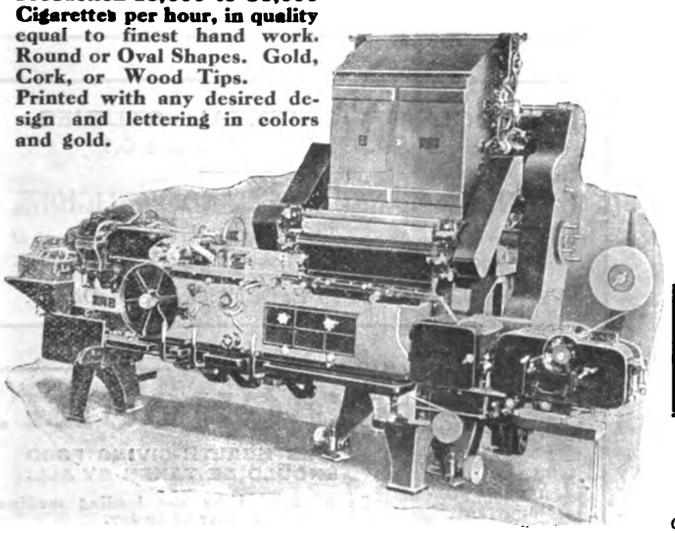

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No. 467.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

What it is to be hoped will prove to have been a thoroughly satisfactory bout of plain talking has just taken place between the British and French Governments. The trouble arose over the occupation by French troops of certain German towns without the previous consent of the Allies having been obtained. We trust that, while France's action will have the effect of convincing the Allies that the time for rapid decision has not yet passed, the tenour of the British Government's Note to the French Government will cause the latter to bear in mind that there are limits to the policy of give-and-take between Allies. It will be well if the moral is taken to heart by the French in the Near East, where a good deal seems in danger of happening which would with difficulty fall within the four corners of the spirit of the Alliance. In Constantinople, for instance, unless great care is taken, the Turks will gain the impression that it is still possible to play off one against the other, even the two chief Powers among the Allies. It is a case, no doubt, of the old difficulty of controlling over-zealous representatives on the spot; but if the French Government realised that it might be exposing itself to some more plain-speaking on the part of Great Britain, it would take greater care to exercise effective control over French policy in the Orient.

Reports of massacres that have taken place and of others that are feared to be imminent continue to reach this country from many centres where there are Armenians. Against these gloomy reports may be set the news that Aintab, which had been more or less closely invested by Turkish bands for about two months, has now been relieved, after sharp fighting, by French colonial troops. The Turks are reported to have lost a thousand killed, and though we may make allowance for exaggeration, they would seem to have received a very sharp lesson indeed. Another set-back to Armenian-baiters is announced from Karabagh, whose former Governor, described in a Reuter message as "the notorious Sultanoff, the principal instigator of the attacks upon the Armenians," has fallen into the hands of his enemies. His fate is not announced, but it is likely to be of a kind to deter others from emulating his example.

The Bulgarian elections have returned the Agrarian Party, whose leader is M. Stambouliski, the Prime Minister, to power with 112 out of 229 seats. The remainder of the seats are divided between Communists 47, Democrats 25, Socialists 7, Liberals 5, Popular Party (Narodniaks) 14, Ghenadieffists 3, and 16 Independents. Although the Agrarians have not an absolute majority, they outnumber any other single party sufficiently to allow M. Stambouliski to be sure of a working majority for some time to come: the hopelessness of the position of some of the other parties will be an inducement to many deputies to throw in their lot with the Agrarians. His chief opponents, the Communists, have been well routed, although their poll in some of the chief towns would seem to have been relatively heavy.

The thoroughness with which Bulgaria is grappling with the task of reconstruction is worthy of notice. It is a charge levelled against the Bulgarians by themselves that, while on the land they are among the most industrious of people, they are apt to lose their zest for work when they become permanently town-dwellers. If this be a national failing, it is evident that M. Stambouliski has not yet succumbed to the influence of town life. The policy of his Government is characterised by the vigour with which the country is being encouraged, some may say made, to work. Something in the nature of labour conscription is to be attempted, which will compel all classes, high and low, rich and poor, to give up part of their time to work of national importance, and the term seems likely to be restricted to very narrow limits, such as road making, railway construction, and the like. It remains to be seen whether even in an undeveloped country the State can live by muscular work alone, or to an extent that enables it to conscript all its brain workers for manual enterprises. The experiment will have some interest for the Communists, although in Bulgaria, where there is little distinction between classes, they will have less opportunity than in any other country of using it to endorse their own particular doctrines.

Damad Ferid Pasha has completed his Cabinet, which is described as non-partisan in character, though it is most unlikely to give the Nationalists and Unionists any quarter in the struggle that seems now to be inevitable. Our Constantinople Correspondent's letter, which will be found on another page, fully bears out what we wrote last week regarding the difficulties that confront the new Grand Vizier and the need that the Allies should lend him support—practical support, and plenty of it—if he

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is to win through. Unfortunately there is good reason to believe that at least one of the Allies was active in the endeavour to keep Salih Pasha in power, in the hope that he in turn would endeavour to persuade Mustapha Kemal to use his good offices in a quarter in which the Power concerned was experiencing much embarrassment. If national rather than Allied interests are to be followed in this fashion the result can hardly fail to be disastrous all round.

If a disaster is to be averted, the Allies must henceforth show a more united front than they have done lately in Turkey. Even so, their difficulties will be heavy enough. At the moment the Nationalists may look less formidable than they did a few weeks ago, and Ahmed Anzavur Bey has shown us that among the Turks themselves Mustapha Kemal has opponents as well as supporters. But it would be unwise to conclude that the breach between the pro- and anti-Kemalists is past mending. Even if all should go well in regard to other parts of what was the Turkish Empire, there would remain the thorny question of Smyrna. On that point Nationalists and "anti-Nationalists" are united, and unless Damad Ferid Pasha is able to obtain, and pass on, assurances that can be regarded as satisfactory from the Turkish point of view, he will have no chance at all of being able to "make good" without foreign assistance. In such circumstances, are the Allies prepared to help him? In view of certain tendencies they have displayed, it may be suggested that the task is not one to be delegated to either the Republic of Andorra or the Principality of Monaco.

Through the kindness of the London agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank we have received a copy of the appeal for contributions towards the Christ Church, Constantinople, War Memorial. Particulars will be found on another page, and we are confident that many of our readers will welcome the opportunity of subscribing to an object which, as the executive committee of the fund indicate, should stir the sympathies of citizens of the British Empire throughout the world. The constitution of the committee is a guarantee that funds entrusted to it will be wisely employed.

There has been a further disturbance in Jerusalem. On April 4, during the Moslem celebrations of Meli Moussa, a Moslem procession came into conflict with Jews in the neighbourhood of the Jaffa Gate. The total casualties are put down at five Jews and four Moslems killed and 211 Jews and 22 Moslems wounded. Rioting appears to have gone on for two or three days, but after the first unexpected outburst it never seems to have become serious, and the situation is now reported to be perfectly calm. The whole affair is, of course, most regrettable; but in view of the bad feeling that has been growing up between Jew and Moslem in Palestine since the Armistice, it can hardly have come as a surprise to anyone.

A due sense of proportion seems to be so rare in India just now that it is refreshing to find that, even on the question of the Khalifate, some of the leaders have been able to keep their heads, and we can welcome unreservedly the remarks of the President of the All-India Shiah Conference, who, while very properly minimising sectarian differences, insisted on the obvious fact that the Sultan of Turkey is not the religious head of that particular sect, and altogether repudiated the dangerous doctrine of contingent rebellion preached by the extremist agitators. Englishmen are perhaps prone to under-estimate the distinction between Sunnis and Shiahs, just as Moslems sometimes fail to appreciate the significance of the internal cleavages of Christendom, but though the Shiahs are in a minority, they constitute an important and distinctive section of the diversified population of India, and it is well that they have found a leader able to give them wise counsel at the present juncture.

It is only fair to India to add that the cabled messages, taken by themselves, may give a rather one-sided view of the situation in this matter of the Khalifate. The cables inevitably give prominence to sensational items of intelligence, and consequently the most violent agitators receive most notice, but study of the Indian Press shows that many responsible politicians are seriously perturbed by these excesses. Their protests are not yet loud or incisive, for moderate men have the defects of their qualities in India as elsewhere, while the evil tradition that Indians must never contradict each other has by no means lost its influence; but the weight of reasonable opinion is there, and gradually it is learning to express itself. As we have said before, this is the most hopeful feature in a situation which is by no means free from anxiety; the new regime will never work while opinion can be stampeded by each clique or junta in its turn, and the habit of speaking out plainly is the necessary condition precedent for its success.

In this respect a good example seems to have been set by Lord Sinha in a speech delivered last week in Calcutta, when he urged the Moderate party to refuse co-operations with the extremists on the specific ground that the differences between them were fundamental. Coming as it does from the most eminent living Indian, this speech may prove to be a landmark in the history of the country. Hitherto it has been possible for men to sink their own views for the sake of unity of opposition, but the case is altered when politicians are called on to take up constructive work; there may be unanimity in Utopia, but we know of no other country where it has a permanent existence, and fundamental differences are the historical basis of every party system in the world. They are coming to light in India now, and they are likely to be realised more and more as time goes on; the rapidity of constitutional progress may be gauged by the fact that already politicians are beginning to speak the truth about each other.

Professor Armstrong's recent letter in *The Times* shows good grounds for thinking that there is still a hopeful future for the "natural" indigo industry, perhaps the oldest of India's highly speculative enterprises. Indigo was a "gamble" in Gujerat when English merchants first reached India, and the successive migrations of the crop, first to Barbadoes, then back to Bengal, and thence to Bihar, make one of the strangest chapters in the history of agricultural production. More recently the chemists came upon the scene, and for a time it looked as if the synthetic product, indigotin, was destined to drive the plant finally from the face of the earth, but as time went on dyers learned that indigotin is not just the same as indigo, the growers took heart and called science to their councils, and it now appears that improvements in agriculture, coupled with centralised and standardised manufacture, may enable India to retain her hold on the markets which she recaptured during the war.

The essence of the matter is that nature works with mixtures while chemists have hitherto dealt in pure substances. As Professor Armstrong points out, you can make alcohol from coal and a waterfall, but nobody has yet produced by such means a good vintage port, or even a tolerably palatable whisky. These products, of course, contain what the chemist knows as alcohol, but they also contain small quantities of other things, which the chemist perhaps calls impurities, but which make all the difference to the consumer; and in the same way indigo manufactured by the traditional methods contains, besides indigotin, certain other substances which the dyer finds necessary to ensure complete success. Later on the chemists will doubtless identify these accessories, and eventually they may produce the real thing, but for some time to come it seems probable that connoisseurs will give a substantial preference to the indigo of Bihar.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

The Anglo-French Difficulty.

The sudden difference of opinion between France and Britain over the despatch of French troops to the neutral zone of Germany has been universally regretted in England—except, perhaps, among the small but pertinacious coterie of pro-Germans and Pacifists. It has all along been doubtful whether the demand for the revision of the Peace Treaty, which Mr. Keynes brought into prominence in his book, "The Economic Consequences of the Peace," and which Mr. Asquith and some other politicians stood, and stand, for, was generally echoed by public opinion; certainly the quibbling and evasions of Germany in carrying out its terms have been generally condemned, and the determination of France to insist on no more equivocations has been frankly applauded as a common-sense action.

In these circumstances the British Government's open dissociation of itself from France has been strongly criticised. Nobody, of course, really believes the newspaper story that the Cabinet's action is due to German intrigue; that kind of slander carries no weight. But it is very generally felt that, even if the Government disapproved, it need not have taken such strong action, and that the results may be unfortunate. It may be that one cannot always agree with one's friends' every action. But there is no reason to proclaim one's disagreement to an eagerly listening world, and it is a sound theory, in politics as in private life, to stand by those with whom one has been long associated in dark and difficult days. That, I think, expresses the general public opinion on foreign affairs at the moment; nor can there be discerned any sign of a real desire to desert our friends for our late enemies.

Budget Gossip.

The gossips are busy with the forthcoming Budget, as usual, and the prophets predict that there will be a fresh tax on wines and spirits, and a further duty on motor-cars. As to a tax on profits, the pundits cannot make up their minds—and it is suggested that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is in the same difficulty. The new income-tax scale, recently recommended by a Committee of Inquiry, is expected to be adopted, and there is some idea that postal rates may be raised—letters to twopence, telegrams to a shilling. If the increased letter-rate does anything to check the flood of circulars and appeals which increasingly drowns one's ordinary correspondence the average man will be grateful, even if it costs him an extra halfpenny.

Two By-Elections.

Nobody is much better or much worse as the result of the two by-elections decided this week. The Coalition lost the Dartford seat, as had been generally anticipated, but the enormous Labour majority—a clear nine thousand over the next of four rival candidates—caused surprise. When the victor polls 13,610 votes and nobody else reaches five thousand, it is a safe deduction that personal popularity has a good deal to do with his success.

At Stockport, where two Coalition seats were contested by two Labour, two Independent, and a Sinn Fein candidate, the Coalition held both, by a six thousand majority. The Sinn Feiner received two thousand votes out of 86,000 polled—probably the full strength of the Irish vote. The Independents hardly counted. The most significant thing about the result was the failure of Sir Leo Chiozza Money to win one of the seats for Labour. Sir Leo is a clever man, and one of the ablest statisticians of the day; indeed, his diet seems to consist of boiled blue-books, the figures from which he reproduces on every possible occasion. He is an active journalist, who writes for many papers in the Labour interest, and he was a minor member of the Coalition Government during the war. But he certainly was not popular in the Government or the Commons, and he does not seem to have sufficient magnetism to appeal to the electors. Perhaps a diet of pure statistics is too like sawdust for the average man.

Labour and Soviets.

Whether Mr. Lloyd George has frightened Labour or not by accusing it of revolutionary aims, the Independent Labour Party, which houses most of the "intelligent extremists" of Labour, has been at pains this week to prove that it will have nothing to do with a political revolution. At a conference at Glasgow, which has the reputation of being the most revolutionary town in the United Kingdom, the I.L.P. discussed the question of Soviets, affiliation with the Bolshevists, and revolution generally. The whole weight of argument was rather surprisingly in favour of the established constitutional methods, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, who has recently published a book in which he argues strongly in favour of a Parliamentary as against a Soviet system, delivered a convincing speech on that theme from the platform; the advocates of revolution seem never to have rallied from his attack, and the vote proved the extremists to be in a minority.

The British Socialist Party, on the other hand, which is more extreme than the extremists, also held its conference in London, and a good deal of tall talk in favour of ending the existing order was heard. This body is frankly out for Communism; but its utterances are discounted by the fact that its membership is insignificant, and that nobody has ever heard of its speakers in public life. It is a sort of safety-valve; it makes a noise, and lets off steam, but nothing happens.

Political revolution may therefore be discounted, and the opinion which Lenin and Trotsky hold of our Labour leaders, already low, will consequently sink to utter contempt; but one may assume that Labour knows its own course best. The Constitution is safe in its hands, despite Mr. Churchill's taunts; it wants but little here below, but wants that little nationalised. And on that controversy it is evident that the next general election, and perhaps the election after that, will be fought.

The Irish Situation.

The anticipated Easter rising in Ireland did not come off, thanks to military precautions, but the number of outrages has not diminished, and it has become fully evident that these things are part of a concerted Sinn Fein plan. The Home Rule Bill will go ahead and become law notwithstanding, and there can be no doubt that Ulster, which has a genius for law and organisation, will make a success of her Parliament. If the Sinn Feiners in the rest of Ireland make a Southern Parliament impossible, they will have convicted themselves of being a purely destructive force.

I notice that the British Radical papers, which naturally do their best to attack the Government and to demonstrate the impossibility of the Home Rule Bill, as a legitimate part of the party game, are finding it increasingly difficult to defend Sinn Fein now that it has embarked on a campaign of organised murder and outrage. It is all very well to denounce the Government as the real author of all the trouble, but the apologetic tones of the leader-writers reveal clearly enough that they do not believe their own theme. As a fact, the criticism of the Home Rule Bill has been singularly ineffective, and has confined itself mainly to the impossible suggestion that there should be one Parliament for the whole of Ireland—a proposal which the pro-Asquithians themselves admitted in 1914 to be impossible. It has not become more feasible with the passage of time.

More Wage Demands.

Bread has gone up from ninepence to a shilling, the miners and tram-drivers have got an advance of wages, and now the railwaymen are demanding another pound a week, with the usual threat of a strike in the background. There will be the inevitable controversies and haggling, the usual repetition of the usual arguments on both sides, and no doubt a repetition of the usual result—a compromise on two-thirds of the amount claimed. By the time the railway dispute is settled, every other trade will want its advance, and this particular circle will probably spread through the summer.

As a matter of fact, nothing can stop it. It is a struggle for power, in which the devil (who nowadays lives near the Bankruptcy Court) takes the hindmost, and so long as supply does not overtake demand, the

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actual producer and vendor of indispensable services control the situation. The head of a big engineering works whose business keeps him in touch with all parts of the world tells me he sees no end to the process. "I cannot stop orders coming in," he said, "and I make no contracts, because I never know at what price I can buy materials. I have more orders than I can execute, and although I only charge a percentage of profit on the actual working cost and give details to all my customers, my charges seem extortionate to me. No doubt they do to them, but they can see from the detailed statement that I am charging them actually a less percentage of sheer profit than before the war, and they offer more for speedy delivery. I would like their money, but I can't take it, because I can neither promise nor execute speedy delivery; the wages bill is so enormous that weekly finance, which used to be a small automatic affair, is now an anxiety that begins on Monday morning and only ends on Saturday afternoon; yet high as wages are, they are only just adequate when the price of food is taken into consideration. We have no strikes, and we settle everything by friendly personal agreement; but after working fifteen hours a day week in, week out, to keep the thing going, I sometimes think that the peace and idleness of a desert island would be preferable." I fancy that sums up fairly enough the attitude of a good many people in these days. The idea that the end of war would relax the strain is already seen to be an exploded fiction; it has intensified it.

Westminster Abbey for Sale?

It is a terrible thing to make a joke. Some weeks ago I suggested that if the present rage of wealthy Americans for buying up British antiques were to go much further, we might yet see Westminster Abbey put up for sale. I did not expect to be taken *au pied de la lettre*, but the grave and hitherto respectable *Statist*, the organ of the City merchant princes and the Bible of Lombard Street, has done so. It seriously commends the idea, and it even goes so far as to suggest that the whole of the Established Church should be put up for sale, lock, stock, and barrel, to the highest bidder to pay for the war debt. I confess that I find it difficult to echo the gravity of the *Statist*. The idea of St. Paul's Cathedral being bought by one of the great banks as its head office, or of York Minster being taken over by the North-Eastern Railway, is not yet practical politics, and the *Statist's* idea of paying for the burden of the war by confiscating property that has been dedicated to a sacred use will hardly appeal to the moral sense of the community. I am not quite sure what the cash value of a conscience may be worth, but there are some things that are not put up for sale even when one finds it difficult to meet one's bills.

Furniture and Comfort.

It is announced that the price of furniture has again advanced by 10 per cent., and it is likely to increase by 25 per cent. before the autumn. The extraordinary thing is that these successive advances do not appear to reduce the marriage rate; perhaps Edwin and Angelina are content with two rooms, for the stock of rich and generous uncles must be limited off the stage.

Mammon's Movements.

The tide of new issues has slackened a little for the moment, while promoters and underwriters compare notes as to the successes and failures of the past few weeks. The results have been very curious. Some of the issues, by companies which possessed household names, have been largely oversubscribed; others, with apparently just as good title to succeed, have left 80 per cent. of the stock in the underwriters' hands. There are, of course, many people who refuse on business grounds to apply for a stock at the time of issue, on the ground that they can usually pick it up at a discount in the open market a few weeks later. These are mostly old hands at the game, and in these days, when the underwriters are sometimes left with a trifle of a million or so of preference shares in hand, it is easy enough to get new issues at a discount. Not one in ten goes to a premium.

One or two rather big issues have been postponed for a few weeks, until things settle down after the recent flotations, but the period between Easter and Whitsun promises to be busy, and thereafter things may slacken down until the autumn, which again promises a big crop of appeals for capital. The continuance of this industrial boom is perhaps the most convincing answer to those pessimists who held that Britain was exhausted by the war, and had no faith in her own future.

The Week's Books.

The novels of Henry James may be unreadable for all but the elect, but his Letters, which have just been published in two volumes by Macmillans, are emphatically worth looking through. They contain pictures of Gladstone and other great men; Tennyson, whose conversation was "all about port wine and tobacco; he seems to know much about them, and can drink a whole bottle of port at a sitting with no incommodity. He is very swarthy and scraggy, and strikes one at first as much less handsome than his photos; but gradually you see that it's a face of genius. He had I know not what simplicity, speaks with a strange rustic accent, and seemed altogether like a creature of some primordial English stock."

His literary criticisms are quite astonishing. He finds the writings of Tolstoy and Dostoievsky "fluid puddings," and "when you ask me if I don't feel Dostoievsky's mad jumble, that flings things down in a heap, nearer truth and beauty than the picking up and composing in Stevenson, I reply with emphasis that I feel nothing of the sort." The same canon of criticism would exalt Corneille and Racine above Shakespeare, and Henry James above Dickens. But Ibsen is "ugly, common, hard, prosaic, bottomlessly bourgeois"; there was a lack of "æsthetic curiosity" in Meredith, and in Hardy "the abomination of the language is only equalled by the author's reputation for style." There is really nothing to be said about this, except that the rest of the world has made up its mind in a different direction.

Another war book has appeared—Hindenburg's "Out of My Life" (Cassell), which will rank as a pendant to Ludendorff's Memoirs. Hindenburg, on the whole, is disappointing, and his book will not dissipate the legend that Ludendorff was the brains of that combination. Hindenburg, it is to be noted, does not think that the British soldier was much good as a fighter, although he is good enough to pay tribute to our doggedness; the Frenchman is the better man, in his opinion, but when it comes to hand-to-hand fighting the German "proved himself the lord of the battlefield." In which case one can only say, with the author of Ecclesiastes, that the battle is not to the strong. Curiously enough, Hindenburg is proud of the German naval record, and thinks that "England will never forgive us the eclipse of the fame of Trafalgar."

Mrs. Humphry Ward's posthumous novel has been on the whole well received by the critics, and other novels by well-known authors are announced for immediate publication. But during the present intermediate slack season, an amusing controversy has broken out to solace the idle reviewers. When Mr. Charles Garvice died a few weeks ago, the critics all with one accord remarked that they had never read a word of his work, which was not worth reading; Mr. Garvice's one merit was that he produced sentimental tales which sold by the million. Mr. Arnold Bennett, who seems to have had a fondness for a man who, whatever his rank as a writer, was one of the kindliest men who ever lived, has rebuked the critics for their patronising tone, which was, in truth, a little priggish. He has declared that work which is just as bad as Mr. Garvice's has been highly praised by reputable reviews of the high-brow kind; the editor of the *Athenæum* has responded with vigour, and Mr. Massingham, free from the task of defending the Germans which occupied him so pleasantly in the *Nation* during the war, has chimed in. Mr. Massingham being a better literary critic than a political guide, the fun promises to wax fast and furious. But it will not really make any difference. The people who read Garvice do not read the *Nation*, and I doubt whether they ever hear of the *Athenæum*. On the other hand, they may have heard of Mr. Bennett as the writer of the best shilling shockers on the market, not as the author of "Hilda Lessways" and "The Old Wives' Tales."

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 22.

Extremist Activities.

During the past week, the anniversary of the disorders in the provinces last year, there has been some trouble at Kafr El Sheikh and Dessuk, in the province of Gharbia, where, as it happened, the examination of recruits for the Egyptian Army was taking place. The agitators took advantage of the occasion to organise a demonstration, consisting of schoolboys and riff-raff of the district. The crowd refused to disperse when ordered, and, overpowering the police, who fired into it, broke into the Markaz, liberated the prisoners and the recruits, and did considerable damage to the archives. Armoured cars and a British patrol were hurried to the scene and quiet was restored. The next day a somewhat similar incident took place at Dessuk, but the authorities were prepared, and the demonstrators were dispersed before they were able to do any damage. From all accounts there is not the slightest doubt that the whole affair was worked up by political agents, who had been sent out during the last ten days in large numbers from El Azhar and other centres to incite the people, and who undoubtedly took advantage of the Egyptian Army recruiting to cause this trouble, hoping that it would spread as it did in this very district just a year ago.

The Legislative Assembly.

Lord Allenby has issued a Proclamation declaring that no meeting of the Legislative Assembly, or any Provincial Council, or any other elected body, or of any members thereof in their capacity of members, is to be held otherwise than in accordance with the provision of the laws and regulations thereto; that every resolution passed or decision adopted by any elected body on any matter outside its competence shall be absolutely null and void; that every offence against this order shall be punishable under martial law, and that all members voting in favour of any resolution or decision on any matter outside their competence will be liable to prosecution before a military court. In this connection it should be pointed out that the Legislative Assembly has been suspended since the early days of the war. The reasons for the issue of this Proclamation have been that under the influence of the Extremists certain members of the Legislative Assembly have been meeting and have passed resolutions in connection with the political situation purporting to come from them as a body, and that some of the Provincial Councils, whose attributions are by law restricted to matters of local government, have similarly met and passed similar resolutions, even going to the length of intimating their intention of coming up to Cairo to protest. Since there is ample evidence that these resolutions are not spontaneous expressions of opinion on the part of the bodies in question, but have been passed as a result of the intimidation which has been brought to bear on the members, the British authorities are perfectly justified in stopping these meetings and preventing activities which could not fail in the long run to disturb the public peace.

The Mixed Court Judges.

When the all-round increases in pay and bonus were given by the Government last August, attention was drawn to the fact that the Judges and staff of the Mixed Courts had had no alteration made in their financial position. Since then the *cadre* of the Native Courts has been readjusted, and, in view of the proposed reorganisation of the Mixed Courts under the scheme drafted by the Milner Mission, it has been decided to amend the conditions under which Judges of the Mixed Courts are engaged. The pay of Counsellors at present in the service is to be fixed at £E2,000 if they are Europeans, and £E1,500 if they are Egyptians, whilst that of existing Judges is to be fixed at £E1,600 and £E1,000 respectively. As regards new appointments, Judges will be appointed at £E1,200 if foreigners and £E700 if Egyptians, rising by increments of £E100 every three years to a maximum of £E1,600 and £E1,000 respectively, while Counsellors will be appointed at £E,1,600 if foreigners and £E1,200 if Egyptians, rising by increments of £E100 every three years to £E2,000 and £E1,500 respectively. The Procureur-General is placed on the same footing as foreign Counsellors.

A further change is to be made in regard to superannuation. Hitherto foreign magistrates engaged in the Mixed Courts have served on contracts, the periods of which corresponded with that for which powers were from time to time granted to the Courts. In lieu of pension they were given a gratuity at the expiration of each contract, calculated at 20 per cent. of the annual pay per year of service under such contract. In view of the reorganisation it has now been decided to grant them pensions, on the basis of a 5 per cent. contribution. Judges already in the service and having five years' or less service will, however, be allowed to count this time towards pension without payment of any arrears of contribution; and those who have over five years' service will be given the option of counting two-thirds of their back service without contribution, or of counting five years' back service without contribution plus any period in respect of which they elect to contribute, provided the back service in respect of which the contribution is paid does not exceed ten years. The Judges and Counsellors in the service have been given an option of deciding during the next two months whether they will accept the new scheme or continue service under the new conditions.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, March 28.

The Political Manœuvres.

The Radicals have finally rejected Dr. Smodlaka's attempts to reconcile the opposing parties and form a coalition Cabinet. Dr. Smodlaka's party has accordingly made an arrangement with the Democrats by which, on the fall of the present Cabinet, which cannot secure a quorum in the House, they will make another attempt to form a coalition, and if that fails they will combine and proceed at once to carry out the general elections for the Constituent Assembly. Dr. Smodlaka's group consists of about a dozen members, who have so far maintained complete independence of action, awaiting the results of the Assembly before joining any definite party.

Magyar Intrigues.

It is well known that the Hungarians are carrying on extensive anti-Yugoslav propagandism in the new provinces, and that a White Guard has been formed ready to use force where necessary. One of the methods employed is for all Magyars in Yugoslavia to vote for "Communism" in the municipal elections in the hope of bringing about a *débâcle*. Their agents are busy in all centres, and unfortunately some bear Slavonic names. At Novi Sad there was recently arrested a Hungarian spy named Kosta Jankovich, a purely Serbian name, who was in the service of the Hungarian White Guard, and an energetic organiser of secret societies. Another arrest is that of a Lt.-Col. Rifla, who is accused of tying up thirty peasants from the Baranja to carts in Hungary, and of having handed them over to the White Guard for execution. It was shown at the time of his arrest that he had been sent by the Magyar authorities at Kaposhvar to spy and carry on propagandism.

Serbian Antiquities.

Most of the archives and records of Serbia's past are to be found outside the country. Of those that were in the limits of the old frontiers the Bulgarians have destroyed or removed a great part. The Peace Treaty provides for the return of archives removed at any time during the last ten years. A committee of archæolo-

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gists have arranged by friendly discussion with Vienna for the return of a number of documents removed from Dubrovnik in 1833. These consist of about 200 old charters, mostly on parchment, dating from the Nemanitch kings of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries. It is gratifying to think that these are now being returned to their native land. Many of these charters have been figured in Miklositch's "Monumenta Serbica," and the seals have been reproduced in Ivitch's "Old Serbian Seals and Arms."

A Band of Brigands.

Brigandage is not yet stamped out in the southern districts. For some months a gang of ruffians has been terrorising the inhabitants of what used to be familiar to English newspaper readers as the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar. All efforts on the part of the police to round them up in this wild and mountainous district were unavailing, till one of the robbers, Luko Bulatovitch, took it into his head to shoot four of his comrades and then give himself up to justice. It is hoped that, with the information he has given them, the authorities will be able to extirpate the remainder of the band.

Demobilisation.

On March 24 the Regent signed a decree demobilising the First and Second Ban as from April 20. The Third Ban and part of the Second were demobilised last summer.

Miscellaneous News.

The death is announced of Mme. Stoyan Protitch, wife of the President of Council of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

The Yugoslav colony at Puntas Arenas has subscribed and remitted to the Ministry of Reconstruction the sum of £1,074 for the benefit of their comrades wounded in the recent wars.

It is announced from Cettigne that the Italians have begun to evacuate Montenegro. It is reported that their troops have been guarding a well-known oil spring, and two vessels a week have crossed from Antivari to Italy with cargoes of oil.

BELGRADE, March 31.

The Occupation of Mount Tarabosh.

This rounded hill, which sprang into fame owing to the dogged resistance of the Turks to the relentless Montenegrin invasion in 1912, is of considerable strategic importance, as it dominates the town of Skadar. It is now in the limelight again. As the French and British contingents have left Skadar, only the Italians remain, and their commandant has invited the Serbs to evacuate Tarabosh, which they have held since November 29 last year. As many incorrect statements about this occupation have appeared in the European Press, an official explanation has been issued. On December 29 a vessel, the Shkodra, flying the French and Allied flags, sailed up the Boyana with 100 tons of flour for Montenegro, with her tender Satir, bound for Plavnitsa, on the Montenegrin coast of the Lake of Skadar. Near the village of Samritch a gang of 150 men attacked the boat with rifle-fire and machine guns from both banks, and the two craft were obliged to return to Bar (Antivari). Italian launches and two Italian vessels, however, had passed by unmolested a few days previously. The French general commanding in Skadar, in the absence of effective forces of his own army, authorised Serbian detachments to occupy Tarabosh, in order to ensure the free navigation of the river. The Serbian commanding officer did so, and at once informed his Italian colleague that he had undertaken this purely precautionary measure, pending the decision of the Peace Conference. The French contingent evacuated Skadar on March 13, and it is not true that the Serbs only then occupied Tarabosh, and with a purely political object. The Belgrade Government has received no notification from the Peace Conference modifying the decision of the Supreme War Council of October, 1918, to the effect that Skadar and the surrounding district fall under the temporary control of the Inter-Allied command; and consequently as an Ally, and the particular one whose troops cleared Albania of the enemy from Tirana to Skadar, the Government regards it its duty to continue to provide police measures.

The Australian Canteen.

Familiar faces from the Salonika colony expedition are becoming rare and rarer among the small British colony in Belgrade. Now the Australian Canteen of Miss King is wound up. This energetic and competent young lady joined the Serbs with the Scottish Women's Hospital at the time of the disaster in 1915. When the remnants of the Serbian Army came to Salonika Miss King placed two motors at their disposal, and worked unceasingly for the Serbian soldiers, whose simple and devoted gallantry had won her admiration. Then, on her own initiative and by her own energy she raised funds and opened canteens for the Serbian troops, whose privileges in this respect could not compare with those of the British, French, or even Italian troops. Owing to slow communications, the stocks only reached Salonika on the eve of the offensive, and Belgrade only in January, 1919; but the goods once secured, by untiring energy, amid all the disorganisation that reigned supreme, especially on the railways, Miss King succeeded in opening canteens, not only in Belgrade, but at Nish, Baja, Kraguyevatz, Kralievo, Vinkovtse, Brod, Dubrovnik (Ragusa), Kotor (Cattaro), Zelenitsa, and Skoplie.

Political Negotiations.

The patient negotiations of Dr. Smodlaka for a coalition Cabinet have not met with the success which was generally anticipated. They apparently broke down against the intransigence of M. Protitch. Dr. Smodlaka has gone to Zagreb to confer with his friends there, but he will shortly return to Belgrade, for he has by no means abandoned hope. The latest development is the arrival of M. Pashitch, who is a more pliant and supple politician than M. Protitch, and in some quarters it is hoped that his influence may lead to a more reasonable attitude on the part of the stiff necks, to whichever party they may belong. This remains to be seen, as M. Pashitch has very many bitter enemies. It was anticipated that Dr. Trumbitch would accompany him, but the Foreign Minister has remained in Paris. Meanwhile, Dr. Ribarats has resigned from the Ministry of Trade, and his little group, the remnants of the old Liberal party, are no longer represented in the Cabinet. Dr. Ninchitch, the former Radical Minister of Finance, has taken M. Ribarats' portfolio, giving up his Ministry of Justice to Dr. Dushan Pelesh, a member of Dr. Bogdan Medakovitch's small group.

The Regent has been receiving many prominent politicians, and had long conferences with Dr. Pavlovitch, President of the Skupshtina, who has reported in detail on the situation, and the impossibility of carrying on under the present intolerable conditions. It is generally believed that M. Protitch will be obliged to resign in a few days.

Easter Hopes.

As this is Easter Week, and the Croat and Slovene members of the Government are Roman Catholics, and the Orthodox Easter follows a week later, there will be a lull in the proceedings. Only one Roman Catholic Minister is remaining in Belgrade over Easter. It is earnestly to be hoped that after the holidays a more sane spirit will reign, and that Dr. Smodlaka's efforts will not be in vain. This statesman has lived so long abroad that he has a more detached point of view, and can better judge than those blinded by party passion and personal interests how these long-drawn political squabbles have damaged the country in foreign eyes. All friends of Serbia and of Yugoslavia generally have watched with regret the bickerings of nearly a year, which have increased in venom as time went on.

But while politicians are wrangling, the people have been getting to work. The peasants have been busy in their fields since the day they were demobilised, or released on indefinite leave. Although there has been great shortage of seed corn, cattle, implements, and labour, the farmers have worked wonders, in spite of the unfavourable past season. Now that demobilisation has been announced, there will be more labour available in the fields, and anticipations for the coming year are very

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hopeful. The spring so far has not been unfavourable; there has been plenty of sunny weather, and the two short cold snaps have not been severe enough to do material damage. The Timok district is about a month behind the Belgrade neighbourhood, where the fruit trees have been blossoming for weeks. At last labour is at work, repairing the sorely damaged roads, to the great content of their much-tried users; new quarries and lime-pits are being opened, afforestation is proceeding; vineyards are pruned, horses and cattle are less scarce, and things look more hopeful. The interference of the Government in exports and imports is causing the traders a great deal of trouble and anxiety, but the people will patiently put up with any inconvenience once they are persuaded that it is for the good of the country. There is plenty of grumbling at the constantly rising prices, but it is generally realised that the only cure is hard work. The country is, on the whole, extremely productive, in many places remarkably so, and the peasantry sturdy and industrious. When, therefore, the midsummer madness of the politicians is over prospects will be quite rosy.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 30.

The Dissolution of Parliament.

Parliament reassembled after a short adjournment on March 25, when General Averescu made a declaration of the new Cabinet's policy. After a reference to the anomalous financial position the Prime Minister pointed out that it would be necessary to reconstitute the country on new foundations, and that in order to build solidly they must first ensure order within the kingdom. The foreign policy of the Government would be in the main a continuation of the policy followed during the war. Roumania would maintain her excellent relations with all the States on whose side she had fought; relations with her former enemies would be resumed within the limits of the peace treaties, and every effort would be made to live on good terms with neighbouring countries, without recourse to doubtful compromises. The Government would do all in its power to improve the lot of the people; but its efforts in this direction would not transgress the limits of social equilibrium. Expenditure would be rigidly curtailed, and revenue would be increased by new taxation on lines indicated by the exigencies of the time. Finally, General Averescu announced the Government's intention of creating a number of new Ministries—a Treasury, a Ministry of Public Health, a Ministry of Reconstruction and a Ministry of Labour.

The Prime Minister's speech was on the whole favourably received, although the creation of new Ministries was naturally challenged on the score of expense. On the following day, however, the progress of the debate showed that the Government had little chance of arriving at a working arrangement with the majority, and the session was terminated by General Averescu reading the Decree dissolving Parliament.

Elections for the new Parliament will take place on May 25, 26, and 27 for the Chamber of Deputies and on May 30 and 31 for the Senate. The new Parliament will meet on June 10.

According to present indications there will be no radical alteration in the constitution of the Cabinet before the elections. Negotiations are understood to be in train between General Averescu and M. Take Jonescu, but so far no agreement as to the terms on which the latter's co-operation would be given and accepted has been recorded.

An Internal Loan.

May 25 was the day fixed for the opening of the new internal loan, bearing interest at 5 per cent., the price of issue being 87, if entirely paid up, or 88, if paid in two instalments. The loan is to be redeemed at par within 40 years from September 1, 1921. The Government undertakes not to call in the loan before May 1, 1931.

Every effort is being made to ensure success for this "Consolation" Loan. Autograph appeals by the King and Queen appear in the Press. The earliest returns of the progress of the loan are very satisfactory.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 29.

The Cabinet.

From the beginning it was evident that Salih Pasha's Cabinet was even more of a makeshift than its predecessor, and the military occupation of Constantinople by the Allies, followed as it was by the rupture of communications with Anatolia, placed it in a very critical position. Hence few people were surprised when on Thursday the afternoon papers announced the resignation of the Cabinet and the nomination of Damad Ferid Pasha to the Grand Vizierat. It had been clear for some days that Damad Ferid Pasha expected to be called upon to form a new Administration, for he had been in constant touch with the Sultan, on the one hand, and with the central committee of the Opposition party, Entente Libérale, on the other. On Friday morning, however, the news of the resignation was denied in the following words:—"The information published by the Turquie-Havas-Reuter agencies relative to the resignation of the Grand Vizier, Salih Pasha, is denied by the present *communiqué*." It will be noticed that nothing is said concerning the alleged nomination of Damad Ferid Pasha, and it was subsequently explained that since Salih Pasha had not resigned, another Grand Vizier could not have been nominated. The whole affair seemed inexplicable; but it has since appeared that the Sultan actually had proposed that Damad Ferid Pasha should supersede Salih Pasha, and the former agreed upon certain conditions, which are understood to have included the Sultan's assent to Damad Ferid Pasha's complete freedom of action with regard to the suppression of the Chamber, the arrest of numerous Unionists and Nationalists, and the military assistance of the Entente Powers for the dissolution of the National Forces. An important meeting of the Entente Libérale Party was held at Damad Ferid Pasha's house, when the composition of the new Cabinet was discussed. The post of Minister of the Interior was to have been given to Mehmed Ali Bey, who had already occupied that position in one of Damad Ferid Pasha's former Cabinets, and it was Mehmed Ali Bey who made the announcement to the Press that was contradicted the following morning for the sufficient reason that the Cabinet had refused to resign.

Salih Pasha's reasons for remaining in power as long as possible are sounder than is usual in such cases. He maintains that, just as he has been unable to bring about the disbandment of the National Forces, no other Cabinet would have any better success, and it was quite certain that if Damad Ferid Pasha were to succeed him there would be an immediate outbreak of disorder and bloodshed that would only make matters much worse. The Grand Vizier, therefore, wishes to wait until the return of a mission which has been sent to Mustapha Kemal in order that the Nationalists may realise the true situation, and modify their attitude.

There is something to be said for this attitude on the part of the Grand Vizier, for there is no doubt whatever that Damad Ferid Pasha will, if and when he comes into power, wage merciless war upon everything and everybody connected with the Nationalists, who will equally certainly reply in kind. Hence the advent of Damad Ferid Pasha to Constantinople and Angora—or wherever else Mustapha Kemal may fix his headquarters.

On the other hand, it is impossible for Salih Pasha to maintain his position for long, since the Nationalists have already cut off communications between the capital and the provinces, and have made serious attacks upon British forces which were being withdrawn from outlying districts.

The Nationalists have committed acts of war, and only the forbearance of the Allies prevents the reopening of hostilities. Therefore the farce of a central Govern-

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THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

hasn't yet materialised

but, from pole to pole, this

is recognised as the sign of

"THE TYRE INCOMPARABLE"

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ment in Constantinople as camouflage for the actual Government in the provinces can no longer be maintained. Further, it is extremely unlikely that the Nationalists will change their attitude in the slightest as a result of one mission or fifty missions, no matter how seriously Turkey's destinies may be involved. The Nationalists belong to that thick-headed school which knows no logic save that of force; and unfortunately the Allies have shown nothing but what appears to such people as weakness, ever since the Armistice. Thus, Salih Pasha is only putting off the evil day; but even that is to his credit.

The Anti-Nationalist Movement.

Ahmed Anzavur, the Circassian chief who aroused a good deal of interest by his exploits against the Nationalists in the Panderma district during the latter part of last year, has renewed his activities and has met with no little success. A strong force of Nationalists, assisted by regular troops, which was recently sent against him, was thoroughly beaten at Bigha after several days' fighting, in which the Nationalists had heavy losses in killed and wounded, while Ahmed Anzavur entered Bigha and gave short shrift to all the Nationalists he could find. There is no doubt that he is heartily supported by the peasantry of the district, who are weary of Nationalist exactions and tyranny; but the movement itself is hardly strong enough yet to cause more than serious annoyance to Mustapha Kemal. With a certain amount of encouragement, however, it might be developed until it was strong enough to challenge the whole Nationalist organisation; for from other parts of Anatolia there are similar movements developing; but if they are to come to anything there must be considerable help from outside.

Adrianople.

The attitude of the Moslem population of Thrace is typical of the feelings of the mass of the population throughout the country. According to all reports, the efforts of the commander of Adrianople, Jafar Tayar Bey, to carry out the mobilisation which he had decreed when he received the news of the occupation of Constantinople, have proved to be a complete failure, and it is reported that communications between the central Government and Adrianople are about to be resumed. The population is ready to resist the Greeks, although thoroughly sick of fighting, but they will under no circumstances fight anyone else.

Anti-British Propaganda.

The military occupation of the capital provided the Nationalists with much material for their campaign against our good name, and it is unfortunate that they have found a certain amount of tacit encouragement at least, in certain quarters where the memory of the events of the last few years seems to be fading already. Stories are being circulated to the effect that Turkish women were assaulted by the British troops that carried out the occupation of the city, and various other examples of British "barbarism" are also passed from mouth to mouth.

It is also possible that there will shortly be a film exhibited—perhaps in the United States—illustrating British "brutality." Since the 16th everyone who wishes to proceed to Asia Minor has to obtain the *visa* of the Allied Passport Bureau. The British, as usual, had the bulk of the work, and the accommodation of the passport bureau was utterly inadequate for the enormous crowds that assembled every day. It would have been bad enough had it been an orderly English crowd, but with a Constantinople mob the result was chaotic. The bureau was on the third floor of a large block of offices, and the stairs and corridors were completely blocked by thousands of people, who fought and struggled to obtain entrance. A large proportion of them would have saved themselves a great deal of trouble had they read the regulations, or had they obeyed the orders that were issued verbally from the office itself. But a Constantinople crowd does not recognise any regulations, and obeys no orders unless they are enforced with a stick or with a bayonet. That sounds brutal, I suppose, and I can imagine anyone who has never been out here disbelieving the statement, but it is a fact nevertheless. In vain an officer who spoke various languages appealed to the mob in Greek, Turkish, and French. They would *not* line up in a queue, and they would *not* go away if their passports had not already been *visèed* by their own authorities first, and they would *not* go away if they were proceeding to a destination which did not come within British jurisdiction. They *would* fight, they *would* push, and they heeded neither orders nor polite requests. There was nothing left to do but what the police always have to do under such circumstances. No one was hurt, but one or two were removed without ceremony—just as they do in the States sometimes.

But the scene has been filmed as an illustration of our brutal methods!

We have new offices now, and as there is much more room the cinematograph man had better make the most of his opportunity. A skilful manipulator can accomplish marvels with the cinematograph.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, March 26.

The Lebanon Protests.

As a counterblast to the Syrian Congress of Damascus a monster meeting was held on the 22nd instant in the Seraglio at Baabda, the winter quarters of the Lebanon Government. The crowd, which was estimated at over two thousand, consisted of the Sheikhs, Mukhtars (elders), and heads of municipal councils of villages from the different districts of the Lebanon, of Government officials, delegates of various associations, journalists, and a large number of Lebanese notables, among whom were many Druses. These deputations were convoked by the Administrative Council of the Lebanon Government, whose members did not wish, nor feel entitled, to assume the heavy responsibility of deciding so momentous a question as the determination of the future status of the country without the consultation and approval of the people.

The five fundamental points to be submitted to the General Assembly by the Council were: (1) To proclaim the independence of the Lebanon with the aid of France; (2) to protest against the Proclamation of His Highness Emir Faisal as King of all Syria; (3) to protest against the Lebanese now residing in Damascus; (4) to form a Committee for studying the constitution of Greater Lebanon; (5) to examine the question of the Lebanese flag and its design.

The general discussion turned principally on the fourth and fifth points, but no decision could be come to, owing to the large number of speakers who took part. Then, while the question of the convocation of the General Assembly was being discussed, some delegates of the Association of Christian Communities arrived, bearing the new Lebanese flag, which was to be hoisted over the Lebanese Seraglio, and which was the Tricolour (red, white, and blue) with a cedar tree in the middle of the white stripe. The other proposals made by some sections of the crowd for a flag with the cedar alone on a white background, or the cedar alongside the tricolour, were thus overruled.

In the afternoon, after the rest of the Beyrout and Lebanese delegates had arrived, the President of the Administrative Council, with all the members, came out to receive the delegates and declare the opening of the session. The President explained briefly the object of their invitation to the Lebanese to Baabda, and asked his hearers to elect the members of a Committee wherein all the districts should be represented, so as to examine, with the members of the Administrative Council, the points already referred to. He added that the large number of persons present made it practically impossible to discuss matters of such moment without any risk of confusion or commotion.

Message from M. Millerand.

The door of the Central Hall, however, being left wide open, the place was soon filled to overflowing by the public. Commandant Labrue, administrative adviser (*conseiller*) of the autonomous territory of the Lebanon, opened the meeting with a few words of thanks to the Lebanese for their sentiments towards France and

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their confidence in her. He next read the text of a message received from M. Millerand, which allayed the fears of the Lebanese, and assured them that the movement in the interior will in no way affect the negotiations of the Lebanese Delegation at Paris; and wherein M. Millerand confirmed the promise that M. Clemenceau had made to the Lebanese through their patriarchal delegation.

The President of the Administrative Council then spoke, calling upon the people to discuss their future status, as outlined in the five points, to which the Administrative Council had given wide publicity. One of the leading members of the Administrative Council suggested the constitution of an Executive Committee of the Assembly with the President of the Council as chairman, and cited the names of a few well-known persons, well-known as devoted friends of France. A few other persons were suggested also as members, and were accepted. The five points were then read over for approval or objection. The first three points were carried unanimously, but there was a rather heated discussion over the last two points. Eventually, however, they were carried, and then the flag that had been brought by the delegates of the Association of Christian Communities was hoisted. Finally, a manifesto, containing certain clauses to be submitted to proper quarters, was presented for signature, and the deputations duly signed it.

The Paris Deputation's Views.

In the meantime, according to a telegram received from Paris, the Lebanese deputation there had presented to the Peace Conference a protest against the comedy that has been enacted by the Syrian Congress at Damascus, which presumes to bring the Lebanon within the zone of ambitions of the Emir Faisal, and expressing the hope that France "will take the necessary measures for the protection of the Lebanon's rights, which are intimately connected with French interests."

It is sincerely to be hoped that better feelings and more confidence will finally prevail between the two neighbouring states, which are so dependent on one another.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, March 24.

To-day the Greek Government have called out five more classes of recruits, including men of thirty years of age, and this has seriously jeopardised all industries in the city. The same authorities are commandeering all cart horses and vehicles.

It is reported that Mustapha Kemal has succeeded in securing sufficient coal and technical assistance to work the French railway between Alasheir and Afion-Kara-Hissar, and while he allows merchandise to be sent to Afion for transport to Constantinople he refuses to allow any goods to be sent from Alasheir to Smyrna. This is a considerable loss to Smyrna trade, because all the carpets from the Ushak district can now only reach Smyrna by way of Afion and Constantinople. Of course, Mustapha Kemal is anxious to show that if Smyrna is left to the Greeks no merchandise will be allowed to reach the city for shipment, and the Turks will arrange to send their goods to any port except Smyrna.

MALTA.

VALETTA, March 31.

Emigration.

Whilst Canada will not allow Maltese to enter as emigrants, the United States of America seem to be warmly welcoming the inhabitants of the island, and everybody is "off to America" to find dollars by the roadside and at every street corner, of course! Still, the exodus is good—and it is not an exodus of a small number—for with the demobilisation of the local militia and air force and the reductions in the dockyard things here seem to be going from bad to worse.

In Memoriam.

Field Marshal Lord Plumer, the Governor, has unveiled two memorial brass tablets in the Scottish Church, one to perpetuate the memory of the revered Dr. and Mrs. Wisely, and the other in remembrance of three promising young men who paid the last and greatest sacrifice for their country.

Personal.

Mr. N. Batistatos, the Consul-General for Greece, has been appointed to Rio Janeiro, and his departure from Malta is very much regretted.

Dr. Lewis F. Mizzi, well known in the Near East, and who recently presented the island of Malta with his unique and valuable specimens of minerals, is giving a series of lectures on the subject. These lectures are arousing the keenest interest. His Excellency Lord Plumer acts as President.

ALBANIA.

An Albanian correspondent writes:—

The situation in Albania is as follows:—The small French contingent which was at Skutari having withdrawn, the administration of the town and its district has been handed over to the Albanian Government. Ahmed Bey Mati, Minister of the Interior, has gone there to organise the administration. Thus Skutari is now an integral part of Albania, the union having been brought about by the desire of the inhabitants. There has been some talk of the entry of Italian troops into Skutari, but in point of fact there is only a small garrison, under a colonel, such as the Italians are maintaining in other Albanian towns, without, however, taking any part in the affairs of the country.

The town and district of Argyrokastro also placed itself under Albanian administration a month ago, when the Italians handed it over.

Of the Albania of the London Conference of 1913 there are only Valona and the province of Kortcha (Koritza) which have not yet submitted to the national administration; Valona and its immediate environs are still in Italian occupation, and Kortcha is under a mixed Franco-Albanian administration.

The Legislative Assembly still continues its labours at Tirana, where it held its first sitting on March 21. It is composed of thirty-seven members, of which number two are from Valona. The representatives of that town have protested against the length of the Italian occupation. It may be said that the new Government enjoys the confidence of all the country, and the fact that foreign Powers—such as France and Italy—have recognised it and have handed over to it the administration of Skutari and Argyrokastro increases its prestige still further.

It was wrong to accuse the new Government of Serbophilism; it is a spontaneous manifestation of the will of the people. An incident which occurred at Skutari shows that the new Albanian Government does not give way to Serbia when it is necessary to stand fast. The Consular Agent of Yugoslavia, who seemed to indulge in certain threats of a nature likely to upset law and order, was requested by Ahmed Bey Mati to leave the town, and he immediately departed to Montenegro.

A special importance appears to be attached to the reorganisation of the Albanian gendarmerie, and since this reorganisation necessitates considerable outlay and the Tirana Government lacks funds, a new law is about to be provided in order to make possible the launching of an internal loan without having recourse to foreign money.

The international situation of Albania causes some uneasiness, for the Peace Conference has not yet clearly and definitely made its views known. Two months ago we heard of the proposal put forward by Mr. Lloyd George, Monsieur Clemenceau, and Signor Nitti, providing for the division of Albania as "compensation" to Yugoslavia for concessions which she had to make to Italy. Fortunately, Yugoslavia did not agree to the arrangement, and Dr. Trumbitch declared that he was a supporter of an independent Albania within the frontiers laid down by the London Conference in 1913.

The thorniest question is still that in connection with Italy—that is to say, concerning Valona and the mandate demanded by Italy. The new Government, which is the successor to the National Assembly held in January, has mapped out as its programme opposition to the Italian pretensions, and the Albanian delegates at Paris are working for the complete independence and absolute sovereignty of Albania. Another anxiety of the Albanian Government lies in the Greek pretensions in regard to the southern provinces, Kortcha and Argyrokastro. For some time all danger regarding Kortcha seemed to have disappeared, for the Conference appeared to be better informed; but one cannot say as much regarding the province of Argyrokastro, where the Greeks seem to be creating difficulties for the Albanian Government.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

BRITISH POLICY AND TURKEY

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—To anyone questioning my proposal for the regeneration of the Turkish Empire by making of it a federation of States under the dual control of France and England, I cannot do better than suggest a careful perusal of THE NEAR EAST of April 8. One learns, first of all (Notes of the Week), that offering the mandate for Armenia to the League of Nations is calculated to arouse misgivings, as the League has no armed force to ensure that its advice is obeyed. The trouble in Cicilia is largely owing to France undertaking responsibilities she was unable to fulfil, and such failure has already brought about a certain *rapprochement* between the Arabs and the Turks.

Next we find a long letter from Col. A. C. Yate strongly advocating our retention of Mesopotamia as a base against the attacks of Bolshevism. Col. Yate does not tell us where we are to find the men for this occupation, but expresses a hope that France, Italy, and Greece will give us "ungrudging support in reducing the Turk, from the Sea of Marmora to the Taurus, to a becoming state of subordination. We shall thus be fighting the Turks as well as Russian Bolshevists, and possibly others in the Caucasian republics. Smyrna has already experienced what this ungrudging support means. I wish that Col. Yate would be as sympathetic to the claims of the Turks as he is to his friends the Afghans; he would find them equally, if not more, deserving!

Finally, we come to the very interesting review of Mr. W. Bury's book, which teaches us what Pan-Islam signifies and what bearing its potential growth may have on the political situation in the future: "Hence Pan-Islam is more than a spiritual movement; it is a practical, working proposition which has to be reckoned with when dealing with Moslems even in secular matters."

Now, this is just what I venture to point out was provided for in the reconstruction of the Turkish Empire as a whole. If Germany, as Mr. Bury implies, failed to put the Turkish Empire "on a business footing," it does not follow that France and England together would also fail, especially as the conditions are entirely changed. Let us, therefore, return to Disraeli's policy of 1878, and with the association of France once more shoulder the burden discarded by Lord Salisbury when he gave out to the world that we had been "backing the wrong horse." You tell us, Sir, that subject races are never grateful to the protecting powers; but, no matter, we must look to the "concrete achievement" as our reward.—I am, etc.,

Ruishton, Taunton, April 11, 1920. COLES PASHA.

INDIAN MOHAMMEDANS AND TURKEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—India has a Mohammedan population of 67,000,000, the bulk of whom inhabit Eastern Bengal. In normal times they are peaceable folk, but ignorance and fanaticism render them peculiarly susceptible of suggestion. The battle-cry "Religion in Danger" lashes them to unreasoning fury, and may be a signal for the worst excesses. Under such conditions extreme circumspection is called for on the part of prominent Europeans. The great Empress Maria Theresa rightly warned her children that an idle word from persons in their position might have graver consequences than the weightiest utterances of lesser people.

Now, I learn on unimpeachable authority that great mischief has resulted from a movement started by certain dignitaries of the Anglican Church, who wish to restore St. Sophia to its ancient cult. Indian Mohammedans are vehemently opposed to the "desecration" of a mosque which has been devoted to their religion for four and a-half centuries. Then we find the Rt. Hon. Viscount Bryce asserting that he had reliable information that no trouble need be expected in India whatever may be the Entente's decision regarding the fate of Turkey. This was a direct challenge to Indian extremists, and it has been accepted as such. They are determined to show what they can do, and a fierce campaign is on foot for that purpose, the outcome of which it is impossible to predict. At a meeting of prominent Mohammedans held a month ago in Calcutta violent anti-British speeches were delivered, and resolutions of a treasonable nature were carried unanimously. Nor is the mischief confined to the capital. A notorious agitator is touring Eastern Bengal in order to excite its fanatical population against the Christians. I venture to think that the heavy burden borne by Indian administrators should not be increased by ignorance and fanaticism at home.—I am, etc.,

March 6. F. H. S.

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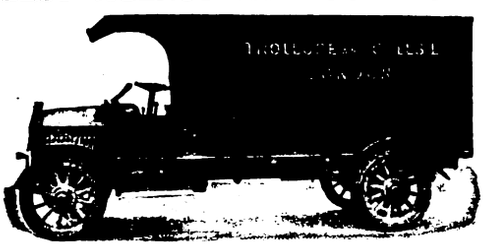

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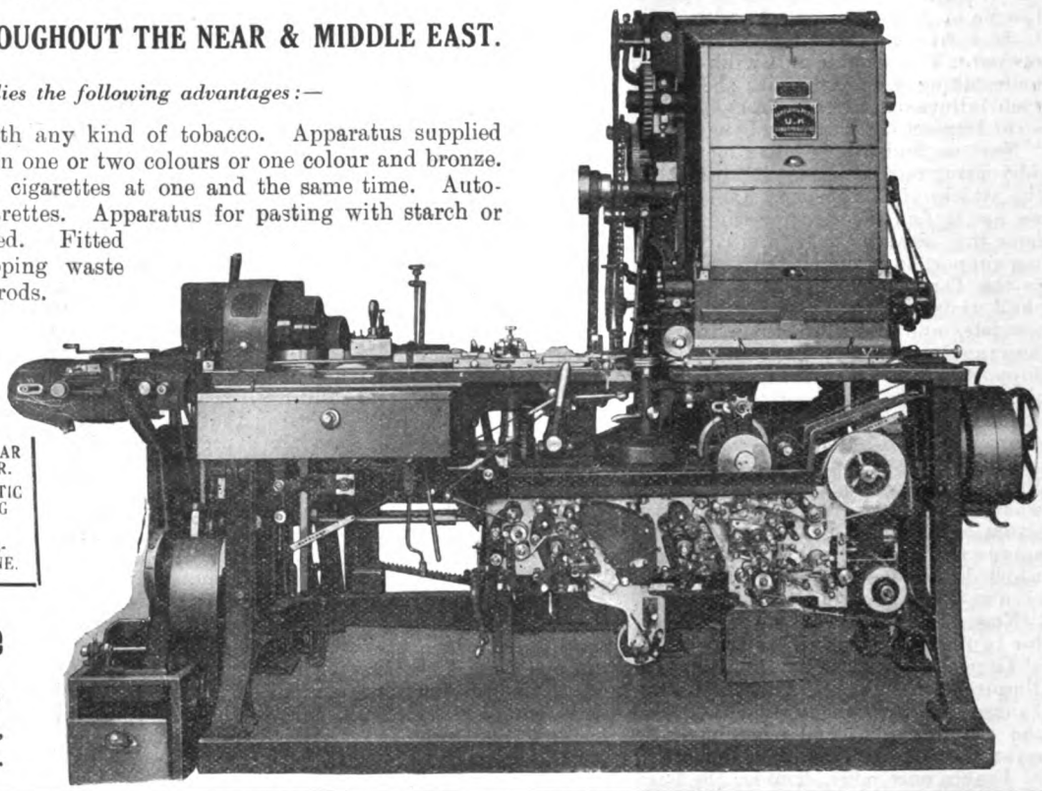

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Outposts of Empire.

An interesting paper entitled "Reflections on the Government of Wild Tribes of the North-Eastern Frontier of India," read before the East India Association by Lieut.-Colonel John Shakespear, appears in the current issue of the *Asiatic Review*. In introducing his subject, the writer approaches the question of how it comes about that wild tribes have to be governed. Certainly not because the Government likes it.

The Wild Tribes round the borders of our settled districts are restless folk, with short memories. A raid on a peaceful village across the border is accompanied with very little danger, and is almost sure to result in considerable profit, while the honour and glory attached to the killing of human beings is great—in fact, among some tribes no girl will marry a youth till he has brought back a head, and among others the killing of an enemy is one of the qualifications necessary for the soul's passage to the happy hunting grounds.

Such raids recur with monotonous regularity, because the punishment inflicted by even the biggest of our expeditions is forgotten in less than a generation. But ultimately the patience of the Government is exhausted, and the order goes forth to occupy and administer the country the better for all concerned.

So there they are. The Wild Tribes shy and fidget like unbroken colts; Government anxious to do its duty, but burdened with many other cares; and the political officer zealous and eager, but with a great deal to learn, and much impressed with the importance and the difficulties of his post. "Just you touch me, and see what you'll get!" is the attitude of the tribes. The political officer is not anxious for a row. He knows Government wants to keep down expenses, and that if he can get along without asking for help from outside it will be counted unto him for righteousness; so if he is wise he will go cautiously.

* * * * *

Though things will probably remain fairly quiet for a bit, trouble is sure to come; go he never so warily, a time will come when our Political has to fight or lose his prestige; and once this is lost, the sooner he packs up his traps and quits the country the better for all concerned.

* * * * *

Naturally, in the personal equation lies the secret of successful administration. It is impossible to give any infallible rule for acquiring the necessary influence over these Wild Tribes. Colonel Lewin, the Pioneer in the Lushai Hills, gained such an influence over the people that forty years after his departure he was spoken of as the greatest of the sahibs; yet lesser men, who tried to imitate him in his free-and-easy fellowship with those he had to govern, failed miserably. Let a man be honest, straightforward and sympathetic, not easily excited, but patient and persevering and ready to learn, anxious really to know the folk he has to govern, and he will find that they will respond, and gradually learn to trust and love him.

Colonel Shakespear lays stress on the wisdom of acting upon the beliefs of the people for administrative purposes:

My friend the Hon. Mr. W. J. Reid, now Commissioner of the Assam Valley, when he was in charge of the Naga Hills, had a complaint laid before him by the Elders of a certain village that they suspected that men of a neighbouring village had stolen their cattle; they had no proof, but they asked him to call on the Elders of the suspected village to swear on the lives of the whole village that no one had stolen the cattle. These Elders, on being told of the accusation, returned home and took an oath of each householder on the lives of his household that none of them had stolen the cattle; and, having done this, they came back, and in the presence of their accusers, with all due solemnity, swore the necessary oath, whereupon their defamers paid up the customary fine and the case was apparently over; but after a very short time the victorious Elders returned with woebegone countenances and reported that three men having died in their village, they knew that someone had sworn falsely, and finally three men had confessed to the theft. They now tendered four animals for each of those stolen and demanded permission to expel the thieves from the village, not for being thieves, mind you, but for having sworn a false oath. The three men were taken to the village boundary and driven over with only a cloth apiece; wives, children, houses, land, and all they possessed were forfeited, and if they ever recrossed the boundary they were to be liable to imprisonment. In old days they would have been liable to death. In that particular only did Mr. Reid deviate from the tribal custom.

A curious scene comes to my memory. The sun has just risen, and it is bitterly cold; we are grouped round the sides of a deepish pool in a small river. Two men stark naked are standing shivering in the water. On a big stone, where the two shivering mortals can see him, stands a young British officer with his hat raised. The shivering ones are heroes in their own way: they are the head men of two villages who are about to uphold the claims of their rival villages to certain lands by the ordeal of diving. One is an expert swimmer; the other, as he plaintively explains, hates water. "Is your claim just?" asks the young officer. "Certainly," replies the poor unwilling diver. "Then fear nothing; God will protect you," is the cheering reply. As the sahib's hat goes down both head men duck under the water. The expert, vain in his own strength, swims about below the surface, while the other squats down and grasps a huge boulder. The water is so clear that every movement is apparent. In a very short time pride has a fall: a considerable portion of the swimmer's body emerges, and, with a yell, his opponents claim the verdict, and rush into the water, whence they drag their nearly exhausted champion. "I told you God would protect you," says the sahib, "and you see He did." Such methods of settling cases may not be in accordance with High Court rulings, and they certainly do not make the legal profession a paying one; on the other hand, they are approved of by the people, and they do not encourage or tempt people to lie.

Pan-Arabism.

The *Manchester Guardian* of April 8, in a leading article, makes a general review of the Near East and the prospects of its settlement. Of the Pan-Arab movement it says:—

The Pan-Arab movement is at once a little more Nationalist than the Turkish and a good deal more Imperialistic than the Egyptian. The Congress at Damascus, which has proclaimed the Emir Feisul King of Syria and his brother Abdulla King of Mesopotamia, has very little title to speak for Syria and none at all to speak for Mesopotamia. The term Arab is commonly used by Pan-Arab politicians to signify that all who speak the Arab tongue belong to the Arab nation. In this sense Egypt and North Africa belong to the Arab Empire. As a matter of fact, in the political sense the Arab nation has had the very briefest existence. The numerous Arab tribes, Arab in race as well as in speech, have never known how to hold together. They have been far more conscious always of their rivalries and antagonisms than of any community of interest and sentiment. To this day in the Arabian Peninsula the various princes are more often at war than at peace with one another. The Arabs of Mesopotamia, quite apart from the fact that most of them belong to the Shiah sect, have nothing in common with the Arabs of Syria, and Palestine has throughout history been distinct from Syria. What the Syrian Congress is seeking to do at Damascus is to assert not a Nationalist but an Imperialist claim. Were the Western Powers to admit that claim the political fabric sought to be set up by the Pan-Arabs could not endure because it has no foundation. It would be a great mistake to imagine that the acts of the Syrian Congress enjoy unanimous support even in Syria. The Lebanon has disavowed them, and so have some of the coast towns, while Damascus itself is divided between two parties. The most wealthy and responsible people in Damascus favour an accommodation with France, not because they love France, but because they know that war would mean ruin, and they do not see the possibility of an Arab State maintaining itself without European assistance and all that is implied in European assistance. The Emir Feisul himself shares these views. If he has suffered himself to be proclaimed King of Syria it is because he failed to convince the extremists, but none knows better than he that without an arrangement with the Western Powers there is neither hope nor future for an Arab State. On a general review, it may be said that it is perfectly practicable to concede what is just to each of the three Nationalist movements of the Near East—to Egypt recognition of what is essential coupled with a form respectful of the dignity of the Egyptian people; to the Arabs recognition of their national rights in the real Syria (which includes neither Palestine nor Mesopotamia) coupled with the indispensable European assistance; to Turkey recognition of the right of the Turks to be masters of their own destiny in the genuinely Turkish lands. If this be done there is no good reason to fear combination between them all, for they have fundamentally nothing political in common. The problem of India would remain to be solved, but the connection between India and what constituted the Turkish dominions is factitious and ephemeral. The real Indian problem arises in India, concerns India, and must be dealt with in India.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

There are not many Serbian artists in this country at the present time, but it is to be hoped that when more settled conditions prevail in Yugoslavia and Great Britain cultural intercourse between the two countries will be undertaken on a larger scale. For the meantime we have in London a few Serbian artists who indicate the musical genius of their nation. Of these one of the most remarkable is M. Yovanovitch Bratza, who gave a violin recital at the Wigmore Hall on April 8. His tone is both broad and pure, the facility of his left-hand technique is quite amazing, and the energy and decision of his playing I have never heard equalled by a boy of his years. (I understand that his age is about fourteen.) On the interpretative side he is, of course, lacking, and neither the affectations which he borrows from famous masters nor his abundant mannerisms in any wise constitute a style. Before he becomes a great player, and a great player he certainly could become, he will have to rid himself of as much as he learns. What he needs now is discipline, and a very severe discipline, for the waywardness of his youth is more abundant than is natural. For instance, in the sprints for the climaxes he always beat his (happily unperturbed) accompanist, Mr. Krish, by a short note or so; and the liberties which he took in Grieg's Sonata in G minor and in Saint-Saens' "Havanaise" (and especially in the creation of some unspeakable *rallentando* passages in the Prelude of Pugnani-Kreisler) made one long for the time of his twentieth birthday, by which date I think he will have discarded artificialities and will have discovered and developed the art that obviously lies in him.

At the Æolian Hall, on April 8 and April 9 respectively, two notable singers, Mr. Douglas Marshall and M. Mischa-Leon, gave their last recitals for this season. On the unusual merits of both of them I have remarked before. Mr. Marshall gave what he called a "popular" programme; and to those who doubt the British people's power of musical appreciation it may be well to describe it. It consisted of a group of songs by Benedetto, Marcello, Bassani, and John Dowland (Elizabethan Airs), a group by Debussy, Graham Peel, and Tchaikowsky, a group of Somerset and Hebridean folk-songs, a group by Vaughan-Williams and Cyril Scott, and—most significant of all—a song in French by Gabriel Favré as an encore! And with the exception of the English verses ("Nay, tho' my heart should break" and "Fifinella") to Tchaikowsky, all the words were worthy of the music. Everything points to a fine future for Mr. Marshall; his judgment is very sound, his diction is as pure as that of anyone singing to-day, his enthusiasm and enterprise are evident, and—neither last nor least—he has an understanding accompanist, Mr. Aubyn-Raymar.

M. Mischa-Leon's programme consisted of what one imagines would be "popular" in his own country, for it was made up wholly of Scandinavian songs, among which he included, in addition to Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish songs, some compositions by Finnish composers, notably Rosenfeld and Sibelius. As a matter of fact, his recital, though given in a language unfamiliar to most of his audience, was extremely popular, for it comprised many songs which he himself has made favoured by the discerning. Scandinavian song has not so much of the freshness and clarity which one finds in the literature of these countries, and it seems more in its psychological than in its physical content that it is original; in common subjects where the ballad form is employed there is little mark of genius. In this recital all the blue-eyed innocence and the dreaming subtleties of the music were thoroughly exploited, and M. Mischa-Leon was master of a field in which he is incomparable.

At the Queen's Hall, on April 10, Mr. Frederic Lamond, the finest British pianist living, gave a recital which consisted chiefly of works by Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt. Of his Beethoven (he played the Sonata in E major, Op. 109) it is sufficient to say that no one but Busoni can approach it for dignity, depth and general splendour. In Liszt his mastery over technique was so absolute that you forgot how he played in marvelling at what he played. But it was in Chopin that he was most interesting. Even in the Ballade in G minor and the Nocturne in C minor he allowed no trace of sentimentality, and his guarded tenderness never approached the effeminate. In the Polonaise in A flat he was superb, for the warmth necessary in it is of the fiery, not of the loving, nature. In the famous Sonata in B flat minor, and especially in the Funeral March from it, he was supreme, combining great originality with the inflexible purpose which his intellectuality always preserves. To those who like their Chopin as lovers do, full of sighs, caresses, and melting loveliness, he could not have appealed much; but the rigorous way in which he excluded sentimentality, even in the middle section of the Funeral March, was an emotion in itself. It may not have been Chopin, but it was magnificent.

ANDANTE.

CHRIST CHURCH, CONSTANTINOPLE, WAR MEMORIAL.

An influential Executive Committee has been formed in Constantinople, with Mr. A. T. Waugh, C.M.G., as chairman, to collect subscriptions to a fund to commemorate those of our race who fell during the war in the Near East. The appeal states:—

"The men who served in the Mediterranean, at the Dardanelles, in Mesopotamia, Macedonia, and other Eastern theatres of the war, are now back in their homes in the Old Country, in Australia, in New Zealand, in Canada, wherever, in fact, a British community exists. They will remember that Constantinople, the capital of the Turks, before which our fleet is now anchored, was their objective.

"In Constantinople there has long stood an English church, the name of which, the Crimean Memorial Church, shows that it was erected to enshrine the memory of our heroic fathers who fought and suffered and died in a previous war. It is now thought that no more seemly place could be chosen than this church in which to commemorate also those of our brothers who have died in the Great War. The church was built in 1865-68 by public subscriptions, but no endowment could be provided. The want of such a fund was always felt, but now more than ever.

"The money subscribed will be used by the trustees and the committee as a memorial endowment fund to ensure in perpetuity the upkeep of the church, within which as beautiful a memorial as can be devised will be set up. As to the nature of this memorial, whether chancel screen, reredos or tablets, the committee will be guided by the wishes of the subscribers.

"The patrons and grand committee include such names as Admiral Sir John de Robeck, H.M.'s High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean; the Lord Bishop of Gibraltar; Earl Curzon of Kedleston; Lieut.-General Sir H. F. M. Wilson; Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Webb; and General Sir William Birdwood.

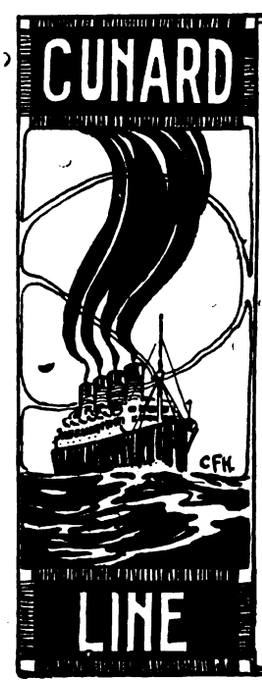
"Subscriptions may be paid to the honorary treasurer, Christ Church War Memorial, at the British Embassy, Constantinople; or to the National Bank of Turkey, Galata, Constantinople, and also for local subscriptions, to the "Orient News," Kroeckers Hotel, Péra."

In this country the Imperial Ottoman Bank will be pleased to transmit any sums which subscribers may forward to it for the memorial.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A council meeting of the Arab Horse Society was recently held at the Grosvenor Hotel, S.W., when entries for the Stud Book, Vol. II., and for the Arab-bred Register were accepted. The council received the financial report on the London show, which was considered very satisfactory, and additional donations to the show and prize fund were acknowledged. The following are the new members of the Society:—

Miss Eve B. Balfour, New Bells Farm, Haughley, Suffolk; Miss Joan Dening, Ballywater Park, Ballywater, Co. Down; Mrs. K. S. Hylton Foster, Foxbury, near Dorking, Surrey; Lieutenant-Colonel Sidney Goldschmidt, Kenfield House, Ollerton; Mrs. R. Hoare, Bignell Park, Bicester; Miss T. Hudson, 75, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, S.W.; Edward Hurtley, Crowborough Warren, Sussex; Charles S. Lyon, The Varegs, Malvern; Mrs. J. Oscar Muntz, Foxhams, Horrabridge, Devon; Sir Alfred E. Peace, Bt., Pinchinthorpe House, Guisbrough, Yorks; Major G. C. Roller, Tadley, Basingstoke;; Wilfred N. Snewin, Barford Cottage, Little London, Basingstoke; and Lady Wentworth, Crabbet Park, Crawley, Sussex.



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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—(a) BALKAN PROBLEMS AND EUROPEAN PEACE. By Noel Buxton and C. Leonard Leese. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1919. Price 4s. 6d. net.)
(b) "REVUE DES BALKANS." Mars, 1920. Paris.

II.—"RUMANIAN GRAMMAR." By M. Beza. (Published by the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., London. Price 7s. 6d. net.)

I.—TOWARDS A LASTING SETTLEMENT.

"The relations of the several Balkan nations to one another," wrote President Wilson in his Fourteen Points, "should be determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality. . . . Every territorial settlement must be made in the interest and for the benefit of the populations concerned. . . . All well-defined national aspirations must be accorded the utmost satisfaction without introducing new or perpetuating old elements of discord and antagonism."

The authors of "Balkan Problems and European Peace" have endeavoured to indicate the lines on which effect could be given to President Wilson's stipulations with some hope of permanency. They wrote before peace with Bulgaria was signed, and it is perhaps unnecessary to point out that the Treaty does violence to every one of their contentions. The book, however, loses none of its value for that reason. Sooner or later the Balkan Peninsula must be brought to some measure of co-operation based on a common understanding of the mutual interests of the component States, and it is well that the only feasible path by which this goal can be reached should be familiar to all. The settlement devised by the Supreme Council offers no permanent guarantee of peace, as everyone knows; and it surpasses the wit of man to comprehend why the British and French Governments lent themselves to a settlement which is the negation of all the principles that were declared to constitute their war aims and is opposed to the interests of Europe. Our authors have not had long to wait for the endorsement of one of their prognostications. On page 121 we read:—

For some time, if not for ever, the struggle between Russia and the Teutonic Powers for Balkan hegemony is at an end. But the immediate decision which the Balkan States themselves have to make is between the perpetuation of the same evil by assisting or opposing French and Italian Imperialism and the development of co-operation one with another.

The March issue of the *Revue des Balkans* seeks to make our hair stand on end by disclosing the overtures that are alleged to have been made by Bulgaria to Italy for an understanding between the two countries. If such overtures have been made, they are the natural outcome of the Bulgarian Treaty and of the policy pursued by organs such as the *Revue des Balkans*. The only satisfactory solution of the Near Eastern question is a Balkan Federation, but on the basis of the present settlement a Federation is impossible. With such a Federation the Balkan States would place themselves at once on an equality with the Great Powers, and with the promulgation of a Monroe doctrine for the Peninsula they would at last reach their goal—the Balkans for the Balkan peoples. Until then they must remain petty States exposed to all the disadvantages of intrigue from within and possible aggression from without. No doubt the Governments of Great Britain and France have been led to believe that the combined strength of Roumania, Yugoslavia and Greece is a sufficient guarantee that nothing untoward will result from injustice done to Bulgaria. In connection with this Messrs. Buxton and Leese write:—

History has shown that nationalism in the Balkans cannot be suppressed. A settlement which disposes of living peoples as "chattels," contrary to the wishes of the majority, is bound to be temporary. The configuration of the country in the most hotly disputed region, Macedonia, makes the complete suppression of armed bands a task beyond the physical capacity of any alien Government, however efficient. Political assassinations, sporadic revolts, and open war would follow in inevitable sequence.

The warning is not superfluous; but before it is justified by the event we may hope that saner counsels will have prevailed and a sounder settlement have been reached by mutual agreement. The small volume under review suggests the lines on which such a settlement might be arranged. Of the efficacy of the proposals the reader will judge for himself. The one detail in which the authors will have difficulty in carrying anyone with them is the suggestion that the Dobruja settlement should be allowed to interfere with Roumania's relations with Constanza.

II.—ROUMANIAN GRAMMAR.

A Roumanian Grammar for English students was badly needed, and the enterprise of the Bank of Roumania in publishing this volume by M. Beza is praiseworthy and opportune. The author has broken new ground by bearing in mind that his readers will be for the most part adults, who will want to "get busy" with the Roumanian equivalent of what they are likely to say or write, and not to waste time over "the pen of my aunt," etc. Elementary sentences are essential, but M. Beza enables the student to press on, and we have no hesitation in commending this grammar warmly to all those who wish to learn Roumanian. Considerable ground is covered in the 114 pages, and both the subject matter and the form of its presentation are admirable.

"THE ASIATIC REVIEW."

The April issue of *The Asiatic Review* covers a range of subjects co-extensive with its title. Inevitably the Turkish question figures prominently in its pages, and is discussed by Mr. Ameer Ali, who insists upon both Constantinople and Adrianople remaining under Turkish jurisdiction, by Boghos Nubar Pasha in its bearing on the future of Armenia, and by Mr. H. Charles Woods, who recapitulates the case for the retention of Ottoman administration in Constantinople. The proceedings of the East India Association are represented by two papers: Lt.-Col. John Shakespear makes an interesting contribution to the question of the government of the wild tribes of the North-Eastern Frontier of India, approaching his subject with the full weight of personal experience and with practical sympathy for these difficult folk; Miss F. R. Scatcherd entitles her lecture "The Friends of India, Wise and Otherwise," but confines the bulk of her remarks to the latter category. She has compiled with great pains a useful refutation of some of the chief fallacies propounded by Mr. H. M. Hyndman, Mr. Wadia, and Mrs. Besant. In dealing with Mrs. Besant she relies mainly on the late Dr. Nair, who had already shown the artificiality of a Home Rule movement engineered by a white woman. Sir Harvey Adamson is able to remind the Association that out of over a hundred papers on Indian subjects read before it, his was the third to deal with Burma, and in a short compass he provides an interesting analysis of the country and its people.

A Commercial Section makes its first appearance in this issue of the *Review*, preceded by a valuable article on the economic situation of the Armenian Republic, by which the reader is reminded afresh of the Herculean task entailed by post-war reconstruction the world over, and incidentally that a peacemaker, whether called a mandatory or by any other name, will be essential to the welfare of Transcaucasia. The customary features of the *Review* are well maintained.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"High Prices and the Quantity Theory." By Sir John O. Miller (formerly of the Indian Civil Service). (London: Sifton, Praed and Co., Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"A Book of Operas. A Second Book of Operas." By Henry Edward Krehbiel. Two Volumes in One. Illustrated. (New York: The Macmillan Co. $2.50.)

"Armenia and the Armenians: From the Earliest Times until the Great War (1914)." By Kevork Aslan. Translated from the French by Pierre Crabitès. (New York: The Macmillan Co. $1.25.)

"West and East." By Edward Caldwell Moore. (Duckworth. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Night Winds of Araby." By A. J. Eardley Dawson. (Grant Richards, Limited. 3s. 6d. net.)

"India at the Death of Akbar: an Economic Study." By W. H. Moreland, C.S.I., C.I.E. (London: Macmillan and Co., Limited. 12s. net.)

"Agreement Between the United Kingdom and Belgium Respecting Boundaries in East Africa." (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 4s. net.)

"Handbook of Commercial Information for India." By C. W. E. Cotton, I.C.S. (Calcutta: Government Printing, India. 2s.)

"The Pink Boll Worm in Egypt in 1916-17." By H. A. Ballon, M.Sc. (Cairo: Government Press. P.T.10.)

"Papers on the Roumanian People and Literature." By M. Beza. (McBride, Nash, and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK,

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. April.	1920. April		1338. Rajab.	5680. Nisan.
15	2	Thursday	26	27
16	3	Friday	27	28
17	4	Saturday.....	28	29
18	5	Sunday	29	30 Ayar.
19	6	Monday	30 Shaban.	1
20	7	Tuesday	1	2
21	8	Wednesday	2	3

Mr. Rudyard Kipling has arrived at Biarritz.

Lady Dorothy Mills has returned to 91A, Ebury Street from Tunis.

The Maharani of Baroda arrived in London on April 11 from the Continent.

Sir Charles Bedford has returned to London from a business mission in India.

Lady Roper Parkington is seriously ill, and is unable to see friends or to answer correspondence.

Rear-Admiral Doughty has arrived at Malta, in succession to Rear-Admiral Sinclair, and has hoisted his flag on board the Resolution.

Fathollah Khan Monazam-es-Saltaneh, Secretary to the Persian Legation, has recovered from his illness and has resumed his diplomatic duties.

Prince Firouz Nosrat ed Dowleh, the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, having concluded his special mission, left London on April 9 for Paris.

Sir Henry Belfield is leaving England this week on a business mission to Egypt and the Sudan, and expects to be away for three or four months.

Prince Carol of Roumania has been spending a week in Ceylon before proceeding to India. He was met on his arrival at Colombo by the Acting-Governor.

Sir Krishna Gupta has arrived from India with other members of the Indian Army Commission, and is staying at Kensington Palace Mansions, De Vere Gardens.

M. Snouck Hurgronje, Director of the Economic Department of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and author of many works upon Islam, is visiting Paris for a conference regarding the granting of a credit to Germany.

Dr. Trumbitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, has been in a nursing home at Neuilly since April 1. An operation, which was quite successful, was performed on April 3, but he is being confined to his bedroom for a few days more.

A marriage has been arranged between Major Howard F. Murland, 64th Pioneers, Indian Army, youngest son of the late C. W. Murland, Annsborough, County Down, and Marion, second daughter of the late Alec. Thomson, Aberdeen.

On March 24, at Bareilly, India, the marriage took place of Colonel Sydney Boyce Combe, D.S.O., M.C., younger son of General Boyce Combe, C.B., to Grace, second daughter of Mr and Mrs George B. Behrens, Vron yw, Denbigh.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain George Hamilton Ogilvie, M.C., B.Sc., Indian Forest Service, and Margaret Macnee (Peggy), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pennington, Minehead. The wedding will take place on April 27.

The marriage of Sir Herbert G. Dering, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., his Majesty's High Commissioner in Bulgaria, and Mrs. Middleton Smith will take place on April 27 at Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, Queen's Gate. Sir Herbert Dering has arrived in town from the British Legation, Sofia.

Sunday, April 11, was Easter Day according to the Greek calendar, and was celebrated in the Greek and Russian churches in London. Large congregations attended. The Archbishop of Trebizond officiated at the service in the Greek Church in Moscow Road, Bayswater.

Mr. F. H. Lucas, C.B., Financial Secretary at the India Office, has been critically ill with typhoid fever, and it will be some months before he can resume his duties in Whitehall. They are being carried on by Mr. C. H. Kisch, C.B., lately secretary to the Indian Exchange and Currency Committee.

The marriage took place at St George's, Beckenham, on April 10 of Lieutenant Charles Humphrey de Meuron Woods, R.N., second son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Woods, of Warren Wood, Bexley Heath, and Miss Grace Marion Collier, elder daughter of Mr. G. H. Collier, C.I.E., of the India Office, and Mrs. Collier. The bride was given away by Major Arthur Collier, in the absence of her father in India.

OBITUARY.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (April 5):—

Those who have followed the course of Yugoslav politics for the past twelve months will regret to hear of the death of the President of the Skupshtina, Dr. Dragoliub Pavlovitch. On Saturday morning Dr. Pavlovitch was in his office as usual, but complained that he was not feeling well; at half-past ten he went home, and ordered a cup of tea; when his servant brought it he found the Speaker dead. Dr. Pavlovitch was a well-known historian, who had specialised in the history of Serbia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and especially in the Austrian occupation of Belgrade in the early part of the eighteenth century, when the capital was still the seat of a Turkish pashalik. He was born in the province of Timok in 1866, was Professor of History at the University, and a member of the Academy. As a politician he belonged to the Radical party, but, as became a historian, was singularly free from the ties of party passion. He had the reputation of a fair and unprejudiced President of the Chamber, and was much respected by the Democrats. He had recently been invited by the Regent to form a neutral Cabinet, but had declined the onerous and invidious task. During the past few weeks he had been almost daily in audience, advising the Crown upon the political situation, and his death is a heavy loss at this moment of political storm, and Crown, Parliament, and people will miss him.

Colonel Russell Richard Pulford, C.I.E., late R.E., has died at Ramsgate, aged seventy-five. He joined the India Public Works Department in 1870, and served through the Afghan War of 1879-80, for which he received the medal, and was promoted to be a superintending engineer in 1892. He held several responsible positions, and was chief engineer in the Public Works Department from 1899 till his retirement at the close of 1900.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Secretary of State for India has decided to appoint Sir Malcolm Hogg to be a member of the Council of India in succession to Sir Marshall Reid, C.I.E. Sir Malcolm Hogg will join the Council early in May.

Dr. Shafaat Ali Khan, D.Litt. (Dublin), has been appointed by the University of Madras Assistant Research Professor in Indian Economics at a salary equivalent to £900 a year. The professorship is held by Dr. Gilbert Slater, formerly Principal of Ruskin College, Oxford.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

A daily aerial service between Toulouse (France) and Casablanca (Morocco), is now in operation.

It is stated that delegates of the Afghan Government have left for India to discuss certain questions with British officials.

A Royal Air Force Handley Page machine crashed at Abuhamad on April 2, says a Cairo message. The four occupants were killed.

According to a telegram received from Bucharest, the Roumanian troops completed the evacuation of Hungarian territory on March 24.

King Ferdinand of Roumania has signed a decree for the ratification of the Peace Treaty between Germany and the Allied and Associated Powers.

An official *communiqué* issued at Athens announces that the state of war between Greece and Germany ceased as from March 30, and the clauses of the Versailles Treaty have entered into force.

General Alexieff, former Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armies, was buried on Wednesday with full military honours in the cemetery at Belgrade, the body having been brought by his family from Odessa.

A Simla *communiqué* dealing with the North-West Frontier situation states that General Climo's force is exacting fines of rifles. Certain sections of the tribes are truculent, but the general position has improved.

Roumania is about to establish a regular organisation of a military character for the purpose of reconstruction. Among other measures, military battalions will repair and maintain in good condition all roads and railway lines.

It is announced that Syrian currency will replace Egyptian money in Syria from May 1, and that any effort to depreciate the currency will render the offender liable to one month's imprisonment or to a fine of 1,000 Syrian pounds .

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Colonel Castaldi has been appointed High Commissioner for Albania, the Italian Government thus acknowledging the new provisional Government of Albania. Italian occupation is to be limited to the coasts.

A resolution has been passed by the British Committee of the Indian National Congress urging the Imperial Government to give instructions that, both as to legislation and administration, the principle of equal treatment, as between Indians and Europeans, should be maintained in East Africa.

The *Busreh Times* of March 2 contains an announcement that that journal will for some days have to be published in a very curtailed form, owing to the collapse of the roof of the Government Press. The accident was brought about by the fall of a wall, which seems to have been due to the abnormally heavy rainfall, 2.2 inches having fallen in one week. This is approximately one-third of Busreh's rainfall for the year.

The following *communiqué* has been received by the India Office from the Civil Commissioner at Baghdad:—The position on the Upper Euphrates is greatly improved. Leaders of Arab tribes who have until recently looted our convoys have come in, deposited the security demanded, and have paid most of the fines imposed upon them.. In spite of the recent heavy rains and floods the Busreh-Baghdad railway has run without interruption since it was opened in January by Sir George MacMunn.

COLONEL JACOB'S CAPTIVITY.

Reuter states:—

Colonel H. F. Jacob, C.S.I., the head of the British Mission to the Imam of the Yemen, who on the way from the coast to Sana was captured by Arab tribesmen and detained for four months, has reached London. The Kuhva Sheikhs, his captors, who were led to believe that the British envoy was going to conclude a treaty by which the whole of the Lowlands of the Yemen would be handed over to the Imam, treated Colonel Jacob and his five companions with much courtesy, and on their release all the property of the mission was returned intact, while the tribesmen declined to accept ransom money. The mission was detained at Bajil, a small town about 25 miles inland from the port of Hodeidah. The people of the plains were Sunnis, and of a puritanical turn, while the hillmen were Zeide, or Shiahs, and the failure of the mission to achieve its object was largely the result of tribal jealousy. The British party were allowed considerable freedom of movement, but were not permitted to leave Bajil. Sports were held; football was a daily pastime, the entire community turning out. The Sheikhs believed the luggage of the mission contained aeroplanes, and when at length an aeroplane appeared over the town the panic was intense, and for a time the mission-house was the target for tribal rifle practice. The Turkish Governor-General, Nahmud Nadim Bey, who appeared on behalf of the Imam to effect the release of the mission, was of great assistance to the party, as were many of the Saintly House of Murawaa hard by. The party got their mails and supplies from the coast by camel-caravan, and fruit and potatoes were received from the hills, the latter the gifts of Mahmud Nadim Bey, who in return received gifts of cigars from Colonel Jacob.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1920.

THE FUTURE OF ALBANIA.

Although Albania necessarily figures a long way down on the list of problems with which the Supreme Council of the Allies has to deal, its settlement, if it is to be satisfactory and lasting, calls for the same expert knowledge and the same careful consideration as any other question arising out of the war. The tendency to group these questions in different categories according to a rough and ready estimate of their importance may be natural; but it should not be overlooked that, in so far as an unsatisfactory settlement in any direction must constitute a menace to the world's peace, there is little to choose between the degrees of importance attaching to the different problems. In South-Eastern Europe, indeed, all these problems react so closely upon one another that they ought to be regarded as a single whole, and only a solution which responds in every particular to some definite principle, uniformly applied, can hope to win acceptance from all the conflicting interests. The Supreme Council, it is evident, has wearied of its task long before it is completed. In desperation over the seemingly interminable struggle between Italians and Yugoslavs regarding Fiume and Dalmatia, it tried to find a *modus vivendi* by offering compensation elsewhere to both parties according as they might feel disappointed in respect of the special bone of contention. Italy and Yugoslavia were to be consoled by receiving portions of Albanian territory, while Greece was to be allowed to carry the partition still farther. Only a very wearied Council, which had travelled far from the Fourteen Points, could have conceived such a settlement; and it required a very cynical and forgetful one to embody it in a definite offer. Fortunately for the world's peace the suggestion was made public in time, and, whereas opinion regarding other decisions of the Supreme Council has been divided, the denunciation of this proposal was unanimous. The Yugoslav Government lost no time in refusing to be a party to such an outrageous proceeding as that suggested by the Council, and President Wilson administered the *coup de grâce* by stating that the United States would not agree to a settlement of the Fiume question at the expense of a third party. In regard to the Adriatic question, in contradistinction to the Turkish settlement, President Wilson can still claim to be consulted. American help in the period of reconstruction is as vital to Italy as it was to the Allies as a whole during the war; but the United States did not declare war on Turkey, they have refused to take any share in the rehabilitation of the Turks, and consequently they cannot expect that their views regarding the future of the Turkish Empire should carry the same weight as on other matters in the councils of the Allies.

The threatened partition of Albania had the effect of rousing the Albanians to united action. A National Assembly met at Lusnia on January 30 and recorded a unanimous protest against the attempt of the British, French, and Italian Governments to put into force the Pact of London of 1915, thus sacrificing Albania "to satisfy the imperialistic aspirations of the neighbour States." A further resolution announced the Assembly's decision "not to accept any foreign mandate or protectorate," and it was added that "the Albanians are ready to make all sacrifices, to the last drop of their blood, against any decision which may imperil their territorial integrity and their complete independence." No one with any knowledge of the Albanians will be inclined to challenge the Assembly's sincerity in placing this latter resolve on record, and it is to be hoped that the words will carry no less weight with the Supreme Council than President Wilson's pointed reminder and the refusal of the Yugoslav Government. An equally important step taken by the Lusnia gathering was to create an Albanian Administration which, with headquarters at Tirana, has since been responsible for the affairs of the country, or of the parts of it which have come under its jurisdiction. Elsewhere in this issue a correspondent explains the situation in Albania as it is to-day. At the head of the Tirana Administration is Ahmed Bey Mati, with the post of Minister of the Interior. Although Albania has officially declared its undying hostility to anything in the nature of a mandate or an encroachment upon its independence, the National Government seems to have maintained satisfactory relations with the Italian authorities, as we are told of Italian troops acting as local garrisons, but without interfering in any way in the administration. If this is the case, it reflects considerable credit on both parties. Within the last month or so the Tirana authorities have extended their jurisdiction over the town and district of Argyrocastro, in the south, and over Skutari in the north, so that their writ runs throughout Albania as mapped out by the Great Powers in 1913, with the exception of Valona, which is in Italian hands, and Koritza, which is under Franco-Albanian rule.

Peace and quietness in the Balkans will not prove satisfactory to everybody, and least of all if they should make their appearance in Albania. Consequently it may be expected that doubts will be thrown on the Albanian picture we have tried to reproduce. There can be no doubt, however, that it is the Allies' duty to welcome and to afford every possible support to any Albanian Government that promises to administer the affairs of the country with honest intentions and with some prospect of the goodwill of the people. The first necessity is a fixed frontier, and this must be provided by the Supreme Council according to the principle of nationality, to which it stands committed. The Yugoslavs have rightly decided that Skutari must belong to Albania; on the other hand, Koritza is claimed by the Greeks, who would also make Greek Epirus a very elastic term, and Valona will cause permanent heartburning if it should remain in Italian occupation. Albanian unity has probably still many serious gaps in it, and foreign propaganda may be able to show wonderful statistics; but the Supreme Council by now ought to be on its guard in these matters. Wherever any reasonable doubt exists, recourse ought to be had to a plébiscite conducted under neutral auspices. It will be by no means the least achievement of the war if it leaves Albania at peace with itself and with its neighbours. The unhappy past of the country is no criterion. If once the administrative machinery can be made to work smoothly, then the improvement of agriculture, the development of commerce, and the establishment of a national educational system will work wonders. In all this Albania needs outside help; but it must be given tactfully and disinterestedly. Italy would be the obvious friend and guide of the Albanians if she could divest herself of the ideas of a grandiose imperialism.

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SOME WAR-TIME REMINISCENCES OF PERSIA.—III.

By BERNARD SOTHAM.

With the advent of some British troops the sceptical Persians began to think that there really was some truth in the stories that had been told about the doings of the British Army in Mesopotamia, though very few believed in the capture of Baghdad or even of Kut. However, the arrival in Kasvin of a British General with his staff gave some promise of fulfilment of the long-looked-for help to the very few Persians who remained friendly to Great Britain. It had long since become extremely dangerous for any Persians to be openly friendly to the Allies, and many had paid the penalty of such friendliness at the hands of the assassins employed by agents of our enemies.

The functions of the British troops in Northern Persia were those of a Military Mission, and most excellently they did their work. They were composed of a few officers with a sprinkling of specially chosen N.C.O.'s. This small force, with machine guns and a few armoured cars for self-protection, moved up over some 400 miles of almost unknown country in light motor-cars. The doings and hardships they suffered on the journey, chiefly on account of the excessive cold, but also of unfriendly natives, and complete ignorance of the country which lay ahead of them each day, would make a most interesting story, and it is to be hoped that it will one day be written. The absence of roads was only one of their many difficulties. Rivers had to be crossed, bogs and marshes negotiated, mountains nine thousand feet above the sea level crossed, snow-drifts of fifteen feet deep cleared, and endless other difficulties encountered.

This Military Mission lost no time in getting to work. They got into touch with the Persians and were able to give them direct and personal accounts of the doings of the British Army away in Mesopotamia. Thanks to their skill, convincing diplomacy and propaganda, several powerful Persian chiefs offered all their available armed support to the British cause. Even a regiment of Persian Levies was raised and used for policing the roads. An improvement was at once noticed in such large and important towns as Kermanshah, Kangavar, Hamadan, and Kasvin. These towns were nests of agitators and schemers against the British. Some of the leading undesirables were skilfully kidnapped and sent out of the country on Ford cars, while others cleared off of their own accord. In view of future military operations, much necessary and vital information regarding spies, etc., was gathered, also information regarding the numerous tribes bordering on Persian Kurdistan.

With the movement of the Turkish Army from Tabriz it became evident that military operations would inevitably take place. This meant that a long line of communication between Baghdad and Hamadan had to be established. A great deal of invaluable work was done in improving the track from the frontier up to Hamadan; bridges were repaired, and the Army moving up into Persia arrived to find all the pioneer work done and much invaluable time saved.

Following on the events which I have just narrated, British troops in considerable numbers moved up into Persia. Up to this point there had been no armed collision with any hostile elements other than small affairs with Persian and Kurdish brigands.

Meanwhile, the Russian volunteers moved forward from Kasvin towards Resht and the Persian port Enzeli, on the Caspian. The Jungalis, with some Austrian and German help, opposed them on the Mengil Bridge, on the Russian Road, a spot well known to travellers in Northern Persia for its terrific winds. After a short fight the Jungalis were beaten, and the Russians advanced and occupied Resht and the port of Enzeli. These Russians were shortly followed by British troops, who "took over" from them.

All these happenings had a very salutary effect on Teheran, and our enemies in the Persian capital began to feel very uneasy. By June, 1918, British troops had concentrated in considerable force, and they assumed a definite title, "Norperforce," with headquarters at Kasvin. A move was made in the direction of Tabriz, from where the Turks were advancing towards Central Persia, with the object of driving the British out of Persia. Permanent positions were established at Bijar and Sanjan, a line roughly parallel with the Hamadan-Kasvin Road and some eighty miles west of it. The Turks attacked Sanjan, and severe fighting ensued, whilst the Jungalis attacked our position near the Caspian, necessitating reinforcements beng rushed up to those parts. The other end of the line at Bijar was kept busy with Kurds and small bodies of Turks; at the same time alarming news was received of the evacuation of Urumia by the Jehlus and Armenians. They had been steadily fighting against the Turks for months past in defence of their country, but had at last been compelled to evacuate entirely, and their goal was Hamadan, which they thought was the safest place to make for. This, indeed, was bad news, for it meant our being saddled with something like 80,000 men, women, and children, and this in a famine-stricken country, where we were hard put to it to feed ourselves. It was a very clever move on the part of our enemies. Things looked so black about this time that the evacuation of Resht, Enzeli, and Teheran was freely spoken of, and preparations were made for these events. In fact, one heard whispers of the total evacuation of Northern Persia being possible.

I have spoken freely of military operations taking place in such places as Kermanshah, Hamadan, Bijar, Sanjan, Kasvin, Resht, etc., but it is necessary to bear in mind that all these places are from 80 to 100 miles distant from one another. The country covered is very wild, mountainous, barren, and bleak, and the nature of the operations needed a rapid movement of troops and their supplies from one point to another. This, of course, necessitated the construction of many hundreds of miles of roads in a famine-stricken country, where labour was very scarce. It was absolutely essential that these roads were capable of carrying heavy loads of motor transport and armoured cars. Personally, I think that the roads which sprang into being, like the proverbial spring onion, speak volumes for the efforts made by the Royal Engineers.

To return to the evacuation of Urumia, upon receipt of the news of the evacuation having started, ammunition and machine guns with British gunners were hastily sent off from Hamadan by motor convoy. British officers accompanied them, their intention being to meet the Armenians and endeavour to persuade them to turn round and return to their country and fight the Turk again. This convoy got as far as Bijar, where the head of the refugee column was met. There was no chance of arguing or trying to reason with this panic-stricken mob. They were arriving in their tens of thousands, and the utmost confusion and chaos reigned. The refugee column was attacked by Kurds all the way down to Bijar and harassed by the Turks in their rear. It took about twelve days for the whole of the column to pass Bijar, and all of them were supplied by us with sufficient rations to last them on their march on to Hamadan.

To describe the awful sufferings of these people on this march would be very difficult. It was truly a case of the survival of the fittest; they arrived at Bijar, where some medical facilities were available, with typhus and smallpox raging among them. We did all that we possibly could for them. Women as well as men had been obliged to fight their way along, and many arrived with gunshot wounds ten or twelve days old, without having received any medical attention.

I passed through this column by motor-car on my way down to Hamadan from Bijar. The road was strewn with dead and dying people and animals. Little children dead and partially devoured by wolves lay everywhere, while others dying would raise their heads and look pitiably at me on hearing the sound of a motor. I remember seeing a woman lying alongside the track, having just dropped out and died with exhaustion. A small child, still living, was in her arms, whilst another lay dead a few yards away. Anyone dropping out from exhaustion either died at once or was mutilated by the marauding Kurds in the most horrible manner. Some of the sights I saw were too terrible to describe. Picture a whole nation obliged to evacuate their towns, leaving all their worldly belongings behind them, through imminent fear of massacre, and compelled to travel on foot through hundreds of miles of wild country infested by savage Kurds! During this awful march, these people lost all sense of civilisation and chivalry. As an instance of this, here is an incident that I witnessed:—My driver had stopped my car beside a stream to pick up cold water for the radiator. A small motor convoy with British Tommies had also stopped at the same place for similar purposes. The refugees were passing by us, and seated on an exhausted and worn-out looking mule was a young woman, almost devoid of clothing. Close to her rode a young, strong-looking man clad in a fur overcoat.

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One of the British Tommies remonstrated with him, and asked him why he did not give his coat to the woman. He replied, in English: "Well, sir, you never know, I might need it myself to-morrow."

On reaching the country below Bijar, where Kurds and Persian Kurds were not numerous, parties of Jehlu and Armenian horsemen two or three hundred strong took revenge by looting and killing the defenceless Persians. These parties rode off on their own filibustering expeditions, and for the last fifty miles of the road not a village within three or four miles of either side of the road escaped them, the villagers defending themselves as long as they were able, and then taking to their heels. Sounds of rifle-firing could be heard from these miniature battles in all directions; no living thing remained in these villages, and they were completely and thoroughly looted. On their arrival in the neighbourhood of Hamadan it was no easy task rounding up these filibustering bands and disarming them all.

At Hamadan the refugees were sorted out and placed in camps under proper military control, and subsequently marched down to near Baghdad where the survivors, numbering about 35,000 or 40,000, still remain in a large camp. Large numbers were also sent to the Armenian villages and settlements which lie between Sultanabad and Ispahan.

While this evacuation was taking place severe fighting with the Turks occurred near Sanjan, and with the Jungalis at Resht. The Turks were unable to dislodge us from Sanjan, and the Jungalis suffered severe punishment, and late in August made peace with us.

The result of the Armenian filibustering raids between Bijar and Hamadan was that the Persians appealed to us for compensation. The British Consul at Hamadan was besieged with Persians clamouring for compensation. Particulars of all the claims were noted, and I believe they have been, or are going to be, paid by us. It does not appear quite clear to me why we should be called upon to pay these claims. One would have thought this was a responsibility concerning the Persian Government.

Following shortly upon the events which I have just narrated came the collapse of Turkey and the armistice with that country. The Turks withdrew from Persia, and hostilities ceased. In Teheran a Cabinet with pro-Ally sympathies came into power. On the signing of the armistice with Germany many Persians still disbelieved the victorious progress of our armies in Europe. A firework display was arranged in Hamadan, and in most towns dinners, which the local dignitaries attended, took place.

CHESS.

Sir G. Thomas's Success at Bromley.

During the past week the interest of chess players has centred on the congress of the Kent Chess Association, which was held at the Central Hall, Bromley. The principal event was an open tournament, which attracted a strong entry, including Sir G. A. Thomas, Bart., M. Kostitch, the Serbian chess champion, and M. Marchand. The tournament was arranged in six sections of equal strength, the winners meeting in a final section, while the seconds and thirds, etc., in the original heats also met in final sections, each player thus having ten games in the week—a strenuous test, indeed, when it is borne in mind that a game between equal experts not infrequently lasts eight hours.

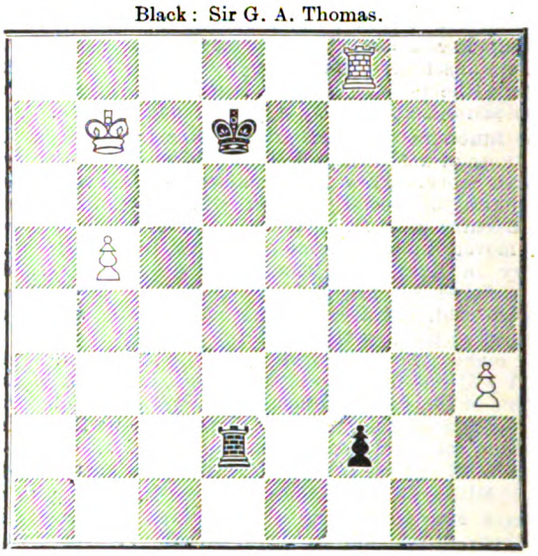
The heat winners were Sir G. A. Thomas, M. Kostitch, M. Marchand, Mr. R. H. V. Scott, Mr. F. Brown, and Mr. J. Macalister, and the result of the final section was to leave the three first-named players far ahead of their rivals, Sir George Thomas scoring a narrow and well-deserved victory with 4 points against the 3½ of M. Kostitch and M. Marchand. Thus the Hastings placings are reversed, and it is now evident that in Sir George Thomas British chess has a player who can be counted upon to hold his own against almost any competitor. Sir George Thomas, as my readers know, has been carrying all before him in London chess this season, and on Saturday a double success fell to him, for in addition to his triumph at Bromley he also regained the championship of the City of London Chess Club, as Mr. R. C. J. Walker lost to Mr. W. Winter that afternoon.

Some players had an extremely strenuous time of it at Bromley. One player, in the chief final section, had a game of about 130 moves, and another of 153 moves. The former took thirteen hours; what time was occupied with the latter I do not know—probably fifteen hours. The 153 moves must be somewhere near a record for a long game. On the other hand, the shortest mate possible was given at Bromley, a player winning in two moves.

Apart from the Bromley congress, there is little news of interest. At the City of London Club the preliminary heats for the Murton Cup Tournament are now well advanced, and it is possible in some cases, at least, to anticipate the probable finalists. I believe that the final, in which there will be eight players, will commence at the end of May or the beginning of June.

The meeting between Sir George Thomas and M. Kostitch at Bromley provided a most interesting game. M. Kostitch reached the end game with a pawn superiority, but Sir George Thomas had no difficulty in drawing. The finish was as follows:—

Black: Sir G. A. Thomas.

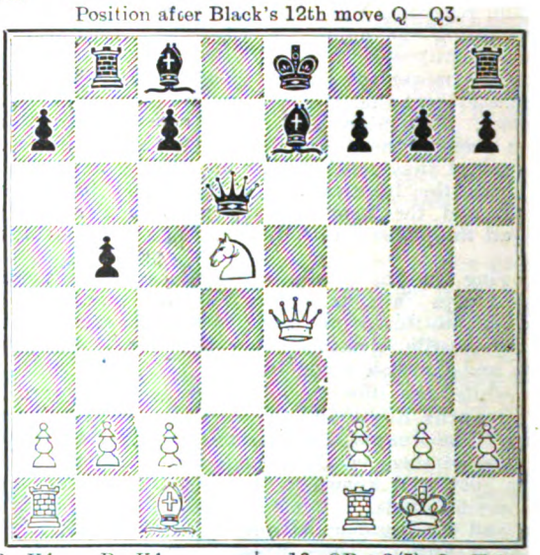


White: M. Kostitch.
Black to play.
Play continued:

1.		K—K2	4.	P—Kt6	R—KB3
2.	R—B5	R—Q2ch	5.	R x P	R x R
3.	K—R6	R—Q3ch	6.	P—Kt7, and the game was drawn.	

The following game, played at Bromley between Sir G. A. Thomas and M. Gaudin, is notable for the admirable way in which the former took advantage of indifferent opening strategy. Opening, Ruy Lopez: White, Sir G. A. Thomas; Black, M. Gaudin.

Position after Black's 12th move Q—Q3.



1.	P—K4	P—K4	16.	QR—Q(3)	Q—Kt5
2.	Kt—KB3	Kt—QB3	17.	B x P	Q x Q
3.	B—Kt5	Kt—B3	18.	R x Q	R—Kt2
4.	0—0	Kt x P	19.	B—Q6	R—Q2
5.	Q—K2	P—Q4 (1)	20.	Kt x B	R x Kt
6.	Kt x P	Q—B3	21.	R—K7	R(Q2)—Q
7.	Kt x Kt	P x Kt	22.	QR—K	P—KR3
8.	P—Q3	B—K2	23.	B—B7	R—Q7
9.	P x Kt	P x B	24.	R x P	R x QBP
10.	Kt—B3	P x P	25.	B—K5	R—B8
11.	Q x KP	R—QKt	26.	K—B	R x R (ch)
12.	Kt—Q5	Q—Q3	27.	K x R	R—K
13.	B—B4	Q—Q2	28.	P—B4	K—Kt
14.	KR—K(2)	0—0	29.	BxKtP(ch)	K—B
15.	Kt x B (ch)	K—R	30.	R x RP	Resigns

1. Weak. Kt—Q3 should have been played.
2. Winning a piece.
3. R—K3 is tempting. It compels Black to command KR6, as otherwise Q x RP ch and the R mates. Alternatively, it maintains the Kt at K7, and also provides a jumping-off ground for an attack via K Kt3. The line Sir George chose was, however, simple and effective.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The latest news regarding the agricultural outlook in Roumania is distinctly encouraging. It had been estimated that the area under wheat in old Roumania would amount to 534,395 hectares, but the estimate is now increased to 800,000 hectares. Thus the position as regards wheat sowings has considerably improved, and the prospects for the coming harvest are much brighter than could have been anticipated. Between the latest figures and the pre-war average for the years 1911-1915 of 1,922,333 hectares there is a wide gap, but the progress already made towards the normal may justifiably give rise to the hope that the rest of the leeway will rapidly be made up.

***

It is very satisfactory to learn that signs are now in evidence of some slight improvement as regards the Constantinople market. Reference is made in the report from Stamboul of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which is given elsewhere in these columns, to a tendency for prices to harden in keeping with the trend in Manchester. Stocks at Constantinople are also being drawn on to some extent for Egypt.

***

The report of the Bank of Piræus for the year ended January 31 should make excellent reading for the shareholders. There is an all-round improvement in the balance-sheet, and the net profit amounts to 798,142 drachmæ. Eight per cent. of this amount is taken by the tax on net revenues—namely, 52,173 drachmæ—40.000 drachmæ are placed to the statutory reserve, and the balance is utilised to pay a dividend of 12 per cent., absorbing 600.000 drachmæ, which, after the allocation to the Council of Administration and the management, leaves 14,774 drachmæ to be carried forward.

***

Proposals are to be submitted at the forthcoming meeting of the Mercantile Bank of India for an increase of the authorised capital by the creation of 300,000 new shares of £5 each. The present capital of the bank is £1.500.000, of which half is paid up. Only a little over a year ago the bank made an issue of capital, 15.000 A shares being distributed among the shareholders, and in the interval there has been a further very marked expansion in the bank's business.

***

The increase in the total of the balance-sheet of the Mercantile Bank from £15.302.126 to £22,450.927 indicates the progress made during the past year. The gross profits for the period amounted to £489,425, as against £391,363, while the net profits were £215.636, as against £181,112. The allocations include £50,000 to the reserve fund, £15,000 to pension fund, £20.000 to writing off freehold premises, while the dividend is 14 per cent., with a bonus of 2 per cent., as against 14 per cent. and no bonus for the previous year. £85,794 was brought in, and the carry-forward is slightly larger at £96,430.

***

Sir Montagu Turner, presiding at the general meeting of the Chartered Bank, referred to the steady and consistent character of the progress of the bank, and said that he had no doubt that if the same cautious and circumspect lines were pursued in the years to come the business of the bank would extend and the reports would show equally gratifying results. Regarding the general outlook, he pointed out that there was, of course, the possibility of a set-back in trade after the demands for raw materials and manufactured goods had been met. Other factors he mentioned were the unsettled political situation all the world over, the discontent caused by high prices, and the menace to bankers and traders alike in the top-heavy prices of raw materials. "We may have troublous times ahead," he continued, "but, in spite of all, I look forward with confidence to the future, if all classes, especially in this country, unite to deal fairly and squarely with each other."

***

During the past year the exchange banks were confronted with special problems in regard to currency and exchange. "The unprecedented fluctuations in the price of silver and gold have been very remarkable," Sir Montagu pointed out, "and the volume of business which fell to the lot of this bank in connection with the financing of exports, raw material, foodstuffs, etc., required for national purposes, has been far above the average, and the demands on the resources of the bank have been at every point far in excess of the ordinary." He proceeded to give some examples of exchange fluctuations, and added that in addition they had had the uncertainty as to the ultimate standard value of the rupee measured in gold following on the report of the Babington Smith Currency Commission. He also touched on the serious cable delays, which had provided a further cause of trouble, and said that during the last few days there had been an improvement, and they were getting messages through more quickly.

***

The reports of the Samnuggur, Titaghur, and Victoria jute companies for the past twelve months show a marked decrease in turnover, due, of course, to the cessation of the demand for jute for war purposes. In other directions the demand was satisfactory, and a profitable level of prices was obtained. Despite the smaller turnover in each case much larger net profits were made. Thus, in the case of Samnuggur the gross profit fell from £1,021,100 to £665,700, but the net profit amounted to £345,700, as against £291,700. The Titaghur gross profits amounted to £676.200, as against £969.200, but the net profits rose from £297,300 to £365,200, while in the case of the Victoria Jute Company the gross profits were £407,700, as against £594,700, but the net profits were £225,600, as against £189,700.

***

The explanation of this is to be found in the fact that each of these companies had to pay a much smaller sum in excess profits duty for the past year. The Samnuggur Company, for instance, paid £167,400, a drop of £559.300; the Titaghur's quota was £491.200 lower at £171.800, while the remaining company paid £98.600, as against £403.400. The dividend of Samnuggur is maintained at 50 per cent., that of Titaghur is 50 per cent., as against 70 per cent., while that of Victoria is 50 per cent., as against 60 per cent. The capital of each of these companies has been increased by one-half, and the final dividend is paid on the full capital, so that, taking that into consideration, the dividend in the case of Samnuggur and Victoria is slightly larger than before. For the rest, it may be noted that the allocations to reserve show an increase of £70.000 as regards Samnuggur at £208.000, of £110.000 as regards Titaghur at £210.000, and of £73.000 as regards Victoria at £135.000.

***

The report of the Madras Electric Tramways (1904) for the past year shows rather better results than for the previous year despite the effect of the strike which took place early in 1919 and the increase in expenditure on account of higher wages and the increased cost of materials. The net profit, after placing £12.000 to depreciation and renewal account, as against £10,000 for 1918, is £14,700, an increase of £300. It is proposed to maintain the dividend on the ordinary shares at 8 per cent. free of tax, to place £3,000 to the general reserve, as before, to place £1,000 to a gratuity fund for employees, and to carry forward £4,900, an increase of £100 on the previous figures.

COMMENTATOR.

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Correspondents throughout Greece.

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RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
Deposits and Credit Accounts, Drs. 100,000,000.

The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

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Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 22.

German Property in Egypt.

A Proclamation has been issued by Lord Allenby with regard to the liquidation of German property in Egypt and the settlement out of the proceeds thereof of claims by British and Egyptian nationals in regard to property in German territory or debts owing to them by German nationals. This Proclamation has been issued in consequence of the Order in Council made on January 22, 1920, which declared the provisions of the Versailles Treaty of Peace of June 28, 1919, to be applicable in respect of the property of German nationals under British control in Egypt, and charged such property with the payment of certain enemy liabilities.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, March 25.

The Exchanges and Trade.

The continual rise in the value of the £ sterling, which is now about Ps.450, coupled with the mobilisation of Hellenic subjects, has had a most disastrous effect upon business in the city. Many native merchants are delaying taking up bills of lading from the banks and withdrawing the goods from the Custom House, because they consider it better to pay demurrage at the Custom House until the rate of exchange is more favourable to Turkish paper money. This is, of course, a very risky proceeding, and will probably result in considerable cargo being abandoned altogether, and the loss will thus fall on the British shipper. In the meantime the Custom House is so congested that it is extremely difficult to find room for the daily arrivals of goods, and even the merchandise that is wanted quickly cannot be cleared because of the congested condition. Most of the goods for the Smyrna market are purchased in the United Kingdom and America, and it is because the £ sterling and the dollar are so high that importers are now losing heavily.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, March 28.

Depreciation of the Dinar.

Owing to the rapid and heavy drop of the dinar during the past month, merchants are faced with absolutely prohibitive prices on foreign goods, and many are having difficulty in meeting engagements made when the dinar was fairly stationary at about 90 to the £. A meeting of Belgrade merchants was held recently at which some pessimists went so far as to suggest closing their establishments till the position improved. A committee has been formed, and private initiative will support the Government. It is now announced that the Government has agreed to the following resolutions affecting the problem: one, that the import of all luxuries and unnecessary articles be prohibited; secondly, that dealing in foreign cheques be controlled; thirdly, that the Ministry of Finance intervene to stop gambling and artificial fluctuations in the exchange; and, fourthly, that very energetic steps be taken to effect a Government monopoly of foreign currency.

The Deficit.

The Radicals are complaining that the late Government left them a legacy of financial chaos, but express the hope of improving the undoubtedly very serious state of affairs. They have to face a heavy deficit and a rapidly depreciating currency. The difficulty is increased by the uncertainty still obtaining on the question of a war indemnity. The defeated Bulgars are better off in that their war debt to Germany has been remitted, while the Serbs are obliged to pay the interest on their heavy loans from England and France. As the revenue is inadequate, new taxation is foreshadowed, which, in view of the constant rise in the cost of living and the prohibitive prices of imported articles, will be a heavy burden on the people; stringent economy is also announced. The first task of the Serbian Treasury is to check the fall of the dinar, which has fallen almost to a tenth of its nominal value. What steps the Government will take other than encouraging exports is hard to say. They have a difficult task before them. Their strongest plank is the great productiveness and natural wealth of the country and the industry of the agricultural population. While the politicians are talking and quarrelling, the yeomen are busy farming, under great difficulties owing to the scarcity of plant.

Imports and Exports.

The Ministry of Commerce is preparing new regulations dealing with imports and exports. The restrictions on exports have caused a considerable amount of discontent, and while they have stopped or greatly reduced the influx of depreciated Austrian and Hungarian money and directed substantial sums into the Treasury in the form of export tax, they have equally prevented the exports to countries having good currency, which is, after all, the only real means of stopping the depreciation of the dinar.

The Ministry has taken the rather unusual step of appealing to public opinion through the commercial Press, and asks a series of questions, such as whether the time is ripe for the removal of all control, whether it is advisable to forbid or restrict the export or import of any specific articles, whether the export duty should be removed, should export for barter be approved, and a further series of questions of a purely administrative nature.

BELGRADE, March 31.

Dealings in Exchange.

The Government is creating a monopoly of transactions in foreign currencies, which may now be conducted only under licence; such permission has now been granted to the British Trade Corporation; Banque Franco-Serbe, and its branches at Skoplie, Zagreb and Bitolj (Monastir); Prva Hrvatska Shtedionitsa (First Croatian Savings Bank), Zemaljska Banka (Land Bank), Izvozna Banka (Export Bank), Nikola Boshkovich's Bank at Belgrade, the Serbian Commercial Company, the Belgrade branch of the Croatian Land Bank, and the Podunavska (Danubian) Trading Company.

BELGRADE, April 5.

End of Moratorium.

The moratorium will come to an end automatically on May 31, so a Bill is being introduced by the late Minister of Justice to deal with the situation. Interest runs from January 1 of the current year; capital debts will be paid off in annual instalments of 20 per cent; acceptors of bills will pay, but drawers whose acceptors are dead will be released from liability.

The harvest promises well, and the weatherwise foretell a good yield of corn, wine, and plums. It is needed badly enough, for the peasant farmers were hit hard by last year's bad season on the top of all their sufferings in the war.

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EGYPT'S BUDGET FOR 1920-21.

RECORD ESTIMATES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 26.

Yesterday the Council of Ministers approved the Budget for the new financial year. The estimates are expected to balance at £E40,271,000. This figure is £E12,971,000 more than the estimated revenue and £E11,421,000 more than the estimated expenditure of the previous financial year, the Budget for which was only balanced by the provision of a draft of £E1,550,000 on the general reserve.

The following table, giving the Budget figures and those actually realised during the last pre-war year and the five financial years preceding the one starting on April 1 next, may not be without interest:—

—	ESTIMATE.			RESULT.		
	Revenue. £.E.	Expenditure. £E.	Deficit. £E.	Revenue. £E.	Expenditure. £E.	Surplus. £E.
1913-1914	16,130,000	18,614,000	2,484,000	17,703,898	17,659,961	43,937
1916-1917	16,530,000	16,630,000	100,000	19,927,274	17,240,606	2,686,668
1917-1918	19,525,000	19,525,000	—	23,166,074	22,496,948*	669,126
1918-1919	22,900,000	23,250,000	350,000	27,661,289	23,384,326	4,276,963
1919-1920	27,300,000	28,850,000	1,550,000	20,108,586†	17,946,306	2,162,280
1920-1921	40,271,000	40,271,000	—	—	—	—

* Including a grant of £E2,967,956 to the British Government towards war expenditure.
† Eight months ending November.

These figures reveal the remarkable progress made during the past seven years. The revenue anticipated for the new financial year constitutes a record never before touched in the history of modern Egypt. It is, in fact, one and a-half times as much again as the pre-war Budget, and more than double the highest revenue ever recorded before the war. Compared with last year's revenue, it is double the amount collected up to the end of November, but since that period is the one of the least heavy collections there is every reason to expect that the final figure will be in the neighbourhood of £E32,000,000, with a possible surplus of £E3,000,000, as compared with the anticipated deficit of £E1,500,000.

The increase in revenue over the preceding year's estimate, which amounts to £E12,971,000, includes certain extraordinary, *i.e.*, non-recurring, items amounting altogether to £E6,596,000. There are £E2,000,000 resulting from the new tax on ginned cotton, £E1,826,000 representing the anticipated share of the Egyptian Government in the profits of the Cotton Control Commission, which were to be divided equally between the British and Egyptian Governments, and £E2,770,000 proceeds of sale of land, which are expected to realise £E2,356,000 more than the previous year.

As regards the balance of the increase which is recorded under permanent revenue, the main items are as follows: Customs dues, £E4,040,000, of which £E1,650,000 is expected to come from tobacco; judicial fees, £E203,000; railways, telegraphs, and telephones, £E802,000; post office, £E141,000; domains, £E480,000; ghaffir cess, £E326,000; interest on investments, £E1,232,000.

Reductions are budgetted under date palm tax, £E136,500, and Excise duty, £E407,000, both of which have been remitted, the former because of the difficulty in making an equitable assessment and of the criticisms to which the tax has given rise, and the latter in order to enable the sugar company to meet the requirements of the country by imports from abroad without increasing the retail price, which throughout the war has been much below the price on the outside market.

The increase in the Customs is based to a great extent on the statistics of the past year, and as to tobacco is due to the raising of the tariff last September, and that in judicial fees is due to the unprecedented number of land sales, from which the receipts of the Mixed Courts are expected to benefit by £E1,050,000, against £E810,300 for the current year. Of the increase under railways, telephones, and telegraphs, £E636,000 is from the railways, £E100,000 from the telegraphs, and the balance from the telephones, the tariff of which has been raised. The increase under post office is due partly to increased rates and partly to expansion, whilst that under ghaffir cess is due to increased collections.

As regards the proceeds from the investment of funds, which are expected to attain £E3,258,000 during the coming year, £E2,176,000 represents the Government's share in the profit on the bank note issue. The increase estimated under domains is due to the high price of cotton, the crop grown on the Government estates being expected to realise next year about £E600,000. As regards the sale of land, it should be pointed out that the proceeds are intended to meet the cost of new remunerative capital expenditure, for which no less than £E3,084,507 is provided in the Budget.

The expenditure includes £E8,704,582 non-recurrent expenditure, of which £E3,050,502 is extraordinary expenditure, and £E5,654,080 expenditure on new works. The extraordinary or non-recurrent expenditure consists of the following items:—Extraordinary war expenses, £E40,000, as against £E400,000 the previous year; distribution of articles of first necessity, £E2,000,000, which is the loss which it is expected the Government will incur, and which will be compensated by the proceeds of the cotton tax; and £E954,052, settlement of claims arising out of the 1919 troubles—this is really the balance carried forward of the £E1,000,000 provided in the previous Budget.

As regards new works, the items are as follows:—His Highness the Sultan's Household, £E180,287; State domains, £E102,390, for improvement of land; mines, £E165,650, for the development of the oilfields and the erection of a refinery; irrigation, £E1,580,467, for the improvement of the Delta drainage system; ports and lights, £E729,770, for work in Suez and Alexandria harbours; main roads, £E80,570; State buildings, £E351,582; Cairo municipal service, £E267,018; main drainage, £E175,060; river navigation, £E14,500, for purchase of vessels; and £E45,000 for improvement and creation of cereal markets. As pointed out above, the cost of these new works is being met to a great extent by the proceeds of the sale of land referred to above.

Under new works also appears an item of £E1,239,000 for railways, the ordinary budgetary expenditure for which amounts to £E6,594,175, in which is included £E1,315,000 for purchase of material and rolling stock, on which it is estimated that at least £E7,000,000 will have to be expended to make up the arrears of the war years; whilst under ordinary expenditure comes an item of £E4,250,000 for bonus to Government staff on account of high cost of living, representing an increase of £E2,745,000 over the amount accorded in the previous Budget.

Under ordinary expenditure practically every head shows an increase, the main items being His Highness' Civil List, £E85,799; Ministry of Finance, £E107,933; Public Instruction, £E315,013; Ministry of the Interior, £E123,909; Irrigation Service, £E107,551; Native courts, £E161,999; Cairo municipal service, £E131,502; railways, £E1,219,506; ports and lights, £E101,024; post office, £E118,723; police, £E246,596; ghaffirs, £E321,060; War Office, £E188,626.

The all-round increase in ordinary expenditure is due to the 20 per cent. increase in all salaries granted last August and the rise in the price of material, fuel, and labour. It is, however, interesting to note that, in spite of the expansion on both sides, the ordinary expenditure provided for the coming financial year is over £E2,000,000 less than the anticipated ordinary revenue, which on its side is, of course, based on the presumption that existing conditions will continue throughout the coming year.

EGYPT'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

THE FINANCIAL ADVISER'S NOTE.

The note on the 1920-1921 Budget published by the Financial Adviser, Sir Paul Harvey, deals mainly with the present economic situation of Egypt, which of late especially has given rise to some anxiety. As every one knows by this time, Egypt, by contrast with every country in Europe, has derived substantial benefits from the war, and some striking statistics are now given to illustrate the additional wealth that has accrued to the country since 1914. Thus, during the period 1915-1919 no less a sum than £E152,000,000 was invested abroad by the country—at least £E135,000,000 of this has been accurately ascertained—public deposits increased from £E3,348,189 to £E15,011,315 and private deposits from £E6,498,828 to £E35,479,673, while loans on mortgage had been reduced from £E30,328,914 to £E27,964,196.

Sir Paul points out that this great prosperity has not been evenly distributed, and that, although the increased wealth resulting from the rise in the price of cotton and the presence of the British Army in Egypt has dispersed itself over the industrial and mercantile population, the high prices have acted with extreme severity upon the poorer classes of the population. The rise in the index number of wholesale prices of certain staple commodities has been very great, and an estimate of the monthly expenditure of a small family of the poorest class in Cairo shows that the cost of food required by it has risen by 200 per cent. since 1914. Although wages have risen in certain respects, the general increase in the cost of living has tended to a reduction of the standard of living, and "there is reason to fear that the substitution of a larger proportion of durra for wheat in the food of the poorer part of the population, owing to the deficiency of protein in the former, may have a serious

(*Continued on page* 551.)

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effect on the health of that part of the community." He adds: "This situation is one which cannot be viewed without considerable anxiety. The disturbing factors are such as are in the main beyond any remedy which the Government can bring, but no effort will be spared to devise means of reducing the suffering entailed by them and to hasten the adjustment of local conditions thereto."

Exports during the past two years have greatly exceeded imports, with, for result, an accumulation of purchasing power in the hands of Egyptians represented in part by bank notes, which in their turn represent a corresponding amount of pounds sterling placed in British Treasury Bills maturing at short dates, and thus readily realisable. There has been a certain amount of criticism of this policy of providing cover for the bank note issue, which, from a circulation of about £E2,000,000 at the outbreak of the war, has steadily risen until it now stands at about £E60,000,000. The critics have held that it has involved loss to Egypt because it has depreciated the value of Egyptian currency; it has enabled Great Britain to buy cotton from Egypt at a reduced price, and it has caused an increase in the cost of living, and it is even suggested that if gold is not obtainable as a backing Egyptian Government security should have been purchased.

The Currency.

Sir Paul remarks "that it is probable that in the difficult circumstances attending the Great War no measure for the regulation of the currency of a country situated as is Egypt would have proved entirely satisfactory to all interests," and he proceeds to outline the facts governing the situation in August, 1914. In the first place, gold could not possibly be obtained so as to maintain the former statutory gold reserve of 50 per cent.; secondly, in order to maintain a healthy basis for the currency, cover in the form of securities redeemable at short dates had to be provided; and thirdly, it was extremely important for the trade of the country to secure a stable exchange with its principal customer, namely, Great Britain, who purchased more than half the cotton crop and supplied the largest part of the imports. As Sir Paul points out, any person familiar with mercantile and banking processes will appreciate the value of the system which permits trade to proceed on an assured basis of exchange, and, in his opinion, "in these circumstances the course clearly indicated as most advantageous to Egypt's interests was to purchase short-dated British Treasury Bills as cover for the note currency, and to issue the notes at a rate fixed in respect of sterling, thus supplying a stable basis of exchange for the bulk of Egypt's trade."

He believes that with the gradual restoration of the exchange value of the pound sterling the temporary phenomenon of the depreciation in the Egyptian pound will disappear, and considers that far from the price of Egyptian cotton having been reduced, the nominal price has probably been increased. That price is in the main determined by the competition of the market, and may be translated either into a smaller number of Egyptian pounds of a higher exchange value or into a larger number of Egyptian pounds of a lower exchange value. The purchasing power represented by the crop at the price so determined remains, however, the same by whichever form of currency it is represented. The course adopted has not, he thinks, been a very material factor in determining the local rise in prices, which it seems obvious is in the main due to the enormously increased purchasing power of the people applied to a limited and inadequate supply of foodstuffs, and it is fairly certain that the fall in prices would not be very great if the Egyptian pound were restored to its former exchange value. The suggestion that Egyptian Government securities should have been used as a backing for the notes he considers hardly worth serious discussion.

Investments in British Securities.

While, however, there is no ground for thinking that the Egyptian Government could have taken any other course with regard to the currency to the greater advantage of the State, there is an aspect of the position which calls for comment. The note issue being represented in the main by British Treasury Bills and the stability of the exchange with England which has led bankers to invest deposit there have produced a great concentration of Egyptian wealth in British investments, and the question has been raised whether this situation is a satisfactory one. Sir Paul points out that the greater part of the note issue is not in circulation but is hoarded. So long as this is the case the notes must continue to be represented by British Treasury Bills. Likewise, the banks being liable to repay these deposits on demand can only invest their funds where a stable exchange guarantees them from loss. As he says, the remedy, if remedy is needed, lies in the hands of the Egyptians themselves, for nothing prevents the holders of notes or investors from investing their money in any other manner they may think fit.

As regards the high cost of living, the attempt to regulate prices by fixing a maximum tariff was found to do rather more harm than good, since it tended to restrict the supply of tariffed commodities on the open market, and encouraged their surreptitious sale at prices in excess of the tariff. The formation of local committees to administer the tariff likewise disappointed expectations, and in the difficult circumstances, where public spirit and the sentiment of co-operation are a little developed as they are in Egypt, the Government has been reduced for the present to do what it can to secure the supply of certain articles at a reasonably cheap price. Wheat and flour, which are the staple food, have attracted its chief attention, and supplies of wheat and maize sufficient to keep the country going until the next cereal harvest have been secured through the intervention of the British Government, without which freight would have not been obtained. This wheat is being sold at a price which will constitute a substantial benefit to the consumer, but which will entail a heavy cost to the Government.

The Financial Adviser considers that this policy has been justified in so far as it has undoubtedly contributed to the recent marked fall in the previous excessive prices of locally produced cereals. In this connection he administers a warning to the speculative element, and says that although its present policy is limited to these measures the Government, while reluctant to use any arbitrary powers, will not hesitate, if circumstances warrant it, to take suitable measures for the protection of the community.

The Cotton Tax.

The loss on these wheat and flour sales, which will amount to about £E2,000,000, will be met by the proposed cotton tax, which places the burden where it can best be borne—*i.e.*, on the producer of cotton, whose prosperity has reacted so unfavourably on the element for whose direct benefit the Government scheme is intended, and which, he points out, represents about 2 per cent. on the price of a commodity which has increased in price by some 500 per cent. since 1913, and cannot in fairness be called a heavy tax. Sir Paul hopes that it may be possible to meet by imports the country's cereal requirements, but foreshadows the possibility of a regulation by means of legislation of the area to be sown under wheat.

As regards the figures of the new Budget, the Financial Adviser explains that the very largely increased expenditure is due to the greatly increased scale of remuneration which has had to be paid to all classes of Government officials and employees and to the enhanced cost of all material. New works which amount to £E5,654,080, as against £E3,042,019 in the preceding year, include provision for an attempt to make up some of the leeway of the years of the war; but the increased cost both in labour and materials has contributed to this increase. The credit for irrigation is devoted in the main to improvements in the Delta with a view to reclamation of large areas as soon as additional water is available; but he points out that, pending the report of the Nile Projects Commission, no provision is being made for the execution of the Upper Nile regulation schemes, and in this connection he adds: "The growth of population—a population almost exclusively agricultural—is pressing hard upon the supply of cultivable land, so that there is an urgent need for more irrigation water, and it is to be regretted that popular prejudice against measures of such vital importance to the prosperity of Egypt should have been aroused by misrepresentation of their true character."

The Outlook.

Reviewing the general budgetary position Sir Paul says that, broadly speaking, at any rate for the moment, it gives no serious ground for uneasiness. He points out that the situation will never be altogether free from difficulty so long as the present restrictions on Egypt's fiscal arrangements continue, for the impossibility of imposing taxation in proportion to wealth, and equally on foreign and local subjects, tends to render the present system both inelastic and inequitable. As he says, the land tax, which was designed to represent approximately 25 per cent. of the rental value of the land, no longer bears a proportion approaching that figure, and is quite inadaptable to present agricultural conditions, while the uniformity of the import duties, whether applied to luxuries or to necessaries of life, is equally open to objection. "The practically complete exemption of foreign subjects and foreign companies from taxation on the wealth which they may derive from this country is a serious blot on the existing system." The estimates assume the maintenance of public tranquillity and the difficulty of obtaining sufficient supplies of coal, which may react unfavourably on the railway, is perhaps the chief disturbing factor; but, subject to these qualifications, he regards the immediate budgetary position as reasonably satisfactory.

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ENGINEERING.

TEMPORARY SCARCITY OF BRITISH MOTOR-CARS.

So great is the demand for British motor-cars the world over, and so conscious are British manufacturers of their inability temporarily to satisfy their clamorous buyers either at home or overseas, that the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Ltd., issued an invitation to luncheon at the Savoy Hotel on April 8 to obtain the opportunity of explaining to the Press and public the difficulties confronting the industry. Mr. Frank Lanchester, president of the Society, was the official host, and there were present many of the leaders of the British motor-car world.

Summarising the speeches at the luncheon, it may be said that the indignation of the home buyer, owing to delay in delivery, was the keynote of the gathering, but there was nowhere any fear of foreign competition—after the year 1920. The points insisted upon by Mr. Lanchester and other speakers were:—

1. The technical finish, reliability and durability of the British car.
2. The keen and open competition between British manufacturers, which tends to keep down the price.
3. The world-shortage of steel, coupled with the necessity of changing, in 1919, from war demands to peace; the not unnatural labour troubles, and the simultaneous earnest efforts of manufacturers to lay down mass-production plant.
4. Similar troubles in the United States, France and Italy.

Lieut.-Colonel Jarrott insisted upon the dangerous competition of the United States, but the consensus of opinion of the meeting was that such competition was purely temporary, and that—in the words of the last speaker—"England would give the best."

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN LUBRICATION.

Lubrication, as is known, is the medium used to reduce friction between two surfaces working relatively to each other. Up to two or three decades ago lubricants for all classes of machinery have always taken the form of grease or vegetable oils, which work in as a film between the surface. In recent years, however, lubricating oils derived from petroleum have largely displaced those obtained from animal and vegetable fats or oils on account of their greater cheapness. But as friction is less with organic than with mineral oils, most commercial lubricating oils contain a proportion of organic oils, though the latter include acid elements which have been viewed with distrust by engineers. A series of experiments which has recently been made by well-known experts, however, revealed the fact that these acids are responsible for the superior quality of the organic oils, and that by adding 2 per cent. of a free fatty acid to mineral oil practically as good results are obtained as by using pure organic oil. The importance of the discovery is considered twofold. In the first place, it cheapens lubricating oils; in the second, it releases for human consumption vast quantities of edible animal and vegetable oils. The discovery is undoubtedly very important, and, we imagine, will affect considerably the Levant olive-oil trade, for it will also cheapen the edible olive oil, since larger available supplies of it for human consumption will be in the market, and also certain lower grades of olive oil, which often commanded steady high prices owing to the competitive purchases by soap manufacturers and lubricating-oil manufacturers who are using these class of olive oils.

The annual production of the chrome-ore deposits of the Smyrna vilayet, which formerly reached 7,000 to 10,000 tons, but has fallen off, might be increased, it is estimated, to 50,000 tons or over.

GREEK MONETARY REGULATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I beg to communicate to you the following statement, issued lately by the Ministry of Finances, Athens, for the information of all who may be interested:—

Any person who imports money into Greece, not as fulfilment of payment due by any kind of obligation, is allowed to re-export the equivalent amount of the money imported.

Also, any person who, since January 27, 1920, has deposited, or will deposit, in a bank, foreign bank notes, or generally foreign exchange, is entitled to be refunded his deposit in the same exchange as it has been deposited.

I am, etc.,

D. CACLAMANOS.

Greek Legation, 25, Knightsbridge, S.W.
April 6.

YUGOSLAV CURRENCY.

Exchange of the Krone.

It appears that difficulty has been caused in Yugoslavia by the continuance of reports to the effect that it is intended to modify the rate of exchange of one dinar for 4 kronen, established by the late Government. As the printing of the new notes has been delayed, and the exchange of all the Austro-Hungarian notes cannot be effected within the period estimated by the late Government, M. Yankovitch, the Minister of Finance in the new Ministry, has issued an order stipulating that:—

1. The relation between dinar and krone which is as 1 to 4, and which the present Government has inherited from its predecessor, cannot be modified for the reason that large amounts in Austro-Hungarian notes have already been exchanged on this basis.
2. The exchange of the 1,000 krone notes will be effected without delay within the period allotted by Article 7 of the Ordinance relating to the exchange of the notes of the Austro-Hungarian bank, and by Article 13 of the regulations relative to this exchange—that is to say, up to March 5 in Serbia, and up to March 15 in the other provinces of the kingdom.
3. The period for exchanging the 100 krone notes is extended to April 15.
4. The dinar notes of the National Serbian Bank will be withdrawn from circulation by virtue of Article 21 concerning the National Bank of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.
5. The period for the exchange of the 50 krone notes will be determined later.

The periods provided for the withdrawal from circulation of the notes of various denominations will not be extended in any case. On the expiration of these periods, the remainder of the Austro-Hungarian notes will lose all value as means of legal payment in the kingdom.

BULGARIAN GRAIN EXPORTS.

Any persons wishing to purchase grain should appoint a competent agent to arrange first of all with the Government the rate of exchange to be fixed for the conversion of sterling into leva, states H.M. Commercial Secretary at Sofia. The difference between the official and the open market rates being at present 150-180 leva and 220 leva approximately, it is evident that the profits would be greatly affected by the rate granted. Reliable agents would also have to be employed to take delivery of the grain which, being of a very mixed description, would have to be very carefully inspected and sorted at the ports of exit. If persons formerly employed as agents by foreign grain merchants could be employed, these would probably be the best.

A Department of Transport has been created for the French zone of Morocco to deal with all matters connected with military and civil transport by rail or sea.

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DIRECTORS' REPORT.

(Presented at the Sixty-sixth Ordinary General Meeting, 9th April, 1920.)

The Directors have now to submit to the Shareholders the Balance-Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Bank for the year ended 31st December last.

These show a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £615,830 6s. 10d., inclusive of £168,482 11s. 1d. brought forward from the previous year. The Interim Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £84,000. The amount now available is therefore £531,830 6s. 10d., and the Directors propose to pay a Final Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum, together with a Bonus of Twenty-five shillings per share, making Twenty and a-quarter per cent. per annum for the whole year, free of Income Tax; to add £100,000 to the Reserve Fund which will then stand at £3,000,000; to add £25,000 to the Officers' Superannuation Fund; to write off Premises Account £75,000, and to carry forward the balance of £172,830 6s. 10d. Interest on Instalments of New Capital (£800,000) and Premium (£800,000) from dates of payment to 31st December, 1919, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum free of Income Tax has been paid. The New Shares will rank equally for dividend with the Old Shares as from the 1st January, 1920. It is proposed that Mr. J. M. G. Prophit, already a provisional Member of the Board, be formally elected a Director.

Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Thomas Cuthbertson, the Directors who now retire by rotation, present themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Mr. David Charles Wilson, F.C.A., and Mr. Henry Crought Knight Stileman, F.C.A., again tender their services.

The Dividend and Bonus will be payable on and after Friday, the 16th April.

By Order of the Court, A. S. HEWETT, Secretary.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

To Capital, 100,000 Shares of £20 each, paid up		£2,000,000 0 0
Reserve Fund		2,000,000 0 0
Notes in Circulation		1,806,095 5 0
Current and Other Accounts, including Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies		32,440,522 7 10
Fixed Deposits		15,491,648 1 7
Bills Payable:—		
Drafts on demand and at short sight on Head Office and Branches	£6,327,479 19 9	
Drafts on London and Foreign Bankers against security, per Contra	354,229 17 6	
		6,681,709 17 3
Acceptances on Account of Customers		1,679,929 0 9
Loans Payable, against Security, per Contra		2,429,028 0 4
Due to Agents and Correspondents		18,390 9 9
Sundry Liabilities, including Rebates		2,762,632 5 4
Profit and Loss		531,830 6 10
		£68,741,695 14 8

Liability on Bills of Exchange re-discounted, £15,973,542 12s. 8d., of which £13,731,710 8s. has run off at 22nd March, 1920.

Outstanding Forward Exchange Contracts for Purchase and Sale of Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, etc., £48,570,970 12s. 4d.

By Cash in hand and at Bankers		£11,170,332 5 8
Bullion on Hand and in Transit		3,437,387 17 9
Government and other Securities		4,911,329 19 1
Security lodged against Note Issue and Government Deposits		1,525,000 0 0
Bills of Exchange, including Treasury Bills		26,535,498 18 4
Bills discounted and Loans		17,561,394 2 8
Liability of Customers for Acceptances, per Contra		1,679,929 0 9
Due by Agents and Correspondents		213,710 11 11
Sundry Assets, including Exchange adjustments		1,172,523 12 1
Bank Premises and Furniture at the Head Office and Branches		534,589 6 5
		£68,741,695 14 8

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December, 1919.

DR.		
To Interim Dividend at 30th June, 1919, on £1,200,000		£84,000 0 0
Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows:—		
Dividend, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, for the half-year to date on £1,200,000	£84,000 0 0	
Bonus of 25s. per share on 60,000 Old Shares	75,000 0 0	
Reserve Fund	100,000 0 0	
Officers' Superannuation Fund	25,000 0 0	
Bank Premises	75,000 0 0	
Carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account	172,830 6 10	
		531,830 6 10
		£615,830 6 10

CR.		
By Balance at 31st December, 1918		£492,482 11 1
Less Dividend for half-year to 31st December, 1918	£84,000 0 0	
Bonus of 25s. per share	75,000 0 0	
Reserve Fund	100,000 0 0	
Officers' Superannuation Fund	25,000 0 0	
Bank Premises	40,000 0 0	
		324,000 0 0
		168,482 11 1
Gross Profits for the year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, Excess Profits Duty and Bonus to the Staff	£1,258,819 6 11	
Less:—		
Expenses of Management and General Charges at Head Office and Branches	811,471 11 2	
		447,347 15 9
		£615,830 6 10

T. H. WHITEHEAD, W. E. PRESTON, } Managers.
CHAS. R. HYDE, S. JONES, } Accountants.
T. CUTHBERTSON, J. M. G. PROPHIT, L. A. WALLACE, } Directors.

London, 24th March, 1920.

Examined and found correct, according to the Books, Vouchers, and Securities at the Head Office, and to the Certified Returns made from the several Branches.

D. C. WILSON, H. C. K. STILEMAN, } Auditors.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

Steady and Consistent Progress.

The sixty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China was held on April 9 on the bank's premises, 38, Bishopsgate, Sir Montagu Cornish Turner (the chairman) presiding.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead (one of the managers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I have to apologise for the absence of my co-director, Mr. W. H. N. Goschen, to-day. He is taking a well-deserved holiday, after some very arduous work during the past few months. I am sure we all congratulate Mr., or, as he is now, Sir William Henry Neville Goschen on the honour bestowed upon him by His Majesty the King in recognition of the extraordinarily good work he has done during the war, and also lately as chairman of the Bankers' Clearing House Committee. It is an honour which he has well earned.

Before moving the adoption of the report, I would draw your attention to the statement of accounts for the year 1919, which shows that there is now a paid-up capital of £2,000,000 in 100,000 shares of £20 each, and a reserve fund of £2,900,000, which, if the recommendations of the court of directors are approved of to-day, will amount to £3,000,000. This may be considered a highly satisfactory position, but, of course, it is always capable of betterment. You will also notice that in nearly every item of the balance-sheet there is a marked increase. The total entries on either side of the balance-sheet show an increase of £20,000,000 over the figures for 1918. Looking back over the period of the last sixty years, it is interesting to find that in 1860 the capital of this bank stood at £644,000, and the reserve fund at £5,000. In 1920 the capital stands at £2,000,000 and the reserve at practically £3,000,000. The progress has been steady and consistent, and if we carry on as hitherto on the same cautious and circumspect lines, always alive to the possibilities of fresh business and always desirous of meeting our customers' requirements and of treating old friends with all possible consideration, I have no doubt that in the years to come the business of this bank will extend and the reports will show equally gratifying results.

There is, of course, the possibility of a setback in trade after the urgent and immediate world-wide demands for raw material and manufactured goods have been met. The political situation all the world over, and especially in Central Europe, is unsettled. High prices of foodstuffs have caused general discontent, and the demands of the wage-earners are apparently still unsatisfied, so that the immediate horizon is somewhat gloomy, and the top-heavy prices of raw material, such as cotton and manufactured goods, are a menace to bankers and to traders alike. We may have troublous times ahead, but, in spite of all, I look forward with confidence to the future if all classes, especially in this country, unite to deal fairly and squarely with each other.

Touching the results shown for the past year, I am confident that shareholders will fully appreciate the excellent services rendered by the staff, both at home and abroad, whose loyal and devoted labours have contributed so appreciably to the success we have won. For the managers, especially those at head office, it has been a period of unusual anxiety and harassment. The unprecedented fluctuations in the price of silver and gold have been very remarkable, and the volume of business which fell to the lot of this bank in connection with the financing of exports, raw material, foodstuffs, etc., required for national purposes, has been far above the average, and the demands on the resources of the bank have been at every point far in excess of the ordinary.

Of course, in other parts of the world, not only in the East, the fluctuations in exchange have been extraordinary. The Hongkong dollar, the Chinese tael, and the Indian rupee have all been jumping about, so that you never know where to catch them. Look at the American exchange, which even to-day shows that the dollar is worth over 5s. compared with its ordinary value of about 4s. Look at France, where the franc is worth a little over 4d., Germany with a mark worth 1d.—not quite that—and Italy with the lira at 2½d. Of course, Austria is simply unquotable; her current coin is worth less than 1d. I mention these facts to show you the difficulties that exchange bankers have to contend with and the absurdity of people thinking that exchange banking means simply coining money: it is very often the reverse. In addition to this we have other difficulties There was the uncertainty as to the ultimate standard value of the rupee measured in gold following on the report of the Babington Smith Currency Commission. Further cause of trouble has been the very serious delay in the transmission and receipt of cable messages. I am glad to say that within the last few days there has been an improvement, and we are getting messages through more quickly.

The proposal for amalgamating the Presidency Banks in India under the title of the Imperial Bank of India is one that has attracted a considerable amount of attention. While regretting the partial disappearance of the individuality of the Presidency Banks, it seems to me that the movement for amalgamation is fully justified and is unlikely to be prejudicial to the interests of exchange banks in India, always provided that the present intention of not competing with the exchange banks in their ordinary business of exchange banking is fully and honestly adhered to.

Mr. J. M. G. Prophit has been elected by the Court of Directors as a member of the board. Mr. Prophit, for many years past, has not only been connected with one of the most important firms in Calcutta, but at one time he was president of the Bank of Bengal, and he has always taken a very keen interest in the development of banking facilities in India. I can confidently recommend his election for your approval.

I need not dwell at length on the recommendations of the directors contained in the report. There can be no doubt whatever that as long as circumstances permit we should add to our reserves. The superannuation fund must also be maintained, and the extra amount earmarked for premises account is fully justified when we bear in mind the necessity for providing increased accommodation and the opening out of new branches, which entails in many cases the purchase of sites, as well as the building of premises.

In conclusion, I desire to express the thanks of the directors to the staff, both home and foreign, for the splendid manner in which they have worked during the past year. Our appreciation has been marked by the granting of bonuses and of an improved scale of pay to meet the greatly increased cost of living. We know what the strain must have been. We know that the extra time and increased work have been cheerfully given, and especially we thank the managers at head office for the unwearied attention they have given to the general management of the bank. With those remarks I beg to move:—"That the report now presented, together with the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, be approved and adopted."

Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., seconded the resolution.

Mr. Frederick Tomkinson said he would like it to go forth that the dividend of 20¼ per cent. now being paid was earned not only on the capital of £2,000,000, but that it was earned also on the reserve. He calculated that the capital had earned something like 8 per cent., while the reserve had earned 12 per cent., and he thought it as well that publicity should be given to that fact, because not only here but in the Colonies they were reproached with paying enormous dividends. He had no doubt that it would be within the knowledge of most of the directors that a bank, equal in magnitude and success to their own, had lately thought it advisable to capitalise £500,000 of their reserves, and for his part he thought it was a very wise policy to adopt. The chairman did not, perhaps, agree with that policy, and no doubt it was necessary for a bank to have large reserves, but in view of the trend of opinion he thought that the suggestion could well be taken into the consideration of the board.

The Chairman, in reply, said he purposely had not referred to the fact that the dividend had not been earned entirely on the capital, but was also earned on the reserve, because he had clearly indicated that at the meeting of the bank held last year, and he thought it might be a little stale to refer to the same subject at the meeting this year. He admitted in these days that it was quite a fashion to capitalise reserves, and while the directors believed that such a course had its merits they also recognised that it had considerable demerits. Before such a policy was adopted in the case of their own bank it would require very careful consideration at the hands of the board. He could assure Mr. Tomkinson that such consideration would be given, but he would tell the shareholders that full consideration had been given to the matter in the past, and the proposal had been rejected.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved, "That a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31 last, together with a bonus of 25s. per share, both free of income-tax be now declared payable on and after the 16th inst."

Mr. Thomas Cuthbertson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The Chairman moved that Mr. J. M. G. Prophit be elected a director of the company.

The motion was seconded by Mr. W. F. Mitchell and approved.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the directors and the staff for their successful management of the bank concluded the proceedings.

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THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Acts of 1862 on the 23rd March, 1866.

ESTABLISHED IN CALCUTTA, 29th SEPTEMBER, 1863.

Subscribed Capital	**£3,000,000**
Paid-up Capital	**£1,500,000**
Reserve Fund	**£2,000,000**
Number of Shareholders	**1,815**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq. (Chairman). ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq. (Deputy-Chairman).
Sir JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. Sir CHARLES C. McLEOD. J. N. STUART, Esq.
ROBERT MILLER, Esq. ALFRED SIMSON, Esq. J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

General Manager—H. CHALMERS, Esq. **London Manager**—C. NICOLL, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

CALCUTTA.	COCHIN.	MOMBASA, NAIROBI, NAKURU, KISUMU	British East Africa.
BOMBAY.	RANGOON.		
MADRAS.	MANDALAY.		
KURRACHEE.	COLOMBO.		
CHITTAGONG.	KANDY.	ENTEBBE, KAMPALA, JINJA	Uganda.
AMRITSAR.	NEWERA ELIYA.		
CAWNPORE.	ADEN.		
DELHI.	STEAMER POINT, ADEN.	TANGA, DAR-ES-SALAAM	Tanganyika Territory.
LAHORE.	ZANZIBAR.		
TUTICORIN.			

AGENCIES.

GALLE, CEYLON ... Messrs. Clark, Spence, and Co.
EDINBURGH ... Messrs. Moncreiff and Horsbrugh, 46, Castle Street.
GLASGOW ... Messrs. Mackenzie, Roberton and Co., 176, St. Vincent Street.

GENERAL BALANCE-SHEET of 31st December, 1919.

Dr. **Cr.**

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Capital:—		By cash on hand, at call and at Bankers	8,211,702 7 0	
Subscribed, 120,000 Shares of £25 each, £3,000,000.		By Bullion on hand and in transit	1,093,800 6 1	
Paid-up £12 10s. per share	1,500,000 0 0			9,305,502 13 1
To Reserve Fund	1,850,000 0 0	By Indian Government Rupee Securities		971,415 0 1
To Current, Fixed Deposit, and other Accounts, including provision for bad and doubtful Debts and Contingencies	35,164,356 2 10	By War Loan, Indian Government Guaranteed Debentures and other Securities (of which £16,350 5 per cent. War Loan lodged with Bank of England as security for Government Accounts)		2,517,541 12 0
To Bills Payable	2,496,905 12 9	By House Property and Furniture		176,102 3 0
To Acceptances for Customers	880,052 5 11	By Bills of Exchange, including Treasury Bills		16,630,668 16 8
To Profit and Loss Account as under	475,633 15 1	By Discounts, Loans Receivable, and other sums due to the Bank		11,885,665 5 10
To Bills receivable, re-discounted, £10,559,483 8s. 5d., of which up to March 29, 1920, £9,760,279 3s. 11d. have run off. Forward Contracts outstanding for the Purchase and Sale of Sterling Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, £22,898,849.		By Customers for Acceptances per Contra		880,052 5 11
	£42,366,947 16 7			£42,366,947 16 7

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1919.

	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
To ad interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the Half-year ended June 30, 1919	100,000 0 0	By Balance at December 31, 1918		443,464 5 10
To Expenses of Management at Head Office and Branches	510,882 9 2	DEDUCT—		
To Balance	475,633 15 1	Dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31, 1918	£100.000 0 0	
		Amount written off House Property Account	10.000 0 0	
		Officers' Pension Fund	10.000 0 0	
		Amount carried to Reserve Fund for the Half-year ended December 31, 1918	200.000 0 0	
				320,000 0 0
		Balance brought forward		£123,464 5 10
		By Gross Profits for the year ended December 31, 1919, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts and Bonus to the Staff		963.051 18 5
	£1,086.516 4 3			£1,086.516 4 3

H. CHALMERS, General Manager.
G. B. LINTON, Sub-Manager and Accountant.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, ROBERT MILLER, J. A. TOOMEY, } Directors.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

We have audited the above Balance Sheet with the Books in London and the certified Returns from the Branches. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is full and fair, containing the particulars required by the Regulations of the Company, and is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

London, March 30, 1920.

COOPER BROTHERS AND CO, W. A. BROWNE AND CO. Chartered Accountants. } Auditors.

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NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA.

Expansion of Business.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of India, Ltd., was held on April 12 at the Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate, E.C. Mr. Robert Campbell (the chairman) presided.

The General Manager (Mr. H. Chalmers) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman: Ladies and gentlemen, I presume that, as usual, the report may be taken as read. You will see that since our meeting a year ago we have carried through a very important operation—namely, the addition of £500,000 to our paid-up capital and a similar amount to our reserve fund. In then asking your sanction to this enlargement of our resources we alluded to the necessity of anticipating and preparing for the great increase in the volume of business which was confidently expected as soon as peace was finally assured. I think you will agree that the correctness of that forecast is abundantly established by the figures of the balance-sheet now in your hands. Every item shows a substantial increase over the corresponding figures of 1918, the rise in deposits of £7,600,000 being particularly gratifying.

The expansion of business, which I am glad to say appears to be general, is very gratifying from another point of view, inasmuch as it goes to show that we are recovering from the effects of the violent financial upheavals and disturbances occasioned by four years of the greatest war in the world's history. There has no doubt been a great expansion of business generally, and particularly a great increase in exports to the East, and if that is the case generally I trust it may mean that trade balances are turning in our favour, or, at least, that the adverse balance is being steadily reduced—a point as to the vital importance of which I need not enlarge.

The past year has been characterised by unprecedentedly violent fluctuations in Indian exchange, rates rising from the old rate of 1s. 4d. to 2s. 10d. in February last, with a reaction to about 2s. 4d. at the present time. This is not surprising when we consider the erratic course of the exchanges all the world over. These violent movements made business very difficult, and necessitated very careful handling, and I think it shows the inherent soundness of Indian trade that, in spite of these violent disturbances, there have been no failures of any consequence in Indian business circles. A very important event in this connection is the Report of the Committee on Indian Exchange and Currency, an exceedingly able and comprehensive document. Its conclusions are in favour of linking the rupee with gold in order to facilitate the stabilising of Indian exchange at about 2s. per rupee. Had the stereotyped price of gold remained as it did for years and years round about 77s. 10d. per ounce, this might have been a comparatively easy task, but lately gold, like everything else, has taken a very erratic course, advancing as high as 127s. 4d. an ounce, and again reacting to about 103s., so that the question of stability, for the moment at least, disappears.

Coming to our profit and loss account, the figures are very significant. Compared with the previous year our gross profits show an increase of £201,000, while our general charges are higher by £153,000, the net profit being up £48,000. Our experience in regard to the increase in our charges it not singular, every other kindred institution having the same tale to tell, and with the increased cost of living and prices all round on a higher level higher charges are inevitable. Fortunately, our gross profits have risen in even greater proportion, the net profit of £452,169 showing, as I have said, a substantial increase, after writing down our securities to their present market value. To summarise the result of the year's operations, we are paying a dividend of 20 per cent., free of income-tax, on the increased capital, we are putting £150,000 to the reserve fund, bringing it up to £2,000,000, writing £20,000 off property account, adding £20,000 to the officers' pension fund, and carrying forward a balance of £135,633, as against £123,464 brought in, a result which I am sure you will consider as quite satisfactory.

I have now to allude to a very painful incident which occurred at our Amritsar branch a year ago. You have all heard of the violent disturbances and riots in that city in April of last year, of how a seditious mob got the upper hand for a time, and, among other atrocities, broke into the bank, brutally murdered Mr. Stewart, the manager, and Mr. Scott, his assistant, and looted and burned the office and godowns. It was a terrible fate to overtake these poor young men while endeavouring to protect the bank's property, and our sincerest sympathy is due to their relatives and friends. We have made a claim for loss and compensation, including a claim on behalf of Mr. Stewart's widow. After some negotiation our claim has been admitted by the Government of India, and we are now awaiting payment of the amount.

I shall now move the adoption of the report, which I shall ask Mr. Williamson to second, and before it is put to the meeting there will be an opportunity for any questions or remarks. The resolution which I move is:—"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1919, be received and adopted, and that a dividend for the six months to December 31, 1919, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, be paid on the shares of the company registered at this date, the same to be payable, free of income-tax, on and after April 13, 1920."

The Deputy-Chairman (Mr. Robert Williamson) seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried without discussion.

In moving the re-election to the board of Mr. Robert Campbell, the Deputy-Chairman said he was sure no words were wanted from him to recommend the motion to the favourable notice of the shareholders.

Mr. Robert Miller having seconded the proposition, it was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman thanked the meeting for his re-election, and then proposed the re-election as a director of Sir Charles C. McLeod, and this was seconded by Mr. Alfred Simson and approved.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Sir Charles C. McLeod, the other retiring director, Mr. J. A. Toomey, was also re-elected.

The auditors, Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co., and Messrs. W. A. Browne and Co., were reappointed.

Mr. Osman Halliday proposed:—"That a vote of thanks be given to the chairman and directors for the care and prudence exercised in conducting the affairs of the bank during the past year."

Sir J. A. Boyson having seconded the vote, it was unanimously accorded.

Mr. H. H. Nelson said that he had once again the pleasure of proposing a resolution which for a great number of years had been entrusted to him. He did not think that they had ever had more reason to be grateful to the staff of the bank than on that occasion. The chairman had given them a brief *résumé* of some of the difficulties which had arisen in conducting the business during the past year, and he was sure that those difficulties had never before been on such a scale as during the period under review. The various fluctuations in exchange, and the terrible difficulties in regard to communication—especially the telegraphic delays—had undoubtedly thrown a burden of anxiety on those who had had to administer the bank's affairs. He felt sure that in bringing these matters to the notice of the meeting he was voicing the shareholders' feeling of gratitude to the staff on whose efforts so much depended, and to whom they were so much indebted for the great prosperity of the bank in the past, at the present time, and, as he was confident would be the case, in the future. He then moved:—"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the general manager and the staff for their valuable services during the past year."

Mr. P. W. Robertson said that he had much pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to the general manager and staff, so ably proposed by Mr. Nelson, and he was sure every shareholder present would pass it most heartily.

The Chairman: I have the greatest pleasure, gentlemen, in putting this resolution to the meeting, because I feel that a hearty vote of thanks to our excellent staff was never better deserved than on the present occasion. I have already alluded to the difficulties we have had to contend with in the shape of violent exchange fluctuations. These difficulties, formidable enough in themselves, were greatly aggravated by the defective working of the telegraph service. In pre-war times we could send off a message to Calcutta at five o'clock in the afternoon and rely on having the reply on our desks at ten o'clock next morning, while up to quite recently the average time taken by a message was about seven days, which meant having to wait a fortnight before getting a reply—a severe tax on one's patience, in addition to other and more serious drawbacks. There has been some improvement lately, but the service still leaves much to be desired. Then our furlough arrangements were all upset by the war, and furlough leave had to be suspended for a time. The result was that many of our men cheerfully remained at their posts at the risk of impaired health with their leave long overdue. All these difficulties and trials have been met with the utmost loyalty and devotion to duty, and our warm thanks are due to the whole staff, both at home and abroad, for the admirable results achieved in the face of difficulties, and for unremitting devotion to duty. But mere thanks alone are not enough. By a revised scale of salaries and by liberal bonuses we have enabled our staff to meet with comfort the increased cost of living which now prevails.

The motion was unanimously carried.

The Chairman having announced that this concluded the business of the meeting, the proceedings terminated.

BENGAL—NAGPUR RAILWAY.

Holders of debentures, bonds to bearer, of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Co., Ltd., amounting to £400,000, and falling due on April 21, are informed that the directors, with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council of India, are prepared to renew such debentures at £98 2s. 6d. (1⅞ per cent. discount) for a further period of two years, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, provided the holders intimate their acceptance of this offer and send their bonds to the office of the company, 132, Gresham House, E.C.2, for endorsement before noon on Monday, April 19.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed that the National Bank of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes will shortly issue 40,000 new shares at 500 gold dinars per share. In view of this issue, they have made out their balance-sheet, and declare that their stock has increased by 4½ million gold dinars. As the new shareholders must contribute equally to the charges and duties, it will be necessary for them to pay an additional 240 to 250 gold dinars per share, in proportion to the value of the stock. In other words, the shares will stand at about 750 gold dinars. Although the payment may be made in instalments, large capitalists only can participate in the subscription in view of the present value of the gold Napoleon, which is 110 dinars.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

STAMBOUL, March 13.

Manufactures.

The high prices at Manchester have at length had an effect on the market here. Though the slack season is not yet finished and the situation in Anatolia is not at all favourable for the immediate resumption of transactions, one notices all the same a certain demand, and prices indicate a rapid improvement as regards such articles as white goods, prints, and woollen goods.

As was to be expected the arrivals from England have considerably decreased, merchants finding it more advantageous to realise goods there. Some purchases of manufactured goods have been made for Egypt.

Produce.

Sugar. Despite the arrival of 1,500 tons of sugar the market is firmer than the previous week as the result of the strong demand for Batoum, which has absorbed three-quarters of that consignment. There is to be noted also a certain demand for Roumania, but the depreciation of the lei hinders all business for that country. Prices have again risen £2 to £120 the ton in transit, while sugar in Customs is quoted £T60-£T61 per 100 kilos.

Coffee. The high prices in Europe and in producing countries have not yet affected the market, which remains quiet, the demand being limited both for local consumption and for the interior. The prices are the same as last week:—Rio, 62-70 the oke in transit; Santos, 70-80 the oke in transit.

Rice. There is a certain demand for Baku rice alone for the ports of Greece and Roumania. Other qualities are neglected.

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ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

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Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.—"We recommend your Jamaica Sarsaparilla."—MEDICAL REVIEW.

"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.

The late LORD CLYDE said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."

"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies ailed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.

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Branch

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Telegraphic Address: "Stephanovi, Sofia."

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY.
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The market during the past week has not displayed increased activity, and in all sections a very limited business has been done. There is increased anxiety with regard to the outcome of the wages demands of the operatives. In the spinning section the employers have offered to submit the matter to arbitration, but the proposal has been refused by the workpeople. Further negotiations are taking place, but there are distinct fears of trouble at the end of the month, with a possibility of a strike. Until the labour situation is clearer, there is no probability of a larger turnover in yarn and cloth. Prices in Egyptian cotton have been firm. The reports relating to the new crop are not encouraging. Egyptian yarns have been purchased sparingly. Engagements and prices show rather more irregularity than a few weeks ago. Very little has been done in piece goods for Egypt. Exporters are waiting for goods now going through being digested before purchasing afresh. The political situation in the Near East generally causes a little anxiety. Operations in cloth for India have been restricted. According to mail advices, it is quite impossible, with the rupee at its present value, for free buying to take place in Lancashire goods. China has bought small lots in bleaching descriptions and fancies. Some makers of printing materials have met with a little more demand for South America. The home trade continues healthy. American yarns have been dull of sale, but late rates are fairly well maintained. Export numbers have not attracted much attention, but producers of staple counts remain deeply sold.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Egyptian and Foreign Trust.

The report of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, states that the year's working resulted in a net profit of £5,303 10s. 9d.; this has been placed to the credit of profit and loss account, bringing the credit balance (after making sundry adjustments amounting to £40 4s. 4d.) to £17,302 12s. 11d., which it is proposed to carry forward. Investments have been taken in at cost; a valuation at current market prices at December 31, 1918, shows a shortage of £9,075 12s. on cost price.

Mercantile Bank of India.

The report of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., for 1919, states that the net profits, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, and including £85,794 brought forward, amount to £301,430. The directors have added £50,000 to reserve (raising it to £750,000), £15,000 to officers' pension fund, written £20,000 off freehold banking premises, and recommend a final dividend on "A" and "B" shares of 7 per cent., less tax (making 14 per cent. for year), and a bonus of 2 per cent., less tax, carrying forward £96,430. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., April 20, noon.

The final figures relating to the trade of British India for 1919 show imports, £123,563,000, an increase of £15,259,000 on the figures for 1918; exports, £191,688,000, increase £29,927,000; re-exports, £12,615,000, increase £4,044,000.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended March 10 amounted to £E12,490, making the total for the year £E372,213. The figures for the corresponding period of 1919 were £E10,298 and £E350,919.

The directors of Venesta, Ltd., announce a dividend of 15 per cent., less tax at 6s. in the £, on the ordinary shares, payable April 30.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

We have had again this week a generally dull market, with most changes in the downward direction. The further depreciation in the Continental exchanges has again been a contributing factor to the general depression. In Egyptian Government stocks the market has been comparatively firm but rather inactive.

Amongst Bank shares, Nationals, after rising to 22⅛, close ¼ lower at 21½. Agriculturals are fractionally easier at 5¼, but Land Banks finish ⅛ firmer at 6⅛.

In Railways, Delta Light close ⅛ down at 6¼ and the debentures are a nominal market at 70.

Amongst Land shares, Aboukir are 1-32 firmer at 2 3-32; Béhéras have been done under 19 and are closing ½ down at 18½. Some demand in a market bare of shares for Béhéra preference caused a smart advance to 4½, but they close only ¼ up at 4. Consolidated Lands have dropped about 3d. to 2s. 4d. Delta Lands are 6d. easier at 16s. 6d., and Gharbiehs have declined ⅜ to 3⅜. New Egyptians changed hands last at 33s., a drop of 1s.; Sidi Salems are ⅛ down at 2¾, and Sudan Plantations have given way 3-32 to 7. In Union Foncière some business was done as low as 5⅛, but the shares are closing unchanged at 5⅜.

Amongst the Miscellaneous descriptions a fair amount of business has been passing in Alexandria Water at 10¾, and Morums have dropped 3d. to 19s.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptians have receded 3-16 to 3 13-16, and Roumanians are 6d. lower at 23s. 3d.; but Traians have, exceptionally, improved about 1s. to 9s.

As regards Greek securities, there has been an all-round decline in prices. The 1881 and 1884 Loans close 2½ down at 54½. Monopoly has dropped 3 points to 44, Rentes are 6 points lower at 42, Funding are nominally 54, a drop of three points, the 1902 Loan has gone back 4 points to 46, and the 1914 London Issue 3 points to 52. The 4 per Cent. 1910 Loan has been a firm spot and closes without change. Turkish 4 per Cents. of 1891 are easier at 67½ x.d., the 3½ per Cent. 1894 have lost a point at 58½, and Turkish Unified have dropped 1½ points to 31.

ANTI-PROFITEERING ORGANISATION IN TURKEY.

The British High Commissioner at Constantinople reports that the Turkish Government, at the instigation of the Allied Food Control Commission, have entered into a contract with a French company, Corre Gourgaud et Cie., for the purpose of combating profiteering and the high prices of living. This contract grants to the company the right of sale at cheap prices of certain essential foodstuffs and other articles of first necessity, reserving for themselves a commission of 7 per cent., and the arrangements are to be supervised by the Allied Food Control and the Turkish Government. The Turkish Government agree by this contract to provide, free of rent and taxes for a period of one year, sites for the erection of booths for the purposes of such sale. If after nine months from the date of the opening of these booths, and if this scheme has succeeded in reducing prices 20 per cent. below those extant in retail shops, the Government will grant a further lease for one year on the same terms. Several British firms were unofficially offered this contract, but none was found willing to take the matter up.

A duty has been imposed on the export of horses, mules, and asses from Algeria.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.—The market has not yet recovered from the effects of the holidays, and business has been extremely restricted.

Sugar.—There has been a fair demand for home refined at the controlled rates. The market for free manufacturing qualities has been quiet. As a result of the smaller crop estimates there has been an advance in the price of Cuban.

Coffee.—There has been a fairly active tone since the resumption of business. Transactions have taken place in Costa Rica at from 170s to 185s., in Indian from 158s. to 174s., and in Mocha at from 168s. to 190s. The futures market has been somewhat weak. In their weekly report Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson state:—With only two days on which the futures market has been open since we last wrote, there has been nothing to test actual values, which are quoted 1s. up to 4s. down from last week. Business on the spot has been very quiet, and the holiday feeling has prevailed over all else. The further depreciation in the French exchange has been the cause of that country re-offering some of the Government coffee recently purchased on a very low basis. No doubt this coffee will be quickly absorbed, but the adverse effect on the market generally is none the less marked. Public sales have been suspended during the holidays, and the home trade has been spasmodic. Brazil remains firm, but holidays, combined with cable delays, have cut information to a minimum. New York futures have been a very steady market, with the undertone said to be firm, and on balance since the close of Tuesday, 30th ult., an advance is registered of 22 to 26 points. The improvement is attributed to hedge covering by importing houses and a good country demand for coffee. Deliveries for March are given 967,225 bags, against 676,000 bags in February, and compares with 729,423 bags for March, 1919. This continually increasing quantity of coffee going into consumption in U.S. is certainly a favourable feature, and is of importance in future calculations and dispositions of crops. It may not be without its influence as we get nearer to the end of this season. The clearances from Rio for eight months averaged 230,000 bags per month. If this average be maintained it would practically wipe up all the stocks in Rio suitable or available for export. . . . As we get nearer to the actual facts of the outturn of the present crop, with later information as to prospects and expectations of the 1920-21 crop, and we hope something nearer to settlement and contentment in Europe generally, developments will come quickly. A return to activity and the lively movements associated with coffee will then replace the late lethargy. Those who have purchased during these quiet times will, we think, reap reward for their pertinacity and patience.

Oilseeds.—An irregular tone has characterised the market. Linseed, Calcutta to London April-June, has been done at 43s. 3d., while La Plata to Hull April-May is quoted 39s. Rapeseed has been weak, with Toria to Hull March-May at 42s. 6d., and yellow Guzerat February-March at 44s. 6d. There has been an active demand for Egyptian cottonseed at 23s. 6d., and for Indian at 17s.

Oilcakes, etc.—Linseed cake has been in fair demand at 24s. 6d., while soya bean cake has been active at 24s. Rapeseed cake is quoted 13s. to 13s. 6d., and cottonseed cake at 11s. 9d. to 13s. Oils have been somewhat quiet.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended March 20:—We have to report a very active market, with sales amounting to fifty-nine cases of all descriptions. Extra Karahissar has been sold at 940 piastres per oke, Tchall at 945 to 950, and Current talequale qualities from 885 to 935 as to quality. The above figures are equivalent to 15s. to 19s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange is to-day 415 piastres per pound sterling for cheque on London, and 0.88 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals to date are 1,506 cases, against 215 at same date last year.

For the week ended March 27 Messrs. Barker Brothers state:—We have had a very active and exciting week on our opium market, with sales amounting to 69 cases of all descriptions, at prices ranging from piastres 900 to 940 per oke for usual manufacturing qualities, and piastres 945 to 975 for Yerlis, which prices advanced yesterday piastres 50 for the manufacturing, and piastres 75 for the Yerlis. The reason of this advance is owing to engagements undertaken by shippers, which obliged them to accept sellers' terms each time they came forward to buy. Another factor which has caused this firmness and advance to set in is owing to the non-arrival of goods in general from the interior, of which opium also is now on the list of prohibited goods. In sterling values at present exchange, we quote 19s. to 25s. per lb. c.i.f., London or New York, without engagement. Our exchange to-day is piastres 445 per pound sterling for cheque, and 0.88 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,506 cases (same as last week), against 216 at same date last year.

BULGARIAN ROSE INDUSTRY.

Owing to the three wars in which Bulgaria has taken part since 1912, the industry of rose culture for the production of attar of roses has experienced a decided setback, says an American Consular report. It is estimated that the present acreage planted to roses is not more than 15,000. The average annual production of attar of roses during the period from 1900 to 1912 was about 126,800 oz. The production fell to 85,000 oz. in 1917. 85,000 oz. in 1918, and 52,000 oz. in 1919, and it is predicted that the present year's yield will show a further decrease.

During the war, owing to the fact that Bulgaria was cut off from the principal markets—New York, London, and Paris—the stocks of attar of roses remaining unsold increased until they reached a total of about 275,000 oz., about 40 per cent. of which is said to have been of inferior quality. About one-third of this total available stock was sent to the United States early in 1919 in part payment for flour imported from the United States; also some 17,000 oz. were shipped to the United States during the last quarter of the year. It is estimated that the present available stock in Bulgaria hardly exceeds 50,000 oz., worth about 500,000 dollars.

It is stated by one of the best-known producers that under existing conditions the production of attar of roses is not a paying industry. Owing to the high prices for other farm products, at least 5,000 acres of rose gardens have been abandoned and the land planted to more remunerative crops especially tobacco. Centralisation, by the formation of a syndicate for the purpose of eliminating unnecessary expenses, is spoken of as the only course that will save the industry.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard s.s. Cypria, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Manchester on April 17, and at Liverpool on April 21

The Ellerman Line s.s. Austrian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will leave Liverpool on April 17.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Asturian, for Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Batoum, will leave Liverpool on April 23.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Bosnian, for Algiers, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on May 1.

The Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on April 21.

The Clan Line s.s. Mesopotamia, for Bombay and Persian Gulf, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on April 16.

The Power Line s.s. Pangbourne, for Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador, will leave London on April 20.

Shipping at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, March 31.

During the last few days we have had in port the Himalaya, H.M.S. Benbow, Czaritza, Varola, and Teutonia. Amongst other arrivals have been an American six-masted schooner (2,359 tons) from Spalato; the Nitokris from Cardiff, the Palermo from London, the Norwegian Rutenfgell from Cardiff, and the Memfi from Bergasi. The Oweenee for Port Said, the Las Palmas for Tunis, the Pinnan for Constantinople, and H.M.S. Sportive have all left the harbour within the last day or so.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 31:—

Rainfall nearly general in North-Eastern India and hills, United Province of Agra and Oudh. Local in Burma, Bihar, Central India, North-West Frontier, and Madras. Crop conditions generally good. Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good broach April-May Rs.460, July-August Rs.477. Piece-goods market more active with prices steady. Calcutta jute market very quiet. Quotations nominal with prices weakening. Hessians improved tone with slight rise in prices. Heavy goods steady to firm with considerable business. No change in Bank rates.

STOCK AND SHARE LISTS.

Owing to pressure of space we are obliged to hold over the Stock and Share Lists this week.

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THE NEAR EAST

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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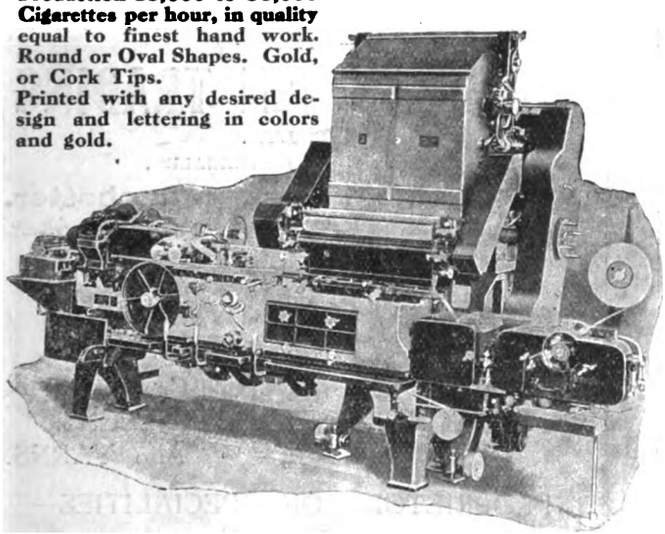

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 468.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

With the opening of the Conference at San Remo this week the work of deciding upon the terms of the Turkish Treaty will, it is to be hoped, have entered upon its last stage. Although some of the main points of the Turkish settlement are already known—such as the removal from Ottoman jurisdiction of Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine, and the fate of Constantinople—at least half a dozen nations are still directly interested in the details of the peace that is to be imposed on Turkey. Most of the ground has already been covered in these pages; but it is permissible, perhaps, to reiterate the hope that where uncertainty regarding a just decision still prevails, provision will be made for postponing a hard-and-fast settlement until a more favourable moment, but always in such a way that a workable arrangement is left in operation for the time being, and that no opportunity is afforded to any party to intrigue in its own interests.

A message, published elsewhere in this issue, that reaches us from Thrace serves as a reminder that among the question which has yet to be determined by the Turkish Treaty is the final disposal of the territory taken from Bulgaria by the Treaty of Neuilly and placed under the jurisdiction of the Allies. According to this report, from Bulgarian sources, something in the nature of a governing body has been established for Thrace and held its opening ceremony on April 5. The deputation which afterwards waited upon General Charpy, the Allied Commander, was composed of Bulgarian and Turkish members only; but it goes without saying that the Administrative Council, or whatever its official title may be, includes Greek representatives as well. As the deputation urged that the régime now established by the Allies should not be modified, but should ultimately be developed in the direction of autonomy, it is natural that the Greeks, who look to absorption of the province in Greece, should not have associated themselves with their colleagues. The San Remo Conference will presumably take note of this deputation, and will be at pains to discover what proportion of the total population of Thrace the delegates could claim to represent. If there is any ground for supposing that public opinion in the territory is more or less equally divided, and that Greek rule would find at least half the people antagonistic, a clear case would seem to be established for continuing the form of government already introduced—under Allied supervision—until such time as feeling between the different sections of the population has become less bitter or suspicious. In the meantime care must be taken that the scales are not weighted unfairly against one section or another.

Against a temporary solution of this nature no objections could be raised in any quarter. The territory has already been taken from Bulgaria, whether as a penalty for defeat in war or on the principle of nationality has not been stated by the Allies. It is claimed by Greece, and is generally supposed to have been ear-marked for her, on traditional or national grounds. If the Greek claims are justified, the period of probation will enable them to be substantiated beyond all cavil; Thrace itself, being made arbiter of its own destiny—under Allied tutelage—will recognise its Greek character. Its absorption in the Greek kingdom in such circumstances would be made without the risk of the dissatisfaction and inevitable intrigue that must follow incorporation against the wishes of half the people at a time when racial passions are still high. The paramount interest of all the Allies at this juncture is peace, and everything possible should be done to avoid the creation of storm centres, small or big, in the Balkans or elsewhere.

It is unfortunate that both in Roumania and Yugoslavia political strife should be so much in evidence at a time when the interests of each country require a united effort on the part of the whole nation in the task of reconstruction. In Roumania, however, controversy seems to centre upon methods rather than upon principles. General Averescu and the Transylvanians, it would be thought, must have more in common than the vigour of the latter's denunciation of the Government would lead one to suppose. But on the top of the elimination of the Vaida-Voevod Cabinet has come the dissolution by edict of the provincial governments, which is resented in Transylvania as *ultra vires*. It is argued that only the Parliament of Greater Roumania had the authority to dissolve these governments. On the other hand, the supporters of the Government point out that the local administrations were only intended to remain in power until the Parliament of Greater Roumania had met, and that, therefore, they ought to have come to an end automatically under the late Cabinet. There has been a secession of a small group of Transylvanians under M. Goga to General Averescu's side; but in the approaching elections Dr. Maniu's followers will find themselves ranged against the Government and on the side of the Socialists and a Bukovina-Bessarabia Coalition.

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The Turkish Chamber has been dissolved, but probably very few people even in Turkey will have spared a tear for its disappearance. All attention is now fixed upon the fight between Damad Ferid Pasha and Mustapha Kemal Pasha, which has opened with considerable liveliness. The first step in the campaign was the issuing of an Imperial Decree and a Government Proclamation frankly condemning the "Nationalist" movement and declaring that those who acted contrary to the laws (secular and sacred) would be punished. This Proclamation was supported by a *Fetva*, signed by the Sheikh-ul-Islam, and at the same time the Nationalist forces in the Bigha region were severely handled by Ahmed Anzavour Pasha. Mustapha Kemal retorted by blocking the distribution of the, to him, unwelcome documents as far as lay in his power, and made preparations to persuade the Turkish peasantry that both the Sultan and the Sheikh-ul-Islam are under duress as a result of the Allied occupation of the capital, and that therefore their orders and advice are to be ignored. It is thought that he will endeavour to set up a rival Government, with a *Na'ib* (representative of the Sultan) and Sheikh-ul-Islam of his own choice; and, according to one report, he had actually selected representatives to fill those posts in the person of Jemal ed Din Pasha and the head of the Mevlevi Dervishes respectively.

The Constantinople Government, finding the distribution of its Proclamation seriously impeded by the rebel leader's tactics, has called the aeroplane in to its aid, and copies of the Imperial Decree, the Proclamation, and the *Fetva* will be distributed broadcast by this means among the Anatolian peasants and the supporters of Mustapha Kemal generally. The step is a good one, and is all the more welcome as showing that Damad Ferid Pasha and his associates are in real earnest, and ready to employ up-to-date methods to achieve their purpose. A Reuter's message reports that the people of Angora, as soon as they were acquainted with the contents of the documents referred to, declared their willingness to fight for the Sultan; and as a result Mustapha Kemal hastily withdrew his troops from that city to Sivas. He has since issued a kind of manifesto stating that he and his followers are in arms to save the Khalif from foreign dominance, and that he has summoned a council of notables to concert action for the liberation of the Sultan and his capital. He refers also to the Nationalists' successes against the Greeks in Western Anatolia and against the French in Cilicia. The situation is extremely interesting, but also extremely delicate, and developments will be awaited with anxious interest.

The world's nerves have not yet recovered their pre-war tone, and one of the results is that many rumours which would formerly have been killed by ridicule at their birth contrive to-day to find acceptance in some quarters. Such, we take it, is the case with regard to a report that has found credence in the United States concerning a change of policy on the part of Great Britain towards the settlement of Palestine. From a source as yet untraced, the tale has been set about that we desire to substitute for the arrangement which formerly had our support a fresh one, giving the Arab Government at Damascus a mandate for Palestine. The chances of such an arrangement working satisfactorily would be remote indeed; and though proposals for something of the kind may actually have been advanced, we cannot believe that the British Government has lent, or would lend them any support. It is a pity, however, that the report was not categorically denied as soon as it found its way to these shores. In the House of Commons, when Colonel Wedgwood asked for information on the point, all that Mr. Bonar Law could say was that he "did not think" there had been any change in our policy! In the circumstances, it is, perhaps, only natural to find the Jewish Board of Deputies, while declaring its confidence in Great Britain's honesty in this matter, showing a certain underlying uneasiness, with a very natural desire to get the whole question settled once and for all.

Meanwhile it is not astonishing to learn that although no acts of violence have occurred in Jerusalem during the past fortnight, racial feeling continues to run high in the City of Peace. That is not to say, however, that all the Arabs approve of violent measures against the Jews any more than all the Jews would approve of violent measures against the Arabs. The Zionist Organisation reports that protests supporting this view have been sent to the Chief Administrator of Palestine from many villages. On the other hand, the same organisation reports that it has learnt "from a reliable source in Palestine" that demands for various anti-Jewish measures have been put forward by "a group of Arabs." Among these demands was one for the suppression of the Zionist Commission and the expulsion of its leaders, while another called for the disbandment of the Jewish Battalion. These demands were rejected by Lord Allenby when they were placed before him, and an inquiry into all the circumstances of the disturbances is to be held.

The announcement that a discussion has been arranged in India with representatives deputed by the Ameer brings the Afghan problem a step, but only a step, nearer a solution. The treaty signed last year left the initiative to Afghanistan, and that initiative has now been taken with characteristic limitations, the Ameer having asked to begin discussions which he hoped would end in a permanent treaty of friendship, and the Government of India having agreed to the proposal with further limitations of its own. We need not look for an immediate and complete restoration of the friendship so rudely broken, but the fact that action has been taken is in itself a favourable symptom, and the atmosphere of Mussoorie, where the discussions take place, should be conducive to the growth of friendly relations between the delegates.

The question of a northern frontier for Mesopotamia is discussed in an article contributed to *The Times* by its special correspondent in the Middle East, who, rightly, suggests that "the subject needs consideration in the light of the whole situation in the Middle East and our new relationship with Persia." He would have us leave the scenes of last autumn's operations alone, and draw the frontier from Jezireh-ibn-Omar to the confluence of the Greater Zab and along that river and the Rowanduz River to the Persian frontier. The salient between the Tigris and the Greater Zab will, he says, be of military advantage to Mesopotamia, and the soldiers will be satisfied with the frontier. This line would certainly find strong support at home, as well as amongst the soldiers and others on the spot. But Englishmen now in Mesopotamia are asking many other questions besides "Where is the frontier to be?" They are asking insistently when the question of expense will be faced and settled, and whether Great Britain is prepared to help Irak el Arabi financially until it can stand on its own feet. Is the development of agriculture, irrigation, communications, and so forth to be the concern of Government or of private enterprise? Has any decision been reached as to the number and character of the troops to be kept in the country? And what policy is to be pursued towards the Arab inhabitants, the Kurds, and the other peoples of the land? These are all questions of the first importance, and it is to be hoped that it is not only by our countrymen on the spot that they are being anxiously considered.

In this connection it is strange to find an Italian politician advancing in an English newspaper a proposal for "a 'double' occupation of Mesopotamia" by Great Britain and Italy. The latter country, he tells us, "does not want to make a political conquest. Her only demand . . . . is that a country rich in economic resources and near to her coasts in the Mediterranean may be put at her disposal where she may send her emigrants and whence she may draw what she needs to complete the resources in raw material of her own land, naturally so

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poor." This, the most recent and by no means the least startling of the claims for "compensation" to which a cynical world is becoming accustomed, has called forth a reply from General Haddad. The latter suggests that if the boot were on the other foot, and a proposal were made for the establishment of Syrian and Arab colonies in Calabria or Sicily, it would be met with the smile of contempt it would deserve; and he points out that "there is, too, an Arab people who have fought . . . against the common enemy," and have been repeatedly promised their independence and unity. He does not point out that the Italian politician's proposal is unlikely to appeal to anybody outside Italy—or, indeed, we may hope in that country itself; but he might well have done so, for a more barefaced attempt of the something-for-nothing kind it would be hard to imagine.

In many parts of the world the subsidence of the tide of war has left behind it some highly unpleasant human scum. Persia is a case in point. During the war that unfortunate country was overrun by German and Turkish agents of a most undesirable character, whom it was impossible to deal with adequately owing to the neutrality of the country, which they so shamelessly abused. A good many of these gentry still trouble Persia, it seems, and they have lately succeeded in stirring up the "Democrats" of Tabriz to an anti-Government demonstration. The chief sufferers appear to have been the Swedish officers of police, who have been driven out of the town. From this distance the demonstration, regarded as a manifestation of democratic principles, looks distinctly puzzling. In Teheran itself the "undesirables" seem to be Russians, with whom, again, the Democrats are hob-nobbing. As these Russians are referred to as "a Cossack division under Russian officers," and as they do not appear to be professed Bolshevist troops, it would be interesting to know whence they obtain their pay.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Government and Country.

The by-elections of the week have been pleasant reading for the Government, and a bitter comment on their opponents' hopes. At Basingstoke, vacant by Sir Auckland Geddes' appointment to Washington, neither Liberal nor Labour really expected to win; but both Camberwell and Northampton were admitted to be test or index constituencies.

In the former the Liberals of the Independent variety put up a strenuous fight against Dr. Macnamara, a Coalition Liberal. They have never forgiven him for speaking against Sir John Simon in the Spen Valley contest; and now they hate him worse than ever, because he ignored their opposition in his own constituency and concentrated his efforts on the Labour candidate—wisely, as the event proved. Labour was represented by Miss Susan Lawrence, a lady of private means who has done social work in the East End of London for some years; her friends call her an idealist and her enemies a Bolshevist, but neither are satisfied that she polled all the votes she could have done.

At Northampton the Government candidate was also opposed by a lady—Miss Margaret Bondfield, one of the Labour intellectuals. Northampton is proverbially a "difficult" constituency, which means that it is independent. In the old days it elected Bradlaugh the atheist, and Labouchere, who used, in consequence, to refer to himself as "the religious member"; its partiality for Radicalism and Free Thought has been attributed by the flippant to its chief industry being the manufacture of boots—the cobbler is notoriously a heterodox person. But on the present occasion the town was faithful to the Coalition.

Various reasons are given for the result. The Independent Liberals ascribe it to the folly of Labour trespassing on Liberal preserves, which results in a split vote; Labour retorts that there are no Liberal preserves worth preserving any longer, and spends its money cheerfully on hopeless contests; the Government modestly admits that its victories are due less to its own virtues than to the defects of its opponents, the Independent Liberals having no programme and Labour too much programme The last explanation appears to be the true one; the Labour extremists who want to nationalise everything, and whose continual demand for higher wages and lower prices convicts them of an economic contradiction, have alienated the ordinary unattached voter whose support is essential to them.

Privately, however, Labour is perturbed by another consideration. They have put up several women candidates, and these have been unanimously rejected. It is suggested that the brutal male, whether he is one of the horny-handed or a crusted Tory of the old school, is no more enthusiastic over petticoat government in the House of Commons than in his own home; but, worse even than this, it is now thought that in addition to this handicap, women will not vote for women. If that is so, then the case is hopeless. A charming Suffragette who has done a great deal of canvassing for women candidates told me in a moment of confidence recently that this was her experience; she was much distressed at the blindness of her sex, which she ascribed to incomplete sex-consciousness, or some other abstruse cause; she was bitterly disappointed that, having got the vote, women should put it to so improper a use as to support a man. I suspect that every party manager is watching rather carefully the fortunes of women candidates at elections, to whatever party they belong. If they once began to win seats, the current objections to them would quickly vanish.

Meanwhile, with the Government safe for some time, Mr. Lloyd George has thoroughly earned his short holiday and sea voyage. People are apt to forget that he has been continuously in office since the end of 1905—by far the longest stretch of any living statesman, and one that is only surpassed by Pitt and Walpole, the latter of whom was in office for twenty years continuously. But Downing Street in the early eighteenth century, in a period of unbroken peace, was a very different responsibility from Downing Street to-day.

The Prime Minister has perceptibly aged during the war, but he appears to have marvellous vitality and perfect physical health, which is no doubt the secret of his extraordinary recuperative powers. It was rumoured some weeks ago that he was near a breakdown, and one of the club wits perpetrated the epigram that "Lord Northcliffe had privately received Mr. Lloyd George's resignation and had sent for the King"; but a few days afterwards the Prime Minister was chaffing old friends and opponents with his usual verve. It seems to be the fact, as more lethargic politicians admit with some envy, that he thrives on controversy, and the only effect of a crisis is to give him fresh vigour.

Bank Rate and Budget.

The City has been very nervous this last week, partly because the Bank Rate has been raised, and partly on account of the Budget and Labour troubles. The Stock Exchange has been dull; grave bankers have worn a hang-dog look as though they had been jilted—if a banker ever is jilted—and insurance brokers have been talking as though the end of the world was at hand. Only the estate market has been cheerful, thanks to the prevalent industry of buying and selling property. But as Lord Leverhulme once remarked, financiers are the most nervous people in the world. If they are not making money they see visions of a ruined England and a pauper's funeral; if they are making money they draw the thought that another turn of the wheel may cause them to lose it.

The facts are that exports are still going ahead; that at the moment, we are suffering from an excess of prosperity, and that new issues have been overdone. The investor is in a shy mood at present after his surfeit of opportunities in the spring, and the new prospectuses of municipal bonds, issued by the great provincial cities and by London itself, are by no means exciting. They belong to the safe 6 per cent. variety, but nobody wants safety in these days except curates and maiden aunts, neither of whom has any money left, and 6 per cent. is ridiculous with the income-tax at 6s. in

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the £, and first-class 7 and 8 per cent. industrial preference shares going begging everywhere below par. In one case recently 80 per cent. of one of these municipal bond issues was left to the underwriters, whose safes must be overfull with unsubscribed stocks of all kinds; the prospect is not hopeful for future issues of this kind, and the promised Government Housing Bonds would seem likely to receive an even worse welcome.

Ireland.

It would have seemed impossible for the difficulties of the Irish problem to increase, but the Government and the Irish between them have succeeded in increasing them. The political prisoners went on hunger-strike, and the Cabinet and Lord French stood firm. There does not appear to have been any popular sympathy with the hunger-strikers in England: for, after all, if a man chooses to commit suicide it is his own business, but in Ireland the spectacle precipitated a general strike. Whether the Government capitulated to the general strike or to the hunger-strikers, or to a combination of both, it is impossible to say. The fact is that they did capitulate on the very evening of the day on which Mr. Bonar Law announced in the House of Commons that they would never capitulate. It was a deplorable exhibition of ineptitude. It appears, by the way, to have entailed the proffer of Lord French's resignation. He has already stated tersely that "he is sick of the job."

On the other hand, the Irish have contrived to introduce an element of comedy into the tragedy of the murder of the Lord Mayor of Cork: for at the inquest they brought in a verdict of wilful murder against the police and Mr. Lloyd George himself. It was shown that the police had nothing to do with it, and the inclusion of the Prime Minister in the verdict adds a touch of unworthy political farce.

Amid these unhappy presages and portents, the Home Rule Bill will resume its passage through the Commons next month. Mr. Thomas, the railwaymen's member, has in the interval propounded a rival scheme for settling Ireland—that the garrison should be removed, and Ireland left to work out its own salvation under Sir Horace Plunkett. But that in fact involves the abandonment of Ireland and of Ulster, and no British Government could consent to such a course.

Two Centenaries.

The calendar makes strange bedfellows. Two quaintly contrasted centenaries are to be celebrated this week—the one of Salisbury Cathedral, of which the first stone was laid in April, 1220; the other of Herbert Spencer, who was born at Derby in April, 1820.

Salisbury owes its foundation to the abandonment of Old Sarum, an old garrison on the commanding height above Salisbury whence derived the "Sarum use" or English ritual of the old Catholic Church. The military and the ecclesiastics at Old Sarum quarrelled, and in the end the Church abandoned the height for the plain, and the priests had considerably the best of the bargain, for Old Sarum has long been a ruin; it will be remembered that its two members, who represented no electors, were a notorious argument for the 1832 Reform Bill. The place was being excavated before the war; when I went over it a few years back part of the site of the old church and several stone coffins were easily identified.

The new cathedral of Salisbury, now seven centuries old, is unique in having been built by one architect in one style, and never "restored" or added to since. The very flower of Gothic art at its most perfect period in this country, the cold completeness of its design, is in superb contrast to the unfinished splendour of Winchester and the mixture of styles at Exeter. But Salisbury as a city has other claims to fame. I have always understood it to be the Barchester of the Trollope novels, and it is undoubtedly the Melchester of "Jude the Obscure," while no less certainly it was the scene of Pecksniff's labours, and of the meeting of Tom Pinch and Martin Chuzzlewit.

The town of Derby, where Herbert Spencer was born, is a very different place from Salisbury, and Spencer himself was very different from the average inhabitant of a cathedral city. Perhaps not many people read the Synthetic Philosophy in these times, but Derby is preparing to celebrate the centenary of the birth of its most notable citizen with an enthusiasm that would probably have surprised Spencer himself. Psychology has made great strides since his day, but a great deal of the synthetic system is still worth studying. A deep thinker, but not an attractive writer, Spencer is probably held in higher esteem on the Continent than in England. Even Mr. Hugh Elliot, his recent biographer, found it difficult to treat his subject with the usual reverence; and, it must be admitted, the interminable "Autobiography" alienates most admirers of the philosophy. Perhaps if Spencer had married George Eliot, as at one time seemed not unlikely, he would have been more like a human being; but the married life of his parents at Derby was so unhappy that this alone may have kept him a bachelor. It is evident from Huxley's Letters that he had little sympathy with, or knowledge of, women.

The Power of the Press.

An amusing discussion has sprung up *à propos* a recent book by Mr. Kennedy Jones, once Lord Northcliffe's henchman, as to the power of the Press. Mr. Jones defends the "new journalism"; Mr. A.A. Baumann, the editor of the *Saturday Review*, has replied with vigour that the modern newspaper is degraded and trivial. He ascribes its degradation partly to its sensationalism and love of "stunts," and in an outspoken article in the *Fortnightly Review*, in which he attacks Mr. Jones and his journalistic children, he puts down its triviality to its catering for women, and to the fact that it relies for an appreciable part of its revenue on the drapers' advertisements, which decorate so many of its pages with intimate and possibly alluring pictures. Therefore he remarks that it is the drapers who keep the journalists, and leaves one with the general impression that the grave leader-writer who discusses politics and war is really like the lace on a lady's petticoat, a mere superfluity that looks well, but is not meant to be investigated too closely.

The May Meetings.

The annual conferences of the religious and philanthropic societies, which are commonly called the May Meetings, are now in full swing. There are, I believe, about five hundred of these organisations, or, at any rate, about five hundred meetings, ranging from great societies like the Church Missionary Society and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to those very small bodies which are said to exist mainly for the charitable purpose of supporting a secretary. To the casual Londoner their chief purpose sometimes seems to be that they give the country cousin an excuse for a week's holiday in London; but they do in fact keep a large number of people in touch with an aspect of life that cannot be regarded as utilitarian.

The Week's Book.

The "Life of Lord Kitchener" is, of course, the outstanding book of the week, but comment on so important a work must be left to another portion of this journal. The reviewers in the daily Press, while giving it a warm welcome, seem rather to have missed its real personal interest. They have commented almost exclusively on Kitchener's activities during the last two years of his life; but while this is history on the great scale, the character of Kitchener was formed in the early years in Cyprus, Palestine, and Egypt, and it was on the character thus formed that the "Kitchener legend" was based. The first volume, which has been almost ignored by the critics so far, has therefore the greater biographical interest.

Incidentally, it is to be hoped that in a year or two Sir George Arthur will arrange to issue a smaller edition in one volume at about half a guinea: three volumes at two and a-half guineas is a large order in every sense of the word, but in smaller compass the book would be as popular with present-day youth as Southey's "Life of Nelson"—and I know no book which conveys more quietly and yet with equal force the lessons of character and duty to one's country than the "Life of Kitchener." The professional moralists are an unmitigated bore, but here we have the whole sphere of character in action.

OCELLUS.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 30.

His Highness the Sultan.

Sultan Fuad I. celebrated his 52nd birthday on Friday last, when he held a reception at Abdin Palace, afterwards performing his midday prayer at the "El Fath" Mosque. The latter, which dates from the 11th century, has been restored at the Sultan's expense, and his birthday visit was the official inauguration of the building. In the present political situation one cannot expect Court functions of this description to attract the same large gatherings as before, especially in view of the campaign against their Sovereign which is being carried out by the Extremists, who went so far as to issue the evening before a circular calling upon the people to refrain from congratulating him, and threatening those who visited him with vengeance dire. Nevertheless, the reception last Friday was quite well attended.

Monsieur Clemenceau has returned from his trip to the Sudan very pleased with what he has seen. He proceeded to-day on a short visit to Palestine, whence Lord and Lady Allenby returned yesterday. Lord Allenby's visit to Palestine has been quite a short one, the object being, it is understood, to discuss on the spot certain local questions, and confer with the Chief Administrator, Sir Louis Bols, on the situation created by the Arab *coup d'etat*.

The Political Situation.

The political situation remains relatively calm. Nowhere has there been any repetition of the disturbances at Kafr El Sheikh and Dessuk, the ringleaders in which are being brought before a Military Court. Attempts have been made at demonstrations in Cairo, but these have been mainly carried out by schoolboys and roughs, never in large numbers, and beyond damage done to tramcars, which nowadays seem to be the favourite object on which demonstrators direct their energies, no mischief has been done. These "demonstrations" are ineffective and childish in their conception. The demonstrators invariably disappear on the first rumour of the approach of troops; indeed, the sound of a lorry in the distance is sufficient to cause such a crowd to take to its heels, leaving slippers, tarboushes and other impedimenta behind in its eagerness to get out of reach of the Tommies and their trenching tool handles!

The New Budget.

The striking part about the budget for the new financial year (details of which are published in another part of this issue) is that without any increase in direct taxation it has been possible to provide for an addition to the revenue of over 40 per cent. on the figure fixed in the previous budget. This is an eloquent demonstration of the wealth of the country as a whole, but it is to be noted that the extraordinary increase results from the expansion in Customs returns due to high market values, profit on the banknote issue, which, owing to the hoarding propensities of the Egyptians, continues at a phenomenally high level, sale of land, and the share in the profits derived from the cotton control, none of which items can, unfortunately, be regarded as permanent.

In the case of the Customs the state of the world's markets may keep values at about their present high level for a year or two, but it is pretty evident that something will have to be done in the near future to provide new sources of revenue. On the one hand, a large part of the increased expenditure has come to stay, and even where reductions may become possible the cause enabling such reductions will before that have reacted on the revenue; and on the other hand there is an enormous amount of maintenance work to be done which has been neglected during the war, and delay in connection with which will only make the final bill all the heavier, while development work is waiting to be carried out in every direction naturally entailing further capital expense. It is true that the reserve on April 1 will be almost three times what it was on the outbreak of the war, but the latter figure was at the time admitted to be too low; so that the margin on which a draft could be made is in the circumstances scarcely large enough to meet all the capital requirements as well as the maintenance arrears of the country in the complete manner which one would like to see.

Sir Paul Harvey, in whose able hands every one is fully prepared to leave the direction of the financial destinies of the country, has hit the right nail on the head; and all those who understand the situation will readily endorse his remarks as to the unsatisfactory nature of the existing fiscal system whereby the foreign element is exempt from all taxation and contributes not one pennypiece towards the maintenance of public security, thanks to which it is able to carry on its affairs so free of care and so profitably. As regards the immediate future there is no doubt little to fear. It is indeed highly probable that a certain proportion of the money required for the more urgent maintenance and capital expenditure will be obtained from the sale of land which is being carried out by the Government, and which at the present rates should bring in a very handsome return. The sale of the country's patrimony, even though the proceeds are earmarked for development works, is not, however, the most satisfactory way of providing money, though in the present circumstances it is fully justified, and the time is fast approaching when in order to meet the economic and social requirements of a steadily growing population the Government will be forced to take powers to ensure that every inhabitant in the country contributes his or her direct quota towards the cost of administration.

The Coal Crisis.

The coal crisis threatens to have far-reaching effects on the economic life of the country. Sunday trains have been cut down to a negligible number, the week-day train service has been curtailed, and only the most important goods traffic is to be carried. The quantity of coal for essential industries hitherto sold by the Ministry of Public Works is being considerably reduced, and unless landowners take their precautions thus early they will have difficulty in working their water-lifting machines, which are likely to be in great request next summer, owing to an anticipated low water supply in the river. The tram companies are likewise curtailing their services, and street-lighting is being very much reduced, so as to economise coal. As a result public

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administrations and private establishments are being forced to adjust their arrangements to meet the new conditions, which are bound to have a very serious influence on the life of the country in general.

Very strenuous efforts are being made by the Government to obtain coal, and, as previously mentioned, unless some satisfactory result attends the present negotiations the situation, which is at present serious, will become even more so, on account of its effect on the cotton and other crops. As in the case of the cereal supplies which are coming from abroad, whatever coal or fuel is obtainable will be due solely to the intervention of Great Britain; and those who so fiercely repudiate the British Protectorate and stand for complete independence may well ask themselves whether attachment to a country which, like Great Britain, can give to the word "protection" an interpretation which is so directly beneficial to the "protégée," is not, after all, something worth having.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, April 5.

Death of Dr. Polit.

A link with the past has been broken by the death, at an advanced age, of Dr. Mihailo Polit, a well-known defender of Serbian liberties in the Voivodina. Dr. Polit, who was born in 1832, first came into prominence at the time of the rising in Hungary in 1848, and became really famous through his bold speeches in the Hungarian Chamber, more particularly in his defence of another Serbian patriot, Svetozar Miletitch, accused of high treason. Turning to the Magyar Court, he exclaimed, "The Slavs are calling to you; we will meet at Philippi." This let loose a storm of political and national passion, and Dr. Polit was persecuted by the Hungarian authorities. He lived, however, to see the realisation of his life's dream, and welcomed the victorious Serbian troops at Temeshvar, once the capital of the Serbian Voivodina, to-day allotted to Roumania.

It is stated that the Military Censorship will be abolished on May 5.

The *Povernik* or Governor of Cettigne, M. Ivo Pavichevitch, is relieved; in his place there are appointed two "inspectors" of police, MM. Viktor Krstitch and Branko Milanovitch. The appointment of the latter has aroused comments on the ground that he was an official in Montenegro during the Austrian occupation of the country.

A committee has been formed at Ushitellia to erect a memorial to Miss Haverfield.

BELGRADE, April 10.

Easter and the British Colony.

The Orthodox Easter falls a week after ours this year, which is fortunate, for most people take advantage of the two holidays, and when there is a longer interval between there is more dislocation of business. The British colony, of course, celebrates its own Easter, and employees had the advantage of a Bank Holiday in Belgrade; but as there is no business going on during the Serbian Easter, which is kept up till the Wednesday, everybody gets a double holiday whether they want it or not; and the holiday is the more complete as the postal authorities "shut up shop" till the Wednesday after Easter. The British colony is not a large one, but it is growing steadily, and several of its members have taken houses and even bought them, intending to make a prolonged stay. It is hardly big enough yet to divide into well-marked cliques, and everybody gets on very well with everybody else, making a very happy family. Several dances have been given, and have been attended by almost the entire colony. They are very pleasant and informal functions which everybody enjoys.

Political Matters.

Politics are being given a rest over the recess, but some interest has been aroused by the reply of the Crown Prince to the students of Zagreb University, who telegraphed to H.R.S. to inquire whether it were true that the Government were proposing to make sacrifices on the Fiume question in return for concessions in Northern Albania, and at Skadar in particular. The Regent replied that there was not the slightest intention of showing any weakness whatever on either point, but that the Government would exert itself to the utmost to obtain complete satisfaction for the national aspirations in both vital questions.

Since the lamented death of Dr. Pavlovitch, the Vice-president of the Skupshtina, Dr. Ivan Ribar, has been acting as Speaker. To M. Protitch's proposal that the Government should itself vote one hundred members as sufficient to form a quorum, Dr. Ribar has replied that he cannot consent. The Government is in an *impasse*, and its resignation is anticipated after the holidays.

Hope for Historians.

Historians of Serbia have always contended with a lack of scarcity of records; for owing to the frequent invasions, very many of the old documents have been either destroyed or removed. As already mentioned, very many are certainly to be found in Vienna, where a commission has proceeded with a view to securing their recovery. The Peace Conference is now taking steps to ask for the recovery of Serbian records from the Turks; for without doubt a very large quantity are reposing at Constantinople and Brussa, which will be of the greatest interest, and some will doubtless throw new light on many obscure passages in Serbian history. In 1890 a Hungarian Mission, headed by Professor Vambery, found in the Sultan's archives the famous old Miroslavl Evangel, and the Evangel of the Bosnian Duke Hrvoya Vukchitch-Hrvatinitch, the former of the XIIth, the latter of the XIVth, century. The impatient interest of historians can well be imagined, for during the period (five centuries) of Turkish dominion, there is much that is obscure.

The Late General Alexeieff.

English readers will remember the name of General Alexeieff, Chief of Staff of the Russian armies when the Tsar assumed the Chief Command upon dismissing the Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaievitch in the summer of 1915. General Alexeieff bore an extremely high reputation, and was, of course, the virtual head of the entire Russian forces. He was afterwards murdered by the Bolshevists, like so many other of the Russian military chiefs; but his family saved the body, which was buried in the Crimea. On the break up of General Denikin's army they disinterred the body and brought it to Belgrade, where it was re-interred with military honours on April 7.

Fire on Orient Express.

A fire recently occurred on the Orient Express, which narrowly escaped having serious consequences. Between the stations of Vinkovtse and Belgrade a fire was noticed in the French mail coach, about eight o'clock in the evening. The postal staff were at that moment in the dining-car, but the Serbian gendarmes who were guarding the baggage noticed the fire, stopped the train, and the fire was extinguished before it could spread. Fortunately no one was hurt, nor was any baggage damaged, but the French mail was almost entirely destroyed.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, March 31.

The Elections.

Thanks to the measures of precaution taken by the civil and military authorities, the Parliamentary elections passed off last Sunday without incident throughout the kingdom. They were conducted on the proportional system, and the final, corrected results give the following results:—Agrarians, 110 seats; Communists, 50 seats; Democrats, 24 seats; Narodniaks, 16 seats; Moderate (or Broad) Socialists, 9 seats; Progressists (old Russophils), 8 seats; Radical Democrats, 7 seats; Ghenadieffists, 4 seats; and Petrovists (old Stambolovists), 1 seat, out of the total 229 seats.

The most remarkable thing about the new Chamber is the fact that it contains nine deputies fewer than the former Chamber, owing to the territory of which Bulgaria has been deprived. Comparing losses and gains in the present Chamber, the Agrarians have a gain of 25 seats, the Communists of 2 seats, the Democrats 15

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seats, the Progressists 7 seats, the Radicals 4 seats; while the Liberal Coalition or Germanophil party, which was not represented at all in the last Chamber, now has one deputy—Dr. I. Gateff, who is a great Anglophil. The Moderate, or Broad, Socialists, who had 39 representatives in the last Chamber, have now only 9.

From the above figures we may conclude that the new Cabinet will be also a coalition Cabinet. The present one will continue to act until the convocation of the Chamber, which is fixed for April 15.

Resignation of Dr. Daneff.

Dr. St. Daneff, the present Minister of Finance, has tendered his resignation, but will carry on the duties of the post until the convocation of the new Chamber, to which he will probably be elected as president.

Sentence on General Tantiloff.

A fortnight ago the Sofia Field Court-Martial began the trial of Major-General P. Tantiloff, who was Bulgaria's military representative at Bucharest during the world war. He has been found guilty of exceeding his authority and of speculating, and has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment and deprivation of civic and political rights, and to pay to the State a fine of 1,700,000 levas. The sentence is subject to appeal to the Supreme Military Tribunal of Cassation.

Sir Herbert Dering's Leave.

Sir Herbert Dering, the British High Commissioner in Bulgaria, has left for England on two months' leave.

A Consular Appointment.

M. George Madjaroff, son of the present Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has left for London, where, after the ratification of the Bulgarian Peace Treaty by the British Parliament, he will be accredited as Bulgarian Consul-General.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, April 3.

General Gouraud, High Commissioner of the French Republic in Syria and Cilicia, has just concluded his tour in the Lebanon. Both in the south and the north it was a prolonged popular demonstration.

The mistakes inevitable during a period of transition and the difficulties attendant on every beginning, coupled with the severest economic crisis that the Lebanon has ever experienced, had combined to place the French—who succeeded to authority under very trying conditions—in the most unfavourable light. With time, however, mistakes have become fewer, unfit elements have been gradually eliminated, and a better and more intelligent understanding is beginning to succeed suspicion and discouragement. But nothing served better to hasten and strengthen the union between the Lebanese and the French than that unfortunate reference to the Lebanon made by the Syrian Congress at Damascus, in its recent manifesto, which roused the old spirit of independence among the proud mountaineers, both Christians and Druses, and made them turn to France for the eventual defence of what they regard as their most precious heritage.

The High Commissioner, who, like most great generals, possesses the spirit of leadership in the field of diplomacy as well as of battle, knew how to take full advantage of this psychological state of the Lebanese, as may be seen from the speeches that he delivered at Deir El Qamar and Beit Eddine as well as at Tripoli.

At Deir El Qamar, the scene of the bloodiest massacre of 1860, which afforded France the opportunity of playing the fine rôle of liberator and peacemaker, one of the members of the Administrative Council, a native of Deir El Qamar, made an eloquent speech suitable to the place and circumstance. In his reply the General said:

You have evoked the great souvenirs which bind France to Deir el Qamar more than to any other part of the Lebanon. It is here that the Lebanese had occasion to know the soldiers of my country, their courage and their kindliness. It gratifies me to hear you say that the efforts that are being made each day by the Administration I have the honour of directing for the good and prosperity of the country, are not vain; that the methods of government are becoming more rational; that the choice of officials is more judicious; that security is firmer, and that honesty is at last more appreciated. Are not these the necessary conditions of the development of a country, and the earnest of its fine future? You have recalled the glorious memory of the great Fakhr Eddine, and you call attention, at the same time, to the prejudice that is being caused to the Lebanon by the emigration of her sons. Do you not think, gentlemen, that if this small country of the Lebanon has held a big place in the past during the days of the Fakhr Eddines and the Shechirs, this was due not only to the valour of these great Emirs, but also to the fact that the Lebanese of those times emigrated doubtless less than now, and perhaps also to the fact that they worked more. In roaming over your beautiful hills, covered with terraces so carefully cultivated, one realises the amount of colossal labour your ancestors must have expended. It may be safely asserted that what constituted in the past the force of the Lebanon, and what alone can yet make it in the future is work as well as courage to maintain its independence, and truthfulness to its faith. This independence no one has the right to dispose of without your consent, no one wishes to prevent you from realising it as your forefathers did, in union with France. You have in this connection the promise of Monsieur Clemenceau to the Patriarch of the Lebanon, and I may add that I received today from Monsignor Abdallah Kouri, who is still fulfilling his mission in Paris, the best tidings as to the welcome which the present Government has accorded to the wishes of the Lebanon. You can, therefore, rest assured that the French Government will uphold these wishes with all its power at the Peace Conference, that alone has the right to settle the fate of the countries which have been conquered by the Allied Armies, and saved from the Turks. You know also that France is there with her soldiers, the victors of the Great War, behind her, to watch, if need be, over your independence and your liberties.

The last words were received with frantic applause, and when the High Commissioner expressed the wish to have his speech translated, he was told that this was unnecessary, since 90 per cent. of his hearers understood French. His Excellency then remarked: "Then I have but one advice to give to the 10 per cent. who do not know it, and this is to hasten to learn it."

SMYRNA.

March 31.

On Sunday, March 28, Captain Theodoropoulos, the Squadron Commander of the Greek Flying Corps in Smyrna, while flying at a height of 2,000 ft. over the city in honour of the swearing-in of the Smyrna recruits mobilised for the Greek Army, fell into the bay and was drowned. The machine has been salvaged, but the Captain's body cannot be found. His comrades flew over the spot and dropped wreaths in memory of their popular commander.

The Rt. Rev. T. R. Knight, Bishop of Gibraltar, has visited Smyrna during the past month and confirmed about fifty young members of the British colony. During his stay he has twice attended High Mass in the Greek Cathedral, and is much more optimistic about finding a *rapprochement* between the Orthodox and Anglican Churches than any of his predecessors. The Bishop has announced his intention of collaborating with the Greek Patriarch in Constantinople to attain the desired union.

MALTA.

VALETTA, March 31.

Preferential Import Duties Ordinance.

With a view of placing something in the depleted coffers of the island, the above Ordinance has been introduced by the Council of Government. Broadly, the revision of the Customs tariff has proceeded on the old lines—tax luxuries only. This has brought up the price of spirits, wines, and tobacco. With a view of furthering help to the poor and the encouraging of local industries, there are certain goods free from duty, such as rice, seeds, bulbs and plants, engines, machinery, and all kinds of plant.

A Monopoly.

There is a great amount of feeling expressed by the commercial community against the Naval and Army Canteen Board. This is to be expected, and is natural. Malta in the past has done much business in catering for the Army and Navy, and in most cases the firms have given complete satisfaction. Now the Government comes along and establishes a monopoly, and one backed up by the Government itself both directly and indirectly. The merchants complain that they do not import or sell, as there is no one to buy. Feeling is so strong on the subject that a mass meeting of merchants is being called in connection with it by the Chamber of Commerce. What makes the situation more ironical is that the cost of the goods is considerably higher than would be the case if the merchants were allowed to compete with one another.

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THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

hasn't yet materialised

but, from pole to pole, this

is recognised as the sign of

"THE TYRE INCOMPARABLE"

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THRACE.

We have received from the *Agence Télégraphique Bulgare* the following communication, dated April 5, from Gumuljina (Western Thrace):—

Yesterday the first Supreme Administrative Council of Thrace (Provincial Assembly) was formally opened, and the Bulgar and Turk population organised a huge manifestation in which all classes, including the youths from the schools, took part. A large crowd made its way inside the Konak and gave a warm welcome to General Charpy, Governor of Inter-Allied Thrace and commander of the Allied troops, practically covering him with flowers. After the Council's opening ceremony a deputation, composed of thirty Bulgarian and Turkish notables, presented to General Charpy the following petition:—

"On this memorable day we, the inhabitants of Gumuljina, assembled here to celebrate the opening of the first Supreme Administrative Council of Thrace, consider it our duty to make the following declaration:—We beg to express to you the best thanks of the population of Thrace for your indefatigable efforts to give our country a just government. We are very grateful for the impartiality shown by all your representatives towards the various nationalities inhabiting Thrace, and also for the part you have played in convoking and establishing this Supreme Council, by means of which you invite the population to take part in the management of public affairs and in the government of the country. We hope that in the near future this Council will, under your benevolent protection, develop into a completely representative body. Anxious for the future of our country and inspired by the noble principles of which the Entente is a disinterested champion, we take advantage of this occasion to beg you to bring to the knowledge of the authorities the sincere wishes of the Thracian peoples. These wishes, conceived in the full interests of the country, can be stated thus:—That the present régime is the only one which can ensure the internal order and peace of the country; that it should not be modified; and that it should in the future be developed into an autonomous régime, placed under French protection, or at least under that of the Great Powers of the Entente."

On the same occasion General Charpy received telegrams from numerous Turkish and Bulgarian towns and villages in Thrace, congratulating him and expressing wishes similar to those stated above.

ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE.

The following is a translation of the Proclamation read at the inauguration of the Albanian National Assembly, March 27, 1920, at Tirana:—

At the National Congress held at Lushnia, in January, it was decided that the National Assembly should meet again on the 15th of the present month. We gladly inaugurate to-day the first Albanian Parliament.

When the Independence of Albania was proclaimed at Valona on November 28, 1912, it was announced that a Senate would be formed. Unfortunately this was not then accomplished. On December 25, 1918, at the Assembly at Durazzo, the formation of a Senate was also in view, but was not realised. It is consequently to-day that the Parliamentary life of Albania begins, and the nation thus shows that it is more mature than had been believed by those not well acquainted with Albania.

The Congress of Lushnia proclaimed that the national ideal is Union, and not party struggles. The Government of Durazzo was superseded, and a new Government formed. Our national aim is complete independence and the defence of our Fatherland. We wish to live in harmony with our neighbours, the Greeks and Yugoslavs. We firmly hope that our neighbours will recognise our ethnical and indefeasible rights. We hope that Italy, taking into consideration the unanimous wish of the Albanian nation, will change the policy which she has hitherto followed with regard to Albania, and will support the absolute independence and territorial integrity of Albania, and that in accord with England and France—who have ever been the protectors of small nationalities—she will be favourable to our national cause.

At this historic moment we think we are fulfilling a debt of honour when we recall with gratitude the humane and just intervention of Mr. Wilson, President of the United States. We feel convinced that the great American nation, which has proclaimed the principles of humanity and justice, will support our just national claims.

Albania presents herself before the civilised world with the prayer for—Justice! We ask for Justice, and it will be accorded to us.

Gentlemen,—On March 11 the town of Scutari and its environs came under national administration. We hope that soon all districts assigned to Albania by the Conference of London (1913) will again be joined to their Motherland. At this Session you will be called upon to deliberate upon the laws and budget which will be presented to you by the Government, and which are not without difficulties. May God fulfil the prayers of the Nation, and may our country safeguard her independence and regain her territorial integrity during the Session of the present Assembly.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF ARMENIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As a resident of many years' standing in the Near East, and acquainted through my professional position with all races and all classes in the Armenian regions, I beg leave to offer a few remarks on the state of affairs which has recently more than ever engaged the kindly attention of the British public. There seems to have been a tendency to regard the Armenian question as almost insoluble. Most of the difficulties, however, are, if not illusory, somewhat exaggerated. One of them is already in the way of being removed by the action of the Allies at Constantinople, for it is from Constantinople that all the intrigues, claims, and secret instructions, recognised as the real source of trouble, have emanated. It cannot be too clearly understood that Turkish statements concerning the relative interests of Moslems and Christians in Cilicia and neighbouring countries are not trustworthy. The present falling-off of the Armenians in numbers, wealth, and character is not due to poverty of soil nor to any want of energy or resourcefulness on their part. It is owing to the policy of the Porte, consistently followed for the last fifty years, of which I have personal knowledge; a policy of repression, of persecution, and of extermination. Village after village has been emptied of its Armenian inhabitants, who have been replaced by Kurds or Circassians. Vilayets have been formed in such a way as to give a majority to Mohammedans. The policy is seen in the attitude of the Turkish Government, in its methods of police and taxation, in a steady antagonism to any prosperous Armenian, and in massacre, both acute and chronic—chronic, for hardly a week passes without the murder of some Armenian peasant on one pretext or another; and acute, as in these great outbreaks of which only a few faint echoes reach England from time to time. But, still, the depletion has been overstated. It has been estimated on the Turkish side that in Cilicia there are no more than 130,000 Armenians. Up to the time of the recent massacres at Marash this figure was distinctly too low. There are at present over 70,000 Armenians in Adana, about 17,000 in Aintab, 15,000 in Hajin, about 5,000 in Sis, and as many in Killis. Until recently there were 22,000 in Marash, besides many in the smaller towns and villages. Even this number does not include refugees and emigrants awaiting in many countries, near and far, the opportunity of return. On the other hand, the numbers attributed to the Turks are raised by adding Kurds, Circassians, and peoples of various races, many of whom possess no trace of Turkish blood, and in some cases are antagonistic to Turkish religion and policy. The Dersim Kurds, for example, differ from the Kurds of the South in their religion, which is not Islamic but a primitive cult, more in sympathy with Eastern Christianity than with Islam. Their relations with the Armenians have been and still are friendly; thousands of Armenians have taken refuge among them from the Turks. Other tribes are proud of the independence they have always maintained. But all these are reckoned as anti-Armenian. Figures so obtained are far from giving a true representation of the facts. And even if Armenians are momentarily in a minority, how many Greeks were left in Athens when the Powers granted them independence? What was the condition of the Bulgarians when a free Bulgaria was created? After centuries of repression the Armenians still preserve their religion, their language, their national character, and their aspirations. Once let their territory be assured to them and there is every reason to believe that they will collect their scattered population into that territory, organise themselves as a nation, and prepare to defend their homes.

Their defences on the side of Turkish Anatolia will be easy if a natural boundary is granted them. The Taurus chain, extending from Cilicia to Erivan and Erzeroum, affords only a few passes, and these can be held by comparatively small numbers against any invading forces. It was the proposal of the late Sir Mark Sykes and M. Georges Picot that the Armenian boundary should be extended as far as to the north of Sivas, so as to include Erzinjan and Trebizond. To exclude Sivas would be regrettable, for almost 90 per cent. of the Armenian population there are agriculturists of the finest type that can be found anywhere. And to the south, if the Powers are prepared to grant Bitlis, Mush, and Erzeroum, it must be remembered that the inclusion of Kharput, bringing with it the line to the Euphrates and Malatia, will give Armenia the Dersim Kurds, who, as I have said, are its old allies and friends. Kharput itself is an Armenian centre. No town has sent so many of its sons abroad—to America and elsewhere—to engage themselves in preparation, industrial and intellectual, for the time when they may be repatriated.

The Prime Minister recently voiced a wise policy on the part of the British Government when he said that, in the case of the Arabs, there would be no undue interference with their ancient traditions, no attempt by new laws and restrictions to control their ancestral customs and desert

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liberties. We ask for treatment such as that which is proposed for the Arabs. Both in the Erivan Government and in Cilicia there are plenty of men competent to serve in any army of occupation and defence. They need training, and, above all, the opportunity of self-realisation in a land freed from Turkish rule. To get that opportunity they need a moderate loan for Cilicia and Armenia, a loan which can be amply guaranteed from the mineral and agricultural resources of the country. Perhaps it is not generally known how rich those resources are naturally. Cilicia has always been regarded as one of the most productive lands on the face of the earth. Upper Armenia is also potentially wealthy. Both have been the sources, even under Turkish rule, of considerable revenue, produced mainly by Armenians. Travellers who know little more of the region than its towns have met with Armenians chiefly as money-changers, bankers, and traders; but outside the towns, and in the great majority of the race, they are industrial and agricultural. They are the workers in copper and iron, the carpenters and builders, the craftsmen of the towns; and in the country they are the peasantry who cultivate the cotton, wheat, and garden produce of Cilicia; and in the uplands, beet and cereals, with cattle and sheep. It is from their industry that the Turkish Government has derived its revenues and the wealth that feeds the *effendis* and *beys* of the capital. At no time has the central Government supported or subsidised the provinces; and if these results have been obtained under a spendthrift and uneconomical administration there can be no doubt that under a stable and honest Government any capital and labour invested in the country will be amply rewarded.

But at the present juncture a nation so decimated and deprived of everything it possessed cannot start life afresh without material help in the way of a loan. Much that has been taken from the Armenians has not gone to the Turkish Treasury, but to individuals. Many Turks are known who a little while ago were of the lowest class, and now are rich from the proceeds of this robbery. The wealth of the Armenians cannot be recovered from the Turkish Government, but it is in the hands of the Turkish people. They have profited by the transaction, and it is a significant fact that during the last few years no voice has been raised in the Parliament at Constantinople to protest against the atrocities and robberies which were well known to have been in progress. The Turks as a nation have not opposed the course of events directed by their Government; they have shared the booty. In justice, they may well bear such taxation or requistions as would provide part at least of the loan, considered in the light of an indemnity to the nation they have misgoverned.

Besides a loan, the Armenians need a sufficient supply of arms and munitions, and they need teachers—military officers and civil administrators—in a number which will diminish as the process continues. I am confident that this is the solution, and no costly one, of the question; and this solution will do more than merely settling the Armenian problem: it will secure the stability of the East. That stability is threatened by the intriguing of the Turks among the naturally peaceful and loyal races, eastwards to India and southwards to Arabia and Egypt; and this will continue until steps are taken to confine the activities of the Turk to the region allotted him. Unrest such as that which has produced the "National Movement" of Mustapha Kemal is fomented by Turkish emissaries, who now have free access everywhere. The creation of a barrier such as would be formed by a continuous non-Turkish territory—not necessarily under one administration, but united in character and sentiment—from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea would do much to safeguard the whole area by blocking the way from the storm-centre. To effect this, no more is needed than that the province of Cilicia should be coterminous with Armenia, leaving no Turkish corridor between the two States.

No one, sir, knows better than myself all that can be urged on behalf of the virtues of the Turk as an individual. Nevertheless, as a governing power, with unchecked authority over races alien in creed and character, Turkish rule has surely been proved disastrous.—I am, etc.,

ADOM TARVERYAN.

TALES OF THE BULGARIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the issue of March 11 of your excellent publication, I read a letter by a Bulgarian gentleman in Sofia, in which he tries to give character sketches of his own race and of other races hateful to the Bulgarians, by appealing to Bulgarian tales. May I claim your indulgence to tell your readers two brief popular tales of the Macedonian folk, which will perhaps show us another side of Bulgarian character?

According to the first, God said to a Bulgarian one day: "Ask of me whatever you wish, and I will do it for you; but I shall do twice as much for your neighbour." The Bulgarian, without hesitation, asked God to put out one of his own eyes. This anecdote was told in 1895 by a Bulgarian Cabinet Minister to Alfred Berl, the well-known French sociologist, who recently stated that Bulgaria preferred to side with Germany, in order to destroy Serbia and Greece, rather than with the Allies, whose victory would have brought much profit to Bulgaria, but even more to Serbia and to Greece.

The second tale runs as follows: "Once a Bulgarian and a Greek entered into partnership. They acquired three lambs. When the time came to divide up, the Bulgarian said: "The first lamb belongs to me by right; the second you will give me because I am your partner and you love me; and the third I take away from you because I am stronger." Those who remember the inordinate appetite of Bulgaria after 1912 will understand the application of this anecdote.—I am, etc.,

N. J. CASSAVETES.

Vice-President, League of Friends of Greece in America.

Boston, U.S., March 27, 1920.

BULGARIA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As the representative of three Bulgarian syndicates engaged in mining, banking, and industry, I have visited England twice since Peace was signed, and have received financial assistance which I did not expect.

By reason of the exchange, the most satisfactory manner of trading for both countries is to obtain sterling in England by exporting from Bulgaria wool, raw hides, ore, minerals, eggs, wheat, carpets, attar of roses, tobacco, etc., to be sold without drawing against their value; and with the sterling so provided Bulgaria will be able to purchase any goods it requires in this country.

Unfortunately, Bulgaria is without an outlet to the open sea, and if Thrace and Dedeagatch are not handed over to her, I suggest that they should be controlled by the Great Powers, or that a mandate should be given to one of them. If this is done Bulgaria will be near a friendly Power whom she can trust, and with whom she desires to be on the most amicable terms. If it is not done, Bulgaria will be forced to carry on her commercial intercourse with the West in the old way, viz., through the Central Powers; which would not be satisfactory either to Bulgaria or to England, France, or America.

If Thrace is ceded to Greece an outlet to the sea will be denied to Bulgaria; and, having regard to the past relations between Greece and Bulgaria, it is not likely that my country will be able to acquire commercial passage through Greek territory, and so Bulgaria will not be able to take advantage of the Ægean port in the same way as would be secured for her by an international régime in Thrace.—I am, etc.,

S. MISHAIKOFF.

London.

A Moscow wireless message states that 300 Russian refugees in Constantinople, suspected of Bolshevism, have been arrested. The remainder are under close supervision.

It is announced by the French postal authorities that correspondence sent on March 31 by the Simplon-Orient express destined for Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey in Europe, and Smyrna, was destroyed by a fire in the mail van, the only correspondence saved being that destined for Croatia and Slovenia.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Mesopotamia: A Risk.

The *Yorkshire Post* recently published an article "The Problem of Mesopotamia," which puts the case against our continued occupation of the country in concise form. In order that our readers may have these arguments before them we reproduce the passage here, but without endorsing the view put forward:—

The tract of country we occupy is a long, narrow strip containing two of the historic rivers of the world and very little else. Its land frontage is at least 1,500 miles of country very difficult of defence, inasmuch as there are no strongly marked features to form a defensible frontier. We are told that much of this frontier is desert, and that Napoleon has said that a desert is the most effective barrier in the world; but times have changed since the great Corsican said this, and our own experience in the late war does not bear out his dictum. The Turks twice crossed the Sinai desert to attack the Suez Canal, and we invaded Palestine with a very large army operating the reverse way across the same waterless desert. Modern inventions have rendered even the most obstinate deserts comparativly easy of subjugation, and were we to garrison Mesopotamia with a few thousand men only, on the strength of Napoleon's saying, it is to be feared that we should speedily repent our temerity. It is impossible to run an Empire in the East, or, indeed, anywhere else, on the cheap.

At the present moment our garrisons in Mesopotamia amount to 10,000 British and 67,000 native troops, and are estimated to cost us about nineteen million sterling annually. Should Bolshevism spread across Asia, and the Russians and the Turks make common cause, which is by no means improbable, we should have to reinforce Mesopotamia strongly at once, and might easily find ourselves with a serious and expensive war upon a large scale on our hands, upon the issue of which the fate of our Eastern Empire might depend. In India we possess the finest natural frontier in the world, and as long as we stand concentrated behind it, and on friendly terms with the warlike races that live just beyond it, we can defy the attacks of the most powerful enemies, but if we wander beyond that natural glacis, and attempt to hold a long, weak, disconnected stretch of territory open to attack from every side, we must either assemble vast forces to hold it or must be led on in search of a scientific frontier to the shores of the Black Sea and the Caspian and the line of the Caucasus.

Is the country prepared for this? It is well known that the safer view, although it may not commend itself to a certain group of statesmen, is the one held by all the clearest thinkers on the General Staff, and it is a happy sign when military opinion, in place of advocating further conquests on a large scale, advocates a consolidation of our strength within safe limits. On the other hand, we cannot, of course, afford to allow any other Power supremacy in the Euphrates Valley or in Persia, in both of which regions we must maintain a foremost and predominating influence, upheld by a Resident securely guarded. But this is a very different thing from permanent military occupation or annexation, or even from mandatory power.

The article concludes:—"From a purely military point of view we shall commit a most serious mistake if we assume responsibility for the defence of this very vulnerable region, a responsibility which, in the event of even temporary failure, may shake our whole Eastern Empire."

On the other hand the Special Correspondent in the Middle East of *The Times*, writing from Teheran on April 10, takes a very different view. He says:—

Concerning the northern frontiers of Mesopotamia, if we leave the scenes of last autumn's operations—Zakho, Amadia, and Akra—alone and have a frontier on the Tigris from Jezireh-ibn-Omar to the confluence of the Greater Zab, then along the Greater Zab and the Rowandaz River to the Persian frontier, soldiers will be satisfied and the military problem will be much simplified. This frontier will be served by a lateral railway running through Nisibin, Mosul, Kirkuk, and Kifrai, and the triangular Kurdish salient into the frontier between the Tigris and the Greater Zab will be of military advantage to Mesopotamia. A mandate in Northern Kurdistan is beyond our strength, and commerce must take its chance for the development of the Zakho oilfields. The rest of Mesopotamia cannot have security unless the outposts of civilisation are pushed to Mosul. Southern Kurdistan, including Suleimanie, must belong to Mesopotamia. It is idle to pacify Persia if a No-man's-land is continued between Persia and Mesopotamia.

But the real key to the Middle Eastern situation is Persia, not Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia will swim; Persia and the Agreement may sink together. A Cossack division under Russian officers is still the strongest military force in Teheran. A mixture of Tsarism, well leavened with Bolshevism, it is determined to keep Russian influence alive against the day when Russia shall find herself again. Every kind of Persian malcontent or extremist, whether reactionary or demagogic, is swept into its net, and Britain is represented as a greedy capitalistic and Imperialistic Power. The days when Russia was a foil to liberal Britain are forgotten, and the spectacle of "Democrats" intriguing with the Cossack against the present Persian Government is unedifying.

The Bolshevists have now swept the boards in Russia, and can probably procure Soviet Governments in Baku and Tiflis. I understand that they are insisting that these Republics should conduct their foreign relations through Moscow. A great Soviet Russia with a single foreign policy directing Central Asia cannot fail to make herself felt in Persia and Afghanistan. Bolshevism in Central Asia, however, cannot be fought by bayonets. The military danger in the Middle East is acute, but the menace can be removed by peace. If Bolshevism proves impracticable in peace conditions, its propaganda will quickly lose force. If the Allies intend making peace, as apparently they do, it is high time they said so without equivocation or beating about the bush with talk of dealing through co-operative societies.

Turkey and Bolshevism.

In the *Daily Telegraph* of April 7 Mr. Perceval Landon has some interesting comments upon the possible fusion of Islam and Bolshevism. He writes:—

No two creeds could be more opposed than those of Islam and Bolshevism, except in two significant particulars—the aptness to shed blood, and the infinite obedience to orders which alike characterise the faith of Mohammed and the propaganda of the North. They are two qualities that make for trouble in such a time as this, when the obedient nature of the Turk has degenerated in political life into mere terrorised submission, and his blood-callousness has permitted him to watch without emotion the continual slaughter of defenceless people in Armenia.

Upon such material Bolshevism can work; she asks for no better. There will be no drawing back for Turkey if once the meshes of the new anarchy are thrown over her. In other settlements the fabric of modern life, law and trade, upon which the prosperity of the Central Empires rested, and must always rest, has helped in an enormous degree in the tasks both of drafting the settlement and of compelling its acceptance. No other life than that of membership of the European comity of nations is possible to Germany, Austria, Hungary, or Bulgaria. But the case is different with the semi-civilisation of the Ottoman territories. We have to look warily at the chances that are offered to them of slipping back into a purely Eastern life—of Eastern standards, Eastern morals, Eastern aims. It may be that this is the best thing that can happen to the Turks. But if this is the case they cannot at the same time retain their footing in Constantinople. Here the kernel of the problem lies. If the Turk is to remain in Constantinople he must accept in a measure which so far has been quite unfamiliar to him the burdens, responsibilities and restrictions which are as much a part of our Western civilisation as its privileges and its material prosperity. Turkey must be ready to take her share in the protection of human life and progress against Bolshevism. If she will not do this, she must be content to retire to her old territory across the Bosphorus, and be reckoned again as a purely Oriental Power. If, in short, she will, for her own sake and for that of the European connection which she values so highly, co-operate with the Allies in stemming the Bolshevik flood, she will have justified those who plead for her retention as one among Western peoples. If she refuses to do so, she will have pronounced her own exclusion from the society her membership of which she has been proud to boast.

Articles to Note.

"Armenia: Some Recent Impressions," by the Rev. Harold Buxton; "The Waziri Object-lesson," by Demetrius C. Boulger; and "The Serbs as Seen in Their National Songs," by M. Edith Durham, in the *Contemporary Review* (April).

"Our Anatolian Policy and the Suppressed Report," by E. N. Bennett, in the *English Review* (April).

"The Serbian and Bulgarian Churches," by the Rev. R. F. Bigg-Wither, M.A., in *The East and the West* (April).

"The Levant Company and its Rivals," by G. F. Abbott; and "Germany, Turkey, and the Armenian Massacres," by J. Ellis Barker, in the *Quarterly Review* (April).

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

I do not wish to prove myself one of those people who "rush in where angels fear to tread," so I carefully refrain from commenting on recent developments in regard to Home Rule—for Ireland, I mean! But I simply cannot refrain from referring to a statement reported by *The Times'* New York correspondent to have been made by De Valera; for it concerns Mesopotamia, and I think I may safely claim to have a better acquaintance with that country than De Valera has. According to the correspondent quoted, De Valera, in the course of one of his speeches, declared that "the English ordered the Irish divisions to Gallipoli and Mesopotamia for the fell purpose of having them exterminated," and went on to say that:—

> "In Mesopotamia, for instance, an official order forbade soldiers to leave their barracks between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., because it was death to move in the heat. In the face of this order, 1,100 Irishmen were marched at noon to a point forty miles distant. There were no Turks there; 400 Irish died on the march. The next morning they were ordered back. Of the 1,100 not one lived to see the post they had left. Yet not a shot had been fired."

It would be interesting to know who supplied Mr. De Valera with these interesting "facts." It would be even more interesting to know how he can have the face to pass such rubbish on to an American—or any other—audience.

***

Now, when I was in Mesopotamia I was not confined to my quarters between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at any time of the year. I used to move about, and pretty actively too, at all hours, except from about noon to two hours later at the hottest part of the season; and so did a good many other Englishmen. Moreover, the American expedition at Niffer, which is in the centre of the plain, carried on work throughout the hot season, and, unless I am mistaken, so did the Germans at Hillah. And all that hardly looks like it being "death to move in the heat." Would Mr. De Valera wish us to believe that Irish soldiers are especially delicate? The Turks and Arabs did not find them so; and I never heard of their wanting their mothers with them to tuck 'em up at night; so, I conclude, they could probably stand what English, Scottish, and Welsh troops could—and did. Again, it seems to me that if any body of troops started a forty-mile march at noon, the worst of the heat must have passed away by the time they had done, say, twenty or twenty-five miles. And—— But why proceed? The next time Mr. De Valera's bile gets the better of him he had better pitch a more plausible story. As it is, it looks as if he was a dead cert for the Ananias Stakes.

***

A cynical chemist, who had been talking about the merits and demerits—chiefly the demerits—of patent medicines, once said to me: "For sheer credulity there is no public to touch the American. I lived in the States some years, and I know what I'm talking about." Be that as it may, it certainly looks as if the American public, or a section of it, was fairly easy to mislead regarding Near Eastern affairs—probably because most Americans take but litte interest in them. Otherwise why should Mr. De Valera go out of his way to tell such silly stories about the Mesopotamian climate? And how came the New York *American* to be spoofed so badly about the non-existent Anglo-Turkish Treaty? It is the more remarkable that it should have allowed its leg to be pulled so badly with regard to a story that was floated, and contradicted, of course, a couple of months ago. But Mr. Hearst's paper does not appear to be very particular what sort of mud it slings at Great Britain!

CORSAIR.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. INDIA: North-West Frontier Operations (Casualties). BRITISH ARMY: 1914 Star (Nurses in Malta). (April 12.)

INDIA: Civil Veterinary Service.—Punjab Legislative Council.—Privilege Leave.—Government Treasuries (Rouble Notes).—Deobund Arabic School.—Border Districts. CEYLON (REFORM OF CONSTITUTION). PALESTINE (DISTURBANCES). TREATIES OF PEACE (AUSTRIA AND BULGARIA) BILL (April 14).

JERUSALEM (DISTURBANCES). CONSTANTINOPLE (OCCUPATION). EGYPT (MILNER REPORT). INDIA: Khalifate Delegation (Sjed Hassan).—Government of Burma Bill.—Temporary Army Nurses (Gratuity). (April 15.)

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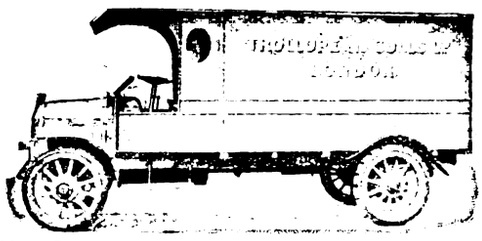

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MUSICAL NOTES.

It would be interesting to know the opinion of Near Eastern readers upon contemporary English music, for, though it would almost certainly be low, it is doubtful whether it would be lower than that of the British people themselves. The English composer is in a most unhappy position, for he is a prophet honoured in no country. To this it may, and by some surely will, be said that he deserves to be unhappy, simply because he is no prophet, and that he is merely an overseer who perhaps knows his business but obviously does not know his art. For such people the correct answer, if they are foreigners, is to show them, and to keep on showing them, the works of such men as Elgar, Bantock, or Delius; and if they then still refuse to believe they must be regarded as as hopeless as the British public. For even in these days one would risk one's last-but-one pair of boots in defending, say, Elgar's first and second Symphonies, Bantock's Hebridean Symphony, and "The Village Romeo and Juliet" of Delius.

These remarks of disillusioned indignation are prompted by the appallingly bad attendance at the Elgar concert at the Queen's Hall on April 12, when the Royal Albert Hall Orchestra, under Mr. Landon Ronald, played the Symphonic Prelude "Polonia," the second Symphony, and the Enigma Variations. Let it be admitted at once that "Polonia" is poor stuff. It was written in aid of the Polish Victims' Relief Fund in 1915, and, like all the occasional stuff that was thought of during, rather than inspired by, the war, it should be consigned to a decent oblivion. But the Second Symphony and the Enigma Variations are as far removed from "Polonia" as Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is from his first. They were well performed under Mr. Ronald, the work of the strings especially being excellent. Mr. Gervase Elwes sang two Arias from the "Dream of Gerontius" and a couple of Elgar's songs, including the noble "The River" (the words of which are taken from an Eastern European folk-song), as he alone can, or, more accurately, as he alone does. From the point of view of the pessimist, who looks inward to guess the future and concentrates on individual happiness, this concert was most enjoyable; but for the optimist it was most disappointing in its failure to attract the multitudes.

During the interval which we now suffer before the return of the Opera to Covent Garden and of the Russian ballet, we have as a partial consolation the return of Pavlova. At Drury Lane Theatre, on April 13, she and her company indulged in some dances that had a definitely Near Eastern interest, for, apart from the fact that her conductor, M. Stier, is a Yugoslav, there were as *divertissements* some Greek dances by Brahms, and the Syrian dance from Saint-Saëns' "Samson and Delilah." The orchestra under M. Stier was never better than fair, and sometimes a good deal worse, but Pavlova's dancing, more especially when she had the stage to herself, was a great joy. In Saint-Saëns' "Le Cygne" she is still, as she was before the war, incomparable, and her spirit and speed in the same composer's Syrian dance were admirable. Her miming in "Amarilla," a ballet in one act, by Glazounov and Drigo, in which an excellent old French tune, "J'ai du bon tabac," has been put to little use, did not grip one at all, and it is doubtful whether she is more than a very great dancer. The most appealing thing of the evening was the simple and utter grace of Brahms' Greek dance, in which nine ladies took part, for both its internal and external forms were unforgettable. The audience were enraptured by their repossession of Pavlova.

Foreign artists are coming in fairly plentiful numbers to this country now, and on April 14, at the Wigmore Hall, we had the "celebrated Spanish violinist," M. Manuel Quiroga, making his first appearance in England. Without question he is a most gifted player, and although he chose the unusual method of leaving us in the dark when he played, he certainly did not leave us in the dark in regard to his genius. The first thing he played—Tartini's "Devil's Trill"—can be treated in more or less any way you like: there can be no orthodox way of treating it. Unlimited scope was therefore afforded to his individuality, and a performance with more mastery over technique and a richer tone I do not remember having heard. His playing of Bazzini's "La Ronde des Lutins," and the "Danza Española" of Granados was equally exhilarating. But his wanton methods, however free and masterly, made one feel very uncomfortable in Mozart's "Concerto in D," for he bent the rhythms beyond recognition, and the fragility of eighteenth century forms was taken advantage of in unwarrantable fashion. M. Quiroga is a most interesting player, but there are rules in the playing, if not in the composition, of music, that cannot be broken. However, in spite of all his transgressions, his playing of Tartini put him incontestably in the list of forgiven geniuses.

The violin recital of Miss Margaret Fairless, at the Wigmore Hall, on April 15, was particularly interesting for its introduction of J. R. Heath's "Three Macedonian Sketches, for Violin and Pianoforte." These sketches consist of three pictures, "Salonika in the Sun," "An Old Shepherd at Sundown," and "Vodena Market," and they are all very pleasing indeed, being infused, but not overwhelmed, with local colour. The chattering bustle of "Vodena Market" is especially invigorating, but the three pieces alike were played with admirable spirit and verve by Miss Fairless. The same splendid sense of rhythm was shown in Bach's Adagio and Fugue in C Major (unaccompanied), and in Chausson's "Poeme," and compensated for a slight incompleteness of technique. Miss Fairless has not yet finished learning, but she is already a quite accomplished and sincere artist.

Mrs. Ursula Greville's last song recital for this season took place at the Æolian Hall on April 15. I have already commented in these columns upon her achievements and possibilities, and about her last recital, in which she was a good deal below her best form, there is little to be said. I still adhere to the opinion that her future does not lie in operatic singing (although unfortunately I was unable to be present at her first appearance at Covent Garden recently in "The Magic Flute"). She sings lyrics and songs of the folk-song nature extremely well, with truth and colour and naturalness. Her musical understanding is vast, but the pursuit of operatic technique would be a barren one for her. If she remains on the concert platform, her future is as certain as it is deserved.

I am obliged to hold over until next week an account of the Bach Festival, which was carried on from April 16 to April 20.

ANDANTE.

A HINDOO FOLK-STORY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It is not often that my instincts direct my steps to a meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and when they do I do not expect to listen to a Hindoo folk-story; I rather anticipate coming away with my head aching with all the learned talk about architraves, pylons, *voussoirs*, and other mysteries, strange-sounding to the inexpert layman. It was all the more delightful accordingly when on the occasion of his distributing the prizes to students recently, the President (Mr. John W. Simpson) told the following story. Some readers may be familiar with it; I hope they will pardon its appearance for the sake of those to whom it is strange:—

"In the beginning, when Twashtri came to the creation of woman, he found that he had exhausted his materials in the making of man, and that no solid elements were left. In this dilemma, after profound meditation, he did as follows: he took the rotundity of the moon, and the curves of creepers, and the clinging of tendrils, and the trembling of grass, and the slenderness of the reed, and the bloom of flowers, and the lightness of leaves, and the tapering of the elephant's trunk, and the glances of deer, and the clustering of rows of bees, and the joyous gaiety of sunbeams, and the weeping of clouds, and the fickleness of the winds, and the timidity of the hare, and the vanity of the peacock, and the softness of the parrot's bosom, and the hardness of adamant, and the sweetness of honey, and the cruelty of the tiger, and the warm glow of fire, and the coldness of snow, and the chattering of jays, and the cooing of doves; and compounding all these together he made woman, and gave her to man."

That was as much as the President told in his first address, and he made it seem apposite to the occasion by making comparison between the art of architecture and woman; but afterwards, when a vote of thanks had emboldened him, he referred to the subject again. The audience, he said, might have noticed in the above short catalogue of qualities a rather remarkable omission In the list of elements that went to the compounding of woman there was no reference to intelligent inquiry, or, as it was vulgarly called, curiosity. He did not think the Hindoo poet had left this out by inadvertence, but designedly, because the quality was common to both sexes. He went on to complete the story somewhat as follows:—Twashtri completed his work and handed it over to Man, who took it away, but in a week came back and said, "Lord, this creature that you have given me makes my life miserable. She chatters incessantly and teases me beyond endurance, never leaving me alone. She requires incessant attention and takes up all my time. She cries about nothing, and is always idle. I have come to give her back to you again." Twashtri said: "Very well," and took her back. But after another week Man came again to him and said: "Lord, I find life very lonely since I gave you back that creature. I remember now she used to dance and sing with me, look at me out of the corner of her eye, and play with me. Her laughter was music, she was beautiful to look upon and soft to the touch; pray give her back to me again." Twashtri gave Woman again to Man, but after only three days this time back came Man saying: "Lord, I know not how it is, but after all I have come to the conclusion that she is more of a trouble than a blessing; so please take her back." But Twashtri replied: "Out on you. Be off. I will have no more of this. You must manage how you can." Then Man said: "I cannot live with her." Twashtri replied: "Neither can you live without her;" and he turned his back on Man and went on with his work, while Man lamented: "What is to be done, for I can live neither with her nor without her?"

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE QUESTION OF THRACE, GREEKS, BULGARS AND TURKS." By J. Saxon Mills, M.A. and Matthew G. Chrussachi, B.A. (London: Edward Stanford, Ltd. 2s. 6d.)

II.—"MRS. WARREN'S DAUGHTER." By Sir Harry Johnston. (London: Chatto and Windus. 7s. 6d. net.)

I.—SETTLEMENT BY MAP.

"Oh . . . that mine adversary had written a book." But if Job had belonged to the Balkans he would have been still more pleased if his enemy had published a map or a series of maps. This is what Dr. Rizoff, Bulgarian Minister at Berlin during the war, did in 1917, and he cannot, and probably does not, grumble at the Greeks seizing upon the publication to substantiate their claims to Thrace. Dr. Rizoff, it so happens, propounded a good many other theories with his maps; he was concerned to assert Bulgarian claims against Serbia in the Morava and Timok Valleys, and against Roumania in the Dobruja; and he was careful not to hurt Greek susceptibilities in regard to Thrace; for Greece at the time of the compilation of the book had not declared war, although she took this step before the volume saw the light of day. At the time Dr. Rizoff was roundly denounced by a German savant for his inaccuracy and *parti pris*, and the wordy duel between the two provided the only comic element in German-Bulgarian relations. But *littera scripta* and the drawn maps remain, and a number of the latter have been reproduced in pamphlet form by Mr. J. Saxon Mills and Mr. M. G. Chrussachi, with annotations and an ethnological summary to prove "the preponderantly Hellenic character of Thrace."

The authors have done their work very well. Everyone with the most superficial knowledge of the Balkans recognises the value of hearing the other side, and he will be glad of the opportunity of comparing the Greek and the Bulgarian case. The latter was presented to the Paris Conference in a series of memoranda. Those most germane to the question of Thrace were entitled "Note on Western Thrace" and "The Ethnic Character of Western Thrace according to Greek Official Testimonies." From the latter it would appear that the other adversary had also written a book. In this particular memorandum we read:—

From these official testimonies which we offer, it appears that until a few years ago the Greeks themselves admitted the Greek population in Western Thrace to be an insignificant minority, surrounded by Bulgarians. They acknowledge in these documents that the greater part of their schools had been opened in purely Bulgarian villages with the object of Hellenising their inhabitants.

And the memorandum ends on this triumphant note:—

In other words, the Greek statistics themselves establish that the Bulgarian population in Western Thrace is appreciably more numerous than the Greek population.

For the benefit of the uninitiated it may be pointed out that national statistics in the Balkans is a game of chess with all the pieces of one colour and of the same shape, whose individual identity as queens, pawns, etc., depends on the physical capacity of the player at the moment to establish his particular contention regarding them.

In these circumstances the average Westerner is tempted to leave the dead past to bury its dead. He wants peace in the Balkans. If the Greeks are given Thrace their claim will be substantiated or invalidated by what happens in the future and not by ancient maps. But it does not detract from the admiration in which Greece is rightly held to urge that a narrow strip of sea coast is of little use without the hinterland, while permanent peace, goodwill, and economic co-operation between the different States of the Balkan Peninsula are worth more than the acquisition of many square miles of territory.

II.—RECOMMENCING FROM THE END.

A year or so ago Sir Harry Johnston, whom until then we all had regarded as a traveller and geographer, especially as an authority on Africa, rather startled us by producing a novel called "The Gay Dombeys." That novel was a continuation of one of Dickens' novels, and the experiment was looked upon as a joke. But it is more than that when he founds a novel upon one of Mr. Bernard Shaw's "Unpleasant" plays—"Mrs. Warren's Profession." As all readers of the most popular of living British dramatists will remember, the story of Mrs. Warren and of her daughter Vivie was left with them both living, but it was for all interesting purposes finished. Sir Harry, however, does not think so, and he takes up the tale where (though not as) Mr. Shaw left it.

We are shown Vivie Warren at the beginning of this novel in partnership with another girl; these two are engaged in a business which is designed to prove that women are just as capable in affairs as men. In order to prove this fact more clearly Vivie lives for a time as a man and enters the Bar. Owing to a passionate hatred of most men, derived from the unfortunate circumstances of her birth, she becomes one of the leaders of the Votes for Women crusade, and the recent history of the Suffragette campaign is recounted by the author with a knowledge and feeling that for all purposes but that of literature are admirably effective. Vivie continues her strange existence until the European war, which she passes through at Brussels. After the Armistice she again meets the man, whom when a husband, she had always loved and whom as a widower (his wife being conveniently killed by a German bomb in Portland Place) she now marries. More or less at this point (about the 400th page) Sir Harry leaves the story, but, as he says, there is no earthly reason why the story should stop here: and he generously adds that he would not mind in the least were some other author to take up the story where he has left it.

For ourselves, we fervently hope that no one will add to the history of Vivie Warren and her circle. Sir Harry's task must have caused him an immense amount of fun, for it is full of cleverness, which, though rather condemnable than commendable, never flags; but when we close his book on Vivie's career it is with a sense of weariness that no more cleverness could assuage. We admit that there is no argument against the continuation of one man's story by another; all that can be said is that the results are not satisfactory.

In this puzzled age of frankness we have no doubt that the "outspoken" comments in "Mrs. Warren's Daughter" upon such "burning" questions as Femininism, Militarism, Social Morality, and so on, will be read by everybody; the book will, in fact, become a fashion. To be literature, however it has no right to claim; and we suspect that its life will be as long as the memories of those who read it from any motive other than duty.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Kassayid of Said Ibn Armili." (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co. 4s. 6d. net.)

"The Fringe of the Desert." By R. S. Macnamara. (London: Herbert Jenkins, Ltd. 2s. net.)

"Life of Lord Kitchener." By Sir George Arthur. (London: Macmillan and Co. £2 12s. 6d. net. 3 vols.)

"By Nile and Tigris." By Sir E. A. Wallis Budge, Kt., M.A., Litt.D. 2 volumes. With illustrations. (London: John Murray, £3 3s. net.)

"Stevenson's Germany." By C. Brunsdon Fletcher. (London: Heinemann. 12s. net.)

"The Initiate: Some Impressions of a Great Soul." By His Pupil. (London: G. Routledge and Sons. 7s. net.)

We have received from His Majesty's Stationery Office a copy (price 4s. net) of the agreement between the United Kingdom and Belgium respecting boundaries in East Africa (Mount Sabinio to the Congo-Nile Watershed). The maps illustrating this treaty are excellent.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

New publications not having a special Near Eastern interest are referred to in "The Week at Home."

A PRISONER IN TURKEY

By JOHN STILL,
Author of "Poems in Captivity."

The author of this remarkable book was largely instrumental in conveying to the British Government, by messages, in an ingenious code of his own invention, sent at considerable personal risk, very valuable information regarding the treatment of British prisoners in Turkey. In this book, which is an account of over three years' imprisonment in Turkish hands, at Constantinople and at Afion Kara Hissar, Mr. Still gives a very forceful and vivid account of the trials, sufferings and dangers through which he and his fellow prisoners passed.

7s. 6d. net.

JOHN LANE, THE BODLEY HEAD, VIGO ST., W.1.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. April.	1920. April		1338. Shaban.	5680. Iyar.
22	9	Thursday	3	4
23	10	Friday	4	5
24	11	Saturday.....	5	6
25	12	Sunday	6	7
26	13	Monday	7	8
27	14	Tuesday	8	9
28	15	Wednesday	9	10

M. Clemenceau left Alexandria for Marseilles on April 16.

Lord Inchcape arrived at 4, Seamore Place, on April 18 from the Continent.

The Maharaja of Alwar will arrive in London early next month from India.

Lotfallah Bey, the Syrian representative in Europe, arrived in London on April 18 from Paris.

Lord Oranmore and Browne has arrived at 12, Cavendish Place from Castle Macgarrett, Co. Mayo.

Mgr. Cherubini, the new Papal Nuncio to Belgrade, was received on April 6 by the Prince Regent.

The Minister for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes arrived in London on April 13 from Paris.

The British Government has officially recognised the Sultan's infant son, Faruk, as heir to the Sultanate of Egypt.

The Indian Caliphate Delegation has left London for Paris and Rome to place its case before the Ministers and peoples of the French and Italian nations.

The Earl of Lytton, accompanied by Mr. Savile, Mr. Grahame, and Viscount Knebworth, has left London for Malta, and will be away about three weeks.

Sir George Grierson and Professor W. M. Lindsay have been appointed Fellows in the historical and philosophical class of the Royal Danish Society of Science.

The marriage will take place on April 29 at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, at 2.15, of Sir Edward Boyle to Miss Beatrice Greig, sister of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

The Crown Prince of Roumania was due to arrive in Bombay from Ceylon on April 20. He is expected to visit Agra on the 24th inst., and Delhi on the 26th. Simla he should reach on the 30th.

A second deputation, consisting of Hindu and Moslem leaders, representative members of councils, is shortly sailing for England to discuss the Khalifate question.

General Booth arrived on April 16 at Colombo, and was accorded an official welcome on the quay by the Governor's A.D.C. and the Mayor of Colombo. He left for Australia and New Zealand on April 19.

Among the appointments sanctioned by the King to the Order of the Hospital of St. John in Jerusalem in England appears, as a Knight of Grace, Lieut.-General Sir G. F. Milne, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O.

Lady Leconfield and Miss Dorothy Rawson have returned to England from Algeria. Lord and Lady Leconfield and Miss Rawson will shortly be in residence at 9, Chesterfield Gardens, which was lent during the war as the American Officers' Club.

Sir Lancelot Sanderson, Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, has come to England on leave, and Sir Ashutosh Mukerjee has been appointed to officiate for him. He is the third Indian to fill the acting position, and there have been similar cases of acting appointment in the Madras and Bombay High Courts.

The following Indian representatives have been appointed to the Advisory Committee to discuss arrangements for the tour of the Prince of Wales to India: The Maharaja of Gwalior (Hindu), the Maharaja of Bikanir (Hindu), the Maharaja of Patiala (Sikh), Mr. Banerji (Brahmin), Sir Unar Hyat (Moslem), Sir Densha Waeha (Parsee).

The King's Indian Orderly Officers for this year, Risaldar-Major Sukhdyal Singh, 12th Cavalry; Risaldar-Major Balwant Singh, 27th Light Cavalry; Subadar-Major Padan Singh Rewat, 4/39th Garhwal Rifles; and Subadar Tilok Singh Sauntiyal, 2/39th Garhwal Rifles, are due to arrive at 49, St. George's Road, Pimlico, S.W.1, on April 20. The British officer in charge will be Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. McConaghy, D.S.O., 25th Cavalry.

The following form the executive committee of the Christ Church, Constantinople, War Memorial:—Mr. A. T. Waugh, C.M.G. (chairman), Lieut.-Commander F. H. Ruxton, R.N.V.R. (hon. secretary), Major J. C. Thomson, R.M. (hon. treasurer), Rev. R. F. Borough. Rev. J. L. Findlay, D.S.O., S.C.F., Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Graves, C.M.G., Mr. H. P. Kerney, Rev. R. J. P. Peyton-Burberry, R.N., Mr. A. Silley, Lieut. C. Tucker, R.N.V.R., Lieut. G. M. Vernon, R.N.V.R. (assist. secretary), Vinicombe Pasha, Mr. F. Douglas Watson (assist. treasurer), and the Rev. Canon F. C. Whitehouse. Particulars of this fund were given in THE NEAR EAST of April 15.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Captain Panas has been appointed Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation.

M. Bogoljub D. Jevtitch, Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has been appointed Secretary to the Foreign Office at Belgrade.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Charles Gordon Hill Fawcett, I.C.S., to be a Puisne Judge of the Bombay High Court in succession to Sir John Heaton, I.C.S., who is retiring from the Bench this month.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Shadi Lal, barrister-at-law, Puisne Judge of the High Court at Lahore, to be Chief Justice of the Court, in succession to the late Sir Henry Rattigan.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred at Cape Town on April 13 of Major Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams, who was High Commissioner for Cyprus from 1911 to 1914.

Mr. Francis Herman Lucas, C.B., C.V.O., Financial Secretary at the India Office, died on April 13 from typhoid fever, at his house in Oakley Street, Chelsea. Mr. Lucas was appointed a junior clerk in the Financial Department of the India Office in 1901. He had served as assistant private secretary to several Secretaries of State for India, and as principal private secretary to Viscount Morley, the Marquess of Crewe, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain during their tenure at the India Office. Mr. Lucas, who was appointed Secretary in the Financial Department in 1917, was given the C.B. in 1911 and the C.V.O. in 1917.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

MINING ENGINEER, M.I.M.M., open to any proposal. Can interest capital. Knowledge interests in Near East. Box No. 156, NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

EX-OFFICER, 22, Public School, University, service Egypt, Palestine, desires suitable Employment Near East.—Apply, Box No 162, "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, E.C 2.

DEMOBILISED Officer, 4½ years' overseas service, Major Administrative Staff, educated public school and university, age 35, possessing tact, administrative and organising abilities, urgently desires Appointment in any capacity; willing to go abroad, preferably Near East.—Box No. 161, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

WIDOW of Professional Man, with boy (5), would like Charge another Child; or other Position of Trust. Would go abroad. No salary.—Box No. 160, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C 2.

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THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(From Our Social Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 26.

An Investiture.

A very interesting ceremony took place at the Residency on Saturday afternoon, when the High Commissioner held an investiture. The ceremony took place in the gardens on the Nile bank, and, in addition to the recipients, there was quite a little gathering of relatives and friends. Lord Allenby addressed the assembly, and after reading out the letters patent, proceeded to hand the insignia to the recipients in the last Honours List. A picturesque touch was given to the proceedings by the presence of several Egyptians amongst those receiving the insignia. Lord and Lady Allenby, after the purely formal part of the ceremony, moved about among their guests, whom they afterwards entertained to tea. Lord and Lady Furness, Lady Drogheda, and Lady Sarah Wilson, who are making a yachting trip, have been the guests of Lord and Lady Allenby, whom they accompanied to the Gezira Races.

Prince Carol of Roumania.

The Crown Prince of Roumania had a busy time on his return from Upper Egypt. Among other enjoyments, he had an audience with the Sultan, reviewed the Egyptian Army at Abbassia, paid a long visit to the Muski, where he attracted large crowds of natives, and went several times to the opera. He then made a trip to Ismailia, where he was the guest of the Count de Serionne, and where he spent two days. After that he proceeded by canal to Port Said, where he embarked on the P. and O. for India and the Far East.

Two Pleasing Functions.

Another successful fancy dress ball was given at Mena House, which was very artistically decorated for the occasion. A large number of people motored out from Cairo—in fact, there was an endless stream of cars along the Pyramid Avenue both before and after the dance—and the resources of the dining-room were taxed to their utmost. The costumes were really very beautiful, and many of them strikingly original. Among those who have been staying at this hotel have been the Hon. John Collier and Mrs. Collier, Sir Valentine Chirol, Judge Marshall, General and Mrs. Morris, and Colonel Arkwright.

Judge and Mrs. Crabites gave a most enjoyable "at home" the other day at the Continental, where one of the reception rooms was reserved for the occasion, and everything was done in excellent style. Amongst the many friends who looked in during the afternoon were Lady Harvey, Lady Congreve, Sir Murdoch and Lady MacDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Farnall, Lady Palmer, Sir William and Lady Brunyate, Lady Stradbroke, and most of the Mixed Bench, of which Judge Crabites is a distinguished member.

Agricultural Show.

An excellent agricultural show was held in the Ezbekia Gardens on Friday, and attracted a large number of visitors, including the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby. The exhibits were very numerous and really good; the vegetables and fruits were specially fine, some of them being of enormous size, whilst the flower exhibit was exceedingly beautiful. An interesting side-show was the exhibit of insect pests common in this country and harmful to agriculture in general, whilst a hive of bees showing the various cells for the drones, the workers, and the queens attracted much attention.

A manifesto has been issued by anti-Venizelists and supporters of ex-King Constantine, asserting that the present Parliament is not constitutional, and asking for fresh elections.

The new Bulgarian Chamber opened on April 16. M. Stambuliski, the Premier, takes the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, M. Daskaloff that of Finance, and M. Athanasoff those of Commerce and Labour, in place of the three Agrarian members who have resigned.

PROPERTY FOR SALE.

IN COUNTY OF KENT.—FREEHOLD, £12,000.—A gentleman's well-planned MODERN RESIDENCE, containing 6 bedrooms, with excellent offices and outbuildings, including garage, stabling, and three cottages, all in good repair; tennis lawn, rock garden, etc., and 22 acres of young fruit plantations, highly cultivated and in profitable bearing condition. The house is so arranged as to admit of its being added to at comparatively small expense. Situation—300 feet above sea level, on a slope facing due South. Perfect natural drainage, the soil being of a loamy character overlying the ragstone formation; 2½-3 miles from two railway stations, 3 from golf links, and 30 from London. Close to Church, Post Office, and Auto-Car Service. The district is particularly favourable for fruit growing, and opportunities but seldom occur for acquiring a property of such exceptional character.—Write Box "Z," THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added),"

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THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1920.

THE STATES OF INDIA.

The public have been told so much during the last few years of the momentous changes in the constitution of British India that even careful students may be led to think that these changes apply immediately and directly to the India which they see in maps, and to overlook the extensive areas which in such matters depend neither on Delhi nor on Westminster, but take their orders from rulers of their own. Yet these States make up in the aggregate no small portion of India: they cover two-fifths of the map, and comprise nearly a quarter of the population. Scattered as they are over the whole country, they include representatives of all the various sections of the Indian people; and while their thoughts and feelings commonly receive but scanty notice in the Press, they can never be left out of account by anyone who wishes seriously to know what India means. Let us see then what these States stand for in the world to-day. At first sight they suggest only infinite variety. Far to the south there is Mysore, representing in some sort the old Hindu polity, but now claiming to lead the way in many forms of modern culture. Near to it lies the premier State of Hyderabad, a relic of the northern Moslem power, at one time ranking with Delhi and Lucknow as a centre of all wickedness and intrigue, but to-day characterised more appropriately by sound and sagacious statesmanship. Further north we come to the Maratha powers, the fruit of almost the last great political upheaval which India has experienced—Baroda, known for eager experiments in education and in social betterment; Gwalior, marked by far-reaching schemes of economic development, pushed with a vigour which might put British councillors to shame; and Indore, less conspicuous at the moment, but enjoying a well-deserved reputation as a pioneer of administrative efficiency. Flanking these newcomers, as they may almost be called, we have in Rajputana some of the oldest political entities in India. It is a stark land, hard to win and harder to keep, poor in this world's goods but rich in men, and character rather than intellect is its contribution to the common stock. Northward again we have the Sikh States, outstanding representatives of military valour, and beyond them we reach at last the limits of the Empire in the mountain territory of Kashmir. Such are the leading States, and there are many others of less individual importance, but full of interest and variety to the observer who is fortunate enough to see them at close range. Could diversity, it may be asked, be carried further?

At the same time there is a fundamental unity which brings together Hindus and Moslems, Sikhs and Marathas, and justifies us in speaking of the States of India as a whole. They still stand for that idea of personal rule which is the very essence of the ancient Indian polity. The inspiration may derive from ruler or from Minister, but in any case it comes wholly from above. The tie subsisting between rulers and subjects may even now be compared with the tie which was familiar in the days of Akbar, and whatever the ruler's responsibility may be, responsibility to his subjects cannot yet be said to exist. A broad distinction has thus grown up between the States and the provinces under British administration. The middle classes, the outstanding products of our rule, have indeed come into being in States and provinces alike, but in the States they are at once less vocal and less influential: the voice of criticism is as yet little heard in public; the Press has developed less rapidly, and, where it has found a footing, is more sedate and less self-confident; the power of executive authority is greater, and it is probably the case that in these latter days the wheels of the administration run more smoothly. It is no part of our present purpose to determine whether in these matters the subjects of the States are at an advantage or a disadvantage; the question is one on which opinions differ widely, and we are content to insist on the distinction without attempting to evaluate it in terms of human happiness. As regards its origin, however, there is something which should be clearly realised at the present time: the States are more Indian than the provinces for the sufficient reason that the change in India is due to ideas which Britain has brought into the country, and it is inevitable that the effect of these should be most marked in the areas directly under British rule.

Two ideas in particular are worthy of attention from this standpoint. One of them is that which is known familiarly as the Rule of Law, the establishment of which has been Britain's most conspicuous achievement. There was nothing like it in India before the English came. An order was given, and it was carried out; if it was revoked the next day, there was room for neither objection nor surprise, for neither rulers nor subjects had taken the momentous step which transforms orders into laws. That step has been taken in the British provinces. The transformation is not indeed altogether complete, but it may now be taken as assured, and many of the more progressive States are following the lead which has been given, and gradually eliminating individual caprice from the forces directing the administration. The second formative idea is the subjection of rulers to their subjects, an idea which on the moral plane has for long governed the activities of administrators in the British provinces, and which has now received definite recognition in the constitutional sphere. It is unthinkable that India, left to herself, would have evolved a principle so diametrically opposed to the whole current of her history during a dozen centuries or more, and if Indians now welcome the prospect of responsible government, it is because for generations past British officers have been responsible in the forum of conscience, though not of law, to the masses of the people among whom they have held sway. How far this idea has penetrated the States is a question on which dogmatism would be out of place; the example we have set has not been without result, and its influence can be easily recognised, but at the same time the persistence of the older theory should not be underestimated, and the only conclusion which can safely be drawn is that, while substantial progress has been made, the responsibility of rulers is not yet a universally accepted principle in the States as it is in British India. We do not suggest that the States, or their rulers, are to be blamed for tardiness in accepting an idea so foreign to their past. Such changes require time, and at the present juncture their obvious part is not to pioneer, but to test, and weigh, and criticise. Nor would it be easy to overrate the importance of these functions. In the British provinces the educated classes are excited, we had almost said intoxicated, by the formal promulgation of the principle which we introduced, but which they have made their own. The States are not excited, though they are moved; they can take up an independent standpoint, and can weigh the new against the old; they can imitate, and they can improve our original designs; and we do not doubt that, as time goes on, they will contribute much of permanent value to the edifice we have in hand—a new India where the people rule by law. The administrator's dream of uniformity is not likely to be realised throughout the country; institutions and methods are bound to vary, but there are good grounds for expecting the gradual acceptance of the principles we have set up, and the establishment of a new unity not less widespread, and far more beneficial, than that which has passed away.

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THE DRIFTING OF CENTRAL ASIA

By Ikbal Ali Shah.

Ameer Shair Ali having lost the battle against his nephew at Kelat-i-Ghilzai was biding the time in the citadel of Herat. "God being on my side," wrote Abdur Rahman, "Shair Ali was again defeated, and my forces occupied Kandahar in the autumn of 1867." His uncle had a feeling that Abdur Rahman had invoked more than the Divine assistance, and that the British Government also had helped him in his military achievements. Shair Ali did not disguise his feelings, and bitterly complained that a foreign Power should interfere in Afghan matters. While smarting under the defeat at Herat he is known to have said that "these affairs of Kabul and Bokhara, *Inshaullah*, will yet be the cause of breaking the Feringhi's back." His assumption was not correct, for such assistance was neither requested nor given, but the statement showed which way the wind was blowing on the troublous sea of Afghan politics of that time. The idea embodied in Shair Ali's words was generally entertained by the majority of the Afghans, excepting those immediately under the shadow of Kabul.

Over fifty years have elapsed since then, and Central Asia has passed through many political ups and downs, but all the changes have not altered the nature of what Shair Ali had said. The Middle East, always a region of surprises, might well upset the British political equilibrium if this country, in face of the present grave Asiatic menace, should elect to follow a policy of masterly inactivity. Events of the last three years have proved—if proof were needed—that to let Central Asia severely alone, or, worse still, to make half-hearted attempts to solve Mid-Eastern problems, must reflect disadvantageously on the whole Bokhariot and Afghan questions. To treat of the Afghans' love of their free existence would be to emphasise the obvious, and with the Bolshevist shadows already beginning to extend beyond the Safaid Koh, the Afghans and the British cannot maintain an attitude of indifference.

Whatever the causes which led to the friction, the results of the last Afghan war are the imposition of a great strain on British diplomacy in the East. Habib Ullah Khan, the late Ameer, was a very staunch ally of the British Government and no less a friend to his countrymen; Bolshevist propagandists could make no headway in his dominions; but his fall opened up an avenue for Russian enterprise. Had domestic jealousies and Court rivalries alone been responsible for Habib Ullah's murder we should have had a tale, old in the Orient, of promiscuous fratricide; but Kabul passed to the third claimant to the throne without much difficulty. Deeper policy underlay the assassination of the late Ameer and the motive power, in all probability, came from across the Oxus.

Old Russia was falling back everywhere; the Khanates had been liberated; "Red" forces had triumphantly entered Tashkent; at Yalatan the first Trans-Caspian Railway Battalion and the First Caucasian Rifle Battalion had been driven out; and at Kashkinski Post, where only twenty years before, Kuropatkin had hoisted the Imperial standard, the Soviet flag was now fluttering. Nor was this all, for the invaders had brought up, and held in reserve, a large stock of spare rails and railway plant to lay 70 versts of light military railway. At the time, this avalanche impressed the Afghans, and caused not a little stir in official circles in Kabul. But it was not in the Russians' programme to force Afghanistan on their way to India: they preferred more peaceful means just then. Peace between Afghanistan and Britain had been signed at Rawalpindi on August 8, and the third clause, which spoke of the subsidy, had been particularly significant, for it abolished all British control over the Afghan foreign dealings.

Whatever view be taken of British policy in continuing the subsidy to the Afghans before the war, it is certain that the money sent by the Indian Government to Kabul, although received with many thanks, was always regarded by thinking Afghans as undesirable wealth. "The British," Ameer Abdur Ramhan once observed, "do not give this money for nothing," and therein he said much. The Afghans did not like to accept the money, for they thought that a check had been imposed on their affairs and a price placed upon their freedom.

The acceptance of the subsidy was, therefore, unpopular, and when the Afghans learned that by the third article of the Anglo-Afghan Treaty "the arrears of the late Ameer's subsidy are furthermore confiscated, and also no such subsidy is to be granted to the present Ameer," they did not regard this as a penalty. They did not like the idea that the British Government paid these subsidies to the Ameer personally, not to the nation; and this feeling of self-assertion, though it be of only recent growth amongst the Afghans, has none the less influenced the issue very considerably. From the Afghan's point of view, he was subjected to an involuntary humiliation, and he welcomed the stopping of the subsidy. The British Government, for its part, should have no cause to be dissatisfied with the new arrangement, for a nation which would remain friendly only as long as it is bribed is unworthy of friendship. As it is with individuals, so also with the State: friendship to have any prospect of durability must be disinterested, or at least based on common interests.

As soon as the Afghan delegates had reached Kabul, the representatives of the Soviet Government in Tashkent sought the opportunity of opening negotiations with Afghanistan. Very soon M. Bravin arrived at Kabul with an escort of 70 men. This M. Bravin will be remembered as Nicholas Sakharovitch Bravin, who had been an official in the Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs since 1904, and had at one time acted as Vice-Consul in Seistan. A *rapprochement* with the Soviet Republic seemed to the Afghans very desirable, and in due course an Afghan mission reached Moscow, and was received by the Bolshevists with considerable pomp. What was actually the theme of discussion in Russia at the time is as yet unknown; but the Afghan advance to Merv and the capture of that place is certainly a point over which Bolshevist permission and aid were sought. Barriers were now removed from the path, and Bolshevist friendship in time became an established fact.

It was beginning to dawn upon the Afghans, that unless they took steps to meet the danger it would not be long before they might experience results of a blockade on the Indian side. It appears that the various steps which they have taken since signing the last Peace Treaty with this country, to improve the people and establish foreign relations, are the only means of maintaining their national solidarity. The best explanation of the Afghan response to the Bravin mission, lies in their need of economic expansion. For, however small the Central Asian import and export trade, it must be carried on, and with the Indian door closed to them, they have evidently created an outlet in the region of the Caspian Sea. Human demands must be satisfied.

Before discussing why the Bolshevists won the sympathy and armed assistance of the Khanates and Afghanistan, let us first notice what was the condition of affairs in those countries. It is that situation which alone is responsible for the success of Bolshevism in the Middle-East. Tsarist Russia was detested throughout Central Asia, and as soon as the strong grip of the military occupation was relaxed, the Khans of Kiva and Bokhara declared themselves independent. The Kerghiz and the Turkomans did not know who was their ruler; Turkestan and Transcaspian provinces were left at the mercy of whosoever was the stronger party. But, although the Central Asian States had shaken off the old Russian yoke, they were not fit to offer any strong opposition to a regular invading army, their military strength having sunk considerably: and they could not by any stretch of imagination be called an active fighting race.

In Afghanistan matters on the borderland had produced strained relations with India, and it was made clear that from the British side, they should expect very little now; they were, to all intents and purposes blockaded on their Eastern borders. Cries for help against the British were raised on the North-West Frontier Province of India by the Borderland tribes; and last of all, the fall of Turkey had convulsed the Moslem

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world. Constantinople, however distant, was the Turanian centre; also the Khalifa resided there, making it the seat of Islam; and the Pan-Turanian and Pan-Islamic movements having fused together, began to reflect on the destinies of the Moslems all over the world. This was more actutely felt in Central Asia than elsewhere, for local conditions conspired to throw remote incidents into great prominence.

(To be continued.)

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM.

The above Museum has recently made some important acquisitions to its collection. Among those of special interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST are the following:—A terracotta head of a man, given by Sir Charles Marling, K.C.M.G. This is of Persian origin, and dates, perhaps, from the 12th century. A Persian (Feroghan) rug in woollen pile, of 18th or 19th century date, part of the bequest made by the late Mr. B. H. Webb; a number of tapestry-weavings (medallions, squares, and bands from tunics) found in burying-grounds in Egypt, and presented by Sir Charles and Lady Walston; they range in date from the 3rd to the 8th century; and two embroidered valances from the Greek Islands, selected from a large collection given by Mr. A. J. B. Wace, "as thank-offering for the victorious peace": the rest of Mr. Wace's gift is exhibited in Room 119 on the first floor. A specially important gift from the Near East is the deep hanging richly embroidered with coloured silks on linen, presented by Mrs. Lister; it is Cretan work, probably of the 18th century.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

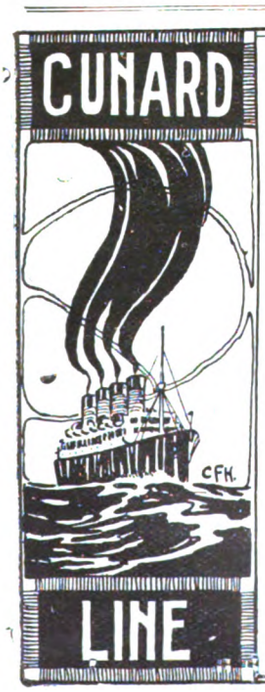
A meeting of the Balkan Committee was held on April 13. Mr. Noel Buxton was in the chair, and among those present were—Sir Edward Boyle, Sir George Greenwood, Lady Boyle, Mr. C. R. Buxton, and Miss Edith Durham. The question of Thrace was discussed, and the following resolution carried:—"The Committee reaffirms its opinion that the best solution of the question of Thrace, in the interests alike of the Great Powers and of the Balkan peoples themselves, would be the establishment of International control under the League of Nations."

The *Morning Post* Cairo Correspondent states that Shem-en-Nessim, the Egyptian spring feast, of April 12, passed off quietly. Egyptians crowded the public gardens as usual.

Ten Afghan delegates to the conference at Mussoorie, near Simla, on April 17, under the leadership of Sardar Mahomed Beg Tarzi, arrived at the Indian frontier on April 13.

In connection with the recent earthquake in Georgia, the *Graphic* of April 10 publishes some excellent photographs received from Mr. Scotland Liddell, the correspondent of the British Press in the Caucasus.

Reuter's Malta Correspondent, writing on April 12, states:—No. 2 Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, which has been posted to Malta from Egypt, will arrive here shortly on board the transport Steigenwald. This is the first time that a siege battery has been ordered to Malta. The artillery here has now practically been brought up to pre-war strength. Several forts which were utilised as hospitals during the war have also been restored to their former position. It is stated that the combatant strength of the Malta garrison, as at present arranged, does not exceed 3,500, against over 7,000 before the war.



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CHESS.

The championship of the Metropolitan Chess Club is still undecided. The issue depends on Sir G. A. Thomas's outstanding game with Mr. W. P. McBean. I understand that it will be played at the end of this week.

Sir G. A. Thomas's victory in the City of London Chess Club championship this year brings his successes in this competition to three.

Last week the Metropolitan and Brixton Clubs met in the London League, the match being specially important because a win by Brixton would enable that club to tie for first place with North London. The score was 7½ to 5½ in favour of the Metropolitan, three games being left for adjudication.

It is announced that this year's congress of the British Chess Federation will be held at Edinburgh from August 9 to 23.

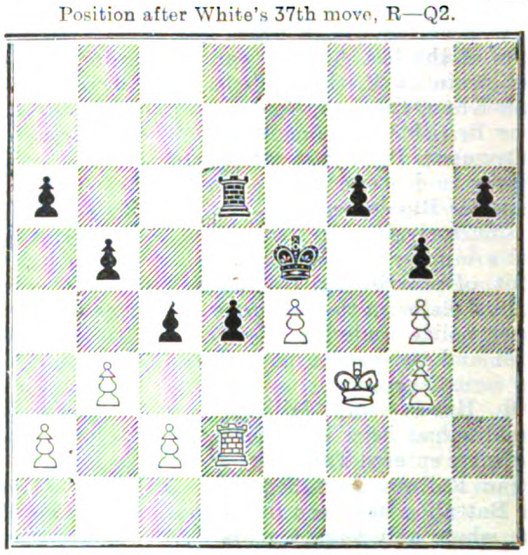
A match of six games is now taking place at Hastings between Mr. R. H. V. Scott and M. Marchand, who tied for second place with M. Kostitch at Bromley. Three games have so far been played, two of which have been won by Mr. Scott.

The following game was played between Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. F. Brown at Bromley:—

RUY LOPEZ.

White. Mr.F.Brown.	Black. SirG.A.Thomas	White. Mr.F.Brown	Black. SirG.A.Thomas
1. P—K4	P—K4	21. R—K7	K—B
2. KKt—B3	QKt—B3	22. QR—K	R—K
3. B—Kt5	P—QR3	23. KR—K5	P—B3
4. B x Kt	QP x B	24. KR—K2	R x R
5. P—Q4	P x P	25. R x R	R—K
6. Q x P	Q x Q	26. K—B2	R—K2
7. Kt x Q	B—Q3	27. Kt—K4(2)	B x Kt
8. 0—0	P—QB4	28. P x B	K—B2
9. P—K5(1)	B x P	29. K—B3	K—K3
10. R—K	P x Kt	30. K—B4	P—QKt4
11. R x B (ch)	B—K3	31. R—K	R—Q2
12. B—Kt5	P—R3	32. R—Q	R—Q3
13. B—R4	Kt—K2	33. P—Kt3	P—B5
14. R—K4	Kt—B4	34. R—Q2	P—Kt3
15. Kt—Q2	0—0	35. R—Q	P—Kt4(ch)
16. B—Kt3	Kt x B	36. K—B3	K—K4
17. RP x Kt	KR—Q	37. R—Q2	P—Q6
18. P—KKt4	P—QB4	38. KtP x P	KtP x P
19. P—KB3	QR—B	39. P x P	R x P(ch)
20. B—KKt3	B—Q4	40. R x R	P x R (3) and wins

Position after White's 37th move, R—Q2.



1. A pointless manœuvre, the effect of which is to give a pawn away. Against Sir George that means the game.
2. White's only chance was to preserve his knight.
3. Continued 41. K—K3; whereupon there followed P—K7, 42. K x P, K x P, and White has no resource.

CARO-KANN.

An Order in Council has been passed authorising the ratification of the Bulgarian Peace Treaty on behalf of Canada.

King Ferdinand of Roumania has signed a decree ratifying the German Peace Treaty.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Opinion on the Budget has not yet crystallised, as it will take some little time to appreciate what the effect of the new taxes will be on commerce and industry, and the attitude of City circles in general is so far one of reserve. It had been suggested that this year's Budget would be unpretentious, but it is anything but that, for the Chancellor has made a serious—almost an heroic—attempt to tackle the problem of reducing the national debt. Undoubtedly the most unpleasant surprise is the increase in the excess profits duty. It was generally thought that this duty would be abolished on the present occasion, but instead it has been raised from 40 to 60 per cent.

***

The mission to Japan with which Prince Carol of Roumania has been entrusted is an interesting commentary upon the state of affairs in Europe to-day. Roumania wants more help than, shall I say, Great Britain and France can spare her, and on easier terms. She could, no doubt, obtain the amount of money that she requires from the United States, and it is known that an American combine made an offer to Dr. Vaida-Voevod when he was in London. But there is the possibility that Japan, who has also been a gainer financially by the war, will be prepared to offer more favourable terms, and in any case the inquiries in this direction that Prince Carol will make lend a definite purpose to his voyage. Japan, it goes without saying, will want a *quid pro quo* for any assistance that she gives to Roumania. Last year Japanese goods reached Constantinople and Sofia in some numbers; but they were for the most part of a character that did not compete seriously with British products. How long Japan will remain content to be associated in the world's markets with only cheap manufactures remains to be seen; but this Roumanian bid for Japanese help can hardly fail to suggest to our Far Eastern Allies important possibilities for them in the coming reconstruction of Europe.

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The proposal to establish the cash on delivery parcel post between England and India has been advocated, and opposed, for so many years that the definite introduction of the system comes as something of a surprise. Speaking broadly, the C.O.D., or to use the current Indian abbreviation, the V.P.P., was demanded by consumers anxious to deal direct with retailers in England, while it was opposed partly in the interests of Indian tradesmen, and partly on the wider ground that the convenience of the few might be injurious to the many, because the shops in Calcutta and Bombay might cease to stock goods in limited demand. Nothing but experience can show whether such apprehensions are justified, but, speaking for ourselves, we do not anticipate that any immediately important results will follow. Some of the big department stores, and perhaps a few "specialists," may set out to cultivate the Indian market, but illustrated catalogues are costly articles just now, and we have sufficient faith in the abilities of Indian and Anglo-Indian tradesmen to predict that the great majority of them will meet the new competition on effective business lines.

***

An excellent report is again forthcoming from the National Bank of Egypt. The net profit of the bank for the past year amounted to £714,680, as against £693,851 for 1918, and the dividend is now 14 per cent., as against 10 per cent. £196,825 is allocated for depreciation of Government securities, and £62,559 for depreciation of securities in guarantee for the note issue, and the carry-forward is £141,932, as against £106,636.

***

I read with some amusement the statement in a contemporary recently that French financial circles are beginning to view the Levant with distrust as a commercial field. The opinion lost nothing in piquancy from the fact that it happened almost to coincide with an outburst of buying of Near Eastern securities on the Paris Bourse. As a matter of fact, since the Armistice our friends across the water have been if anything over-eager to establish a footing in the Levant and other Near Eastern markets; but while their experiences, notably in Syria, have been not altogether satisfactory, there is no reason whatever for imagining that France is now inclined to leave the Near East to other countries. Quite the contrary. French business men have not earned the reputation for astuteness for nothing, and they are by no means ignorant—to put it mildly—of the potentialities of that region.

***

I am informed that the contract for the repair of the Borcea span of the Cernavoda Bridge has been given by the Roumanian Government to the Reshitsa Steel and Iron Company, of Transylvania. This company is represented in Old Roumania by the Credit Technique, the chief of which institution is M. Tiberiu Eremil, who has carried out in the past a number of railroad construction works and large public contracts to the satisfaction of the Roumanian Government.

***

Internal difficulties in Germany have apparently not prevented the wily Teuton from continuing his commercial activities in the Near East with a view to regaining at some future date some vestige of his former supremacy in that region. Thus I learn that of late importing houses in Greece have been the frequent recipients of communications from German firms anxious to re-establish trade relations, and I understand that, judging by these letters, it would be difficult to imagine that Germany had been left by the war in a worse plight than the Allies. Such is Teuton bluff! Needless to say, the terms offered are exceedingly favourable in the matters of credit, early delivery, etc.: in other words, it is the old story of German penetration—sacrifice at first, and afterwards, when the market has been secured, the profits. But a game like that cannot be worked twice; not at any rate, after an eye-opener like the late war.

***

Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E., H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India, whose notable report on Indian trade was recently reviewed in these columns, is to undertake a tour of certain industrial areas during his stay in this country, commencing with London on May 3, in order that manufacturers and merchants may have an opportunity of consulting him regarding the possibilities of extending their overseas trade. Among the matters in regard to which he will be prepared to give information and advice are the general state of trade in India, the appointment of agents, methods of marketing and distribution of goods, terms of payment, rates of Customs duties, and general information as to the openings existing for British goods.

***

In a Consular report on trade conditions in Tripoli it is stated that on the whole there has not been enough British commercial activity in that region, and that more could have been done in sending combined travellers and quoting through freights. Exchange is a problem, as it is in the case of trade with most countries, and it appears that there are quantities of goods in the Customs which merchants will not clear, owing to the high rates of exchange. It is suggested that there should be an opening for electrical pumping machinery in the near future, as the Government intend assisting the cultivators of the oases of Tripoli and Tajura in installing this type of plant for irrigation purposes by a system of subsidies. There might also be scope for light agricultural machinery, it is thought, the European ploughs offered by the Italian Government on easy terms to the natives not having been appreciated or used.

COMMENTATOR.

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GREECE.

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The MINERALS of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, April 10.

Revival of Bee-keeping.

Bee-keeping has always been a favourite industry among Serbs, but, like everything else, it has suffered severely during the war. The Ministry of Food and Reconstruction has sent a committee to Slovenia to secure an adequate quantity of hives, both full and empty, and other necessary appliances, so it is hoped that this year this useful industry will be once more set upon its legs in the ravaged country.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, March 31.

Grain Purchases by Poland.

The Polish Government has contracted with the Bulgarian Consortium for the purchase of 15,000 tons of barley and 7,500 tons of millet, which will be paid for in Swiss francs. The consortium is negotiating for the sale of several thousand tons of maize also in foreign valuta with the object of improving the value of the leva.

Tobacco Stocks.

Great stocks of tobacco are stored at Burgas, and will be gradually shipped to Italy, America, and England in exchange for supplies from these countries of articles of the first necessity.

MALTA.

MALTA, March 31.

Economic Position.

The Government, acting in conjunction with the local millers, have placed a contract for 5,500 tons of wheat and maize, to be delivered here by the end of May. The present stocks of wheat in the Island amount to 6,500 tons, while 5,100 tons are en route. Thus a 5½ months' supply is assured, and the knowledge of this fact has greatly relieved the anxiety that has existed, as the Maltese are amongst the largest bread consumers in the world.

There is a sugar shortage in the Island, and it is commonly believed that considerable hoarding has been taking place. The Government have fixed the price of sugar at 1s. 5½d. per rotolo (28 ozs.).

The export of cotton from the Island is prohibited. Onions may be exported until August 31.

Introduction of Preference

The publication of the list of articles which will be subject to a preferential duty has led to widespread discussion, if not dissatisfaction. Taxation in the Island has been greatly increased, and new taxes have been introduced in such rapid succession that the public is growing restive. The chief argument advanced against the introduction of the new duty is that Malta is not a manufacturing country, is therefore entirely dependent on imports for most commodities, and should be allowed to purchase in whatever markets can best supply the Island's needs. Owing to the cheapness of German manufactures a great trade was done with that country before the war, and so fleeting are the recollections of commerce that there are not a few who would welcome the return of old conditions.

Asiatic Petroleum Company's Tanks.

The new tanks of the Asiatic Petroleum Company are now completed, and should prove a great boon to the Island, as there will now be two distinct sources of distribution.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, March 30.

Commercial Crisis.

The unexpected political development in Damascus, which led to an almost complete cessation of commercial intercourse between the Arab and French zones, has aggravated the economic crisis from which the country, especially the coastal region, has been suffering, and has intensified the paralysis of trade in Beyrout, with the result that some failures are to be feared.

The depletion of stocks caused by four years of war and blockade led to a wild demand for almost every kind of goods on the cessation of hostilities. This demand, coupled with the meagre means of transport available during the first period of the occupation, resulted in progressive leaps in prices. Encouraged by the banks, the merchants went in for heavy buying, and goods have been pouring in by thousands of tons. It was no uncommon thing lately to see over a thousand tons of goods arriving by one steamer. Beyrout, however, is only a transit port. The requirements of its own market and that of the Lebanon are limited. By far the greater part of the goods entering it is destined for the interior (Damascus, Homs, Hama, and Aleppo), so that when intercourse with these towns was stopped the merchants suddenly found themselves overburdened with stocks. The banks stopped credit, and the merchants were thus suddenly faced not only with the danger of inability to meet their engagements and to release their documents, but also of not finding store room for their goods, and of having to bear the accumulated warehouse dues. The Custom House, with its limited accommodation, was soon congested, and the surplus goods had to lie by hundreds of tons, piled up in lighters.

In the face of such an impossible situation the merchants looked for relief to the authorities, whom local opinion regarded as being to a certain extent responsible for this crisis, since the prime cause was political. Accordingly a deputation of leading merchants waited upon General Gouraud and appealed to him for assistance. It is understood that they were told that the authorities could not be expected to ask the banks to come to the rescue of merchants involved in speculative ventures, and that all that could be done in the circumstances was to provide extra accommodation, and to forego or to reduce temporarily the dues. As the warehouses near the Customs House are mostly taken up with military stores, the only alternative was to allow the goods to be landed on the open quays, and to provide tarpaulins and military guards at the expense of the authorities.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, April 3.

There is a brisk recovery of trade. Steamers of the Messageries Maritimes now call at the ports, including Limassol. Those of the Lloyd Triestino are also taking good cargoes of wine and carobs. These commodities are now being shipped in good quantities, and at satisfactory prices.

Reported Discovery of Gold and Silver.

According to a report from a correspondent of the *Phonè tes Kyprou* (Voice of Cyprus), both gold and silver have been found in a locality (Phoukási) in the Solea sub-district of Nicosia, in the north-west of the island. The director of the American company which has for years been operating in the copper mines of Skouriotissa, Mr. G. Gunther, is taking active steps to follow up the discovery. He proposes to erect buildings for the personnel and machinery which will be necessary for further work in this direction, and to obtain the necessary authority from the Government. It is expected that within six months samples of the ores will be exported to England, and perhaps to the United States. Further information will be of no little interest. Meanwhile, one is reminded of the rumours of gold in Cyprus which have excited the hopes of both people and rulers at various times, from classic periods up to 1878.

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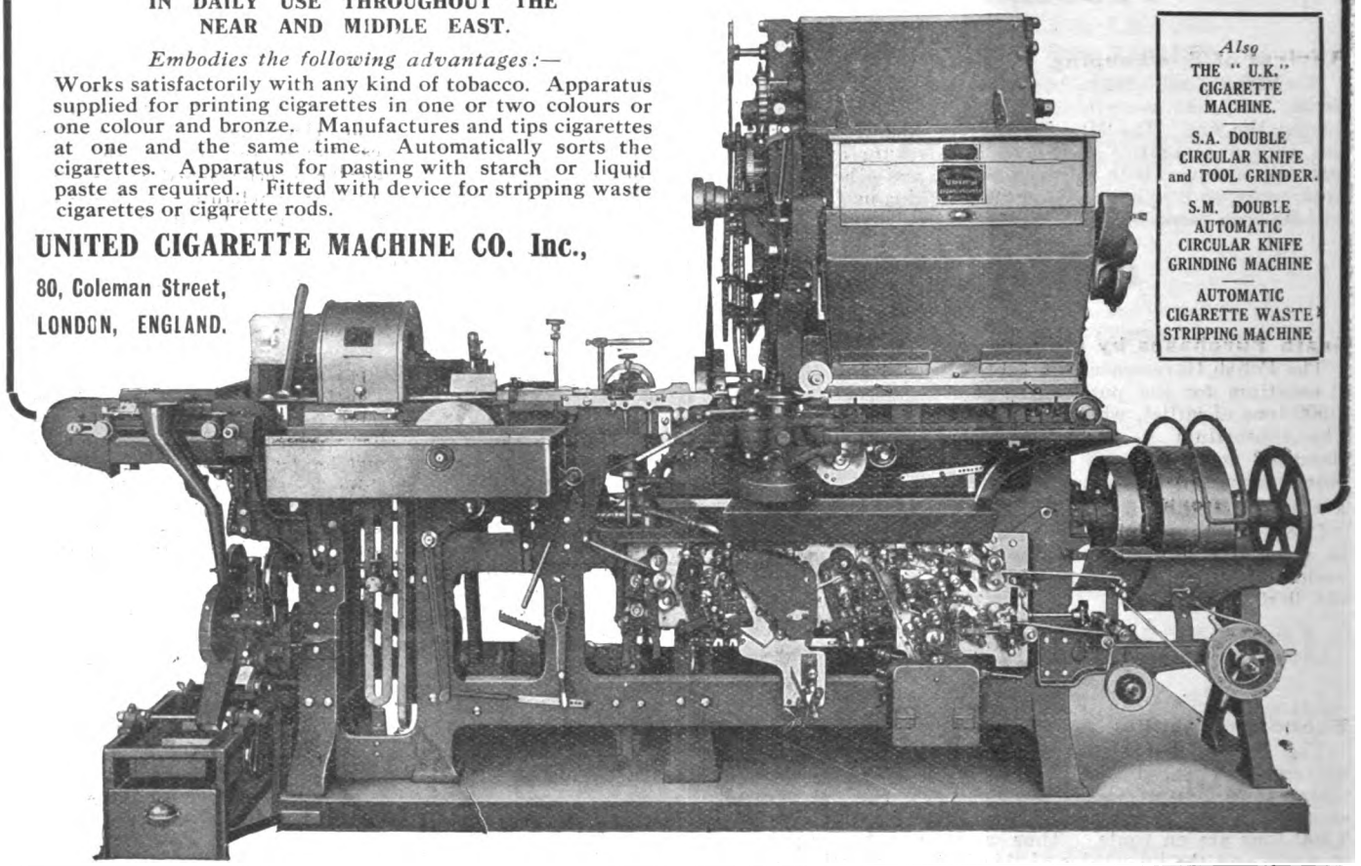

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BULGARIAN RAILWAYS.

DEVELOPMENTS IN VIEW.

(From Our Sofia Correspondent.)

One of the most important extensions of the Bulgarian railway system in recent years was the completion of the trans-Balkan line Stara Zagora-Tirnovo, which provided an alternative route across the Balkans to the Sofia-Plevna line, and opened up country until then without railway communications. The Stara Zagora-Tirnovo line runs through extremely difficult terrain, and its construction was no light task; indeed, it would not be too much to say that the obstacles with which the engineers were confronted were not less than those that were encountered in laying the Swiss Alpine line. Both the survey of the route and the execution of the work were carried out by Bulgarian engineers. The line, which was hastily completed during the Balkan war, proved of great use during that campaign for the transport of military supplies from Northern to Southern Bulgaria, especially in regard to the siege of Adrianople and the Tchataldja lines.

The linking up of Tirnovo with Stara Zagora marked the completion of a further stage in the project of providing through communications from Roumania to the Ægean Sea by way of Rustchuk-Tirnovo-Stara Zagora-Nova Zagora-Seimen-Kuleli Burgas-Dedeagatch, the objects being to give every facility to Roumania's trade and to provide an alternative route to the Dardanelles in view of the possible contingency that in war time this passage would be closed by the Turks. The line proved of the utmost utility during the first half of 1915 when Bulgaria and Roumania were neutral, all passenger and goods traffic between Roumania and the Entente countries and Greece going by way of the Dedeagatch-Rustchuk railway.

Another important development carried out about the same period was the Mezdra-Vratza-Lom-Palanka line, the object of which was to provide through communication to Varna for the fertile districts of Vidin and Lom. The last stage of this line—Alexandrovo-Vidin—a distance of 35 kilometres, still remains to be constructed before Vidin is connected with Sofia. When completed, this line will provide a further direct route between Roumania and Macedonia. The incidence of the Balkan War and of the Great War has so far prevented this project from being carried out in its entirety.

Another important line which was authorised and under survey before the war was the Shumla-Karnobat line. The earthworks of this extension were completed for about 30 kilometres from the Karnobat end. The object of this line was to link up the Roumanian railway system of the Dobruja with Southern Bulgaria.

Pre-War Projects.

Simultaneously with extensions in the north, the Bulgarian Government was also concerned with projects for additional links with the Ægean. Preparations to this end were being made in 1914, and tenders were to have been invited for the following lines:—

(1) Stara Zagora-Gumurjina-Portolagos. This would have provided a through route between Rustchuk and the Ægean, and would have given Bulgaria a new outlet for the export of her tobacco and other produce to the Entente Powers, besides providing Roumania with a new trade route in the event of the Dardanelles and the Kuleli Burgas-Dedeagatch line being temporarily unavailable.

(2) The extension of the Plevna-Sofia line from Radomir to Kavalla (with a branch line up the Struma Valley to Strumnitza), a distance of 300 kilometres. The purpose of this railway was to provide a channel for the export of the tobacco and grains of Gorna Djumaja and Radomir to the Ægean and for trade generally with the United Kingdom, France, and Italy.

(3) Another extension of the Plevna-Sofia line beyond Kustendil to Bitolia (Monastir) via Cerna, Skala, Bregalnitza, and Gradsko, the distance between Kustendil and Gradsko being 161 kilometres. This line was to serve the trade of the Bregalnitza district and also to provide communication with Salonika.

(4) A further branch at Kustendil to Kumanovo and Skoplië (Uskub), the length of the section from the Bulgarian frontier to Kumanovo being 85 kilometres. It was intended to serve as a means of communication between Sofia and Salonika and Athens. This project dated from the time when Turkey gave Baron Hirsch a concession for railway construction in Turkey, and the plans for its construction were ready at the time of the outbreak of the Balkan War. Surveys were made on both sides of the frontier, and a mixed commission had met to decide technical questions and the matter of cost in relation to the construction of the necessary tunnelling.

Developments Now Projected.

The territorial changes introduced by the Paris Treaty have rendered these plans null and void. But, in any case, Bulgaria, after a war which has exhausted her economically, is not in a position to undertake any vast schemes of railway extensions, and must perforce confine her energies to the improvement of the existing system. In view of the altered circumstances, the Government is now planning to improve the main trunk line—the Tsaribrod-Sofia-Mustafa Pasha line. This route, which has already been relaid with heavier rails for a distance of 50 kilometres, will be relaid throughout its whole length, and it has now been decided to make the necessary survey for the construction of a double line between Tsaribrod and Mustafa Pasha. When the financial position has improved the Government proposes to proceed with the completion of the Shumla-Karnobat line.

Other projects for the time being will be restricted to local extensions, and a decree will shortly be issued authorising districts to construct local lines (*Chemins-de-fer d'intérêt locale*), instructions being given in regard to the works that should first be begun. The construction of these lines will be carried out locally under a compulsory labour system, under the supervision of the general management of the Bulgarian State Railways and Ports. By this means it is hoped that all hitherto isolated centres of importance will be brought into connection with the main railway arteries. It is estimated that the total length of these secondary lines will be 1,000 kilometres.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 7:—Rain nearly general in Assam, Bengal, and Chota-Nagpur, local in Burma, Bihar, and Orissa, Southern India and North-Western India. Crop conditions generally good. Supplementary memorandum wheat up to March 31, 28,921,000 acres, as against 28,553,000 acres in the second wheat forecast published on March 16. Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully Good Broach, April-May, Rs. 475, July-August, Rs. 484. Calcutta jute market very quiet and without inquiries. Hessians steady, with considerable inquiry. Heavy goods steady. No change in bank rates

Dated April 14. Rain nearly general in Assam. Local in Burma, Bengal, Chota-Nagpur, Orissa, Madras, Central Provinces and North-Western India. Crop conditions generally good. Garhmukhtesar-Kasganj (Meerut-Etah districts) Canal Bank railway survey by Gillanders Arbuthnot and Co., Calcutta, eighty miles sanctioned. Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good Broach, April-May, Rs. 499; July-August, Rs.511. Piece-goods market firmer, with demand strengthening. Calcutta jute market steady but inactive, with prices tending to rise. Hessians firm, with prices higher and jumpy. Heavy goods quiet and steady. Bank rate is—Bengal, 7 per cent.; Madras, Bombay, 8 per cent.

NEW STAMPS FROM TURKEY.

A paragraph in *The Times* reads:—The privilege of maintaining their own post offices in Turkey, enjoyed by several European Powers prior to the Great War, was originally conceded to Russia by the Sublime Porte in 1720. Later it was extended to Austria, France, Italy, Great Britain, and Germany under the "most favoured nation" clause of their commercial treaties. In course of time Constantinople became a cosmopolis of the post, nine foreign nations having their head postal agencies in the Galata quarter. On the abrogation of the European "capitulations" in October, 1914, the seven remaining foreign postal agencies were suppressed. Within the past eighteen months, however, the post offices of Great Britain, France, and Italy have been re-opened under international control, while to them have been added Consular posts established by Roumania and Poland. Czecho-Slovakia has now followed suit by opening, at the end of last month, a postal agency in the Consulate at Constantinople for the convenience of Czech residents in the Turkish capital. Special stamps are provided, as in the case of Poland and Roumania, in the form of the contemporary home series of the Czecho-Slovak Republic overprinted with the word "Levant" in large black Roman capitals, and surcharged with local values in paras and piastres. This latter precaution, formerly in vogue at all foreign post offices in the Near East, is intended to guard against possible loss to the revenue through the fluctuations of exchange. A similar policy has been adopted in respect of the stamps supplied to the Polish Consular Post Office.

The directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance have decided to recommend the general court, to be held on April 28 next, to declare a further dividend of 9 per cent., less income-tax, making 16 per cent., less income-tax, for the year 1919. They also recommend that on the occasion of the bicentenary of the Corporation on June 22 next a bonus dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, be paid to the proprietors whose names were registered in the books of the Corporation at the closing of the transfer books on April 16.

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COTTON-GROWING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

FAVOURABLE PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. B. Crapper, vice-president of the Oldham Chamber of Commerce, who recently visited Mesopotamia with Mr. F. Hodgkinson on behalf of the British Cotton-Growing Association, has now made his official report. His verdict is extremely favourable as regards the prospects for the development of cotton cultivation in that region. He states that he is "satisfied that Mesopotamia possesses both a soil and a climate to grow excellent cotton in large weights per acre, and that we may hope for a large production during the next few years. The limiting factors at the moment are: 1. Comparatively small population—3,000,000 people 2. Irrigation and drainage requirements. 3. Cheaper and more direct transport facilities required. 4. Instruction and scientific methods and machinery to be employed."

At Amara the delegates inspected a small experimental plot of cotton grown by the Agricultural Department. There had not been any great success there, the chief reason being the salted nature of the soil caused by the annual floods of the Tigris in this area. Good cotton could be grown at Kut at once, but the cost of pumping would be great.

At Baghdad the experimental farm of the Government Cotton Expert (Captain Thomas) of 30 acres showed surprising and delightful results. The quality of both Egyptian and long stapled American was extremely good, and the yields were very large. The site of 200 acres which was being placed under cotton at Tel Deir, 14 miles south-west from Baghdad, was also visited. The site seemed excellent, being only one mile from the Baghdad Hilla Railway on one of the newly cut canals, taking off from the Euphrates above the Hindia Barrage. There was a gradual fall on the land, which would make drainage easy, and the area could be extended to many thousand acres. The neighbouring Sheikh had undertaken to cultivate the land with men of his tribe on the co-operative basis, the cultivators receiving 45 per cent. of the value of the gross crop—these were slightly better terms than usually allowed, and ought to repay the cultivator extremely well. The Agricultural Department provided water, seed, machinery, and instruction as their portion of the bargain. Trained Egyptian and Indian cultivators were being employed as instructors. Much would depend on the results of this practical demonstration to the Arab cultivator, who was a most conservative person to move, and one who would be easily deterred from persevering to attain success if the initial trial was a failure. The delegates also inspected another site chosen by the Agricultural Department between the Diala and the Tigris about 10 miles from Baghdad, where it is proposed to build a Research School and Training School of Agriculture, and then visited the Mosul area 300 miles further north. The land there was rather hilly and rolling, impossible to irrigate, and the crops were all rain grown, with the exception of small areas watered by springs, but further north again over the Kurdistan foothills there were many large plains watered by rivers from the neighbouring hills which at some future time might grow a great amount of cotton when transport and population were more available and the political situation more settled. The conclusion arrived at was that they would not be able to get an appreciable amount of cotton suitable for Lancashire from the Mosul vilayet for many years to come.

The Euphrates Valley.

The Euphrates Valley area, which for a great part was irrigated by flow from canals taking off above the Hindia barrage, was next visited. This area, with Hilla as a centre, was in extent about one million acres, which was being increased year by year by the making of subsidiary canals, and was the area where they might expect great developments in cotton growing to take place in the near future. Of course the capacity of the dam at Hindia was limited, but they hoped that the Government would proceed with the further schemes of irrigation and drainage required for the development of Mesopotamia. In the area the towns of Kerbela, Tenarij, Nejef, Kufa, Kifl and Abu Suchair were visited. There was a large agricultural population, and this was the area where they must push cotton-growing to its utmost capacity in the near future.

Dealing with the Diala Valley, it was pointed out that there were many canals taking off from the river in the higher reaches capable of irrigating about 200,000 acres of land, but the supply of water for the canals depended entirely on a temporary earthern bund which was made across the river by the resident cultivators each year, and which was washed away by the late floods about on an average once in every three years, and on this account the land put under crop was very small. In Sir W. Willcocks's 1911 report to the Turkish Government the estimated cost of making the necessary permanent Diala dam amounted to £40,000; multiplying this sum by five times making £200,000, for which the work could be carried out to-day, and then they had an area of at least 200,000 acres capable of being brought under immediate summer cultivation at £1 per acre for the making of the dam. It seemed quite surprising to a casual visitor that the British military authorities had not already commandeered the labour of 40,000 Armenian refugees who were encamped at Bakuba, where they had been for the last two years doing nothing and living as the guests of the British taxpayer.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned:—

Cairo Main Drainage Department, Public Works Ministry.—Supply and Sinking of ejector stations, Nos. 1 and 2, Suez Main Drainage Contract No. III. (Particulars may be seen at Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) April 28.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.—Supply of steel work for bridges. (Spec., £1, Secretary, 48, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C.2.) May 11.

Athens Ministry of Communications.—Supply of telegraphic materials. (Particulars may be seen at Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) June 20.

Chemin de Fer de l'Est-Algérien.—The annual ordinary general meeting will be held at Paris on April 29.

Tramways de Galatz.—The annual ordinary general meeting will be held at Brussels on April 28.

Bombay Gas.—The directors recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, making 8 per cent. for the year 1919, the same as for 1918, payable May 20.

The directors of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt recommend a dividend of 8s. per share on Ordinary and £40 per share on Deferred. The annual general meeting will be held at Cairo on April 29.

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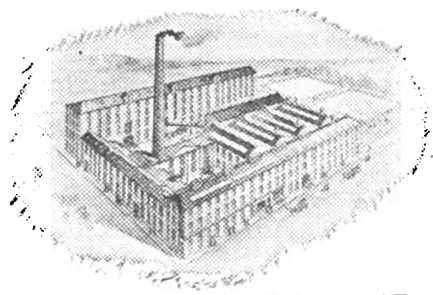

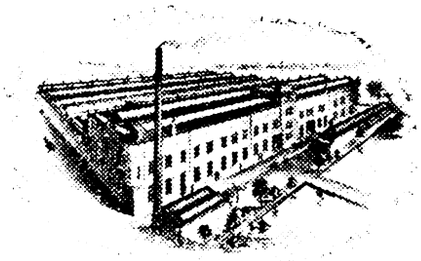

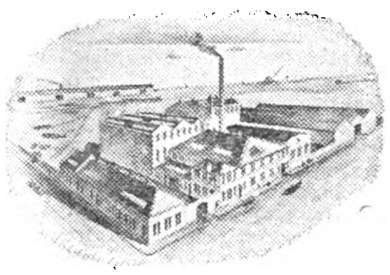

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The Cunard Line s.s. Southgate, to Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Galatz, and Batoum, will close for cargo at Antwerp on April 27.

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The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Bosnian, for Algiers and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on April 24.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Trentino, for Algiers, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 1.

The Prince Line s.s. Scottish Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian coast ports, and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on May 4.

The Moss Line s.s. Assiout, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 1.

The Harrison Line s.s. Gladiator, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 4.

The R.M.S.P. Co.'s Treneglos, for Gibraltar and Morocco, will leave London on May 1.

PORT CONGESTION AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed that the congestion in the port has been to a certain extent relieved during the last few days. A Canadian concern—the Mount Royal Steamship Co.—have erected large warehouses on the Bosphorus at Kuru Ichesme. They have received the concession from the Quay Co. to use these as transit warehouses, and the Levant Stevedoring Co. have already unloaded there very many lighters which had been lying loaded afloat for a considerable period. These premises are stated to be capable of holding about 12,000 tons, and it is hoped by the use of these warehouses to lessen considerably the congestion in due course.

The Department are in receipt of information from Constantinople to the effect that the congestion in the Customs and warehouses at that port would be greatly mitigated if exporters of cotton and woollen bales would limit them to a weight of 10 cwt. Foreign competitors are said to benefit by the fact that their bales are much more easily moved than those originating in the United Kingdom, and can be shipped up country without breaking bulk.

NEW P. & O. STEAMERS.

The Naldera and Narkunda.

The new P. and O. mail and passenger steamers, Naldera and Narkunda, the former of which left for Australian ports, viâ Bombay, on April 10, and the latter of which is due to sail for Bombay, viâ Egypt and Aden, on April 24, are believed to be the most luxurious and attractive vessels yet designed for the Indian and Australian trades.

The Naldera, which was launched from the yard of Messrs. Caird and Co., Greenock (since amalgamated with the firm of Harland and Wolff, Ltd.) on December 29, 1917, and was fitted out, owing to the exigencies of the war, as a cargo steamer, and was later converted for use, first as an aeroplane carrier, and then as an armed merchant cruiser, has now been entirely reconditioned for the service for which she was originally projected. She is of 15,800 gross tons, length 605 ft., breadth 67 ft. 2 in., moulded depth (main deck to keel) 47 ft. 4 in., and is driven by two sets of quadruple expansion reciprocating engines, developing 18,000-horse power and a sea-speed of 18½ knots.

The first and second dining saloons are respectively at the forward and after ends of the midship portion of the main deck, with elaborately equipped kitchens and culinary offices between. On the main deck, aft, are second saloon cabins and bathrooms. The upper deck is entirely occupied by first and second-class cabins, liberally interspersed with bathrooms, and there are, besides, on this deck, six bedrooms-de-luxe, with bathrooms, etc., en suite. First-class bedstead cabins for two persons fill the middle portion of the hurricane deck, on the after part of which are the second saloon smoking and music-rooms, and at the forward end a double range of single or two-bed cabins. Where the cabins are double-banked, they are arranged on the Inchcape principle, so that every cabin has its own porthole or portholes opening to the outside air.

The promenade decks strike one as being wider and longer than are commonly seen, and that this is not merely an impression is proved by the structure of the upper part of the vessel, which shows the promenade deck, supported on brackets which splay outwards beyond the limits of the bulwarks, suggesting, constructively, what is known in architecture as an oversailing upper storey. All the public rooms of the Naldera are panelled in dull finished brown oak, with the exception of the first-class dining saloon, the walls of which have been painted to imitate the exact appearance and slight variation of old ivory.

Round the oval wall which rises from the centre of the saloon is a riotously-painted deep frieze, by Professor Gerald Moira, in gay and animated tints. The treatment of this painting is broad and effective, and when it is illuminated by the scores of electric lights placed beneath it and hidden from below by a cornice moulding, the whole of the frieze is a blaze of gorgeous colouring. The music-room, which surrounds this central well on the promenade deck, two decks above the dining saloon, also receives its main effect from Professor Moira's work, which, indeed, dominates the decorative scheme of this part of the ship.

The music saloon is divided from the divan by a light wooden bulkhead, with plate-glass doors. At the after end of the promenade deck is the first saloon smoking room, the furniture of which is in the style of William III. and Mary. Here are deep, roomy lounges and big arm-chairs, upholstered in green morocco leather. The second-class dining and smoking saloons are beautifully panelled, and mahogany chairs in the style of Queen Anne, with tall backs and centre splats, inlaid with the monogram of the company, are part of the furnishing equipment.

One of the most fascinating apartments of the vessel is the chart-room, where none but those concerned with the navigation of the ship may penetrate. Here are up-to-date devices for the working of the vessel at sea. A tell-tale board, from which current is turned on from a series of switches to the mast-head lights and the stern light (white), the port and starboard lights (red and green respectively), at the same time illuminates corresponding miniature lights on the switch-board; if by any mischance any one of the main lights should cease to gleam its tell-tale correspondent also becomes extinguished, and an alarm bell is sounded in the chart-room. Above the telemotor steering gear is a periscopic prism which projects the compass card as a vertical face at the level of the helmsman's eyes, so that he may at the same time view the card, the course, and the waters through which the vessel is advancing. In another bridge-indicator miniature vertical pistons, red and green, actuated from the port and starboard engines themselves, reflect the action of the engines, and ensure accord with the directions transmitted from the bridge.

Outside the chart-room the expanse of the bridge itself excites mild surprise. Turning one's eyes aft over the expanse of the boat deck one sees ranges of roomy, substantial, and shapely lifeboats.

Two handsome sets of reciprocating engines mainly fill the space in the engine-room. One turns from the enormity of the main engines to a minor area, where there is grouped auxiliary machinery which generates electric current for light and power, or produces arctic temperatures for the preservation in transit of the successive consignments of perishable cargo which the Naldera will bring from "down under" to the insufficiently producing mother country. Forward of the engine-room is a street of boilers served by fifty furnaces. A steward's pantry on every deck, fully equipped for immediate service, is a great convenience, and means much for the early morning comfort of passengers *en voyage*. There are specially arranged rooms, whose optional combination offers convenient facilities for family parties. The Naldera has accommodation in the first saloon for 426 passengers, and for 248 passengers in the second saloon, for all of whom the dining saloons provide simultaneous seating accommodation.

The Narkunda, whose constructional history is similar to that of the Naldera, was built at Messrs. Harland and Wolff's Belfast yard. She is of approximately the same dimensions and general character as the Naldera, and, like her, has three funnels and a stern of the cruiser type, these ships being the earliest of P. and O. steamers to be so designed.

MESOPOTAMIAN RIVER FLEET.

Mr. Hope, Financial Secretary, Ministry of Munitions, in a written reply to Major-General Sir J. Davidson, says:—A portion of the Mesopotamian river fleet, which is surplus to the present requirements of the civil and military authorities, was sold last month. The number of boats sold was 362 of various types, and the number of purchasers 35. The sales were by sealed tenders in India and Mesopotamia, and the approximate amount realised is 1¾ millions sterling. No monopoly has been created.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.—There has been a development of interest in this commodity, and transactions have increased in number.

Sultanas.—The demand has been steady during the week, without bringing about any change in rates.

Sugar.—A steady tone has characterised the home refined market.

Coffee.—The tone has on the whole been steady, but lower qualities have been in little demand. Stocks are returned at 93,871 bags of Brazilian, 91,318 packages of Central American, and 86,780 packages of other kinds. Brazilian has been done at 122s. to 124s., Costa Rica at from 158s. to 185s., Indian at from 165s. to 190s., and Mocha at from 175s. to 190s.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson state:—Our futures market has shown a declining tendency during the week, and on balance quotations are 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. lower. May changed hands at 124s., and again at 123s. 6d. There is nothing encouraging on the spot, as conditions in respect to the foreign exchanges show no amelioration. . . . . Coffee in fair quantities is now on the way to London from India, East Africa, and Central America, and the home trade, in view of supplies that seem abundant, are buying very cautiously. The Rio market has taken advantage of variations in exchanges to conclude sales at rather lower prices in milreis, the Government selling 20,000 bags out of their remaining stocks to Italy, and is said to be negotiating for the sale of a further 400,000 bags. This may have some connection with the projected loan to Italy by Brazil for the obtaining of certain commodities from the Republic. The New York market at the close . . . . shows a decline on balance for the week of 15 to 20 points. The lower prices from Rio mentioned above affected the futures market, which, however, was more upset by the sudden spreading of the strike of railway hands at Chicago to the Eastern seaboard. This at once harasses the spot market, and shuts down shipments from local stocks to the interior, leading to the usual condition of complications and congestion of traffic. It is a purely domestic affair, and has nothing to do with the position of the commodity, which statistically remains very sound, the sale made to Italy being a very encouraging feature, especially when it is remembered how greatly the lira has depreciated. If Italy, why not some of the other Continental countries obtaining supplies from Brazil?

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been firmer, though transactions have been restricted. Calcutta April-June has been done at 41s. 6d., and Bombay April-May at 43s. La Plata afloat has come to business at 36s. 6d., 36s. 9d. for March-April, and 37s. for April-May and June-July. Rapeseed and cottonseed have been steady.

Oilcakes, etc.—Business in oilcakes has been small. Oils have been fairly firm. Linseed has been done at 101s. spot, and at 97s. April. Rape oil has been quiet at 125s. refined and 110s. crude. Cotton oil has been steady, Egyptian deodorised coming to business at 115s., and crude at 85s. Turpentine is firm at 205s. spot, and 189s. May-June.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in March:—

Wheat.—The weather has been favourable in spite of the cold, and water supply sufficient. The crop continues to make excellent progress; the Hindi variety, which is widely sown, looks particularly healthy. In Lower Egypt the early crop is turning colour, and in Middle and Upper Egypt it is on the verge of maturity, and harvesting will shortly commence in the basins. The attack of rust this year seems severer on the Baladi wheat, especially the late-sown fields, but is not extensive, nor is the damage hitherto caused heavy. Smut has also been noticed to a small extent in most provinces, and slight attacks of eel-worm have been reported from Damanhûr and Shibîn el Qanâtir districts. The crop, notwithstanding, will be an early one, and presents very good prospects. It must be noted, however, that this merely refers to the yield per feddân, the total area for wheat as well as other cereals having been reported as considerably less than usual.

Barley.—The weather has been favourable and the water supply sufficient. The crop is well advanced; in Lower Egypt it has turned colour and in Middle and Upper Egypt harvesting has actually begun. Its prospects appear exceptionally good in spite of attacks of rust, which, though generally slight, have been somewhat pronounced in Minya and Maryût. In the latter district the crop is considered the best for the last twelve years, the heavy continuous rains having done much good.

Beans.—The crop has suffered to some extent—though not in all provinces—from cold winds and rains. The attack of broom-rape, rust, and blight has continued to be slight except in Giza and Asyût provinces, where the former disease was somewhat severe. In Lower Egypt the greater part of the crop is maturing, and in Middle and Upper Egypt harvesting has begun. Beans are cut green more extensively than usual, and hence a reduction is expected on the dry crop. Cultivators everywhere seem to be anxious to proceed with the harvest in order to prepare the land for cotton.

Bersîm.—The cold weather during the early part of March continued to affect the crop, which, however, has since recovered almost completely. The area under temporary bersîm has now been practically all ploughed up for cotton. The area of permanent bersîm ploughed up for cotton still appears to be small. The third cutting is being taken everywhere. Reports from Lower Egypt point to a tendency to dries-making on a large scale.

The crop is practically free from disease with the exception of slight attacks of dodder, which do not appear to have caused any damage worth mentioning.

Cotton.—The unusually cold weather and heavy rains which prevailed throughout the month of February very seriously interfered with the preparation of land for cotton and resulted in an extensive resowing where sowing had been early. Towards the end of February, however, sowing became general and is estimated to be practically over at the end of March, except in the northern zones of the Delta and particularly in the Mudiriya of Beheira, where, even in its southern part, about half the cotton area still remains unsown. There is also a good deal of delay reported from the Mudiriya of Faiyûm. Shortage of water has been reported from certain parts of Beheira, Daqahliya, Minûfiya, and Faiyûm. Where sowing took place from February 25 onwards, germination has been generally very good, and the extent of resowing relatively small. It is reported from Minya that the tendency to grow cotton after beans, helba, barley, and onions is rather common.

Sugar Cane.—The delivery of last year's crop to sugar factories is nearly over, and the planting of the new crop is taking place under favourable conditions.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended April 2:—The week opened strong, with an upward tendency, and early on Monday morning two buyers came forward on our market showing signs of anxiety to close their uncompleted engagements of last week. As a result, prices jumped up 50 piastres per oke, with an exchange of only ten cases at 1,010 piastres per oke for current qualities, and 1,050 piastres for extra selected manufacturing druggist.

Since Monday four other buyers came forward running up prices to 1,040 and 1,100 as to quality, and all the quantity that could be procured amounts to only 53 cases. The above piastre prices are equivalent to 19s. to 22s. per lb., c.i.f. Our principal railway communications are still held up by the "Tchetes," or revolutionary nationalists, who will not allow anything to come down on this market; therefore, as a result we must expect higher and higher figures to be established so long as our depleting opium stock is not replenished by fresh arrivals. The exchange to-day is piastres 454 per £ sterling for cheque, and $0.87 for one Turkish paper £ of 100 piastres. The arrivals to date are 1,506 cases, against 265 at same date last year.

The P. and O. Company's managing agents in Australia, Messrs. Macdonald Hamilton and Co., have removed their Sydney offices to Union House, George Street.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed that, consequent upon a preliminary conference between the Italian and Czecho-Slovak Governments, held recently at Trieste, on the question of transit, it has been decided to continue and extend these negotiations and to invite the participation of other States which formed part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, notably Yugoslavia and Austria. These discussions will take place at Graz, and will be concerned with the question of the transit of Czecho-Slovak merchandise through Yugoslav and Austrian territory. It is understood that the competent Ministers of the countries concerned are preparing schemes for discussion at the next conference.

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ENGINEERING.

THE SHORTAGE OF MOTOR CARS.

For nearly five years the manufacture in Great Britain of automobiles for the use of the general public was arrested by the European War, and when the Armistice came motor-car manufacturers for the most part were faced with the problem of completely reorganising their works on a peace basis. As is well known, most of the works which devoted the whole of their attention to the manufacture of pleasure cars before the war were engaged during the war on the production of Army and Navy requirements—shells, guns, fuses, tractors, tanks, aeroplane engines, etc.—and it followed, therefore, that a considerable time had to elapse before the new models could be put on the market. When they came, and, indeed, long before, manufacturers were so overwhelmed with orders that in most cases it was impossible to pay any attention to the overseas trade.

A few firms, however, were in a more fortunate position, and these have lost no time in getting into touch with foreign markets. One firm, Crossley Motors, Ltd., had carried on the manufacture of their cars during the entire war period. On the strength of the behaviour of six Crossley cars supplied in 1913 an order for fifty had been given to the firm early in 1914 by the British Government, and these were delivered before August. On the outbreak of hostilities the entire available supply of Crossley cars, as well as of others, was taken over, and during the war thousands of others were turned out from the same works. With the return to peace conditions the firm had the advantage of this war experience of multiple production, and only required to add certain refinements and improvements in the engine and chassis to make the 25-30 h.p. R.F.C. model suited to the requirements of the modern motorist. The huge factory at Gorton is now almost within reach of its utmost production, and offers an object-lesson in industrial efficiency.

Crossley Motors, Ltd., are fully alive to the importance of developing the export and overseas side of their business, for they realise that the sturdiness of construction and the high ground clearance of their car—the Crossley has a clearance of $10\frac{3}{4}$ ins.—together with the remarkable efficiency of the engine, fits it for the severe tasks imposed upon an automobile when used abroad. The growing demand for the 25-30 h.p. R.F.C. model Crossley in all parts of the world is conclusive evidence of public appreciation of a really high-grade car.

MARKET FOR TRACTORS IN MACEDONIA.

The opening for tractors in Macedonia is the subject of a recent report by the American Consul at Salonika, Mr. Leland B. Morris, who states that there are perhaps forty tractors in operation throughout the whole of Macedonia. The Greek Government purchased some 200 American tractors during the war, and distributed them to purchasers and to agricultural schools. However, due to the scarcity of skilled labour, many of these machines are idle. Some of them, in fact, have never been unloaded from the freight cars. Several mowers and threshers are in use in the district. One of the largest dealers in agricultural machinery estimates that under peace conditions he can sell forty threshing machines annually. It is impossible as yet to say which size and style of tractor is preferred, as few are in operation, and these for so short a time that no comparison can be made. Dealers interested in the tractor experiments believe that the crawler type will be most successful under ploughing conditions in Macedonia. The country is hilly, and the lower wheels have a tendency to sink into the ground. Probably 25—30 horse-power tractors will be the best for the region. Operators are inclined to overload. Implement men say that 12—14-inch ploughs are used in ploughing. The disc has been used here with great success with tractors, but it will be very hard to introduce it. The few tractors operating have been used to operate threshers. Farm labour can be obtained for the equivalent of $1 per day and board. Mechanics capable of running tractors are very hard to find. In fact, if a tractor company wishes to be successful in marketing its products in this field, skilled mechanics must be sent to instruct users, and repair men to follow up the machines and keep them operating. No import duties are assessed on tractors during 1920. The normal duty assessed according to the weights of the various metals used in the manufacture of the machinery averages 13 per cent. of the invoice value of the tractor.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 3 amounted to £6.852.

An information bureau has been established at Teheran with the object of dealing with inquiries relating to Persian commerce. Full information on all branches of commerce can be obtained by addressing inquiries to Le Ministre de Commerce et Travaux Publique, Bureau d'Informations Commerciales, Teheran, Persia.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Increased Net Profits.

The twentieth annual general meeting of the shareholders in the National Bank of Egypt was held on March 29 at the head office of the bank in Cairo, Mr. F. T. Rowlatt (the Governor) presiding.

The Governor said: Gentlemen,—We have the pleasure of submitting to you the balance-sheet and profit and loss account for 1919. The net profits, before depreciation of securities, amount to £714,680, and we propose to dispose of them in the following manner. For depreciation of securities we have to provide £259,383, and after payment of a 14 per cent. dividend, which absorbs £420,000 (including the 4 per cent. distribution already made), there will remain £35,297. This, with £106,635 brought forward from last year, makes a total of £141,932 to be carried forward to the profit and loss account for 1920. We think, gentlemen, that these figures can be considered quite satisfactory. We have decided to recommend the payment of a dividend 4 per cent. higher than the one paid last year, and we feel little doubt that you will approve of this measure.

The depreciation of Government securities has been very heavy during the year, but of the large amount that we have had to set aside for this purpose to bring them to a valuation not higher than the market rate on December 31, 1919, I am glad to say the greater part refers to short dated securities such as British Exchequer Bonds and National War Bonds; so in the course of the next three or four years the amount set aside for depreciation of these securities will be encashed. The general expenses of the Bank have again increased, but with the development of our work, higher salaries, and the increased cost of everything, this had naturally to be expected.

The prosperity of Egypt has tended to swell the volume of our work. The total of the balance-sheet on December 31, 1919, amounts to £E41,895,000, compared with £E34,856,000 on December 31, 1918. The Government securities, amounting to £E16,145,000, are represented as to £E15,500,000 by British Treasury Bills, Exchequer Bonds, National War Bonds, and War Loans. In regard to other important items in the balance-sheet, I would remark that the advances on merchandise are almost entirely against cotton, and made to the leading commercial houses. The total of these advances had been considerably reduced at the present time. Bills of exchange, £E7,500,000, are first-class bills, mostly London acceptances, and the money at call and short notice, £E2,400,000, is on the London market. On the other side of the balance-sheet, the current and deposit accounts of the general public have increased during the year by £E4,000,000, that is to say, to £E18,000,000.

The Bank's note circulation, including about £E5,000,000, held as cash in the banking department, amounted, on December 31, 1919, to £E67,300,000, as compared with £E46,000,000 on December 31, 1918. The maximum circulation during the year under review was that reached on December 11, namely, £E68,200,000. The maximum circulation touched in 1918 was £E46,100,000 on December 30.

After December 30, 1918, the circulation steadily declined during the liquidation of the cotton business, till the lowest circulation for the year was touched—namely, £E39,900,000. The note circulation then expanded by £E28,300,000 during the last months of the year, reaching the above-mentioned maximum of £E68,200,000. This expansion can be attributed solely to the financing of a cotton crop computed to realise the large figure of about £E100,000,000. The trade balance in favour of Egypt for 1919 was £E33,000,000.

The yearly increase in the amount of bank notes in the hands of the public has been due to the country's growing wealth realised from the export of produce, and the large sums of British money spent in Egypt during the war. There is, however, a considerable movement, which it is hoped will develop further, in buying back Egyptian securities from Europe. This, while in the right direction for improving the rates of exchange with France, is also good from the Egyptian economic point of view and tends to reduce the circulation. Large amounts of cash must also be held in this country, awaiting investment in the form of imports from Europe. The note circulation has now fallen to £E57,900,000, that is, by £E9,400,000, since December last.

Our Bank note issue, as you are aware, is backed by British and Egyptian Government securities and a certain amount of gold. I may say it is almost entirely guaranteed by British Treasury bills at short usance, which, with the stabilisation of the exchange, makes our currency practically equivalent to British currency.

I think it is always interesting to look at the yearly import and export figures made up to August 31, as the commercial year is generally recognised as beginning in Egypt on September 1, with about the commencement of the moving of the cotton crop, and when the results of the last crop have shown their effect on the general commerce of the country. The following are the yearly statistics from August 31, 1913:—

	Imports.		Exports.
	£E.		£E.
1913-14	28,325,693	....	32,646,805
1914-15	15,327,835	....	22,642,780
1915-16	27,545,340	....	29,882,393
1916-17	30,095,371	....	44,587,950
1917-18	47,285,226	....	48,019,952
1918-19	44,331,720	....	48,829,951

Exports for the year ended August 31 last, you will see, are approximately the same as for the previous year. In 1918 the cotton crop was 4,800,000 kantars. The Government restricted the area under cotton cultivation, but this was compensated for by the high price. The falling-off in imports, as compared with 1917-18, is no doubt due to the reduction of the military forces in Egypt and Palestine and their consequently diminishing requirements.

But it is during the last six months, on account of the limited supply of cotton (especially of the Egyptian quality) to meet the world's demand, that the price of cotton, assisted by the American exchange rates, rose to over four and five times its recent value; with the result that although only about one-half of the 1919 crop had been exported by the end of the year, the total exports from Egypt for 1919 were worth £E 80,000,000, as compared with £E.46,000,000 in 1918, and the balance of trade in favour of Egypt reached the record figure of £E.33,000,000, to which we alluded above. It is to be noted that the rise of the price of cotton, in so far as it is due to the American exchange, corresponds with the premium on gold.

Needless to say, there has been a rush by cultivators to increase their holding of land, and transactions have been done at very high figures. Banks and mortgage companies have wisely taken the opportunity to part with any land they had on their hands, and, remembering the crisis of thirteen years ago, they have been very careful in making new advances. Unlike what occurred formerly, there is little borrowed money involved, so although we must all be careful, the effect of a reaction is not much to be feared. This prosperous state of affairs has again put up the cost of living. This falls heavily on the urban population, but the Government, pending the adjustment of things in the usual course of trade when international commerce will be easier, are very wisely importing grain and flour and selling it to the public at less than cost price. Co-operative societies are also making a real start, and the new law limiting the increase of rents will be most useful.

The cotton crop of 1919 is estimated to be about 6,000,000 kantars, but would have been more, it is said, if the area restrictions had been taken off at an earlier date. If climatic conditions are satisfactory, the crop of 1920 should easily exceed this quantity, and again add considerably to the wealth of Egypt.

According to the returns of the Sudan Customs, the total value of the external trade of the Sudan in 1919 (exclusive of specie) amounted to £E.7,835,314, as against £E.8,234,966 in 1913. The export trade showed a falling off of about £E1,200,000, as compared with the preceding year, but the value of imports, on the other hand, has increased by about £E.800,000. In making the comparison between the two years, it should be borne in mind that the year 1913 was one of exceptional prosperity. The decline in the value of the export trade cannot, therefore, be considered as a real setback in the development of trade.

The decline in the export trade was due to the low Nile, which affected the riverain cultivation, to the short rainfall of the previous autumn, and also to the dislocation of communications with Egypt during the spring. The export of dura, cattle, sheep, dukhn, beans, etc., was considerably less, as the following figures will show:—

—	1918.	1919.	Decrease.
	£E.	£E.	£E.
Gum	638,765	548,241	90,521
Dura	597,134	22,608	569,526
Cattle	516,920	357,936	158,984
Sheep and Goats	615,257	352,703	298,554
Dukhn	177,733	52,439	124,734
Beans, dried	122,326	47,990	74,336

The internal trade of the country, however, has, on the whole, been brisk.

The Sudan Government have now obtained the guarantee of the British Government to a loan of £E.6,000,000, and I am glad to say that in the flotation of a first instalment of the loan our bank was able to be of considerable assistance. We had in the past, in anticipation of this measure, advanced considerable sums to the Sudan Government to begin the development of their resources. It is proposed to construct dams on both the White and the Blue Nile for the extension of cultivation in Egypt and the Sudan.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I have to inform you that Sir Carl Meyer, one of your London directors, goes out of office by rotation this year, and I submit his name for the honour of re-election. Finally, I wish to tender to the sub-governors, managers and staff the expression of our sincere satisfaction with the result of their labours during 1919.

TO GREEK SUBJECTS.—Notice is hereby given that Greek subjects having interests to defend on the ground of dealings with German subjects or claims for contracts in Germany, should present themselves up to the 30th April, 1920, to the Greek Consulates in order to receive information as to the means of defending their interests according to the Treaty of Versailles.—The Greek Legation, 25, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from reports recently received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Stamboul, March 13.

Exports.

Opium.—The market is quiet, and the prices are weak at £T9.25-£T9.50 Druggist. Purchases of the week are insignificant, and transactions are practically nil. The restrictive measures which are being imposed in America are influencing business.

Mohair.—Purchases for America decrease. Some transactions have been effected for England. Sales of the week amount to 500 bales. Quotations per oke:—Extra Ps. 120, I. Ps. 110, II. Ps. 100. Konia Ps. 100. Stocks here are estimated at about 3,000 bales.

Wool.—The tendency of the market is weak. Some arrivals from Roumelia for export are to be noted. Prices are Ps. 62-63 I., Ps. 55-60 II.

Silk.—Market quiet, with a weak tendency. Prices have fallen by £T1 per kilo to £T28-£T28½ Broussa.

Cereals.—Prices, after having fallen at the beginning of the week by Ps. 2 the oke, have recovered, owing to the lack of arrivals, the present quotations being Ps. 15½-Ps. 16 tender wheat, and Ps. 14 hard wheat.

Stamboul, March 20.

Manufactures.

The improvement in prices noticed last week has continued, and for certain articles prices have risen by 10 per cent., this fact being principally caused by purchases made both as a speculation and as a means to satisfy internal consumption. The events that have just happened at Constantinople, however, have restricted business. Demand has suddenly ceased and prices are low. On the other hand, the formalities with which the merchants of the interior (mostly Mohammedans) are forced to comply have an equally adverse effect on trade. It may be stated, therefore, that there is a certain monetary depreciation, which, however, it is believed is only temporary.

Trade prospects in general remain good, in view of the firmness of the exchange in manufacturing countries.

Produce.

Sugar.—After a period of continued high prices, which have caused the rate to rise from £62 to £120, the sugar market this week has been subjected to a reaction from £5 to £6, following important arrivals. Events of the week have equally had their effect upon demand. On the other hand, tenders from Java, made at reduced prices, and a tender of from 4,000 to 6,000 tons of sugar from Holland had a depressing effect upon the market. The actual cost is £114 the ton in transit, and £T58 the hundred kilograms for sugar in customs.

Coffee.—The market is slightly stronger, the article being demanded as much for local consumption as for neighbouring ports. Prices are from 65 to 70 piastres the oke, for transit, and from 80 to 90 piastres the oke in customs, according to the quality.

Rice.—Several arrivals from Batoum have caused the price of Caucasian rice to fall to 28 piastres the oke. Although holders of American rice are disposed to make concessions, the scale of prices is so great compared with that of Baku rice that all transactions in American rice are rendered impossible.

A Department of Transport has been created for the French zone of Morocco to deal with all matters connected with military and civil transport by rail and sea.

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The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Remains Inactive.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The tone of the market continues decidedly quiet. During the past week all interest has been centred on the developments relating to the wages question, and, owing to the employers having offered Government arbitration and this suggestion being refused by the leaders of the operatives, a complete deadlock has come about in the negotiations. The workers are now making arrangements to hand in strike notices, which will expire on April 30. The outlook is gloomy, and many people have made up their minds that a strike will take place. In the circumstances the Manchester market has been rather depressed. The reports being received with regard to the Egyptian crop are not very favourable, and it is said that the plants are 10 to 15 days late. Egyptian cotton has been purchased sparingly by Lancashire spinners. In Egyptian yarns sales of weight have been isolated. Something can still be done in numbers suitable for tyre cloths, but ordinary trade has been poor. No revival of demand can be recorded in cloth for Egypt. Supplies, however, are being well taken, and the prospects are fairly encouraging. Business has been comparatively slow for the Levant, and orders for Turkey are still being held back. Only scattered sales have been put through for India. Less satisfactory advices have been received from China, and the recent fall in the price of silver is an unfavourable development. South American markets have given very little support. Some manufacturers are now refusing to quote, as a result of the uncertain prospects with regard to the wages question. American yarns for home consumption have been purchased sparingly at irregular rates. Comparatively little has been done in export numbers.

NEW COMPANIES.

Alexandria Banking and Trading.

The Alexandria Banking and Trading Co., Limited, has been registered with a nominal capital of £20,000 in 500 founders' and 4,500 ordinary shares of £4 each. Objects: To carry on in England, Egypt, and elsewhere the business of bankers, merchants, commission agents, brokers, insurance agents, carriers, etc. The first directors are: S. K. Constantinides, 27, Boulevard Ramleh, Alexandria, banker; P. B. Hadjipanos, 20, Lancaster Gate, W., advocate. Registered office, 32, Great St. Helens, E.C.

Algerian and Morocco Trading.

The Algerian and Morocco Trading and Development Co., Limited, was registered as a private company on April 7 with a capital of £3,000 in 2,500 £1 ordinary and 10,000 1s. deferred shares. Registered office, Metropolitan Chambers, 10, New Broad Street, E.C.

OIL OUTPUTS.

The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., announce: Production for month of March, 2,594 tons. Work was suspended four days, March 14 to 17.

The Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., report: Gemsah production, week ended April 11, nil (last week nil); Hurgada, same period, 2,176 tons (last week 2,258 tons).

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended March 31 were:—Cattle markets, £997; general markets, £675; total, £1,672; total for year, £28,030. There were no receipts for the corresponding week in 1919 owing to local disturbances.

GREEK TRADE REGULATIONS.

Certificates of Origin for Imports.

A circular issued by the Greek Ministry of Finance to the Greek Customs authorities concerning the verification of the origin of merchandise and the application thereto of the "general" or "Conventional" rates of the Greek Customs tariff, provides that the "Conventional" rates of duty are to be applied whenever a certificate is produced from the Greek Consular authority of the place of origin of the goods, to the effect that such goods come from the market of a country with which Greece is bound by Convention. Special attention is directed to the necessity of verifying the actual origin of goods coming from "transit warehouses" in countries having Conventions with Greece. Instead of Consular certificate, a certificate from the Chamber of Commerce of the town from which the goods come, attested by the competent Greek Consular authority, may be accepted.

By way of exception, certificates of origin are not required for the application of the "Conventional" tariff rates, for goods coming direct from countries situated out of Europe and beyond the Suez Canal and Straits of Gibraltar, when the original bills of lading, showing the origin of the goods, and that they are destined for Greece, are produced. In the case of goods which are a speciality of the country of origin or which come from a country which has a monopoly of the production (e.g., wines of a certain class, such as Bordeaux, Port, etc., English herrings, Spanish conserves, etc.), the Greek Customs are authorised to apply the "Conventional" tariff, even if no certificate of origin is produced, if they are convinced by the nature of the goods that they come from a country with which Greece is bound by Convention. In case of doubt, the Customs authorities may demand the original bills of lading.

YUGOSLAV FINANCE.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed that the Government of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes have been considering the Bill on the Budget votes for the months of September, October, November, and December, 1919, and for January, February, and March, 1920, as well as urgent fiscal measures.

The Skupechtina will be asked to vote the following amounts for the expenditure for the four latter months of 1919, estimated at:—Dinars, 646,593,217; kronen, 530,076,309; and for the first three months of 1920:—Dinars, 323,296,606; kronen, 365,027,697.

Provision is being made for (1) the grant to the Government of additional and extraordinary credits, to be determined by the Council of Ministers, and the credits included in the Finance Bill for the Budget year 1919-20, viz.:—Dinars, 301,890,254; kronen, 521,519,467. (2) The grant to the Government of additional and extraordinary credits for the months of January, February, and March, 1920, of: Dinars, 200,000,000. (3) The grant to the Ministry of War for the gross expenses for the maintenance of the army up to May 31 of a further credit of: Dinars, 250,000,000.

The Ministry of Finance proposes to increase the State revenues by new schemes of taxation, as follows:—(1) To extend the imposition of the taxes provided for in the law for the old Kingdom of Serbia to all the territories of the S.H.S. Kingdom. (2) To increase certain taxes in Croatia 100 per cent. (3) To raise the taxes throughout the whole country either to triple or to four and five times their present amount. (4) After the necessary preliminary increase according to the preceding article, to double once again certain of the taxes in question; to increase the other taxes in Dalmatia and Slovenchka 400 per cent., and finally certain legal taxes in Croatia and in the Voivodina 800 per cent.. (5) To impose a tax on the entrance tickets for theatres, cinemas, and other public performances and amusements, racecourse, etc., which, according to the prices of admission will vary between 20 paras and 10 dinars.

The Imperial Merchant Service Guild learns that two leading steamship companies have decided to calculate the pay of their employees in Indian waters at the fixed rate of 12 rupees to the £.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price April 13.	Price April 20.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28	28
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	66	66
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	72⅝	74⅛
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	60⅝	58
Greek 5%, 1881	54⅛	54
Do. 5%, 1884	54½	54
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	42	50
Do. 5% 1890	57	56
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	54	58
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	46	50
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	39	39¾
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	52	55
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	74	72½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	67½xd	69½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	58⅜	59
Do. 4% Unified	31	35⅜
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5½	5⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅜	6
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	66	66
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	68	68
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	19	18⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	60/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	6⅛	6⅜
Bank of Roumania	5⅜	5⅝
British Trade Corporation	9½	9½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10⅜	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	9½	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6
London County and Westminster	14⅛	14⅛
National Bank of Egypt	21⅛	21⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6½	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	70	68½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	14	14
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	41	41
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	35½	32
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	65
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	2⅜	40/6
Do. 6% Debs	140	140½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	17/6	16/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	3⅜	75/-
Béhéra Co.	18⅜	19⅞
Do. Pref.	4	4⅛
Building Lands of Egypt	32/-	31/6
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/5 paid)	2/4	2/3½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	16/6	17/9
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	6⅛
Do. and Foreign Trust	16/6	16/4½
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	31/3	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	72	75
New Egyptian Co.	33/-	35/1½
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	58/9
Sudan Plantations	7	7⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (15/- paid)	10/6	10/6
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86⅛	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	54/-	55/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅜	96⅜
Khediv al Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/3	17/6
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	19/-	19/-
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	98½	98½
Chinese 4½% 1898	58	58½
Do. 5% 1896	79	75⅜
Argentine 5% 1890	70⅛	70½
Do. 5% 1907	82¾	80½
OIL.		
Algerian	3/4½	3/6
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	3½	70/7½
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/9	22/10½
Do. 5% Debs.	82	82
Anglo-Roumanian	7/4½	7/4½
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/6	4/6
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	15/-	14/6
Roumanian	23/3	22/-
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	6/-	5/3
Traian (Roumanian)	9/-	9/3

A Reuter message from Cairo, dated April 18, states :—The cotton tax of thirty-five piastres per kantar is to become operative on August 1, and will be payable at the moment of ginning.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Mar. 13. Rs.	March 19. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	59	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	302	303
Bank of Bengal	1770	1770
Bank of Bombay	2275	2280
Bank of Madras	1700	1700
Bank of India	135	135ex
Tata Industrial Bank	51½	52⅜
COAL.		
Baraboni	14	14
Bengal	780	804
Burrakur	47	50⅜
East Indian	37½	37½
Equitable	44⅜	45
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	60½	65
Standard	64⅜	64⅜
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	450	570
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	3625	4150
Bowreah	950	1090
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	750	750
Cawnpore	210	210
Century	1100	1205
Central India	4100 / 1875	4185 / 2092½
Elgin	118	118
Gold Mohur	1800	1800
Khatau Makanji	750	725
Muir	238½	238
New Ring	700	930
Phœnix	1100	1115
Svadeshi	4290	4480
JUTE.		
Alliance	755	755
Barnagore	155	154
Budge Budge	614	614
Clive	300	300
Dalhousie	528	511
Delta	695	695
Fort Gloster	1000	1000
Gourepore	1320	1335
Howrah	46	45⅜
Kamarhatty	915	878
Kankinarrah	714	700
Khardah	570	570
Kinnison	1086	1106
National	420	420
Standard	682	694
Union	860	858
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	81⅜	81⅜
Bengal Timber Trading	708	708
Burn and Co.	300	300
Carew and Co.	91	91
Cawnpore Sugar	355	355
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	335	335
Howrah Oil Mills	32½	34
India General Steam	155	135
Indian Iron and Steel	140 / 33½	140 / 95
Marshall Sons and Co.	10⅜	12½
Titaghur Paper	307	302

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MARCH 31.

Supplied by G. L. Mortara, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	22⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	64
" " Div.	Frs.	110
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	10⅞
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	18⅜
" priv.	£	3⅜
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	76
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1½
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5½
Société des Immeubles	£	7⅛
Bonded Stores	£	20⅜
Unifiée	£	75⅜
Privilégiée		62
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
Nungovich Hotels	£	11⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅞
" " " Fond.	£	440
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅛
" " Ord		108/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21⅛
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	98
" Jouissance	Frs.	140
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		37/-
Egyptian Markets		24/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	420
" Div.	Frs.	400
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	290
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	8⅛
Egyptian Salt and Soda		54/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	634
" Fondateur	Frs.	8800
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	422
" 1903 "	Frs.	290
" 1911 "	Frs.	275½
Consolidated Land	P.T.	15
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1⅛
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	380
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	1⅛
Urbaines & Rurales		3⅛
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4½
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	1

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	April 13.	April 20.
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	57⅞	57½
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	62¾	63
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	98½	98½
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	69	68
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	67⅛	69¼
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	82½	76xd
	Eastern	7⅞	7⅞
	Mercantile of India A.	44	43⅜
	National of India	58⅜	56½
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	9/1½	9/3
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	14/6	14/9
	Burma Corp.	11½	11⅜
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	10/-	9/10½
	Champion Reef Gold	3/-	3/1½
	Mysore Gold Mining	17/-	14/9
	Nundydroog	14/3	13/11½
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	17/9	18/6
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	22/6	23/9
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	43/9	42/6
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	41/3	35/-
	Brit. Burmah	4⅜	4⅜
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	18½	17½
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22/6	18/9
	Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	9½	9½
RAILWAYS.			
	Assam Bengal	49	49
	Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	132	130
	Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	50	49½
	Bengal-Nagpur	111	111
	Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	103⅜	101½
	Burma Railways	103½	104
	Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
	E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	12½
	East Bengal Ann. "A," 1967	13	13
	Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	12⅞	12
	Madras and S. Mahratta	106⅜	109
	Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	127⅞	127⅞
	Nizam's Guaranteed State	75⅛	71½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
	Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	—	58/1½
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	10	10
	P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	83½	83
	Do. Deferred	550	610
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
	Assam Co.	64⅛	64
	Bengal United Tea Ord.	16	16
	British Indian Tea Ord.	7⅛	7⅛
	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	15	15
	Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	11/7½	11/7½
	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	62/6	63/1½
	Consolidated Estates	44/6	44/6
	Darjeeling Co.	18/3	18/9
	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	61/3	61/3
	Doears Tea Ord.	52/-	52/6
	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	21/10½	22/-
	Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	71/3	69/7½
	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	32	31/-
	Hewagam Rubber Co.	21/3	21/3
	Jhanzie Tea Association	10⅛	10⅛
	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	20⅞	20⅞
	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	15/9	16/3
	Lanka Plantations Ord.	22/6	21/3
	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	21/9	22/3
	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	43/1½	43/6
	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	12⅞	12⅞
	P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	31/-	28/9

Anglo-Romano Gas.—Holders of coupons stamped "payable in London" are informed that a dividend of £1 4s., less Italian tax at 1s. 3d. per share, or £1 2s. 9d. per share net, has been declared on the shares, payable April 26, at the offices of Messrs. Stephenson, Clarke and Co., 4, St. Dunstan's Alley, E.C.3. Coupons 17 and 18 to be left for examination three days. Listing forms for coupons may be had on application.

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THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,

AND

THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Authorised Capital - -	**Rs. 1,00,00,000**
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital - - -	**,, 88,21,400**
Reserve Fund - - -	**,, 40,00,000**
Reserve against Depreciation of Govt. Paper and other investments -	**,, 11,00,000**

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Branches:

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Sub-Offices:

Barnagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Sadar Bazar (Delhi), Hapur (Meerut), Morena (Gwalior), Pachhar (Gwalior), Meerut City (Meerut), Sehore (Bhopal), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior).

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Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other Branch.

Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected, Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.

Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.

The Bank undertakes Banking business of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper, Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.

Rules of Business and any further information can be obtained on application to Head Office or any of the Branches.

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CALCUTTA	IPOH	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
CANTON	KARACHI	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
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THE LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER and PARR'S BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
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The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general banking business connected with the East.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - - -	**£1,197,468.**
Paid-up Capital - -	**£765,242.**
Reserve Fund - -	**£220,000.**

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Reserve - - - £710,000.

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(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government.)

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	Mars'lles.	Destination.
MOREA.....	11,000	—	April 24	Bombay & Karachi
KARMALA	9,000	April 24	—	Straits, China, Japan
NARK'NDA.....	16,000	April 24	May 1	Bombay & Karachi
*POONA	9,000	April 30	—	Australia
MANTUA.....	11,000	May 1	May 8	Bombay & Karachi
DEVANHA	9,000	May 8	May 15	Straits, China, Japan

* Cargo only.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

GAZANA.....	5,200	April 21	—	Madras & Calcutta
GAIRSOPPA	5,237	April 24	—	Bombay & Karachi
NEURALIA	9,082	April 27	—	Pt.Sudan&E.Africa
MORVADA.....	8,193	May 1	—	Bombay & Karachi
NIRVANA.....	6,021	May 1	—	Bombay & Karachi
GARADA	5,200	May 1	—	Madras & Calcutta
WAIPARA.....	6,994	May —	—	Queensland

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MOANA	—	May 19
NIAGARA	May 26	—

† Canadian-Australasian Line via Honolulu and Fiji.
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TO
EGYPT & INDIA.

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*CITY OF MARSEILLES	8,250	April 27	Colombo & Calcutta
CITY OF CALCUTTA	7,636	April 28	Bombay & Karachi
CITY OF YORK	7,834	May 6	Colombo & Calcutta
CITY OF EXETER	9,373	May 6	Bombay & Karachi

* Twin Screw.

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MAY 19

MESOPOTAMIA.

THE NEAR EAST

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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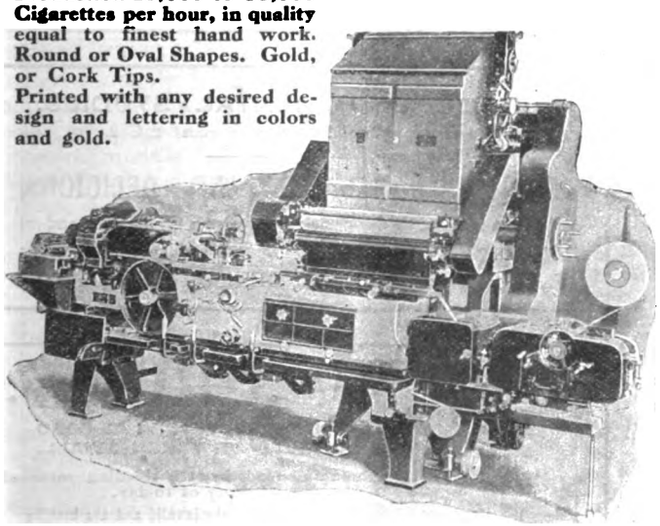

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No. 469.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In the first half of last week reports from San Remo were pessimistic in tone, and the political atmosphere was admittedly sultry, though not, perhaps, so sultry as a section of the Press would have had the world believe. Later, things improved rapidly, and at the time of writing the sky is comparatively clear again, and we may reasonably hope for a spell of fine weather. In spite of the conditions not being entirely favourable, much progress has been made towards reducing the Near Eastern muddle to something like order. Official and semi-official *communiqués* have informed us that the future of Smyrna has been settled, as has that of Kurdistan, that the mandates for Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Syria have been conferred—the first two on Great Britain and the third on France—and that "the question of the new Armenian State" has been "settled." Moreover, many minor questions of financial detail in connection with the Peace Terms for Turkey have been under discussion, and the Supreme Council has devoted a good deal of time to preparing its reply to President Wilson's Note on the Turkish question. According to one report, the Council also found time to "discuss" the Sudan; but it is hard to believe that it can have wasted its energies on such a distinctly superogatory work. Cyprus, it appears, is not to be discussed—just yet, at any rate.

Thus far the official *communiqués* have told us nothing about the future of Adalia and that very considerable portion of Asia Minor which was generally understood to be regarded by Italy as her own particular "sphere of influence." According to reports from usually well-informed sources, Italy has actually renounced her hopes in this direction, at least to the extent of desiring only economic rights and privileges in the area referred to. This would undoubtedly appear to be sound policy on her part, whether it be dictated by a realisation of the difficulties that would attend any attempt to impose her sovereignty over the region referred to, by a desire to strengthen the good opinions she has won in Turkey recently by the policy she has been pursuing, or by the hope—or certainty—of securing "compensations" elsewhere. Possibly a combination of such considerations as these may account for her decision, if she has actually taken it. In any case, if she has so decided she is to be congratulated on her sense and courage.

The announcement that Great Britain is to be the Mandatory Power for Palestine disposes of those foolish rumours which a few weeks ago gained credence in America, and thence found their way to this country, accompanied by notifications of the various dreadful things that might be expected to befall Great Britain if she failed to act honourably. Zionists and Jews throughout the world have received the news of the Council's decision with an unfeigned enthusiasm distinctly flattering to us as a nation. The task that now devolves upon Great Britain is, however, no light one; she must redeem her pledge not only by facilitating the establishment in the Holy Land of a national home for the Jewish people, but also by seeing that other peoples living in the land are fairly treated; and recent events go to prove that her position as Mandatory will be no sinecure. There will be plenty of other difficulties, apart from those caused by racial differences. Outside the Jewish colonies the country is in a backward state, and at the present time it is producing only enough wheat to supply three ounces a day for each inhabitant. As supplies from the Hauran have been cut off by the Arabs, and the French are preventing exports from Syria, it is obvious that Palestine would be in a bad way were it not for the supplies of Australian corn which are being imported by Great Britain. This state of affairs will almost certainly be altered very soon: Jewish energy and Jewish finance will see to that. And Great Britain, with her wide experience of similar work in other parts of the world, will surely prove equal to her new task, which is an honourable one and will prove, we hope, a not ungrateful one.

When it was announced three weeks ago that the Supreme Council had offered the mandate for Armenia to the League of Nations the view was expressed in these columns that the League could not accept the position without stultifying its whole existence. The Council of the League has endorsed the opinion by pointing out the functions of the League of Nations, as contemplated by the Covenant, are rather to confer mandates upon individual States under its general supervision than to undertake mandates itself. This is so obvious that it remains a matter for surprise that the Supreme Council could have ignored the point, and it is no less amazing that a body in this country which exists to mould public opinion in favour of the idea of the League of Nations should have placed on record the hope that the Council of the League would not lightly reject the offer. The cynic will be tempted to say that, if the Supreme Council has not grasped the idea underlying its own creation, there is little wonder that it has failed to master the intricacies of the Near Eastern problem and to evolve a satisfactory or lasting settlement.

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The Council of the League of Nations, realizing that the Prime Ministers forming the Supreme Council have strayed quite out of their depth, has profited by the opportunity to come to their rescue. It points out that it disposes of no funds or forces of its own for the performance of a task so weighty as that of the control of Armenia, and then gently suggests what ought to have been the proper course of action of the Supreme Council. It offers to ascertain whether any member of the League would be prepared to assume a mandate for Armenia, but before doing so it must know what the material conditions attaching to such a mandate would be. This is precisely the information that the Supreme Council ought to have provided when it made the offer of the mandate, and the fact that it offered the mandate before it had indicated the source of the funds necessary for the administration of Armenia, or had even fixed the boundaries of the country, is a measure of its muddle-headedness. The Council of the League is to be congratulated on seeing things more clearly. Indeed the incident must confirm the opinion already widely held that the sooner the Supreme Council makes way for the League of Nations the better. What is required is the opportunity of revising some of the decisions of the Supreme Council, free from the play of rival passions and in the light of expert knowledge.

Another San Remo decision regarding Turkey which has been made known—semi-officially—in the past week concerns the Straits. These will be internationalized, and, it is understood, will be administered by a committee working much on the lines of the Suez Canal administration: while a second committee, of a military character, will be charged with the defence of the Straits against attack, having (for the present) Allied detachments at is service. The port of Batoum also is to be internationalized and made a common outlet for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. If these arrangements are to be worked successfully their details will require very careful planning out.

Smyrna is to be placed under Greek administration, but is to remain under Turkish suzerainty. It appears that it is to be a free port, and will have a Parliament of its own: but the whole arrangement is merely temporary, for five years hence a plebiscite is to be taken for (or against) complete union with Greece and the abolition (or retention) of Turkish sovereignty. It would be easy to pick holes in this arrangement, but it certainly constitutes a great personal triumph for M. Venizelos, who has known how to obtain the prize in spite of the unwisdom of some of his countrymen and the very unsatisfactory attitude of Greece under Constantine in the early days of the war. If it be true, as is reported, that Greece is also to receive the whole of Thrace up to the Chatalja lines, M. Venizelos's success is all the more remarkable, though it would be open to doubt whether such a success would be entirely a matter for congratulations to Greece, in view of the feeling it would create in Bulgaria.

In spite of the great anxieties that must press on him as the time draws near for making the Allies' Peace terms known to Turkey, Damad Ferid Pasha continues his courageous efforts to import some sort of order into Turkish affairs and to bring the Nationalists to book. Conscious that the army has been so thoroughly impregnated with Committee views that it is not a trustworthy instrument to employ against the Nationalists, he is calling for more volunteers, and it is to be hoped that his appeal will meet with an adequate response. The Nationalists recently inflicted a check on Ahmed Anzavour Pasha's forces, owing to the latter running short of munitions and supplies; but reinforcements have been dispatched, and it is anticipated that the Brusa vilayet will very shortly be swept clear of Nationalists. No better evidence of the Grand Vizier's sincerity about putting the Turkish house in order could be forthcoming than his decision to remain at home, rather than go to Paris at the head of the Turkish Peace Delegation. The delegation will now be headed by Tewfik Pasha, formerly Turkish Ambassador at the Court of St. James's. The Allies, having made preparations for all eventualities in regard to the signing of the Treaty, or a Turkish refusal to sign, have allowed an outline of their plans and estimates to be published. The wisdom, to say nothing of the taste, thus displayed does not appear to be above criticism.

The opening of the informal discussions regarding relations with Afghanistan appears to have set India thinking once again over that even more difficult problem, the pacification of the independent tribes that occupy the intervening territory. The question is by no means new, for the Mogul administration was perplexed by it more than three centuries ago, and its essential features have persisted practically unchanged. The tribes regard India as their natural prey, and have not the slightest desire to be pacified. India stands them as long as possible, and then inflicts more or less severe punishment; and so *da capo*. Obviously some permanent amelioration of the position is to be desired, but in this country at least the critics seem to have no very definite constructive policy, and perhaps the general opinion is fairly represented by the comment in *The Times* that the question is so difficult that it is best left to the judgment of the Government of India—a handsome tribute, by the way, to the capacity of a body which has of late had a very indifferent Press.

The position of the Government is in many ways analagous to that of an industrial concern, using an imperfect process which involves heavy recurring expenditure. Theory indicates that the defective plant should be scrapped, and capital invested in some more economical machinery, but the difficult calculations regarding cost and profit cannot be worked out on theoretical grounds, and in regard to them the last word rests with the technical experts. In the same way the Indian public, chafing under the heavy recurring toll of life and property, urges that the offending tribes must be subjugated once for all, and their territory brought permanently under some form of civilised administration, but the methods to be adopted and the financial questions involved call for expert decision, and so the weary Titan at Simla must use his own judgment in the last resort. So much at least seems certain, that Lord Curzon's policy of relying on the tribal forces has definitely broken down, and the problem is to some extent simplified by the elimination of one alternative; but permanent amelioration requires force of some kind, and the practical question is whether the Government sees its way to providing the force on which any form of civilised administration must be based.

There seems to be some tendency in this country to attach importance to the report of the self-appointed Congress committee on the Punjab disturbances of last year, though, so far, we have only found one journal accepting it as an official pronouncement. To our mind, this attitude is a mistake; the circumstances in which this unofficial enquiry was instituted and conducted deprive the report of any independent evidential value, except, perhaps, as regards the tactical skill of the extremist party, and we advise our readers to preserve an open mind pending the issue of Lord Hunter's report, in which they may be reasonably confident of finding the essential facts stated with judicial fairness and precision. What actually happened is, of course, well enough known, and had been fully described in India months before the English papers took the matter up; but the interpretation of these happennings depends on other facts, to which the unofficial committee had no access, and which have not yet been published in detail; the importance of Lord Hunter's report consists in the statement of these underlying facts and the examination of their bearing on the events which have become notorious.

To our mind, Lord Meston's award on the question of the representation of non-Brahmins in the Madras

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legislature is a thoroughly statesmanlike document, and one which should give southern politics the reality they have hitherto lacked. The non-Brahmins have a great preponderance of votes, justified by their preponderance in numbers, but they fear that the influence and organisation of the Brahmin minority may be used to nullify this preponderance and return a Brahmin legislature; they asked, therefore, that an actual majority of elective seats should be reserved for them, and Lord Meston had to pronounce upon this claim. He decided against it, mainly on the ground that the guarantee of an absolute majority would tend to confirm the community in the present condition of stagnation, and he assigned to them instead a substantial minority of seats, sufficient in any case to give them an effective voice in Council, and at the same time offering a much-needed stimulus to organised effort. That seems to us the work of a skilled handicapper; the man on the limit should not be given a certainty, but only such a start that he will have a reasonable chance of winning by his own exertions.

Naturally, the non-Brahmins are not satisfied with this decision, for hardly anyone likes to be called on to exert himself, and numerous protests have appeared in the Indian Press, while the representative non-Brahmin organisation in this country has favoured us with a detailed statement of their objections. The medicine is, however, beginning to work, for we notice that a large meeting in Madras was not content with protest, but passed a resolution calling on the community to organise and carry on an active political propaganda with the object of securing as many seats as possible. That is the spirit which we hope to see manifested, and not in Madras only, but throughout the length and breadth of India. The new conditions call for effort and organisation; seats in Council must be regarded as goals, and not as doles; and, while backward communities may fairly seek a handicap in the early stages, they will do no real good until they learn the lesson that success in the race depends on their own exertions more than anything else.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

The Budget.

To all appearances the public have paid regrettably little attention to the San Remo discussions, and unless somebody discovers the remains of the ark on Ararat—which would help to reduce the shortage of houses—I am afraid the ordinary voter will be content to let the Armenian problem remain the Armenian problem. The Budget is so much nearer home.

On the whole, Mr. Austen Chamberlain's proposals have been well received. It is true that Mr. Harold Cox has condemned it as unheroic, but Mr. Cox is a veritable financial Parsifal. Mr. Asquith praised with faint damn, the Labour Party had little criticism, and although the Coalition and the City dislike the excess profits tax, they are not quite sure whether they would not object to a levy on war wealth still more. The attitude of the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been criticised by the interests, and his plain speaking resented, but the public have admired his pluck. He was told, he says, that if he reduced the excess profits tax prices would fall; very well, he reduced the tax by half in 1919, and prices rose. The plain fact is that when the demand for goods is greater than the supply of those goods the man who deals in them cannot help making money; the risk is eliminated, and once the risk of loss is eliminated there is a strong case for a special tax on the accruing profits. I am afraid the City will not get much sympathy. The real objection against the excess profits tax is that it is a handicap on new enterprise; but the great firms of old standing naturally preserve a discreet silence in that aspect, since they have no dislike on general grounds of the handicapping of youthful competition. The new corporation tax, which operates more fairly altogether, is destined to take its place after a year or two.

It will be interesting to see whether the new tax on wines and cigars leads to a diminution in the amount consumed. I believe most men economise on cigars more readily than on drinks; the consumption of cigars has certainly gone down now they are anything from one to five shillings apiece, but in clubs and restaurants one sees no sign of any reduction in wine. Indeed, a club secretary told me the other day that as a certain brand of champagne in their cellars was running short and could not be replaced they put up the price five shillings a bottle, in order to check its consumption; but the increase made no difference whatever. It is perfectly amazing to see how many people drink champagne, or what passes for it, in these days; it looks as though we intended to repeat the process of drinking ourselves out of debt which our heroic three-bottle fathers accomplished at the cost of hereditary gout.

The Budget as a whole is undoubtedly having the result of raising British credit abroad, and that in itself will do much to offset any small effect it may have in raising the cost of living at home. Prices seem determined to rise whatever happens, so that the Budget can hardly make much additional difference.

New Labour Demands.

The cycle of Labour unrest is in full swing again. Cotton operatives in Manchester are demanding another 60 per cent.—a modest claim which probably rises from the speculation and high profits of the cotton mills. The railwaymen are threatening unutterable things if they do not receive another pound a week—this because the dockers have got more, and a railwayman is superior to a docker. The miners are satisfied for the moment, having apparently succeeded in putting up coal another ten shillings or so a ton next winter; but tailors, sempstresses, waiters, and even undertakers' assistants are all putting forward fresh demands. In consequence, the Food Controller foretells higher prices than ever in 1921.

How far the movement has gone is shown by the fact that even the House of Commons last week discussed the question of higher wages—for itself. It appears that £400 a year is not enough; one member said he could make more money in a coal mine, but I suppose he would have to work in a coal mine. The Government turned a deaf ear to the appeal, and the public have not shown themselves to be enthusiastic over paying their legislators more. After all, members of Parliament cannot very well go on strike, and if they did it would not matter very much.

Two By-Elections.

The electoral tide still flows in favour of the Government. They have won two more by-elections this week, and those both in Edinburgh, the very pride and centre of Scottish intellect. Even Mr. Runciman's eloquence did not move the Liberals of the Northern capital to vote for him, and they do not seem to have taken very seriously that fabulous Celtic ancestry which he discovered for the occasion. It must be admitted that the rejection of Mr. Runciman is a bad blow for the Independent Liberals; for the last ten years he has been one of their shining lights, and the touch of piety in his speeches was always considered a personal asset of some value by the hero-worshippers, who predicted a great future for him. The few Asquithians who are left are now convinced that Mr. Lloyd George has sold himself to the devil, and is invulnerable for a term of years.

English Tobacco.

In discussing the prospects of British agriculture last week, Sir Arthur Boscawen gave some details of the new home-grown sugar enterprise, which was commented on in this column a few weeks ago, but he also surprised most of the public by the further announcement that the Government had started or encouraged tobacco-growing in Norfolk.

Of course, there is no real reason why tobacco should not be grown in England; the crop was tried in the reign

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of James I. But the Customs have always frowned on the idea, and although a little was produced in Hampshire a year or so before the war, a few chance fields of nicotine plants could hardly be called an industry. Now things are different, and apparently we are going into the business seriously. It is an easy enough crop to grow; the curing is the difficulty. It may be assumed that the Government have secured good expert advice on the matter.

The Coming Drought.

Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson has landed in New York, and has prophesied to the reporters that England will be dry in ten years. Naturally he professes faith in victory—it would be a poor crusader who did not. But the reason he gives is interesting. "Surface indications do not bear out my prediction, but underlying developments do. I've talked with captains of industry and men in all walks of life—not total abstainers—and they told me England would have to be dry in order to compete with dry America." In other words, the survival of the fittest. But in America Prohibition is accused of being the cause of Labour unrest, which hardly promotes keenness of competition, and in England the working classes have certainly resented the idea of restrictions being imposed.

The Birth Rate.

Some curious evidence as to the birth-rate was given by Dr. Stevenson, Superintendent of Statistics, at a lecture during the week. It appears that the professional classes are with one exception the least fertile in the kingdom—the one exception being that of people who describe themselves as of private means. In the latter case freedom from anxiety appears to result in lack of enterprise, thus confirming Galton's view that inherited wealth is a sure steriliser. The birth-rate of Nonconformist ministers is a little above that of the low minimum of the professional classes as a whole; that of the Church of England, in spite of the proverbial jeer at the penniless curate with a dozen children, is slightly below the average; but the survival rate is high—which speaks volumes for the excellence of the parson's wife.

House Rent.

The housing question appears in process of being solved, the solution being that rents shall be raised 40 per cent. during the next three years, so that landlords will be able to afford repairs, and capital will be encouraged to enter the building trade. Whether, after the discovery of this happy means of building fresh houses, anybody will be able to afford the rent to live in them is a debateable problem, but as a matter of fact the 40 per cent. will cover repairs to existing houses, but the cost of building new houses is up 100 per cent. above that of 1914, so that unless the Government subsidy is increased the new houses will hardly keep pace with the demand. One thing is certain—higher rents mean smaller houses for everybody.

The rush to buy on the part of unhappy householders who, for one reason or another, have to find a new home is worse than ever, largely through the extortionate profiteering of the people who let furnished houses. I heard a strange story of a man who died one Sunday morning; in the afternoon the house agent was on the widow's doorstep offering to buy her house for immediate possession. I forget whether he insisted on immediate burial of the deceased owner.

Theatre Prices and Wages.

The prices of the London theatres have been raised a shilling or two a seat; and *post hoc* but perhaps not *propter hoc*, the London builders are demanding another couple of pounds a week. No guarantee is given that higher prices for seats mean better plays—most of them could not well be worse—but probably little will be done to improve the quality of the drama until a real slump in theatre-going sets in. Already there are signs that attendances are less than during the war, but one still sees people waiting outside the gallery and the pit three or four hours before the doors are open, so the managers will not be seriously alarmed at the prospect of bankruptcy for the present. Furthermore, while the demand for houses continues, it will be difficult to put up fresh theatres, and therefore competition is restricted.

The Cup Final.

Judged by the crowd that attended the Football Association Cup Final last Saturday in London—a mere fifty thousand—football, although still popular as a league game, does not attract as a cup spectacle to such an extent as before the war. Aston Villa won the Cup after a rather tedious match with Huddersfield, in which no goal was scored until extra time had been played. The play followed the tradition of Cup finals in being careful rather than brilliant, but there were some regrets that Huddersfield, a new club which has fought its way up very pluckily, came so near to triumph and lost at the post.

The Week's Books.

Nobody has yet succeeded in explaining why the Government should have violated all precedent by appointing a scholar and a teacher to the Education Office, but the experiment of putting Mr. H. A. L. Fisher in charge of that dreary department appears to have justified itself. But it has justified itself at the cost of literature, for most of the "Studies in History and Politics" (Oxford University Press) which Mr. Fisher has just issued were written before he became one of our rulers. The studies are quite admirable, ranging from discussions of such different historians as Ammianus Marcellinus and Lord Acton to a survey of the position of the small state—a problem which the present political geography of Europe has made acute.

The late Canon Scott Holland had many admirers, and he was both an eloquent preacher and a voluble writer—indeed, two voluble, for an excess of words often covered and sometimes drowned a rather thin thought. Most of what he wrote was little more than daily or weekly journalism of the socio-religious kind, but some of his work has been thought worth preserving, and I see that Mr. Murray has announced a book on "The Philosophy of Faith," as an attempt to give Dr. Holland's teaching as a coherent whole; it is also to contain an essay on the study of the Gospel of St. John. It will no doubt appeal to those who recognised in him one of the great orators of the Church.

Two very different books happen to have come my way on the same day; I can cordially recommend them both, the first to physiologists, the second to sportsmen. "The Engines of the Human Body" (Williams and Norgate), by Arthur Keith, is a really brilliant account of our personal machinery; and "Cricket Reminiscences" (Grant Richards), by P. F. Warner, the old West Indian and Middlesex captain, recites the memories of one who has put some at least of those engines to excellent use. It would not be true to say that Mr. Warner writes as well as he bats, but his memories are extremely interesting.

Mr. Maurice Hewlett has issued a volume of poems with Constable, under the title of "Flowers in the Grass." Mr. Hewlett is another instance of a novelist who has made some mark as a poet; but I am not altogether convinced that this volume will increase his fame. It contains fine things; but it also contains other things.

I have been reading with interest Professor Bury's "The Idea of Progress" (Macmillan). The author is the most learned historian of the day, and his work is always interesting. Here he points out that the Greeks and Romans knew nothing of the general idea of progress; the mediæval world, based on the theory that this mundane life was relatively unimportant, was equally static; only after the Renaissance did the idea of human progress become generally embodied in philosophic thought. He traces its real origin to Bacon and Descartes, follows it through the writings of the French Encyclopædists, and brings it down to Darwin and Spencer—the latter of whom assumed, with the cocksure optimism of his age, that progress was inevitable. Professor Bury remarks that a very important extension of the logical idea of progress has appeared in the last few years, with the increasing thought of the care due to posterity.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, April 5.

I understand that the High Commissioner will issue a report on Egyptian affairs during the next two or three months. The last "Agency" report was published in 1914 and dealt with the progress and development of the country during 1913. Since then, apart from spasmodic publications issued by individual administrations and the answers to questions in the House of Commons, no official report has been published. In the circumstances, the report, I understand, will concern itself with the war period and events since the Armistice; though whether it will deal with the political situation from any but the historical point of view is doubtful, in view of the task entrusted to the Milner Mission.

Sir Valentine Chirol, who is still contributing articles to *The Times* on the local situation, left this week for England. He has just completed his book on the Egyptian question, which will be published shortly, and will, I understand, deal very frankly and exhaustively with each of the factors dominating the Egyptian situation.

The Damascus Coup D'Etat.

The Damascus *coup d'etat* created a certain amount of excitement among the students and the rest of the *intelligenzia*, which, perhaps, was to be expected. The Allied occupation of Constantinople seems, however, to have stabilised the situation somewhat, showing once again what an important influence the display of determination (or the reverse) on the part of the Allies in Near Eastern matters has on the people in this country.

As regards the question of Constantinople, it is exceedingly difficult to arrive at the real trend of public feeling. As a weapon against Christians in general, and Great Britain in particular, the proposal to turn the Turks out of Europe is a very useful one in the hands of the Extremists, but so far the only attempt to create a movement in this connection has been made by the Vice-President of the Nationalist Party, Ali Bey Kamel, the brother of Mustapha Pasha Kamel, who has been trying to collect signatures to a protest in this connection.

The difficulty in which the Extremists find themselves in this respect is that they have nobody to whom they can address their protest. The Sultan they affect to disown; the Allies are "interested" parties; whilst the channel open to the Indian Moslems, viz., Great Britain, has been closed to them by their own obstinate refusal to recognise the Protectorate. Indeed, the attempt that has been made by one of the leading Nationalist organs to explain why Egyptians appear to take less interest in the question than their Indian co-religionists, has been very lame, and has merely served to accentuate the absurdity of their attitude on the local political issue.

The Rush to Berlin.

The Extremist press is making much ado over the accident which has befallen the Egyptian students in the Vienna express. Every one sympathises with these young men and their families; but even allowing for Oriental extravagance it must be admitted that the vernacular press is losing all sense of proportion when it holds up the victims of this railway accident as martyrs for the national cause, and makes such suggestions as that they should be exhumed, embalmed, and brought back to Egypt at the State expense, and that a monument should be erected to their memory. A good many students have gone to Europe during the last two or three months, practically all to Berlin, and the 150 odd who were on the Helouan with Lord Milner were but one of many such parties. The fact is that there has been considerable propaganda of late in the direction of inducing young Egyptians to go to Berlin to study, and it appears certain that this propaganda is part of a wider project for recruiting potential pro-German and Bolshevist agents. The young men, who have been induced to go to Berlin do not come of the better element, and, consequently, may turn out to be all the better agents for the purpose for which they are being attracted to that city. It is much to be regretted that at a juncture like the present it should not have been found possible, owing to overcrowding due to the war, to accommodate Egyptian students as usual in England; but it is extremely unlikely that this factor has had anything to do with the present development, since, on the one hand, many of the students have left Egypt for Berlin before the completion of their secondary course, and, on the other hand, quite a number have interrupted their studies in England in order to go there. There can be no doubt that the presence of so many young Egyptians in the German capital at the present juncture constitutes a very serious danger in the near future, and that extensive precautions will have to be taken to prevent them from becoming in Egypt and the Middle East agents for pan-Germanism—and now Bolshevism—as Enver and the Young Turks of his generation became in Turkey and the Near East after the ex-Kaiser's visit to Constantinople.

CAIRO, April 12.

It is understood that the seat of Government will not be transferred to Alexandria until late in the summer this year. The Ramadan Fast falls in the middle of May, and the Palace intends to wait until after the Feast of Beiram, which comes at the latter end of June, before moving to Alexandria.

The Political Situation.

Beyond one or two minor demonstrations, which were quickly dealt with, Shem El Nessim has passed off quite peacefully. The political situation continues unchanged, but I understand that Adly Yeghen Pasha will leave at the end of this week for Paris, where he will meet Zaghlul Pasha, and will discuss the situation with him with a view to proceeding with him to London in order to negotiate with the British Government. It is possible that Hussein Rushdi Pasha and Sarwat Pasha may follow later on.

"Summer-Time" in Egypt.

The lighting restrictions and the necessity for economising coal have caused the question to be raised whether daylight saving as it is practised in Europe might not be introduced, and there is a campaign in favour of this innovation. Those who support this reform fail, however, to take into consideration three very important factors. The first is that lighting facilities do not affect the majority; indeed, the very large majority of the population—*i.e.*, the fellaheen, who invariably rise with the sun and go to bed with it, and for whom clocks have little value in the regulation of their lives. The second is that the remainder of the population, those in the towns, already resort to what may perhaps be called a summer-time device of their own, in that as soon as the summer comes in everyone adopts a different working time-table. Thus from May to October Government offices, banks, and commercial houses open their offices earlier in the morning, and since in neither of the first two categories, and in very few of the third category, is work done after lunch during the summer, the putting back of the clock by one hour—seeing that it would not mean that any more work would be done during daylight—would serve no useful purpose. The third factor is the most important of all—*viz.*, the climate. No amount of juggling with the clock will cause the sun to shine less strongly at 5 p.m. under the proposed new time-table than it does at 4 p.m. under the old time-table. It is the habit of the indigenous and of most of the European section of the population to rest—in many cases to sleep—from lunch-time until the sun has dropped to a certain point on the horizon, when they emerge from their houses for the daily promenade. It

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is obvious that these people will not get up from their siesta one hour earlier, but that, on the contrary, summer-time will make them devote one hour more to it. Again, the fact that the clock has been put back one hour will not get people to bed any earlier. Their retiring-time at night, like their siesta-time in the afternoon, is dependent upon the temperature, and not upon the clock. During the hot part of the summer practically everyone remains up until after midnight in order to take advantage of the cooler breezes, which always set in at that time, and under "summer-time" they will merely sit up until 1 a.m.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 15.

Political.

The Easter holidays have interrupted all Government work, the Ministries having been closed for a week. It is, however, announced that another formerly dissentient party has decided to throw in its lot with the Averescu Government. This is the National Union of Banat, under the leadership of M. Avram Imbroano, who, it may be remembered, spoke strongly in the Chamber against the signing of the Treaty with Austria.

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

The Bishop of Gibraltar arrived in Bucharest at the end of last week, and attended service on Sunday in the new English Church. The building of this church was begun just before the war, and, after many troubles and delays, has at last been finished, but owing to difficulties of transport it has been found impossible to get the pews, which were made in England, into their place. The altar, too, a gift from the Bishop, is still in England, and although services are now being held weekly in the church, it has not yet been consecrated. A generous subscription towards the building fund was given by the Queen, and many members of the British colony of Bucharest have supported it well.

On April 13 a reception was held at the British Legation to give British residents an opportunity of meeting the Bishop, and afterwards a church meeting was held at which the Rev. J. H. Adeney, acting British Chaplain, asked to be relieved of this duty, so that he might devote his whole time to his Mission work under the London Jews Society. This Mission has existed in Bucharest since the year 1840.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, April 3.

Municipal Elections.

There has been a good deal of excitement in some of the towns over the elections of Municipal Councils and Mayors, specially in Limassol. Here one of the leading members of the deputation to London, who is a member of the Legislative Council, and who was a candidate for the Presidency, has not even obtained a seat in the Municipal Council. As regards the Mission, the Press strives to keep alive the interest of the Greek community, which has somewhat flagged. The principal fact which encourages their hopes is that a new High Commissioner has not yet been appointed.

The "Festival of the Trees."

The arrangements for the "Festival of the Trees" were not carried out, owing to extremely bad weather; and unfortunately a good many of the village school gardens were almost destroyed by the storms. It is, however, hoped that the anniversary will be kept up in future years, and will help to impress upon rising generations the need of tree planting, and the great advantage to be derived from orchards and fruit culture, for which so much remains to be done. A number of private land owners have recently placed their plantations under the protection of the Forest Department, which they are able to do under a law passed in 1889. The Bishop of Kition has thus placed considerable properties under Government control and management. These are then subject to all the regulations affecting State forests.

The Deputation Again.

In accordance with the decisions lately arrived at, the Greek Mission to London is once more on the move. The Archbishop Kyrillos left on March 17, *via* Limassol, for Port Said, and sailed from Egypt by the Khedivial steamer "Helwan" for Trieste, which he was to reach on April 5. He will first visit Paris. The other members follow on March 25 or soon after, and include M. E. Zeno, the only Greek member of the Legislative Council who remained in Cyprus when the deputation paid its last long visit to England. They have issued an address to the people of the island, stating that they are carrying out the sacred duty which is imposed upon them by the Greek community in again seeking to obtain a favourable reply to their petition for union with Greece

Russian Refugees.

A number of these have already arrived. A Russian steamer brought 614 (chiefly women and children) to Famagusta on March 29. These have been placed in the internment camp at Famagusta, in a part vacated by some of the Turkish prisoners. Unfortunately, cases of typhus have appeared among them, notwithstanding the precautions taken by the Port and medical authorities; and it will be very necessary that the strictest measures should be adopted to prevent a spread of the danger. The Government has been obliged to prohibit the holding of a large fair (of Elias), which is of some importance. This necessarily causes considerable inconvenience to farmers and traders of the district and all who were preparing for it. Many more refugees are expected.

Motor Accidents.

There have been several accidents, including collisions, due in some cases to inexperience on the part of chauffeurs. The papers call for inquiries, and advocate a revision of the lists of those to whom licences have been granted, and the application of stricter tests. The narrowness of the streets of Nicosia and other towns renders great care and very reduced speed limits necessary.

Annual Sports.

The annual athletic contests between the English School at Nicosia and the American School at Larnaca took place on March 27 at Nicosia. A large attendance included the Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Stevenson, and leading persons of the British, Greek, and Turkish communities. The Larnaca athletes were the more successful.

General.

Crime keeps its level. The police have offered two rewards, of £100 in each case, for information that will lead to the arrest of two convicts undergoing sentences of seven and twelve years imprisonment respectively, who have escaped from gaol; and £50 for similar information in the case of a man charged with murder.

Mehmet Effendi Dervish has been appointed to act as Turkish Judge at Famagusta during the absence of Mehmet Effendi Halih, now studying for the Bar in London.

Personal.

Lieut.-Col. Gallagher, D.S.O., Chief Commandant of Police, will act as Commissioner of Nicosia, and also as British Delegate of Evkaf during the absence on leave of Major Bayly.

Major Bolton, O.B.E., Commissioner of Limassol, will act as Commissioner of Larnaca.

Mr. Edwin Edginton is appointed Island Postmaster, and Mr. Francis resumes his duties as Government Analyst.

Mr. Noble, Assistant Principal Forest Officer, has returned from leave in England.

Mr. Sims, Director of Public Works, has been appointed to act as an official member of the Legislative Council during the absence of Major Bayly.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, April 10.

A Military Spectacle.

On April 6 a review was held here, probably the finest Syria has ever seen. It took place on the Place des Canons, where a huge crowd had assembled and filled every corner from which the spectacle could be witnessed. General Gouraud, who was accompanied by his Moroccan bodyguard, looking eminently picturesque in their flowing burnooses and turbans, took up his position at the southern end of the garden for the march past, which was a most picturesque and impressive sight. Moroccans were there, and Algerians, Tunisian and French infantry, Syrian volunteers and French cavalry. Druse mounted volunteers were there also, and light and heavy artillery, Red Cross detachments, armoured cars, and a score of tanks of the light French pattern; and throughout the review a dozen aeroplanes hovered over the square, glittering in the sun

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as they performed various feats and evolutions. The citizens watched the review with keen interest and admiration

On the same day a social event of importance took place, in the marriage of Mlle. Jacqueline, daughter of Admiral Mornet, to Lieut. Lucien, son of Vice-Admiral Sourrieu. The ceremony was honoured by the presence of General Gouraud, and was attended by all the high officers of the French Army and Navy now in Beyrout, with a crowd of notables from the town and the Lebanon. The bride has the good wishes of everyone in the town, for Admiral Mornet is certainly the most popular Frenchman here.

THE SITUATION IN ALBANIA.

Our Albanian Correspondent writes:—

The people in Albania are optimistic, for the Government enjoys general confidence, and unity and peace have never been more perfect than at present. The chief concern is the maintenance of order. Since the Budget will not allow of the creation of a regular army, it is hoped to make good the deficiency by means of volunteers. The Malinia of Skutari, who never did any military service in the time of the Turk, have provided a battalion made up of young men of good family. One hundred and fifty of these mountaineers are already at Tirana under the orders of the Government.

Three hundred Albanians have arrived from America to place themselves at the disposal of the authorities as volunteers. Their arrival has produced a very good impression, for they are for the greater part Orthodox Christians of Kortcha (Koritza) and Argyrokastro. The Albanians in America—and they number 80,000—are extremely active in the interests of Albania. The head of their organisation is the great Pan-Albanian Society "Vatra," and it is due to the efforts of this society that the Department of Foreign Affairs at Washington has just recognised the official status of the delegate Constantin Gekrezi, who is now acting as Albanian Minister to the United States, and is thus the first diplomatic representative of Albania accredited abroad. This recognition has increased the liking for and prestige of the United States in Albania.

Financial Questions.

I have alluded before to the financial difficulties with which the Government finds itself compelled to wrestle. Expenses are very great, for Albania finds itself for the first time reunited under a single administration and government. The revenue is derived only from tithes, Customs duties, land taxes, and a tax on sheep and goats. Of all these revenues the Customs receipts are the most important, excepting the tithes. The mountaineers of Northern Albania, who paid nothing in the way of taxes under the Turkish régime, will pay henceforth, and the Legislative Assembly is elaborating laws in connection with this subject. It is also proposed to introduce a law increasing the *ad valorem* Customs duties on imports to 20 per cent. In spite of this, the receipts will be insufficient to meet the expenses, and the question of an internal loan is constantly discussed.

The Albanian Government will make representations to the Italian, French, and Austrian Governments regarding the sums of money which are due to it. The Treasury of the Kortcha district (French administration) has a balance of 5,000,000 francs; the Valona Customs has a balance of 4,500,000 francs; the Argyrokastro and Saranda Treasuries 4,000,000 francs; and the Austrians, on their retreat from Albania in 1918, deposited 34,000,000 crowns with the Wiener Bank Verein. These sums, if they could be recovered by the Albanian Government, would be extremely useful.

One of the chief cares of the Government lies in the South. The two districts of Argyrokastro and of Kortcha were laid waste by Greek bands in 1914, 300 villages having been destroyed; and Austrians, Bulgarians, Serbs, Italians, and French have contributed to the destruction of the country by making it a battlefield. But it was the Austrians who did the most damage when on their retreat. Albania has suffered very badly during the great war and the Balkan wars. The number of sheep which the Albanians have lost since 1912 is estimated at 15,000,000, and the Austrians requisitioned in the Plain of Muzekie alone 25,000.

Foreign Representatives Wanted.

The absence of foreign representatives is much to be regretted in Albania, where Consuls of the Powers would be welcomed. Great Britain, for example, used to have a Consul in Albania (Mr. Morton F. Eden), but he has just been recalled, and General Philipps, who has been in Skutari on and off since 1913, is also just leaving the country on the handing over of the town to the Albanian authorities. France has at least some officers at Kortcha, but England has no one to inform her regarding developments in Albania.

The Albanian Delegation.

It will be remembered that the new Government elected at Lushnia is composed of ten members, of whom four form the Supreme Council. Two members of the Council, Monseigneur Bumci and Dr. Tourtoulis, were appointed to act as the Albanian delegates to the Peace Conference, with Mehmed Konitza Bey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, as their colleague. But these two gentlemen have resigned, owing to ill-health. Their places have been filled by M. Pandeli Evangheli and Fuad Zembrak. The former was the representative of the Albanian colonies in Roumania, and the latter of the Albanian colonies in Turkey, and both are strong supporters of an independent Albania.

THE JERUSALEM RIOTING.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following account, by an eye-witness, of the disturbance at Jerusalem on Easter Day. It was received on April 22 by post from Jerusalem:—

"The trouble began with one of the soldiers from a Jewish battalion insulting the Nebi Moussa flag which the men of Hebron were bringing in to the mosque at Jerusalem. (There are two Jewish battalions out here, stationed in the districts, and some of them are up on leave for the Passover.) You know how wild the Hebronites are in any case, and they were all inflamed by speeches proclaiming Emir Faisal king and 'down with Zionism.' And this particular moment this foolish fellow chose for insulting the Hebron flag. He was killed straight away, and then the business began. There were about 200 men from Hebron, and with sticks and stones they made for every Jew they saw.

"The Yorkshires were brought out of church, and in about ten minutes they and the police had cleared the streets; but about seventeen Jews were killed, and many hurt. . . . It was quite a business driving back, perfectly safe except for the danger of running over people, for the streets were swarming, and the police were keeping the people on the move. Mounted machine-guns and units of armed soldiers were everywhere, and very soon all the streets were guarded, and no one was allowed to go or come through the city. . . . It is so dreadful when lives are lost. And it has quite spoiled Easter. But if it helps people at home to understand what is really the temper of the people just now over Zionist policy, it may be a good thing after all. . . . Everything is quiet this morning, Monday, but the city is under martial law, and no one may go in or out after 6 p.m. All the roads are guarded."

ASIA AND DEMOCRACY.

In the course of a discussion on April 21 before the Central Asian Society, Grosvenor Street, London, the question of Asiatic peoples and democracy was raised. Sir William Ramsey said we were apt to think of Asia as a land of autocracy; far too much so, for Asia had never succeeded in creating a bureaucracy, as Europe had done, through which the autocrat could govern. There remained a very great amount of local management; much was left to the village or tribe. Less was left to the town, because the town was more easily got hold of by the autocrat; but even in the town an amount of self-government was left to the people that we did not realise. Above all, Asia had never fallen into the great blunder of instituting a system of universal voting. Much more than in Europe opinions were weighed—not counted. The tribe met and there was much talk. Gradually there emerged the opinion of the whole body, finally expressed through one of the leading and most respected members of the community. The opinion of elderly men who had seen a great deal, men of affairs, might not be right; but it was more likely to be right than that of young men or women of little experience; and, in the system of open discussion among a small community, that was the opinion that led.

Dr. Gaster said government by constitution was entirely alien to the East. The people there only desired to live quiet, peaceful, happy lives, not fearing the extortions of the Vali. The nations of the West could conduce to their happiness by taking to them peace, order, justice, and righteousness. Above all, Great Britain should do this for the nations that had now been rescued to some extent from the power of the Turk.

Two Lords of the Admiralty have arrived at Malta from London to investigate the organisation of the dockyard.

The English Y.M.C.A. in Serbia has started a small fortnightly newspaper. The organisation is getting a firm footing in the country, and is playing a large part in inculcating a love of sport among the young Serbians.

A dispatch from Damascus states that the authorities of the Hejaz Railway, backed by the Arab Government, are asking that they should be given control of the branch from Haifa to Deraa, which they contend is an integral part of the Hejaz line. This branch is at present being worked by the British.

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THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

hasn't yet materialised

but, from pole to pole, this

is recognised as the sign of

"THE TYRE INCOMPARABLE"

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TWO YEARS.*

By Estelle Blyth.

It is a little over two years since Jerusalem was liberated, and a little more than one since Turkey rendered up her sword to England and sued for peace. Two years is not a long time, even in the span of a man's life, and in the life of a country it is barely a breath; but it often seems long to us because we are so apt to measure time by our emotions. And it is this measuring by the emotions which invariably causes a reaction in human minds after any strain. Thus, in one way, reaction is natural and, therefore, healthy; carried to an extreme it becomes dangerous.

There are signs that the inevitable reaction is beginning to set in in Palestine; and because the situation there, and of the world at large, the restlessness, the hungering after the unknown, the clamour about vague aims which are too often words rather than matter, are stones that may trip up a country still walking on unsteady feet, it is well to point out to Syrians certain facts which are plainer possibly to the outsider than to themselves.

Turkey held Palestine enslaved for over 400 years. No Power which has misused the trust has ever held the Holy Land. The Jews lost her the Christian Kingdom also, through this faithlessness. The two great non-Christian religions, Judaism and Islam, held Palestine longer than Christendom, the longer probation only exposing the more clearly this failure under trust; though for Christians to show themselves unworthy to hold Christ's own Land was, alas, the deepest shame of all. "To whom much is given, of him shall much be required."

It is two years since Germany and Turkey were expelled from Jerusalem, and the land cleansed of their intolerable presence. In their gratitude for this deliverance, their relief and happiness that it had come to them through the only Western Power that the East really trusts, the Syrians thought that all their troubles were ended. England would give them all they wanted! England could do no wrong! Now, after two years, comes the inevitable reaction—in itself, no doubt, a transient emotion like the exaltation that preceded it. England has not given them quite all they wanted. *Is* England wrong? There is a vast difference often between our wants and our needs, and most of us, I daresay, would barter the last for the first; but no one can deny that England has given Palestine the things that she most sorely needed—water, justice, religious freedom, open and unbiassed law courts, protection and encouragement of native industry and effort, defence of agriculture and forestry, the opening of trade, and systematic education. Are these little things? Or are good government and justice so common in Palestine that they cease to be accounted blessings? Syrians are in some danger of being called ungrateful because they have suddenly assumed a critical attitude towards the Power who has suffered for them, who has given the lives of her sons freely for them, who is to them both shield and sword. I do not think that the Syrians are ungrateful; but that, rather, they are disappointed, and that in this over-sensitive condition they are inclined to play Aaron to the prompting of some Moses who is not necessarily of kin to them—a Moses with his own cause to serve.

Why are the Syrians disappointed? Some of the truth must always be lost when one generalises, but, broadly speaking, they are disappointed because England has not put them in the position of her only child in Palestine. "Why is this?" they ask. "We have for England a deeper and more genuine affection than any other people in the Near East. We are full of loyalty towards the country that has freed us, full of eagerness and enthusiasm for our own, and it is *we* who have suffered most in days past under Turkish rule and during the four years' terror. Surely we have a right to a special place in England's heart, a special share of England's favour!"

There is only one answer to such pleading, and it is an answer whose truth must be worked out in time and in deeds rather than in words. It is the answer that English justice gives throughout the world and throughout the ages to those who misunderstand, and therefore chafe and question. English justice gives no special place to one, because it gives an equal chance to all. It helps one and it helps all. It keeps the ring, and interferes only when the rules of the game are transgressed. That is why, in the end, all gain and all benefit under English rule. We English believe that that is why England has been given such great trusts—India, Africa, Palestine. It is this cold, clear-cut attribute of England that foreigners find most hard to understand—as it is the one that first wins their trust. England is not going to kindle strife in Palestine; she is not going to set Christian against Moslem, Gentile against Jew, Syrian against Zionist, by favouring any *one* of them. Jealousy and rivalry were essentials of Turkish rule; in England's eyes they are simply noxious weeds.

To the outsider looking on it seems that the Syrians are inclined to criticise England's conduct in Palestine just because it is so absolutely impartial. The possessive attitude adopted by Zionists at home and in Palestine makes them uneasy, and they think that England is asleep; so they allow themselves to fall into an agitated frame of mind, and start at the merest shadow that crosses their path.

Well, England's shoulders are very broad, and she is generally saddled with the lion's share of the blame as well as the responsibility; still, the delay in the settlement of Turkey is directly due to the attitude of America with regard to the Peace Treaty, which she will neither bless nor curse. But—English ships are at Constantinople, and English troops in Asia Minor. Who helped Russia—real Russia—first and latest? Who put Poland on her feet, and was the first to recognise the independence of Finland? Who is fighting the battle of the starving children of Austria, the country that Germany sucked dry and threw aside? Which land sleeps quietest o' nights, Palestine or Syria?

Perhaps these few suggestions for thought, offered by an outsider who is in entire sympathy with Syrian feeling, may recommend themselves to Syrian minds. England has many burdens to bear, and she never *sought* the charge of Palestine, but she has done her best and given her best for the Holy Land during two difficult and anxious years, many months of which were spent in actual warfare in it. If the trust be left in her hands, succeeding generations in Palestine will learn, each one a little better, the breadth and freedom and vision of England's rule. For England is very patient with those she shelters, even when they misunderstand her way.

* This article was written before the question of the Mandate for Palestine was settled.—Ed.

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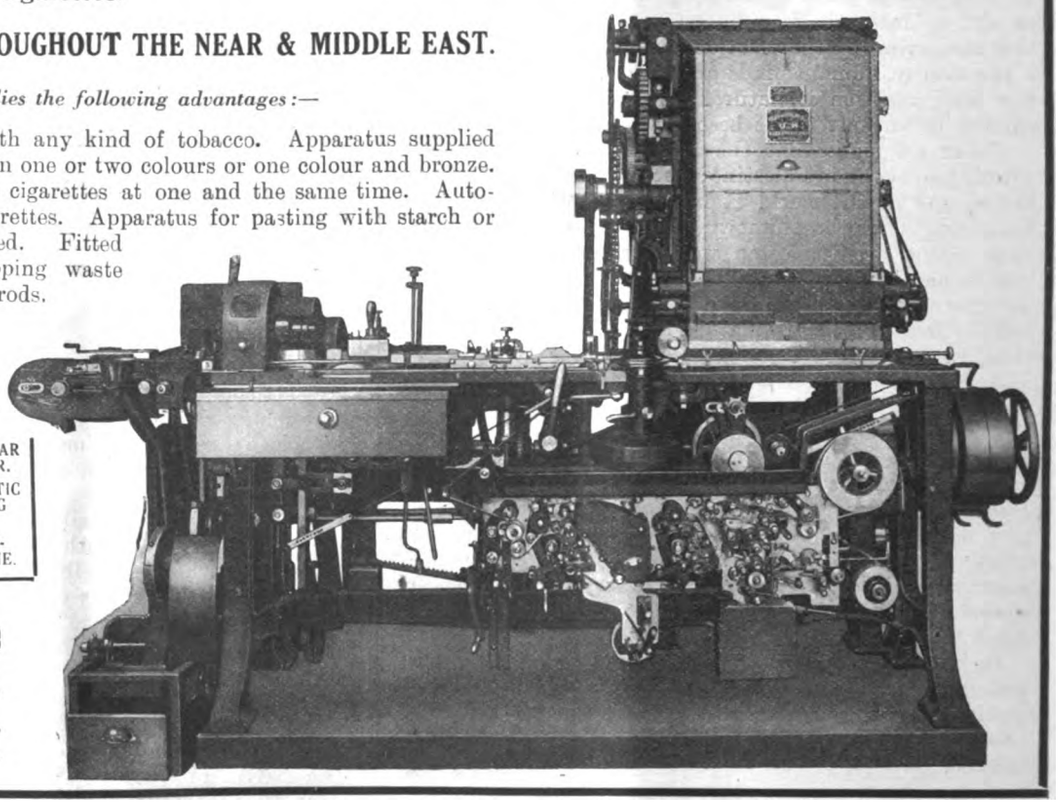

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Armenia.

In the *Muslim Outlook* of April 22 there is a leading article devoted to "The Problem of Armenia." We give extracts from it, because the Turkish view is seldom stated so forcibly in this country. Setting aside the questions of atrocities and of Turkish maladministration, it says:—

Freed from these considerations, the Armenian claim comprises the right to free autonomous development on national lines. It would be comparatively an easy matter if this represented the full measure of Armenian aspirations. None denies that right to them, not even the much-maligned and misrepresented Turk. The Indian Khilafat Delegation, too, has supported it. But the Armenians cannot be satisfied with mere free autonomous development. They want the possession of the territory stretching from the Caucasus to the Taurus, with seaboards on the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. This they call Armenia, and claim it as theirs by right. Should they have it or should they not? that is the question. It would be futile to look to European and American statesmen for any help in answering that question. Their treatment of the question of self-determination has been thoroughly scandalous and disgraceful. In their own territories they are not prepared to grant this right to great living nations with centuries of proud traditions behind them, and in indisputable majority in their homelands from times immemorial. Ireland, India, Egypt, Algeria, and Tripoli are the most glaring examples of this. The treatment of the coloured citizens of the United States, and the frequent "lynching bees" held in that part of the civilised world, too, are hard to reconcile with the high-sounding principles proclaimed by the President of these States from Mount Vernon. In other countries the smell of oil and the prospect of cotton open the flood-gates of the philanthropy of Allied and Associated statesmen, and they are deliberately of the opinion that every hamlet in a district and every quarter of a town with even a temporary, artificial, or illusory majority of a favoured nation can claim the right of self-determination. In Smyrna the unit of self-determination is the village; in Constantinople it is the quarter of the town! A sad wreckage of world's hopes and expectations which fills with bitterness every honest soul that looked forward to the establishment of a happier order of things as the sole redeeming feature of the ghastly war.

Briefly recounting the history of Armenia, it states that "from 190 B.C. up to the present day the territory known as Armenia has been under non-Armenian rule." Its concluding suggestion is:—

At the close of this detailed survey it is to be admitted that, judged from the point of view of population or from that of tradition of rule, the Armenian claim to "Armenia" is untenable. We cannot deprive the millions of Mussulmans who have been living there for centuries past, and have been in undisputable majority, of their legitimate rights. Yet we do not wish to deprive the Armenians of their right to free, autonomous development. How can this difficulty be solved? Perhaps the most feasible solution is to be found in the proposal purporting to emanate from Turkey. There is an Armenian Republic at Erivan, created by the Turks themselves. There is a considerable number of Mussulmans in that republic, which the "meek" Armenians have already started to reduce to "simplify the Muslim problem," as a good Christian once euphemistically put it. The Turks propose an exchange of the Muslim population in Erivan and the Armenian population in Turkey. It is not impractical to carry this into execution. The Mussulmans have already expressed their readiness to migrate, and the Armenians should be persuaded to do so in the interests of world peace. The lands of the two could also be exchanged, and no party need suffer any loss at all. The Turks are even reported to be willing to make further reasonable territorial adjustments to meet further legitimate demands. These are terms as fair as could be expected, and if the Allies and the Armenians want a really peaceful and permanent settlement they should welcome them.

The Arab Empire.

A writer in the *New Statesman* recently dealt with "The Question of an Arab Empire." After insisting upon both the probable and the actual factors making for disunion, he says:—

Even a federation of Arabia proper, still more an Arab Empire embracing Syria and Mesopotamia in addition, is, on the face of it, a dream which bears little relation to concrete realities. Positive evidence to the same effect is not wanting. The military occupation of Syria has offered an opportunity for a limited experiment in Arab self-government. An Arab administration under the general control of the Emir Feisul has been established with the seat of government at Damascus. The results have not been encouraging. The Arab authorities have proved neither firm nor efficient. There have been anti-Armenian outbreaks at Aleppo; the Deir-es-Zor district on the dividing-line between Eastern Syria and Mesopotamia has got completely out of hand; and immediately after the evacuation of this area by British troops last November even Damascus itself relapsed into a condition not far removed from anarchy.

On the one hand, therefore, all the evidence goes to show that the Arab provinces are unripe for union and even taken singly, hardly more ripe for self-government; on the other hand, we are confronted by an awakening of the Arab spirit which not only demands sympathy and respect on its merits but has been fostered and encouraged by our own acts and declarations. So far as the Hedjaz itself is concerned, no question arises. Its status is prejudged by its recognition as an original member of the League of Nations. The remainder of the Arab provinces cannot, however, be so readily disposed of. Neither honour nor interest commits us to the artificial construction of an unwieldy Arab State containing within itself the seeds of speedy disintegration; nor is there any reason why we should, outside the area in which we are immediately interested, assume the thankless task of enticing the warring elements of the Arab world into an unreal and unstable federation. On the other hand, neither honour nor interest allows us to ignore the stirring of the Arab spirit or to suppress the legitimate aspirations of a gifted race.

We have, therefore, to pursue a middle course. What is required of us is to discountenance fantastic claims; to refuse to become the instrument of dynastic ambitions; to refrain from gratuitous intervention outside the area of our immediate interests; and to make it clear that within that area we intend to give every facility for the orderly development of autonomous institutions. If we attempt to force the pace, we shall not only involve ourselves in unprofitable entanglements, but shall expose the Arab world to inevitable disillusionment and reaction.

The Dardanelles.

The *Glasgow Herald* of April 22, in an article called "The Dardanelles Decision," has some hopeful comments upon the probable results of that decision. It says:—

Some deeply interesting possibilities are opened up by the changes which the new arrangements will make in regard to communications between Europe and Asia. In the actual present it goes without saying that free passage for Allied warships and transports into the Black Sea is a tremendous weapon in the hands of the Supreme Allied Council for the better enforcement if need arises, of its wishes in respect to Northern and Central Anatolia. It would immensely increase the future prosperity of Armenia even if, as reported, the new frontiers of that country do not include Trebizond. If Batum goes with reservations to Georgia, the latter should soon be something much more than a little mushroom Republic, assuming, of course, that with Allied encouragement and assistance it and Azerbaijan are enabled to bar the Bolshevik advance and loyally co-operate to that end. But the potential results of freeing the Black Sea do not end here by any means. In due course the completion under the right auspices of the Bagdad railway will open up both Southern Asia Minor and the route through Aleppo and Mosul into the heart of Mesopotamia, doubtless to our great commercial advantage. But with Trebizond and Batum linked up with the Mediterranean, a new era may begin for Persia, and even Kurdistan, with its tumble of hills and its more or less intractable and very untrustworthy inhabitants, may in time be agreeably and permanently affected by being brought into closer touch with European enterprise and civilisation.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Yugoslav railwaymen, who have been on strike, have now resumed work.

A Constantinople telegram indicates the probability that the Bolshevists will now endeavour to conclude peace with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

A special conference of the Executive Council of the Zionist Organization is to be held in London on May 9 to consider the situation in Palestine.

Printers at Constantinople who were on strike have returned to work, on the understanding that they are to receive a gratuity, and the newspapers were to resume publication on April 21.

It is announced from Athens that four deputies from Cyprus have arrived there on their way to London to represent to the British Government the unanimous desire of the islanders for union with Greece.

A court of inquiry into the Jerusalem riots opened on April 21, the proceedings being public. Evidence was heard from the Mayor of Jerusalem and several officers.

A PERSIAN ARMY.

The Anglo-Persian Military Commission has already presented its report, which, *The Times* Teheran correspondent states, recommends a scheme for a uniform Persian Army, to replace the present mixed forces. It advises that the changes be effected gradually, and that the Army should eventually consist of 198 companies of infantry, 61 squadrons of cavalry, 18 batteries of artillery, eight machine-gun companies, and six air flights—a total strength of 60,000.

THE THRACE ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. Theodore D. Moscopas writes:—"You have stated correctly that Greek notables are included in the Council of the Administrative Corps of Thrace. . . . I have just read in the *Messager d'Athenes* of April 9 that the Council is composed of nine members—*i.e.*, four Greeks (Messrs. Soulas, Phourmouzis, Lamnidis, and Stalios), three Moslems (Messrs. Hafiz Selim, Nejim Bey and Karamouz Ali Osman), one Bulgarian (M. Georgieff), and one Jew (M. Carasso). M. Soulas (Greek) has been elected as President of this West Thracian Council."

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PORT SAID.

"And all the Caliphs of the West
Are ready to obey my Lord's behest."

Egypt is the Nile, and the Nile, Egypt. A Nile expedition in the early eighties took Britain to the aphorism; a world-war concentrated about the Suez Canal in 1914 leaves us with an archaism. Port Said, the chief Canal town, is now not only the African gate 'twixt Europe and Asia, but the sole portal by which the Vizier of a Western Khalif can approach the Egyptians.

This singular port at first acquaintance, indeed, after close fellowship, gives profound impression of East and West adjacent, but cleft. Arab town is broadly separate from the European quarter. From it the native scurries out to work in the morning, and back in the evening. Then on him and his habitat drops a veil. Squalid, filthy, and perceptibly insanitary by day, at night it is bizarre and barbarous. A native brass band pours forth wild music from exotic instruments. In small dim-lit cafes, Hassan and Mahmoud sip coffee, gossip, and play dominoes. Deeper recesses of the place conceal numerous houses of ill-fame; gaudy women sit in shadows and lure men. Much is hidden; what is seen gives our Protectorate no great panegyric. The native, true, is not the fellah, nor a student; some perforce are comparatively affluent and educated; but generally hideous poverty ramps wide.

And what of the other town? Eastern-Occidental, cosmopolitan; French, Italians, and Greeks throng, with the British element lightly yet firmly ascendant. Situation lends it not a little charm; Eastern Sea and Western Canal make romantic bounds. Its days are of the Orient, afternoon siesta, evening promenade, and the musk-scented night air from the sea dispel the West. Money-changers' tables at the kerbstone are a curious feature of its streets; the Levant still barters keenly for the aureate currency of the Western Isles, or, in truth, that of the South Seas. The Briton has carried there, as everywhere, his sport, tennis, cricket, yachting, and golf, but Hassan is no sportsman yet. He smiles broadly when you play your ball to Khartoum viâ the Pullman car on the adjoining railway, but he has no desire for such agile pleasures, neither the longing to slay. For a few piastres, indeed, he will offer you next morning the exhausted migratory quail fallen on his roof overnight, or, from the placid canal you may be startled to see a brown head suddenly pop up, like to any of the Genii, and the rock oysters he has been down for will appear at your lunch table. First, however, he will get his piastres from the cook. He still casts for fishes the net his forefathers used 1,900 years ago, when probably, too, his forbears chastised the attendant child for ill-preparing the net. Perhaps then, also, the Efreet in the young bosom cried with a strange noise at punishment. Hassan believes the Efreet comes to his children at birth. Whether then or later it is there. It is not Western. Centuries of coffee-drinking and religious abstention from wine have given the Efreets access to Hassan and his family.

There is a picturesque little church where the British community worship, significantly, for it is a miniature of the Church of St. Sophia, in Constantinople. At the gate an occasional Mohammedan beggar woman, with outstretched palm, eyes the Roumi appreciatively. Hassan in the street at daybreak prostrates himself devoutly towards the East, nor heeds the galloping subaltern.

The Port shops are admirable. Here abuts the renascent East. Duplicates rivalling Western wares embellish Japanese establishments. Levantines may badger, an Eastern European filch the jewel movements of your watch, but the Jap has decorum and probity. Probably not elsewhere in such small area are exhibited so great an assortment of wares, wines, and wonders; gorgeous jewellery of the Indies, priceless carpets from Persia, Sudanese knives and spears, fine leather goods of the Levant, scarabs and beads from the Tombs, rich Syrian tapestries, fine Patras wines, inlaid cabinets from Palestine, lace of Malta, Chinese silk goods and silver work, Japanese lacquerie, and wines of rare boquet from the Lebanon. Indeed, these shops are the most engaging feature of the town, their import is apparent. The streak of water cut by de Lesseps is the vital circumstance, and in connection with it alone have the European population a purpose of domicile and activity.

Shops and ships—the Western world of trade and travel—in primary degree. But the Canal is more than Port Said, more indeed than numberless ports. Moreover, for whosoever will, the East is there to see.

HABLEN CARTAS.

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TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I understand that the Balkan States are now at peace; but in reality no perfect peace reigns so far in the Aemos Peninsula. The fire-eaters of the Balkan Press are on the alert. Abusive articles are published daily, and everybody interested in the Balkan conundrum feels anxious for the future.

As a matter of fact, I have already pointed out to the Balkan pressmen, through the columns of your esteemed journal, that the Balkan Prime Ministers are much in need of their precious collaboration for the post-war reconstruction in their respective countries. It is not a question of winning the war now, but of winning people's hearts through the medium of the Press. The object of the Press is not to set one country against another by sowing between them racial hatred and mediæval feuds.

I daresay that a visit to England, a plain talk with a member of the British Press, the absence of animosity in the British Press, and a thorough understanding how a paper is worded and printed in this country would be for every firebrand in the Balkans a good and salutary lesson.

I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, April 19.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report—

ANATOLIA. PALESTINE: Position of Jews.—Arab Claims. MUNITIONS: Rivercraft, Mesopotamia. (April 19.)

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY. EGYPTIAN CIVIL SERVICE. EGYPT (MILNER COMMISSION REPORT). (April 20.)

INDIA: Overseas Allowance (Railways).—Railways (Volunteers). Deportation (Mr. Horniman).—Madras Presidency (Legislative Council).—Vizagapatam (Harbour and Railway).—Coinage.—Indian Army (Officers).—Afghan Operations (Medal). ALBANIA (FUTURE FRONTIERS). JERUSALEM (DISTURBANCES). CILICIA. INDIA: Sick Leave (Officer's Studies).—Army Reserve Officers (After-War Leave).—Army Officers (Leave Pay). (April 21.)

PEACE TREATIES: Palestine. BRITISH ARMY: Forces in Persia. INDIA: Deportation (Mr. Horniman). (April 22.)

INDIA: Branch Pilots (Leave Pay).—Army Officers (Home Passage Facilities).—Prince of Wales's Tour (Advisory Committee). (April 23.)

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.
—OMAR KHAYYAM.

On a suburban railway platform the other day a name on a music-hall poster caught my eye—"George Ali." Who or what the gentleman is, or what his particular "line" may be I know not; for I have never had the pleasure of seeing his "show." But I was, and am, interested to know what made him adopt the name Ali—for, I take it, it really is an adopted, or stage, name. Is it because the gentleman in question has some knowledge of Arabic, and is perhaps at the same time tall, that he has fixed on this name? Or does he, I wonder, pronounce it "Alley," and connect it in some way with a certain bulbous-nosed humorist who used to be associated with a "Half-Holiday" comic paper? Or, again, did he fix upon it in consequence of a friendship with some Oriental, the result of travel in Egypt or some other part of the Near East? I am afraid I shall never know. But one thing is certain: the name is a good one for stage purposes. It is short, easy to spell, and if the average M.H. frequenter *is* pretty sure to mispronounce it, what matter so long as he knows the bright particular star to whom it refers?

***

A reader draws my attention to a letter to the Press written by Mme. Olga Novikoff, in which there occurs the following passage:—

> "The small handful of Russians still remaining alive, and therefore faithful to the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church, read with horror and indignation the announcement that the Turk should not be molested and that he deserves, on the contrary, to be described as the rightful and original owner of the greatest treasure Russia can conceive—Constantinople."

The "horror" and "indignation" are, of course, shared by some other nations—Greece, for instance, and possibly Bulgaria—to say nothing of Mr. Wilson and a very great many Americans. But may I, with all due respect, put some simple questions in connection with Mme. Novikoff's letter? Was not Russian covetousness with regard to Constantinople one of the chief reasons why Turkey threw herself into the arms of Germany? Did not Russia, for her own purposes, deliberately prevent Turkey from trying to mend her ways, especially when the Turks, after the revolution, asked for Advisers, whom Great Britain was willing to supply? And, finally, if there is such a "small handful" of Russians remaining, how could they expect to exercise successfully that "protectorate to which the Russian aspired since the days of Sviatoslav, who died a glorious death in 972," as Mme. Novikoff tells us in her letter? Personally, I do not much mind whether the Turk is left in Constantinople or not; but I dislike intensely the attempt to make his expulsion or retention hinge on the question of his religion.

***

I have heard many tales of profiteers in this country—and I am inclined to believe every one of them; but nothing of this class quite touches what I was told, a few days ago, of a princely profiteer in a certain country in the Near East, which must not be more closely specified. His Royal Highness was Governor of a nice fat town and province, and was accustomed, thank you, to doing very well out of the job. But tales he heard and read of the ways of the West in the up-to-date profession of Profiteering whetted his appetite and stimulated his imagination. So he took counsel with himself, and evolved a plan to keep himself out of the Oriental-equivalent-for-the-Workhouse. First he wrote to the Central Government, announcing that there was sore distress in his city and district, and stating that it would be necessary to arrange for the supply of grain and other foodstuffs at low rates to the population. He added casually that as the need was urgent he was taking the necessary measures immediately. But he omitted to add that he had already taken steps to corner the supply of grain and foodstuffs by the simple process of forcing the merchants to sell to him at rock-bottom prices. Next he resold the said grain and food to the merchants, at prices fixed by himself, of course; and, finally, he issued orders for its sale again, at fixed prices, "to the poor," and took the usual precautions to secure a percentage from both the sellers and buyers. The East, it seems, still has possibilities that should appeal to the "international capitalist."

CORSAIR.

The Governing Body of the London School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, has purchased the South Place Institute, the headquarters of the Ethical Society, for additional classroom accommodation.

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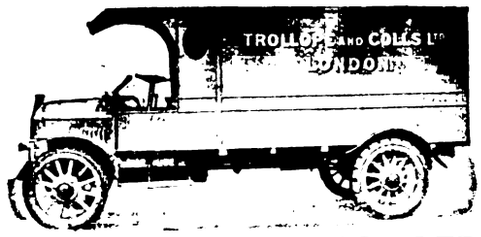

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MUSICAL NOTES.

THE BACH FESTIVAL.

Easily the most important musical event in London since the war was the Bach Festival, which took place at the Central Hall, Westminster, and lasted for four days, April 16 to April 20. Those responsible for the revival of the activities of the Bach Choir did their work (with the exception of the hall they secured, which is bad in every way) thoroughly well. It was impossible fully to represent the genius of Bach, but a very fine selection, including cantatas both secular and sacred, instrumental music for orchestra, pianoforte, and organ, three of the six motets, and the Mass in B minor, was made. In addition to the general excellence of the various performances a souvenir of the festival was prepared in the shape of a beautiful programme, which, besides the book of words, contained essays on Bach by Mr. Ernest Newman and Mr. E. J. Dent, and also some reproductions of Bach's original manuscripts. Thus the whole business of the festival was very creditably done.

It would be a thesis easy to maintain that Bach is the greatest composer of all ages. Most people indeed prefer to go outside music to find his parallel. His greatness and originality literally stagger the mind. In whatever he did he was prolific (he even went to the extent of having nineteen children), but he never lost his fertility. The work of some composers it is possible to explore fairly completely, but Bach always has surprises even for those best versed in him, and to the learning of him there is no end. It is difficult even to agree upon the relative greatness of his works. Merely that some may disagree with me, therefore, I will add that the things I enjoyed most at the Festival were the chorale "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," the Concerto for three pianofortes in C major, the choral prelude "Allein Gott," and the motet "Jesu, Priceless Treasure." One could say that all these four things were inferior to some others, and yet perhaps be right—a fact which proves but the indeterminable equality of Bach's greatness.

The singing of the choir under the intense conducting of Dr. Hugh P. Allen was amazingly good for a southern choir: their performances in the motets in particular were beautiful. In meditative passages they attained a height of sheer loveliness beyond which I have never heard any choir go. It was in moments or minutes of fiery declamation and of dramatic warmth that the outer sopranos sounded shrill and the inner sopranos weak, and that the basses lacked resonance. This last defect was a great pity seeing that so many of Bach's effects depend upon the glorious roll of his basses. However, considering the material that he had (not many members of the choir appeared to be under thirty-five), Dr. Allen achieved a very fine success. For the most part he conducted from memory, and it was in no way his fault that the demands, which in Bach cannot be excessive, made by him upon the choir were not supplied. The small London Symphony Orchestra, as capable a body of musicians as there is in England, did not always fit in well with the choir, but when they had the field to themselves they were superb. The soloists, with the exception of Mr. Gervase Elwes (tenor) and Mr. Murray Davey (bass), were scarcely worthy of the occasion, for they did not sufficiently realise the passion inherent in all Bach's work.

There are unmistakable signs in this country that recognition of Bach is, through the action of an "energetic minority," becoming both fuller and more widespread. This does not mean that he will become popular in the accepted sense, but popular in the acceptable sense. Modern popularity has a disastrous habit of sentimentalising over a great composer—the thing is manifest, for instance, in certain presentations of Beethoven and of Wagner. In the coming love of Bach, however, the favour, if developed on the lines of Dr. Allen, who is always very passionate, yet never sentimental, will remain pure. To such a consummation the recent Bach Festival has already contributed much, for it has surely set in motion forces which will perform very necessary pioneer, and not merely imitative, work in this country. There is, despite what the pessimists say and despite certain definite facts, a great musical renaissance in England now, and the Bach Festival will be found to have taken for itself a central place in it. Other things, like the Beethoven Festival and the concerts of the British Music Society, about which I shall write in the next week or two, have prominent places in this movement; but the worship of Bach, which comes, as is not the case with many composers, only through knowledge of him, will probably be said to have been the most notable achievement of all.

The London Chamber Concert Society, which has been responsible for some very fine concerts this season, notably the Elgar one and that in which Schubert's Octet was given, held its tenth and last at the Wigmore Hall on April 20 The London String Quartet introduced a new Quartet (which is still in manuscript) by Mr. Arnold Bax. Except for the meditative middle movement, it is of quite light construction, and this being the case, it might have been played with a little less seriousness. On first hearing it did not appear to be so original as the majority of the works of Mr. Bax, who is one of those British composers who have never had a fair chance. It is obvious, even from this quartet alone, that he thoroughly deserves a chance; and in all probability this quartet and his new quintet (also still in manuscript) will give it to him. This praise can scarcely be bestowed upon the other British composer in the programme of this concert—Mr. Albert Coates. Two new pianoforte works by him—"Angelus" and "Lacrymosa"—were played for the first time by Miss Myra Hess, and they seemed hardly to make an effort to avoid the commonplace. Mr. Coates' fame as a conductor is secure, but the prospects of his increasing it as a composer are small. In conclusion, the excellent work of the London Chamber Concert Society in organising their series of concerts should be remarked and remembered; and it is very satisfactory to note that already arrangements have been made for the holding of a similar series next November.

It was not the fact that Miss Flora Woodman was giving a recital of arias and songs, but that she was assisted by the Royal Albert Hall Orchestra under Mr. Landon Ronald, and in particular that he was playing Debussy's "L'Après-midi d'un Faune" and Butterworth's "A Shropshire Lad," which attracted me to the Queen's Hall on April 21. These two works are respectively as typically French and English as you may wish, and in them Mr. Ronald drew from his orchestra, especially from his reed instruments, some beautifully delicate playing. (The loss of Butterworth in the war was perhaps the cruellest possible blow to English music, for his inspiration was so fresh and so natural that he might have accomplished anything.) Of Miss Woodman's singing, which is greatly favoured by the ballad-loving public, much could be said. Her technical ability is very considerable, and her tone is pure and unforced. Difficult arias from Grétry's "Zemire et Azor" and by Mozart she performed with the greatest ease and clarity, and at these things the delight of the largest possible audience knew no bounds. But her capabilities never moved one; her expressions never convinced; and one came away saying that here was a very fine singer who as unfortunately as inexplicably had omitted to become an artist.

A song recital, much smaller, but more important, was given at the Steinway Hall on April 22 by Miss Olga Haley, whose reputation also is already made. Miss Haley, whose recital was devoted to modern English song, has not the technique of Miss Woodman, but artistry stamps nearly all her work. She has atmosphere, colour, and the hundred other indefinable things that go to make the artist, and she is accounted the best of female English *lieder* singers. However, I was disappointed at her recital, for her inclusion of some songs, both the music and words of which were worthless, made it obvious that at present her achievements in singing are far greater than her judgment of a song. She introduced two songs by Ethel Zillhart and Helen Fothergill, the words of which were written by women: whether this was done to placate her sex I do not know, but it is pretty certain that these songs will be remembered only by the fact that she sang them. She also showed a strange partiality to the compositions of Easthope Martin. Against these things, however, are to be set "Far in a Western Brookland," by Eric Grant, and "Sudden Light," by Julius Harrison, both of which are extremely good, in the latter case, of course, expectedly so. There were also sung for the first time a few humorous songs by Lord Berners, songs which, even if performed half as well as Miss Haley did them, it will be pleasant to hear again.

A quite pleasing evening was provided at the Æolian Hall on April 23 by Miss Megan Foster (song), Miss Keighley Snowden (pianoforte), and Miss Perceval Clark (recitations). Miss Foster's achievements I have commented upon before in these columns; it is sufficient, therefore, to say that she is developing her charm while losing none of her freshness. She introduced two new songs by Frederick Keel, "John Mouldy" and "Bunches of Grapes," the settings of which suit well the whimsical quaintness of de la Mare, the incomparable author of these songs. Miss Snowden played five concert studies by Poldini and five Spanish dances by Granados; she showed a polished style, but the impetuosity of her youth frequently bubbled over. However, she shows quite definite promise, and more will be heard of her.

ANDANTE

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I. "THE WORLD AFTER THE WAR." By Charles Roden and Dorothy Frances Buxton. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd.)

II.—"NIGHT WINDS OF ARABY." By A. J. Eardley Dawson. (London Grant Richards. 3s. 6d. net.)

III.—"HIGH PRICES AND THE QUANTITY THEORY." By Sir John O. Miller. (London: Sifton Praed and Co., Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

I.—PACIFICIST PROSPECTS.

Although during the war pacificists were the least important people, they certainly were not the least energetic. The amount of print in which they indulged, and in which they are still indulging, is amazing. Among the most persistent and the most skilled of these are the authors of this book. While England was at war they saw fit, week by week, to review the Foreign Press in a notorious university magazine, but since that time they have transferred that feature to the most influential of English provincial papers. It is as a result of opinions gained from this experience of studying the foreign Press that "The World After the War" has come to be written.

The book is divided into seven chapters. The first, "The Picture," in which the view is put forward that "We are witnessing the terrible legacy of a war protracted too long; the old framework of Europe breaking down under the impact; the imposition of one colossal struggle upon another, of a war of classes upon a war of nations"; the second, "The Balkanisation of Europe," in which it is stated that owing to the war and the follies of the Allied statesmen consequent to it, Central and Eastern Europe has been split up into a number of units similar to those of South-Eastern Europe; the third, "The New Balance of Power," which is interpreted to mean "the greatest possible tilting of the balance in one direction . . . . an overwhelming preponderance of power"; the fourth, "The Economic Collapse," which is said to have been "in large measure the result of a definite policy on the part of the Allied Governments"; the fifth, "The Meaning of Bolshevism," which is the one excellent chapter in the book; the sixth, "Whom the Gods would Destroy," in which it is stated and illumined with examples that "the right of peoples to decide their own destiny, first raised as an inspiring war-cry, has sunk to the position of a rather stale joke," and the final chapter, "Below the Tide of War," in which are touched upon the hopes of the future.

Mr. and Mrs. Buxton always write with knowledge, but seldom with wisdom. Many of the unpleasant facts which they prefer in this book are indisputable, but we do not imagine that even the Allies' late enemies, who ought chiefly to benefit by this book, would care to take up the beliefs indicated in it. To those born in the Near East, the dictum that to refrain from fighting is always better than to fight will seem a cheerful distance from realisation. The authors of this book have seen most of their ideals overthrown in the late war (or, as they might put it, in the present war), and are naturally become pessimists. It is rather pathetic, therefore, to see them at the end of their book slip in that worst of all pessimists' hopes, a New Religion—a religion which, moreover, is to be the incorporation of the spirit which prompted conscientious objectors to act as they did, and of the spirit which deforms "anti-militarists" generally! Finally, while not doubting in the least the purely humanitarian feeling that has urged the writing of this book, we dislike it intensely. The authors contrive generally to get a reverse spin on the facts which they serve at us, and it must be admitted that, unless used to this method of attack, one is uncomfortable during the first few sets or chapters; but getting accustomed to a reverse service is only a question of time, and the tricks of these players will never win them a game.

II.—VERSE IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The number of Englishmen who have written verse that is also poetry on Mesopotamia can be counted on one hand, and the publication of "Night Winds of Araby" does not cause us to recount that number. Like many men, the author, Mr. Eardley Dawson, has felt strongly the attraction of "Araby" generally, but, also like many men, he is nearly impotent before its attraction. There is scarcely anything in this book that could not have been written, in fact that has not been written, of any country in the world: of the atmosphere of the East there is nothing. No necessity exists for quarrelling with the form of Mr. Dawson's verse, for the truth is that he has nothing to say. Here is an example which certainly is not worse than any other in the volume: it is called "Araby":—

Dear little Desert flower!
Can I forget
The fragrance of a perfect hour?
Ah! no. For yet,
Though wanderer in a far-off wild,
I sip once more
The joys that pour
Like honey from thy petals, Child.

The book is tastefully produced, and is worthy of more original contents.

III.—CURRENCY THEORY FOR THE MAN IN THE STREET.

This is a remarkably clear exposition of currency matters; it can be grasped by any man of ordinary intelligence, and we wish its perusal could be imposed as a task on everyone who chooses to write or talk about the subject. The author is a convinced adherent of the quantity theory, as, indeed, are most Anglo-Indians, from Sir David Barbour downwards, and the reason for this general agreement is not far to seek; India relies so largely on coined money that the effects of changes in the volume of the currency can be easily followed through the centuries, and are even now scarcely masked by the complications resulting from developments in the system of credit. The theory stands, but its application in the modern West becomes more and more difficult; as our author shows, even prominent statesmen may be misled by these complications; and there is ample justification for the issue of this pamphlet, a careful study of which should enable the public to appreciate at its true value the nonsense which is being talked so widely at the present time.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Handbooks prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office. No. 3 "Slovakia," 1s.; No. 5, "Bukovina," 1s.; No. 6, "Transylvania and the Banat," 2s.; No. 8, "Croatia-Slavonia and Fiume," 2s.; No. 12, "Bosnia and Herzegovina," 2s.; No. 13, "The Slovenes," 6d.; No. 14, "The Jugo-Slav Movement," 1s. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.)

"The Jews of Africa." Especially in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries. By Sidney Mendelssohn, F.Z.S., F.R.C.I., etc. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd., 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Jews of Asia." Especially in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries. By Sidney Mendelssohn, F.Z.S., F.R.C.I., etc. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd., 10s. 6d. net.)

"Sunshine on the Nile." By May Crommelin. (London: Jarrolds. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Sakuntala." By Kalidasa. Prepared for the English Stage by Kedar Nath Das Gupta in a New Version written by Laurence Binyon. With an Introductory Essay by Rabindranath Tagore. (London: Macmillan and Co., 7s. 6d. net.)

"India's Silent Revolution." By Fred. B. Fisher, with the collaboration of Gertrude M. Williams. (London: Macmillan and Co., 7s. net.)

"The Industrial Development of Palestine." By N. Wilbuschewitsch. Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul. (London: Trade and Industry Department of the Zionist Organisation, 2s. 6d. net.)

"A Prisoner in Turkey." By John Still. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Quarterly Review." April, 1920. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

"Sappho and the Vigil of Venus." Translated by Arthur S. Way, D.Lit. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"National Education in India." By Lajpat Rai. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Le Golfe Persique." By R. Vadala. (Paris: Librairie Arthur Rousseau. 10 fr.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. April.	1920. April.		1338. Shaban.	5680. Iyar.
29	16	Thursday	10	11
30	17	Friday	11	12
May 1	18	Saturday.....	12	13
2	19	Sunday	13	14
3	20	Monday	14	15
4	21	Tuesday	15	16
5	22	Wednesday	16	17

The Roumanian Minister has returned to London from Bucharest.

M. Clemenceau arrived at Marseilles on April 13 on his return from Egypt.

Mr. Hilton Young, M.P., has returned to Queen Anne's Mansions from Delhi.

Colonel Sir Roper Parkington has removed to 29, Elsworthy Road, Hampstead, N.W.3.

Mahejit Fangh, Prince of Kapurthala, and Sir Francis Webster have arrived at the Savoy Hotel.

On April 27 an address on Egypt was delivered to the members of the 1900 Club by Lord Milner.

Bishop Gwynne, Suffragan Bishop of Khartoum, has now had Cairo and Egypt added to his jurisdiction.

Sirdar Charanjit Singh of Kapurthala has arrived from India, and will be in this country until the autumn.

Gholam Hossein Khan Farid-es-Saltaneh, Attaché to the Persian Legation in London, left on April 26 for Paris.

Captain Sir H. Acton Blake, the Deputy Master of Trinity House, and Lady Blake have returned to London from Ceylon.

Ebrahim Khan Gharagozlou, Secretary to the Persian Legation, left London on April 20 for Lausanne to recuperate after his recent illness.

Lord Lytton has completed his inspection of the dockyards and naval establishments at Gibraltar, and has reached Malta on a similar mission.

Sir Trevor and Lady Wheler, who have lately arrived in England from India, where Sir Trevor Wheler was serving with his regiment, are staying at Brighton.

M. Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Second Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, accompanied by Mme. Ghyka, returned to London on April 26 from Bucharest.

Bishop Azariah of Domakal, the first Indian to be raised to the Anglican Episcopate, is to preach the annual C.M.S. sermon in St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, on May 3.

Mirza Hussein Kahn Ali, ex-Persian Minister of Commerce and Public Works, who has recently been nominated Minister at Madrid, has arrived in London from the Continent.

The Emir Abdullah (a son of King Hussein) left Jeddah on April 22 on a visit to Cairo at the invitation of his Majesty's Government. Colonel Vickery, British Agent at Jeddah, accompanies the Emir.

Major-General Herbert Campbell Holman, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Indian Army, has been made a K.C.B. for valuable services as Chief of the British Mission in South Russia, to date November 11, 1919.

A memorial tablet to the late Major Alec Gardiner, R.E., for many years Deputy Agent, Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway, who fell at Givenchy, was unveiled in Christ Church, Lucknow, on March 25, by the Bishop of Lucknow.

A dance in aid of Serbian scholarships (war memorial to medical women) will be held at the Holborn Hall on May 14. Tickets (double £1 1s.) can be obtained from Dr. Dickenson Berry, Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.

Sir Arthur Evans was the guest on April 24 of the Swedish Anthropological and Geographical Society at their annual meeting in Stockholm; he gave a lecture on his excavations in Crete, and was awarded the Society's gold medal for scientific merit.

The memorial tablet to the late Earl of Cromer, for which subscriptions were raised in Egypt and England, will be unveiled in Henry VII.'s Chapel in Westminster Abbey on May 12, when a short service will be held at half-past twelve and an address delivered by Earl Curzon.

A committee, including the Maharani of Cooch Behar, the Princess of Monaco, Lady Carmichael, Lady J. C. Bose, and Lady Muir Mackenzie, has been formed to produce two Indian plays, "Chitra" and "Sacrifice," by Rabindranath Tagore, on Tuesday, May 4, at the Prince of Wales Theatre.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, who lost the latter part of the term at Eton owing to illness, has completed a three weeks' holiday course at Wye Agricultural College under the personal supervision of the Principal. His Royal Highness will resume his studies at Eton at the beginning of the summer term.

The Crown Prince of Roumania arrived at Bombay on April 20, and was received with a Royal Salute of twenty-one guns.

In memory of the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, who died in Serbia on March 21, a service will be held in Southwark Cathedral at three o'clock on May 1. An address will be given by Canon Haldane, and the collection will be in aid of the Evelyn Haverfield Orphanage in Baina-Basta. The Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, as well as various Serbian societies, will be represented.

The King's Investitures, which have been in abeyance during the residence of the Court at Windsor, were resumed at Buckingham Palace on April 22. Sir Rennell Rodd, the well-known diplomat, who was his Majesty's representative in Italy for some years, was invested with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath (Civil Division); Sir Herbert Dering was given the K.C.I.E. Captain Martin Nasmith, V.C., the gallant commander of submarine E 11, which destroyed eleven Turkish vessels in the Sea of Marmora in the early part of the war, was a recipient of the Military C.B.

The following decorations have been conferred by the Allied Powers on officers and men of the British Naval Forces for distinguished services during the war. The King has given unrestricted permission to the officers and men concerned to wear the decorations in question:—Conferred by the King of Roumania: Order of the Crown of Roumania—Commander Sir Harry S. Mainwaring, Bt., R.N.V.R. Conferred by the King of Serbia: Order of the White Eagle (4th Class), Lt.-Cdr. William J. Donohue, O.B.E., R.N.R. Conferred by the King of the Hejaz: Order of El Nahda (1st Class)—Adm. of the Flt. Baron Wester Wemyss of Wemyss, G.C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O., D.C.L.; Rear.-Adm. Henry B. Pelly, C.B., M.V.O. 2nd Class: Capt. William H. D. Boyle, C.B., R.N.; Capt. Raymond Fitzmaurice, D.S.O., R.N. 3rd Class: Cdr. Charles A. Poignand, R.N.; Lt.-Cdr. Thomas H. Linberry, R.N.; Lt. Evan G. C. Cavendish, R.N.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mr. Shadi Lal, barrister-at-law, is to be Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Lahore, in the place of the late Sir Henry Rattigan.

M. Titulusco, former Roumanian Minister of Finance, has been appointed Roumanian Delegate to the Peace Conference in succession to M. Vaida-Voevod, states a telegram from Bucharest.

General Lukhomsky has been appointed by General Wrangel Military Representative charged with directing the work of all the Russian departments in Constantinople, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Roumania, with the exception of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

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THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(From Our Social Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 5.

Easter and the Hot Season.

Easter has come in with a burst of heat which has taken us all by surprise, and which we sincerely hope is not an earnest of what this summer holds in store for us. Old residents will tell you that Easter usually marks the beginning of summer, but as the feast this year has come at an early date this is not very consoling to those whose lot it is to spend the next "hot weather" out here.

All those who are due for leave this year, be it early or late, are already making their arrangements; for it is stated that there will be even less accommodation available on steamers coming from the East than last year, and it will therefore be more than ever a case of "first come, first served." No doubt, in the end everybody who wants to will get away, but as regards the return journey it is to be hoped that somewhat better arrangements will be made than was the case last year, when the organisation through which residents were supposed to get their passages failed ignominiously.

Successful Racing.

A very successful racing season has been brought to a conclusion by an extra meeting on Easter Saturday at Heliopolis and another one to-day (Easter Monday) at Gezireh. The racing this year has been first class, though the stewards might perhaps be a little more watchful and stricter than they are, and the introduction of English thoroughbreds two years ago seems to have had a very good effect. Both Clubs have made a considerable amount of money—one of them took just under £E5.000 as commission on the *pari mutuel* in two days recently—and these profits should enable them materially to improve the accommodation and substantially to increase the stakes, the effect of the raising of which has already made itself felt in regard to the entries and the production of fresh blood. Racing will start almost immediately in Alexandria, for which reason it is to be regretted that extra meetings have been held in Easter week, as it leaves the horses little time to recover from their journey.

Two Dances.

Two well-attended dances have marked the closing of the season. The first was that given by the North Staffordshire Regiment in Kasr El Nil Barracks. The mess-rooms had been beautifully decorated for the occasion, the regimental colours having been adopted for the colour scheme, and the handsome plate which the Battalion possesses made a very fine show. Mrs. Tweedie, the wife of the second-in-command, together with the C.O., Lieut.-Col. Fox, did the honours most graciously, and the guests, who were mostly the younger members of the community, had a real good time.

The other dance was that given by Lieut.-General Sir Walter and Lady Congreve at Gezireh, which was attended by all Cairo Society. The General's house was, indeed, scarcely large enough for the distinguished crowd, and for a time dancing was somewhat difficult. However, from the second number onwards dancing went with a decided swing in the ballroom and the extra room which was requisitioned for the occasion. The large conservatory was transformed into a supper-room, and this proved a happy idea, for it provided in addition an excellent sitting-out place.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

ENGINEER (28), thoroughly qualified, married, desires POSITION as Engineer or other capacity in Colonies or East; highest references, good organiser, willing, energetic, readily adaptable.—Box No. 163, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

STUDENT of Commerce at University desires APPOINTMENT with manufacturing firm with view to qualifying as a representative either at home or abroad; ex-officer, age 21, finishing July-August.—Box No. 164, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

EX-GUNNER Captain desires APPOINTMENT. Journalistic and secretarial experience, shorthand typist, single, age 27, and well educated; take any post with prospects, but one East preferred; excellent references.—Box 165, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

PLANTERS, Etc.—Ex-Service Man, 25, single, grammar school education, sound commercial experience, seeks APPOINTMENT ABROAD (any capacity); preferably with Tea or Rubber Plantation, East.—Further particulars, write Box M.948, Lee and Nightingale, Advert. Offices, Liverpool.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1920.

MESOPOTAMIA.

The decision that the mandate for Mesopotamia shall be conferred upon Great Britain seems at last to have been formally taken. In the face of the British occupation and of the steps already taken for the proper government of the country, it might be thought that any delay in the regularisation of Great Britain's position in Mesopotamia would have had little or no effect. But probably no part of what was formerly the Ottoman Empire has been prejudiced more in regard to its future by the indeterminate state of affairs that has lasted from the time of the Armistice until now. The inhabitants have not been exposed to the massacres perpetrated in Cilicia, to the depredations of Mustapha Kemal, or to the political intrigues of Constantinople; but they have been the prey of an uncertainty which they could not underderstand and have been worked up into a condition of mind that may add seriously to the difficulties of the Mandatory Power. The natives were shrewd enough to have discovered that the British authorities remained in the dark as to the fate of the country. This fact was not reckoned to the occupying Power for grace, but suggested a weakness that some endeavoured to exploit, while to others it proved disheartening and made them lukewarm in their support of a régime of which they were quite ready to acknowledge the value. There are many elements at hand eager to work soil so fruitful of unrest. Some of the tribes have prided themselves in the past on their ability to keep the Turks at arm's length, and were encouraged to believe that they could do the same, if they felt so inclined, in the case of the British. The sacred cities of Nejef and Kerbela afforded sanctuary to a number of bad characters, who regarded the newcomers in the country their natural enemies as much as they did the Turks. An attempt was made to agree upon a frontier line between Syria and Mesopotamia; but events at Deir-ez-Zor proved how useless such an agreement was, and they have been followed by a steady penetration of Mesopotamia from the west with which the British troops do not feel able to cope in existing circumstances owing to the length of the lines of communication involved.

This accumulation of unsatisfactory conditions inevitably reacts on the Arab mind, even when it has been in the first instance well disposed to British supervision. Very little news reaches Great Britain from Mesopotamia, but it is not difficult to understand that, in spite of the efforts of individual officials to discharge their duties as though conditions were normal, the general effect is an administration unbacked by conviction, and consequently failing to carry conviction with the governed. Such a state of affairs is unsettling to the Arabs and unfair to the British authorities on the spot. It is to be hoped that this state of things will now be terminated. Unlike Syria or any other portion of the old Ottoman Empire, Mesopotamia, except in the case of certain frontier districts the final disposal of which remains in doubt, at present enjoys peace and something approaching settled conditions. It is most important that this fortunate situation should not be disturbed, as the Allies can ill brook a further extension of the unrest in Hither Asia.

The failure to regularise at an earlier date Great Britain's status in Mesopotamia, and to determine the boundaries within which the mandate will run imposes an additional financial burden on the British taxpayer. We have no sympathy with the suggestion that the latter should repudiate his responsibility in regard to Mesopotamia on the score of finance; but there is no reason why unremunerative expenditure should be tolerated a day longer than is necessary. The change to the discharge of functions formally entrusted to Great Britain as Mandatory Power may entail a heavier charge at first on the Exchequer. It will, however, we may hope, be money spent in accordance with a definite policy, with a view to ultimate recovery through the enhanced productiveness of the country. A hand-to-mouth existence is inevitably wasteful. As an instance we may cite the cost of motor transport, where, owing to type of motor used and the necessity of keeping the roads in a state of repair by means of the Indian Labour Corps, as much money will have been spent in two years as would have sufficed to build a railway for the whole distance. The reluctance of the British Government to expose itself to the charge of having anticipated the verdict of the Supreme Council can be understood; but it ought to have been possible to avoid a condition of things which tends to the paralysis of the administration owing to uncertainty regarding the Government's intentions and the encouragement given to the formation among the officials of rival schools of thought as to the policy that should be adopted. We have had, it is true, Mr. Lloyd George's *exposé* in the House of Commons of the reasons for including Mosul within the sphere of the British mandate; but it came late in the day, and there is no guarantee that the views then expressed will have been conveyed to the Mesopotamia Administration as embodying the settled policy of His Majesty's Government. From the outset certain axioms ought to have been accepted in regard to Mesopotamia by the Supreme Council, and in this way Great Britain's supervision of the country facilitated. Among the axioms may be mentioned these: That an impoverished country cannot be efficiently administered either with or without a Mandatory Power; that Mesopotamia must rely mainly upon oil and grain to save her from impoverishment, the latter becoming an asset only when irrigation has been sufficiently developed by loans for which the oil must supply the necessary security. With the ground thus cleared it would have been easier for the administration of the country to have responded to local exigencies without offending the susceptibilities of the Supreme Council.

The utmost goodwill on the part of the Supreme Council, however, would not have provided the British Government with a substitute for a carefully considered policy in regard to Mesopotamia, and it is this, we fear, that has been lacking. With war requirements to meet, the military authorities had no difficulty in elaborating a rough-and-ready programme for their own purposes. When the Armistice was signed no time should have been lost in replacing this programme with a settled policy framed on the certainty of a British mandate. If this had been done, our relations with the border tribes on the north and west might have been regulated without the loss of life and expenditure of money actually entailed; a definite decision as to whether the development of irrigation, agriculture, communications, and minerals was to be left wholly to private enterprise or to be shared by the Government would have been taken to the great advantage of the particular undertakings and in the general interests of the people, and some measures could have been initiated for the defence of the country and the maintenance of order by the employment of Arabs under British officers. The long period of marking time has been prejudicial to the material and political future of Mesopotamia, as well as to the relations between the native population and ourselves. Now that the decision to entrust the mandate to Great Britain has been taken, there should be no further delay in giving to the administration of the country the sense of security of tenure and confidence in the permanency of the policy to which it is called upon to give effect. Mesopotamia is too big and too important in its relations to the British Empire, forming as it does the keystone of the arch whose pillars are formed by British Africa and India, to be regarded as a side-show. A second Cromer is required as its first High Commissioner, if the country itself and the Empire are to derive the maximum benefit from the mandate.

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THE DRIFTING OF CENTRAL ASIA.—II.

By Ikbal Ali Shah, M.R.A.S., F.R.G.S.

Bolshevism was awaiting an opportunity, and the ground now lay ready for any propaganda. It was pointed out that the British had been instrumental in bringing about the downfall of Turkey, that it was they who conquered Moslem Mesopotamia, that it was they who fought against Afghanistan and the Borderland people, that it was they who had declared their Protectorate over Egypt, and, finally, that it was they who had contracted a Treaty with Persia, by which they secured an economic ascendancy in that country; and it was urged that the passing of that country into a British Protectorate was but a matter of time. To an average Eastern, the facts appeal directly, making him think, for instance, that the cause of the downfall of Islam was being brought about by the British.

I need not here set out the defence of Great Britain in regard to all the above enumerated points, for the facts are well known to the average reader of THE NEAR EAST; but to an Uzbek the information is not easily accessible, as, indeed, is the case with many Afghans. The object in mentioning these points is to show how Great Britain is represented in the bazaars of Central Asia, where these things have become matter of ordinary conversation among the Moslem masses—and it is the winning over of the masses which is, primarily, in view by Bolshevist propagandists. At the start, therefore, the Soviets skilfully placed in the forefront of their argument not mere unintelligible theories of class warfare and Socialism, but a cry "War against European Capitalism," and "War against England."

The masses are the chief objects of Bolshevist propagandism, and Lenin is a profound believer in propagandism. "The masses," he said, "cannot be won without a highly developed, carefully carried out, and well organised system of flattery, lying, chicanery, and political jugglery." But two other factors have also played equally important parts, namely, bribery and display of military strength.

As to the money employed on the propagandism, it has been estimated that, roughly, over five million roubles have been spent, while free farms and lands were granted, and a wide area stretching up to Merv, was allowed to Afghanistan. In this offer of the Merv region a very clever policy was kept in view. At the time the Trans-Caspian province still resisted Bolshevist penetration a certain degree of strain was imposed on the Soviet forces; so, in order to relieve that tension, the Afghans were invited to occupy Merv, and thus reduce the pressure on Bolshevist forces which could be employed elsewhere. The Afghans were quite willing to fall in with this scheme, for the reason that they were, after all, taking their country back from the Russians; for the territory bounded by Khoja Salar in the North-West of Afghanistan to Merv, and then to Old Sarakhs, and thence to Puli-Kushti to Zalfikar Pass is legitimately claimed by the Afghans. Nor can we forget that numerous encroachments were made by the old Imperialist Russia upon the territorial rights of Afghanistan in this region, and the Panjdeh incident had for years humiliated the Afghans. Thus Merv is, in fact, no new acquisition for the Afghans; yet it came to them as such. The potentates of Bokhara and Khiva were recognised as independent, and some trade facilities were given them.

Another factor in the case was a mild display of military power. It was made plain that the soldiers of the Soviet Government had smashed Imperialist Russia, which had formerly oppressed the Uzbeks and menaced the Afghans. From a practical point of view, then, the Red Army could not be opposed by Bokhara or Kabul. Although in normal times the Ameer would have set all these awe-inspiring pretensions at naught, now, since his relations with India were not over friendly, he was inclined to give the matter a thought. There was at once a threat of invasion and an obligation to liberate the oppressed.

Matters were, however, not allowed to rest there, for although the Ameer and the Khans were brought into line, and although a certain amount of religious susceptibility had been created among the masses, all was not complete; propagandism was to be pushed yet farther. A very enterprising scheme was devised to disseminate the aims and objects of New Russia, by a system of railway trains which made circular tours and distributed books, newspapers, and pamphlets to the value of over half a million roubles; distributed free more than 150,000 proclamations, and provided 556 organisations with various publications. The trains contained cinematographs, bookshops, and branch telegraphic offices, which at every station placarded the latest "news" and sent out bulletins with the latest telegrams.

As regards religious sentiments, the Moslem section of the "Eastern Department" of the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs founded a "League for the Liberation of Islam," which was handsomely subsidised by the Soviet Government. It declares itself to be working for the protection of the Islamic world, and help in the way of propaganda, oral and printed, is given to similar organisations throughout the world. Egyptian Nationalists, Afghan Patriots, the Union of Caucasian Mussulmans, Persian Nationalists, the Congress of Russian Mussulmans, Turkish Nationalists, and others, have already joined the League. The mode of procedure of these various units of the League differs with the requirements and conditions of their respective countries.

Most people are of opinion that Bolshevism will collapse in the end, but at present we see the movement vigorous enough and progressing in some directions. Those who rise every day expecting to read in their morning paper that the Russian "Reds" have collapsed on account of economic exhaustion, appear to be misinformed regarding the agricultural and mineral potentialities of Russia under the Bolshevists. In the 1917 State Budget it will be seen that (excluding the war expenses) the revenue was higher than the expenditure, in spite of the fact that the sale of vodka was abolished, which had alone brought 800 millions of roubles to the Russian Government. Whatever may be the situation from the point of view of international credit, Soviet Russia has sustained her losses with little apparent setback in the way of its military achievements, or by the success of its propaganda in the East. We must remember that the cotton growing and allied industries in Central Asia, which were stifled by the old Russian monopoly system, have been, under the Bolshevists, supplying the whole of the Eastern and Middle Asia with cotton goods. Coalfields have been worked at Ferghana, and oil as good as that of Baku is produced; copper has been refined from the beds of the Burt and Kutchuk Sari rivers; deposits of coal are found near Mator Khabad, Teress Butak, and Kargach; and iron has been located by the Burt. Since the defeat of General Denikin large stocks of wheat and other cereals in South Russia have been imported. It is stated on good authority that in three southern provinces alone, 400 million poods were available in October last. There is naphtha at Baku and Grosny to the amount of several million poods, and the available stock of benzine in Grosny is estimated to be not less than 12 million poods.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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And what of the gold mines of Siberia, to say nothing of its agriculture and pastoral resources?

What is the best possible way out of this Central Asian tangle? We have seen how Afghanistan and Bokhara are situated. Is Great Britain adopting an attitude of indifference again? What interest have the Afghans in making overtures towards friendly dealings with the British Government? Possibly they fear that restraint will again be placed over the conduct of their foreign relations; and they may not be willing to forego their claims on Merv, as it is now in their hands. Stoppage of the importation of arms does not trouble them; for in Kabul factories are making these articles. Industrial establishments are also in full working order. The desire of Abdur Rahman that Kabul should supply all that an Afghan needs has now been fulfilled. Bokhara and Khiva would be very reluctant to reciprocate any friendly overtures, for all the liberties of newly gained freedom would not suffice to strengthen their minds in making friendship with the British when they are actually under the shadow of the Bolshevist sword.

The first step has then, it seems, to be taken by the British Government, otherwise the Middle East will drift further from India than it is to-day; and that we, surely, do not wish. The sea surges towards India, and how are we to stem the tide? Not long ago Trotsky declared that only through India could England be struck down. What, then, are the guardians of India doing? The problem is grave, as are the interests surrounding it. The finding of a way out of the labyrinth must, of course, be left to responsible statesmen. But it may be suggested to them that the Bolshevist propaganda can only be checkmated by propaganda.

MONTENEGRINS IN ITALY.

On behalf of thousands of Montenegrins who have taken refuge in Italy and Albany, and in the name of the Montenegrin people, an assembly of some two thousand and five hundred Montenegrins, held in Gaeta (Italy) on the 12th instant, passed a resolution, a copy of which we have received. It runs as follows:—

"The Montenegrins, fleeing before the sanguinary Serbian terror into Italy, have ascertained with the greatest of pain:

"That the Peace Conference has trampled upon all the elementary principles of international right and morality, so far as it regards the question of Montenegro, not taking into consideration that Montenegro threw in her fate with the Allies as early as 1914, losing 50 per cent. of her Army and one-third of her population.

"That the Peace Conference has remained indifferent to all the appeals and protests against the bloodthirsty tyranny carried on in Montenegro by the Serbian Army, which burns our homes, destroys villages, disturbs our property, and interns, imprisons, and shoots our most prominent citizens, etc., etc.

"That the Great Powers have not fulfilled their solemn pledges, some of which were made by their most prominent representatives, for the restoration of Montenegro and to respect her sovereignty.

"That the Peace Conference, as it appears, is not averse to sanction the greatest crime of this war—that is, the violent annexation of Montenegro by Serbia without even formally consulting the Montenegrin people.

"Therefore, this gathering of Montenegrins most energetically protests against the present attitude of the Peace Conference towards Montenegro; and they appeal to the sentiments of justice and humanity of the Governments of the Great Powers, their Parliaments, and their public opinion, begging of them to intervene:

"That the Peace Conference should not sanction the incorporation of Montenegro with Serbia before the people of Montenegro have had an opportunity of expressing their will as to their fate, and expressing such without let or hindrance and with out the presence of the Serbian troops of occupation and their civil authorities.

"That the Peace Conference should order the Serbian Government to liberate at once the hundreds of prominent Montenegrin patriots who have been imprisoned without trial or charge, for over 17 months, because they would not sanction the violent annexation of Montenegro. Amongst these men are those ex-Ministers and members of Parliament, who, in 1914, voluntarily declared war against the Central Powers, when the Serbians cried for help, and generals who, towards the end of 1915, at the head of the Montenegrin Army, saved the retreating and disorganised Serbian Army from complete capture."

On behalf of the Assembly,

(Signed): L. Miouchekovitch (late Prime Minister of Montenegro), General A. Raitchevitch, General G. Yovovitch, Member of Parliament V. Martinovitch, Member of Parliament L. Petrovitch, Member of Parliament B. Vukotitch, Member of Parliament G. Voutchlinitch, Member of Parliament V. Kriookapitch, Eugene Popovitch (late Prime Minister of Montenegro).

CHESS.

The match between Mr. R. H. V. Scott and M. Marchand has resulted in a draw, each player winning three games.

Efforts are being made to raise a team of past members of the Oxford and Cambridge teams to play matches against the University teams in the autumn term.

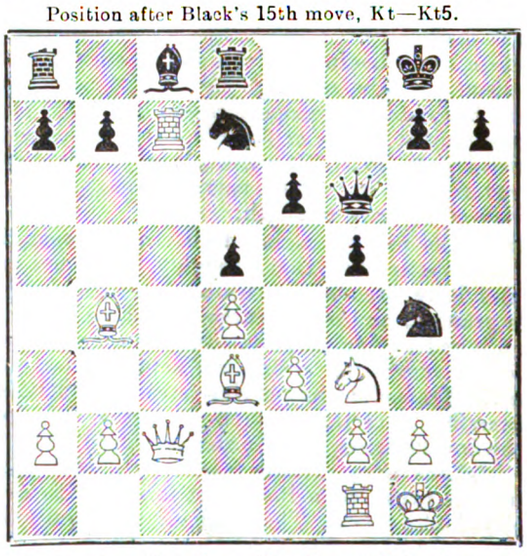
The time limit for the London League matches for the past season was thirty moves in the first hour and six moves in every subsequent quarter. Personally, I regard such a time limit as absurd. It simply encourages "skittling," and I am of the opinion that players are tending to take these matches much less seriously than they did solely on account of the rapid play. This is borne out by the experience of a player who normally takes his full time in tournaments at twenty moves an hour, but who in the league matches this season only twice exceeded thirty minutes, though every game lasted over thirty and one was over fifty moves. Despite the rapid play, the number of games for adjudication this season has been more than usually large, and I see that it is now suggested that there should be either longer hours for play (which, I fear, is almost impracticable) or that a time limit should be fixed, which will reduce the number of adjudications necessary.

The following game was played between Mr. W. Winter and Mr. R. C. J. Walker in the City of London Chess Club Championship:—

QUEEN'S PAWN.

White. W. Winter.	Black. R. C. J. Walker.	White. W. Winter.	Black. R. C. J. Walker.
1. P—Q4	P—Q4	14. Q—B2	K—Kt
2. Kt—KB3	P—K3	15. 0—0	Kt—Kt5(5)
3. P—B4	P—QB3	16. R—B	Q—R3
4. P—K3	P—KB4(1)	17. B—Kt5	P—B5
5. B—Q3	Kt—Q2	18. B—K7	P x P
6. Kt—B3	B—Q3	19. B x R	P x P ch
7. P x P	BP x P	20. K—R	Kt(Q2)—B3
8. B—Q2(2)	Kt—R3(3)	21. B x Kt	P x B
9. Kt—QKt5	B—Kt	22. R x B ch	R x R
10. B—Kt4(4)	K—B2	23. Q x R ch	K—Kt2
11. R—QB	Q—B3	24. Q—Q7 ch	K—Kt3
12. Kt—B7	B x Kt	25. P—Q3 ch	P—B4
13. R x B	R—Q	26. Q x KP ch	Resigns

Position after Black's 15th move, Kt—Kt5.



(1) Not a good continuation. The Stonewall is all very well if played by White, but it creates grave weaknesses if tried by the second player.

(2) Preparing to take advantage of the weakness created on Black's Queen's side.

(3) This Kt would have been better employed at B3, where he could have rendered useful service in defence of the centre.

(4) Taking advantage of the weak move of the B.

(5) A vain attempt to relieve the position by a King's side attack.

CARO-KANN.

Arrangements have been made by the trustees of the late Cecil Rhodes to award a Rhodes Scholarship to Malta as a self-governing colony.

June 5, 1920, will be a public holiday throughout India in celebration of His Majesty the King-Emperor's birthday. As the Peace Treaty has now been signed it has been decided that the occasion should be marked by the celebrations customary before the war.

The Civil Service Commissioners announce that examinations for candidates who have served in his Majesty's Forces will be held on August 10 for appointments in the Consular Service of the Levant. Candidates must not be less than 22 on the date of the examination, nor more than 26 on August 2, 1920. Full regulations and forms of application (which must be returned on or before June 10), may be obtained on application by letter addressed to the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Burlington Gardens, London, W.1

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The business community has not been slow in expressing its opinion of the Budget. The initial attitude of reserve could have but one meaning, and from all sides have come criticisms of the Chancellor's proposal. The feature of the Budget to which exception is taken is the Excess Profits Duty, but for which blame would have been lost in praise. It had been expected that this tax, which was reduced last year from 80 per cent. to 40 per cent., would this time have been abandoned, and its increase to 60 per cent. has caused unmitigated surprise. Of the utility of the duty as a means of raising revenue there is no question, but it is realised in commercial circles that its disadvantages far outweigh its convenience as a medium of taxation, and it is emphasised that if something of the kind be really necessary—and of that there is unfortunately no doubt—the position could be met by a flat-rate tax on all business profits.

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The increase in the Excess Profits Duty will cause a revision of outlook in many directions, in none more so than in regard to the immediate future of rubber and tea companies. Shares in both these industries have in recent months been on the up grade, in the expectation—especially in the case of rubber companies—of increased earnings. That prospect is gone for the time being, and, in keeping with the trend of other markets, rubber and tea shares have declined in price. In both cases, however, the future is scarcely open to doubt. The demand for rubber is bound to increase, and, provided that it is not possible to manufacture synthetic rubber at a price which will affect the plantation industry, large profits are bound to be realised in due course, while as regards tea, the prospect is that as soon as world conditions become normal consumption will develop at a rate which may outstrip supply.

***

In undertaking the mandate for Palestine and Mesopotamia, it cannot be too strongly emphasised that Great Britain is accepting more than responsibilities, and that our commitments in those regions, arduous though they may prove, are not without very positive compensations. Both Palestine and Mesopotamia offer exceptional prospects for British trade enterprise in innumerable directions. In engineering—the building of railways, roads, and bridges—in general construction work, in commerce, these districts should provide admirable openings for British firms, provided the requisite energy is displayed. The possibilities of these markets are well known, and it is now "up to" the leaders of British trade to show the way here in the same way that they have shown it in so many other fields in the face of severe competition such as they are not likely to encounter in either Palestine or Mesopotamia—in the near future, at any rate—that is, unless a tendency is shown to neglect these markets.

***

I must say at once that I do not think there is any reason to anticipate that this will now be the case. A few months ago I should not have been so confident, but of late there have been unmistakable signs that British traders, as a whole, have been waking up to the potentialities of the Near Eastern markets. An instance of this trend is to be found in the fact that British firms have been prominent in competing for recent tenders in Turkey and Roumania and other countries, and, be it added, with some success. Thus the contract for the electric installation of the Haidar Pasha terminus station and other buildings went to one of the three British firms tendering, in the face of keen competition, while another Constantinople contract for motor fire-pumps and a floating engine, for which twenty firms of different nationality competed—a French firm being successful—would have been awarded to the British tenderer, says the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States, had the rate of exchange between the franc and the pound sterling been even 30 francs to the £. These facts speak for themselves. But I cannot refrain from impressing the moral that, given enterprise, British goods are first every time.

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The evidence of the condition of States in Europe which have suffered through the war provided by the White Paper published this week, containing a series of reports dealing with the economic position in Central Europe, shows how urgent is the need for the granting of assistance to the countries in question in their efforts to restore normal conditions. Through the war industrial machinery and buildings have been destroyed or damaged, agricultural machinery has been destroyed or taken away, and communications generally have been seriously damaged or impaired. Where the States have produced for export, the restoration of foreign trade—a *sine quâ non* on the road to rapid reconstruction—is handicapped by the chaotic exchanges. To wait until they adjusted themselves would be to delay too long. Elsewhere in this issue will be found details of an important scheme for coping with the present situation as regards the "Austrian Succession States." Under the most influential auspices an association known as the Anglo-Danubian Association has been formed for the promotion of the resumption of trade with the countries in question. Its success must depend largely on the attitude of exporting firms, who may be confidently looked to to give their full support to the scheme on which much depends.

***

An entertaining article appeared recently in a French contemporary belittling the results achieved by the Athens Exhibition. According to the writer, there was scarcely anything to praise in connection with the undertaking. The goods, it appears, were quite—I almost feel tempted to underline the word, but will content myself with mere repetition—quite unsuitable, the "white goods, linen, and muslin," being unfit for Greek buyers, while as regards the machinery there was "little that would find purchasers in Greece." Really, I am surprised that the writer did not go on to explain that the real reason why practically nothing was returned to England after the exhibition was that the Greek buyers, furious at being invited to inspect such an unsatisfactory undertaking, smashed up the exhibits.

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Perhaps the most astonishing passage in this curious article is the statement that "there appeared to be no actual intention of doing business." Then, if so, why should our French friends concern themselves so unnecessarily about it? The fact is, of course, our competitors would have held an exhibition at Athens themselves—if they had thought of it. They realised that as soon as they learnt of the great success of the enterprise of the Federation of British Industries. It was too late then, and now that they are beginning to appreciate the gain to British commerce through the exhibition—beginning, mark it! for the results of the exhibition are going to be very far-reaching in regard to British trade endeavour in the Near East—they cannot restrain their pique at the thought of their lost opportunity. And so we have attempts to disparage the exhibition.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

Cairo, April 5.

The Economic Situation.

The economic situation, despite the slight drop in cereal prices, has not improved much. A certain amount of relief has been afforded by the import of flour, but very much more extensive action will be necessary before any decided improvement manifests itself. The consultative committee of the new Supplies Board held its first meeting on Saturday to consider the question, and amongst other things nominated a sub-committee to study the possibility of limiting the cotton area next year so as to relieve the food crisis. crisis.

Cairo, April 12.

The Coal Shortage.

The coal shortage threatens to have far-reaching effects on the economic situation in Egypt. The train services have all had to be curtailed, and the Council of Ministers has this week approved of regulations restricting the hours up to which hotels, restaurants, and places of entertainment may remain open, and forbidding shops to have illuminated advertisements or to remain open after 7 p.m.

Efforts are being made to obtain supplies, and the assistance of the various coal-producing parts of the Empire, as well as the British shipping community, is being enlisted, but with an inconsistency which would be refreshingly humorous if one did not know that it was being used for disloyal political purposes, certain of the extremist press are complaining that if Great Britain can allocate coal to France she ought to do likewise for Egypt, especially in consideration of the fact that she takes the preponderant portion of her cotton crop.

The critics appear, however, to be quite oblivious of the incompatibility of repudiation of British protection, which they have actively voiced, and are still voicing, with their present claim for special consideration by Great Britain in regard to internal economic conditions of this country, as well as of the fact that no pressure to grow cotton is brought to bear on local cultivators, who are quite free to grow cereals, and who for their cotton receive from Great Britain the price fixed by the world's market. The Financial Adviser has done well to remind the people of this country that the flour supplies which are coming in, and without which this country will be faced with famine, are available solely thanks to the intervention of Great Britain. If, as is hoped, coal supplies are forthcoming, this will be solely due to assistance from the same quarter, and herein will be another demonstration of the practical value of British protection.

The Pink Boll Worm.

At the end of 1915 the very serious diminution in the yield of cotton due to the pink boll worm impelled the Egyptian Government to seek some outside independent opinion as to the measures which were being or might have to be taken to combat the pest, and, in accordance with a request made through the Foreign Office, the services of Mr. H. A. Ballou, entomologist on the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, were secured. Mr. Ballou spent eighteen months during 1916-1917 in Egypt, and thoroughly investigated the problem. His report has just been published, and, summed up, it is a commendation of the policy followed by the Government in its handling of this very serious question. The report is a long one, and, besides making various recommendations, Mr. Ballou deals very exhaustively with the pink boll worm and the influence of its ravages on the cotton crop. Space forbids my making any longer reference in this place, but all those interested in agricultural pests in general and cotton pests in particular should read this very valuable report, which can be obtained from the Government Publication Office, Cairo.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, April 15.

Petroleum Export.

The export of petroleum and petroleum products during 1919 was very low indeed, being only about 38,900 tons, as compared with 1,036,000 tons in 1913. Most of it was exported to Tchecho-Slovakia and some to Bulgaria, Turkey, Yugoslavia, and Austria. It has all been transported by way of the Danube; none has been shipped from Constantza. Enormous quantities are now lying in store awaiting transport facilities.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, April 3.

Railway Construction.

According to an indenture entered into with the Cyprus Mining Corporation, the time allowed for carrying out the construction of certain extensions of the Government Railway, in the north of the island, is further prolonged for another year—viz., to May 19, 1921.

ROUMANIAN INTERNAL LOAN.

Particulars are given in a report from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest of the new Roumanian internal loan, which is being offered for subscription for such period as the Government may determine from April 25.

The price of the emission is fixed at 87 per cent. if the stock be taken at once, and 88 per cent. if the payments be made by instalments in accordance with the prospectus. The loan bears interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and the amortization at the nominal capital value will be made by drawings, of which the first is to take place on September 1, 1921, and others on March 1 and September 1 following during a period of forty years.

The Government hope to realise two thousand millions of lei by this loan, and have already made arrangements with various banks to take up firm over 600 millions. It is stated that there is every reason to expect that the amount of two thousand millions of lei will be subscribed as conditions appear to be favourable, especially in view of the very large amount of floating currency in the country.

Among other inducements offered by the Government are:—(1) The exemption of sums invested in the loan from taxes imposed on war profits and all fortunes generally, whilst in the case of any forced loan which may be found necessary, the amount of money invested in this issue is to be deducted from the total of the owners' investments. (2) The bonds are exempted from all taxes present or future. (3) The bonds will be taken at their nominal value as guarantee by State institutions, and the coupons will be accepted as money by them. (4) Subscribers may pay for agricultural land under the expropriation with the bonds at their nominal value. (5) The Government undertakes not to denounce the loan before May 1, 1931.

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ANGLO-DANUBIAN ASSOCIATION.

IMPORTANT BRITISH TRADE SCHEME.

Under influential auspices an association has been formed for promoting the resumption of trade with the Austro-Hungarian Succession States. Particulars of this important development are given in a preliminary announcement made by the Anglo-Danubian Association. The directors of the Association are:—The Right Hon. Fredk. Huth Jackson (chairman), H. A. Andreae (Kleinwort, Sons and Co.), A. G. M. Dickson (British Trade Corporation), C. V. Sale (Hudson's Bay Company), Sir Edmund Wildbore Smith (Metropolitan Carriage Wagon and Finance Company), L. E. Meinertzhagen (Fredk. Huth and Co.). The shareholders include:—C. C. Barrie, Esq., C.B.E., M.P., the British Trade Corporation, F. Dudley Docker, Esq., C.B., Goschens and Cunliffe, Hudson's Bay Company, Fredk. Huth and Co., Interallied Trade and Banking Corporation, Kleinwort, Sons and Co., Lazard Brothers and Co., Ltd., Lloyd's Bank, London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, London Joint City and Midland Bank, Morgan, Grenfell and Co., N. M. Rothschild and Sons, J. Henry Schröder and Co.

The difficulties which are at present preventing the resumption of business relations and the lines upon which it is suggested they may be overcome are outlined as follows:—The States into which the late Austro-Hungarian Empire has been broken up are suffering from (1) the want of raw materials from the world outside and (2) the breakdown of the normal distribution and exchange of products of these different States as between themselves. The situation is further complicated by currency inflation and an immense burden of war debts—difficulties which, though serious and apparently insoluble, can to a large extent be left out of account. The main problem to be faced is the inability of these countries to produce the goods with which to pay for the necessary imports of raw materials. In normal times these raw materials would be obtainable on credit, but in present circumstances bankers and traders are unwilling to furnish such credits, owing to the absence of any security that payment in good currency will be forthcoming in the near future.

The resumption of normal production in the Succession States is rendered even more difficult than is inevitable as the natural consequence of the war by the setting up of economic barriers by the Governments of these States as between themselves. A further deterrent to business is the fear of political disturbance and interference with the due completion of any transactions that might be entered into. There is also a very natural apprehension that the condition of these countries is such as to lead to revolution and anarchy. Under the proposed scheme it is suggested that these obstacles may be overcome and that the normal trade may be induced to flow into these areas by a plan which will ignore the depreciated currency, provide guarantees against political interference, and be the surest preventive of social upheaval. Raw materials will be supplied to these countries in trust, remaining throughout the process of manufacture the absolute property of those that send them. The finished goods will not be sold for crowns or other depreciated currency, but will be re-exported to those markets which can give real value in money or goods in exchange. The countries in distress will receive a share of the products for their services, and this, it is to be hoped, in the course of a few years will re-establish their economic life to something like the pre-war standard of prosperity and independence. At the same time the production of food in countries themselves will be stimulated by supplies of manufactured goods, since it is the absence of any such supplies to-day which has reduced the larger industrial cities, like Vienna, to the point of starvation.

Indispensable Guarantees.

The indispensable guarantees required for the new business are:—(1) That the property in the goods shall be safeguarded; (2) that complete freedom of re-export shall be guaranteed by the Governments concerned. It has been ascertained that the Governments of German Austria and Czecho-Slovakia, the two principal manufacturing areas of the late Empire, are in principle prepared to give the two guarantees required, and further, that the manufacturers themselves are willing and eager to lend their factories in consideration of their receiving a share of the finished article produced under the scheme. Apart from the urgent necessity of saving these countries from the social and economic collapse into which they are drifting, the present world shortage of manufactured goods can only be remedied by bringing again into use their excellent workshops, the skilled labour and management, which are being left idle for want of raw materials. The Association will approach traders and manufacturers in this country who are likely to be interested, and ask them to give their views in detail on the practicability of the scheme in so far as it would concern their particular trade or industry, and having secured this preliminary information, a mission of investigation will proceed to Austria and Czecho-Slovakia to examine thoroughly the economic and political situation in these and adjacent countries. If the report of the mission of investigation is encouraging, and provided the political and social conditions remain stable, it is proposed to form a larger company to carry out the business in the following manner:—Just as formerly a local agent or banker acted on behalf of traders, holding their security, advising them and acting as intermediary in the widest sense, so this company would act for those who wished to make use of its services, but in the new conditions, and with the new obstacles in the way of normal business such a trustee would, obviously, be far more indispensable than formerly. The company would have branches in Vienna, Prague, and the other capitals of the Austro-Hungarian Succession States. Traders might either take the initiative themselves or leave it to the company to make proposals and recommendations. They would make their own financial arrangements in connection with the new business, but the proposed company would assist in securing the necessary credits by furnishing such guarantees as will satisfy bankers.

The main purpose, however, of such an agency, under present circumstances, would be to combine the various interests in a way which would secure the required authority in negotiating with the various Governments and business groups in Austria and the Succession States. The Association has obtained the approval of His Majesty's Government, and the Board of Trade have been fully informed concerning the formation of the company, and have expressed their satisfaction at the steps which have been taken. It is not, however, intended that the Association should confine its activities to British customers, as it is clear that the co-operation particularly of French, Italian, and American interests will add immensely to the power of the proposed organisation, and the bankers and traders in these countries, as well as neutrals, will be invited to take full advantage of the services of the Association on equal terms with British firms.

ROUMANIAN FINANCIAL REFORMS.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed in regard to the financial state of Roumania that it is proposed shortly to lay before Parliament Bills for the carrying into effect of the following financial reforms:—(1) A capital tax on fortunes which will be payable by everybody. It is proposed to admit free of taxation all fortunes up to ten thousand lei, and from fortunes of greater amount the sum of ten thousand lei will be deducted before the imposition of any tax. Upon the remainder there will be imposed a progressive tax (as to the details of which no information is available) which will probably run from 2 per cent. on small fortunes to 10 or even 12 per cent. on large. (2) A special tax on war fortunes which, it is stated, will follow the same general lines as the above, save that the percentage of tax will be much larger, probably from 20 to 50 or 60 per cent. (3) A tax on luxuries which is not yet elaborated. (4) A graduated income-tax.

There seems every prospect that the above measures will become law, although possibly certain amendments may be made in the first two, whilst in the case of the income-tax the actual collection of the money will necessitate a certain reorganisation of the financial administration of the country, which may take some little time.

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GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,745,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 295,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

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FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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BULGARIA'S ECONOMIC NEEDS.

I.—THE POSITION OF AGRICULTURE.

(From a Bulgarian Correspondent.)

Bulgaria is mainly an agricultural country, and even granted industrial development, its future must depend on the land. Before the late wars agriculture was in a flourishing condition, and promised to develop to an unhoped-for extent, thanks to the introduction slowly but surely of agricultural machinery. It was unhappily neglected from 1912, when the Balkan War broke out, up to the past year.

The total area of Bulgaria is about 9,000,000 hectares, 31 per cent. of which is cultivated and 22 per cent. uncultivated, the remainder consisting of forests, meadow lands, gardens, pasturage, and marshy land. The area of cultivable land is about half the total area of the country, and could be increased by the greater use of modern machinery. The agriculturists are small proprietors, and cultivation is carried on for the most part on primitive lines. They use a plough of the old type, but in recent years there has been a tendency to adopt modern agricultural implements. The following particulars of agricultural machines and their type existing in Bulgaria in 1910 may be of interest: Ploughs, old type, 420,000; new type, 114,000; sowing machines, 1,000; reapers, 7,000; threshers, 1,000; winnowers and sorters, 65,500; other machines, 12,000.

The Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture is encouraging the introduction of the most up-to-date machines, and its efforts in this direction are furthered by the State banks. The agricultural machines most in use at present are those obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary. Thus the ploughs of the Sark and Eckert types and others of German origin have not been displaced so far by ploughs from other countries, even those coming from Great Britain and America. That is explained by the fact that the land requires special kinds of machines, which have so far been manufactured by the said countries.

Opening for Agricultural Machinery.

The stock of agricultural implements is now reduced to the minimum, a very large number having deteriorated owing to the long duration of the war. Hence the need for these implements is very great, and British manufacturers would find Bulgaria an excellent market for agricultural machinery.

The Bulgarian peasant, whose cultivation has been on very circumscribed lines prior to the introduction of new implements, is disposed to welcome the latest machines, recognising that they greatly facilitate his work. He is the more inclined to do so to-day, since after the war cattle and labour have both been lacking.

Three quarters of the productive land in Bulgaria is devoted to the cultivation of cereals. The total production of cereals in 1912 amounted to about 2,700,000 tons, of which 1,200,000 were wheat, 700,000 maize, and the remainder barley, oats, rye, millet, etc. The crop of the past year was very good, and has not yet been disposed of abroad.

Apart from cereals the principal crops cultivated in Bulgaria are tobacco, roses, and beet. Tobacco is grown principally in the south and in the district of Dubnitza. The area planted is estimated at about 3,000 hectares. The district of Haskovo produces most tobacco, then come Philippopolis, Kustendil, etc. In point of quality Bulgarian tobacco can be compared to that of Macedonia. Certain kinds, for example, those of Haskovo and Dubnitza, are like the tobaccos of Xanti and Kavalla for quality, aroma, etc. Stocks include several crops of tobacco, some even of the crop of 1916. After the Armistice the sale of these tobaccos to Italy, America, and Great Britain proceeded slowly despite regular communications, but demands from abroad are constantly being received, and it is certain that a market will be found very easily as soon as the difficulties of transport and exchange are overcome. The price of tobacco fluctuates to-day between 15 and 60 levas per kilo f.o.b. Black Sea port.

Rose cultivation is second in importance to that of tobacco. The roses are exclusively utilised for distilling the famous attar of roses. The area devoted to roses amounts to about 5,000 hectares, the best gardens being those of Karlovo and Kasaulik. Of late attar of roses has been exported on a considerable scale to America, France, and England.

It is unnecessary to refer to the other crops such as beet, rice and beans, which, though extensively cultivated, are insufficient to satisfy local consumption. As a matter of fact, large quantities of sugar and rice have to be imported.

Future of Industry.

The question whether industry, speaking generally, can have a future in Bulgaria has been the subject of constant investigation by economists, but so far no definite solution has been reached. Many of them hold the opinion that the desired conditions do not exist for industrial development, and that the country must long remain an agricultural community. If, however, Bulgaria is to follow the path of evolution, it will be compelled to develop its industries and to progress on the lines of France and Italy. At present conditions are entirely unfavorable for industrial progress, in view of the lack of coal, iron, steel and other raw materials.

Weaving is the oldest industry in Bulgaria. The principal centres for weaving are Sliven, Gabrovo and Panaguriste. Owing to the success achieved in the sale of Bulgarian cloth in Greece, Turkey, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, several enterprising Bulgarian business men established factories with entirely modern machinery and organisation at Gabrovo and Sliven. Manufacturers obtain the wool in the country itself, and the cotton and woollen threads for the manufacture of the best cloth similar to the western product from Italy, Great Britain and other countries. After the Armistice large quantities of cotton thread were imported from Great Britain and Italy; for all that, the needs of the factories and workshops are not satisfied, and the importation of this commodity increases from day to day. At the present time there are factories for knitted goods at Gabrovo and elsewhere which are unable to carry on for lack of woollen and cotton threads.

(To be concluded.)

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HIGHEST REFERENCES.

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ENGINEERING.

HUGE SURPLUS AIRCRAFT SALES.

Inspection and Luncheon.

In conjunction with the Aircraft Disposal Company, invitations were issued for Friday, April 23, by Messrs. Handley Page, Limited, to an inspection of the Waddon Aerodrome effects, bought from the British Government, and a subsequent luncheon at the Savoy Hotel, presided over by the Marquess of Londonderry, Under-Secretary of State for Air. Air attachés of foreign Powers, a number of representatives of aircraft firms from abroad and at home, and many other guests attended both functions.

The Waddon Aerodrome houses only a small portion of the great purchases which the Government have surrendered for one million pounds sterling and 50 per cent. of the purchasing company's profits. The remainder is housed in five other 'dromes, and 130 more stations will see their contents turned over to the Disposal Company. The whole transaction covers 10,000 machines, 30,000 engines, and immense quantities of materials and accessories—such as 500 or 1,000 tons of ball-bearings, 350,000 sparking plugs, 100,000 magnetos, bolts, nuts, and small accessories.

At the luncheon Mr. Handley Page, in a humorous speech, gave a rough catalogue of the Disposal Company's huge stores, suggesting that manufacturers other than aircraft would find therein material for all sorts of uses—even to bedsteads, hat stands, clock cases, etc.

Proceeding, he said every Government that wished to economise in organisations for defence must necessarily take lessons from the Great War and effect savings, by preparedness in the air, in naval and military expenditure. Aeroplanes could now be purchased at a cost which was only a small proportion of the original cost to the British Government. A country, therefore, inaugurating a national programme in the air could get through the development period at a very low cost, owing to the large stocks available. Behind these stocks of complete machines were all the necessary adjuncts of spare parts available both for engines and machines, so that there was no fear of the organisation being hampered by lack of requisite subsidiary supplies. After these stocks were exhausted it would be impossible to replenish them or obtain material except at three or four times the cost.

To-day air transport was slowly but surely taking its place in carrying out quick commercial transactions. To-day the name and prestige of British aircraft stood higher than any other in the world, and even those nations who had foreign aircraft; pushed by expeditions sent to their shores and foreign demonstrations conducted regardless of expense, had realised that the machines so offered were not as good as those from this country, and were turning round and equipping themselves with aircraft made here. It was early as yet to give the results of the sale of aircraft by the new company, but in the short period of its existence many more machines had been sold than the Aircraft Disposal Board sold during the whole period of its existence.

THE PORTS OF INDIA.

Extensive Developments Required.

The rapid expansion of India's trade, and the probability that in the immediate future, as a result of the programme of industrial development, this progress will be greatly accelerated, has brought to the front the question of the adequacy of the country's port facilities. Schemes of extension that would have proved ample in view of the general outlook in 1913, for instance, will no longer suffice, in view of the altered conditions.

The general position with regard to India's ports and their development was dealt with by Sir George Buchanan, K.C.I.E., in an interesting paper which he read before the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts on April 15. It seemed hardly credible, he said, that India, with a coast line of over 4,500 miles, an area of over 1,800,000 square miles, a population of 350,000,000, and a trade the total value of which before the war exceeded £300,000,000 sterling, possessed only six ports with any pretensions to the name. The entire west coast of India was served by Karachi and Bombay, the east coast by Madras, Calcutta and Chittagong, and Burma by Rangoon. There were a certain number of minor ports—all, however, undeveloped, and principally used for the coasting trade.

Wharf or Dock?

Dealing with Bombay, he pointed out that further dock extensions, either in front of the Alexandra Dock or up to the harbour in the direction of Bombay, were now being discussed. To add to the present traffic congestion by building another dock in the vicinity of the present docks would, he considered, be a great mistake, and obviously the port would have to expand in the Bombay direction; but whether it was necessary or even desirable to build a dock was a matter for consideration. The site appeared to be particularly favourable to the construction of a large deep-water wharf. Modern dredgers could without difficulty cut a deep channel right up the harbour, and by using the material dredged for reclamation purposes a magnificent export yard with a deep-water wharf, capable of great expansion, could be constructed at a considerably less cost than would be necessary for a dock. It was also of the first importance to deepen the water in the main entrance channel to Bombay Port, and at the anchorage, and all the material dredged should be used for reclamation purposes, either for the port or the extension and improvement of the town.

Karachi's Future.

The port of Karachi depended for its prosperity entirely on the grain trade, and a failure in the monsoon or other disturbing factor at once caused a serious fall in the revenue. The financial position was not particularly strong. New schemes were under consideration, estimated to cost 250 lakhs, which at 8 per cent. for interest and sinking fund would add another 20 lakhs to the revenue expenditure—an amount it would be obviously difficult to meet, unless rates and dues were greatly increased, or there was a very material increase in trade.

At present there were neither storage sheds for grain nor grain elevators, and during the busy season some six thousand wagons of the North-Western Railway were confined to the railway district, owing to the difficulty in disposing promptly of their contents. One solution of the problem was the installation of grain elevators at the port and in the grain-producing districts, in which case any heroic scheme of wharf extension might safely be postponed for the time being.

The whole future of Karachi required the deepest consideration from the Imperial point of view, as it must some day be a very large port, and in addition to the yearly increasing export trade from Sind and the Punjab, Karachi was marked out as the chief Indian port for the trade with Mesopotamia and Persia.

Position at Calcutta.

Turning to Calcutta, Sir George said that the correct policy in port development was always to have facilities a little in advance of necessities, and between 1895 and 1900 Calcutta was fairly up-to-date. "In 1900-1," he continued, "a committee was appointed by Government to consider how the management of the port could be improved, especially with reference to economy and efficiency. The report therefore dealt largely with administrative details; the committee did, however, propose various additional facilities for the import trade at the jetties, but expressed the opinion that no large capital expenditure was necessary in the near future at the docks, as their capacity was sufficient for all probable requirements, and were capable of gradual extension. The Commissioners were thus lulled into a feeling of security, and whilst the other large ports of India were busy with extensions and improvements, Calcutta remained with folded hands, and was only awakened from its sleep by the clamour on the part of the public for facilities for meeting the rapidly increasing demands of trade, with the result that in 1913 another committee was appointed by Government to deal comprehensively with the whole question of the development of the port of Calcutta. The committee issued its report on March 19, 1914, and recommended approval to a very large dock extension scheme and to a number of minor improvements. Unfortunately, the great war broke out in August, 1914, causing a postponement of all development schemes, and Calcutta is only now picking up the threads and making a fresh start. The Port Commissioners will have, however, to pay dearly for their lack of foresight, as the docks will cost twice the pre-war price, and at the same time the Commissioners will have to pay 50 per cent. more in interest on loans."

Apart from the provision of dock accommodation, Calcutta could not in the future maintain its position as a

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great port unless measures were taken to improve the river.

Like other river ports, Rangoon had had its troubles with its line of communication to the sea, the chief of which necessitated the building of a training wall two miles long at a cost of a million pounds in order to prevent the river changing its course and leaving Rangoon high and dry. This work was successfully accomplished, and a problem now in course of solution was the cutting of a channel through a shoal at the junction of three rivers a mile or so below the port, which prevented steamers of heavy draught having access at all times to the wharves and moorings.

The Port Commissioners were aiming at a 30-ft. channel from the sea to Rangoon at ordinary tides, and although the work would involve a large expenditure, and was, to a certain extent, experimental, they were prepared to take the risk.

In his opinion, Rangoon as a port was still in its infancy, and the Port Commissioners needed to be very far-seeing and courageous, or they would fail to keep pace with the times. Burma was a country with vast potentialities which were only beginning to be recognised; its mineral wealth and forests were almost untapped, and the agricultural possibilities, particularly in sugar, were enormous. The port could not expect to continue to conduct all its export trade in the steam, as in the near future goods for export by the thousands of tons would come down from Upper Burma by rail. A large, well-equipped export wharf was required, a site for which had already been selected, and additions and extensions to the import wharves and river-steamer wharves, more warehouses, and a dry dock, were other works which were indicated.

(To be concluded.)

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Aeroplanes in Hot Climates.

Some very interesting questions were dealt with by Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E., in a lecture which he delivered recently before a joint session of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, on "Aviation and Its Possibilities in British Guiana." He emphasised the necessity of extending wireless telegraphy in connection with aircraft. Touching on the question of deterioration of aeroplanes in hot climates, he said a weak point lies in the propellers. These are very skilfully made to a required "pitch," and consist of many layers of mahogany or walnut glued and pinned together, planed to the required shape, and polished. He was told, however, that it has been found that propellers made in warm climates seem to have a greater endurance than those made at home and shipped out to them. This has been most noticeable in the case of propellers specially made for the R.A.F. at Malta, which stood the East African climate far better than home propellers, although they would not have given as high an efficiency in France. All this, however, has to be established by experience.

Flame-Cutter Underwater.

It is calculated that about fourteen million tons of shipping were sunk by enemy action during the war. It is, therefore, natural that the salvage operations which are being contemplated in various parts of the world should create much interest, especially in the Mediterranean, where shipping is badly needed, and where a good many fine modern ships have been sunk not far from the eastern coast and in the northern Ægean Sea. Several companies have already been formed, and others are being formed abroad, for the purpose of salvage operations. One of the first in the field, however, is a British salvage company, which is exceptionally well equipped, and has acquired from the Admiralty special advantages in its operations. One of the most noteworthy features of this company's equipment is a wonderful flame-cutter, by means of which holes are cut in the sides of sunken vessels for cargo and machinery salvage. This flame-cutter is so devised that an oxy-acetylene flame can be used under water. The flame issues from two jets, and is protected by a stream of compressed air coming from two other jets in the same cable. This device has quite lately been perfected, and, it is said, gives most satisfactory results. The company possesses two excellent salvage vessels, which are completely fitted up with the latest searchlights, line throwing guns, hoisting machinery for cargo, arc welding plants, rock drills, and numerous other devices necessary for modern salvage work. The crews have, for the most part, been enlisted from men who served under the Admiralty in salvage work during the war; and there is not a man among them over forty, as salvage is essentially a game for young men. This company has already salved large liners from various depths, and cleared fairways, etc. In cases where the actual vessels cannot be raised there are valuable cargoes and machine parts which will more than repay the money spent on their recovery. It has recently been reported that certain American salvage vessels were being prepared for salvage work in the Eastern Mediterranean, but it is to be hoped that since the British have led the way to what should prove a valuable and remunerative reconstruction industry, they will also carry out the same work in that region where British shipping suffered most of all during the war.

Great Engineering Combine.

A commencement has been made with the construction of a magnificent ten-storeyed building, the Aldwych House, which is to form the London headquarters of the new engineering combination known as Agricultural and General Engineers, Ltd., the capital of which is £3,300,000. This 'skyscraper," as it is already called, will occupy the site opposite Australia House, with a frontage facing south of 213 ft. on Aldwych, and will cover an area of 30,000 ft., having ten floors of offices with express and ordinary lifts, and every modern convenience. On the ground floor will be a showroom, in which will be displayed the products of the eleven firms of which the company consists. These products will include such articles as steam and motor rollers, road transport wagons, agricultural oil-engines, crank shafts, forgings, steam-engines, threshing machines, motor ploughs, and milling machinery. The names of the firms in the combine were mentioned in previous engineering notes. All of them have been well known for years past to every agriculturist and landowner in the East, especially in Roumania, Southern Russia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Egypt, and Turkey It is expected that a mass production programme will be in full swing by the early part of next year. Each separate factory will increase its pre-war production by at least threefold, and some factories by as much as thirty-fold. All the factories will be controlled from Aldwych House when finished. The chairman of the board will be Mr. A. W. Maconochie, and the general manager Lieut.-Colonel C. Hitchins, D.S.O. The immense benefit which this combine and organisation will bring to the British export engineering trade is obvious. Apart from the facilities for prompt execution and quick delivery of orders, it will be a great boon to the foreign buyer to come to London and find in this colossal building the makers of the particular machines he wants, and to get promptly all the particulars he requires, without running from town to town, accompanied by interpreters or friends to help him in negotiations, etc., which means considerable expense and delay. The knowledge of this combination and its scope should be made known now to the Eastern buyers who are about to give their orders for next year's delivery.

Tube Railway in Calcutta.

The description of a scheme for building a net of tube railways in Calcutta, which appeared quite recently in the Indian newspapers, has created considerable interest in engineering circles here, while according to reports the scheme is being closely studied in America. The Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, in outlining the scheme to the Communications Committee, wrote that there should be no serious obstacle to the construction of a tube under the Hoogly, and in this way the suburb of Howrah could be linked up with Calcutta. The poorer classes were being crowded out of Calcutta by the increase of rents and land values, and would readily migrate to the suburbs if cheap and rapid transit were available. An estimate of the cost given was £650,000 per mile. While the scheme is not yet formally adopted, the committee approved the views expressed in the chairman's letter.

Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, and Co., Ltd., have procured the contract for a new issue of Turkish stamps.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 10 amounted to £7,836.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ionian Bank, Limited, will be held at Basildon House, Moorgate Street, E.C., on May 11, at eleven. Transfer books will be closed until May 12.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended March 31 amounted to £E12,883, making the total for the year £E396,374.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended April 14 were:—Cattle markets, £869; general markets, £573; total, £1,442. Total for year, £31,061. There were no receipts for the corresponding week of 1919 owing to local disturbances.

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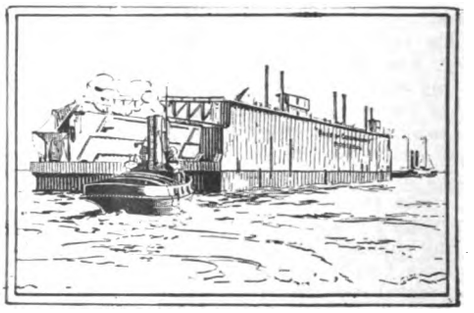

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

STAMBOUL, April 3.

Manufactures.

There is no improvement to report in the market for manufactured goods. Demand is lacking, and business with Anatolia remains completely paralysed. The question of the exchange is still far from easy; merchants experience great difficulty in procuring necessary funds and in keeping arrivals of goods at the high prices of the London exchange.

It is reported that deliveries of goods manufactured in Italy in execution of back orders by merchants of this neighbourhood have been diverted to England with a view to realisation on more favourable terms.

Produce.

Sugar.—The sudden rise in the exchange has thrown the market into confusion, and, in spite of demands for export, business has been insignificant. In consequence of this rise, importers have applied to Trieste and to Holland in the hope of doing business under more favourable conditions. Current prices are:—£109-£110 per ton for American; £112-£113 per ton for Java; £T60 per 100 kilos for sugar in Customs. Stocks in hand are greatly reduced.

Coffee.—In spite of good offers from Brazil, merchants dare not do business owing to the fluctuations in the rate of exchange, the settlement of the week's arrivals having caused the price to fall to £T5.80 the cask of two cans, —*i.e.*, 65 to 70 piastres the oke for transit, 61 to 85 piastres the oke for coffee in Customs.

Rice.—Consignments from Batoum arrive regularly, and the demand for local consumption and equally for the ports of the Archipelago is always active. The price varies between 29 and 30 piastres the oke.

Petrol.—Large arrivals during the last few days have caused the price to fall to £T5.80 the cask of two cans, and to 14 piastres the oke for petrol in barrels. This decrease would have been still greater if transport from the centres of Pasha-Bagtché had been easier, but there is a dearth in transport facilities, the Government permitting the transport of petrol only in iron vessels constructed for the purpose.

Exports.

The rising of the English rate of exchange has had a hardening effect upon articles of export, but stocks are still reduced.

Opium.—Thirty casks have been sold at the same price as that of the previous week—namely, £T9.50 the oke for druggist, and £T11 for fine quality. The recent restrictions imposed in the United States upon the traffic in opium have checked the demand for this article.

Mohairs.—Prices have been maintained at 130 to 140 piastres for extras, 110 to 120 piastres for firsts, and 100 piastres for seconds. The demand is chiefly for mohair of good quality, of which the present stock is practically nil. Seconds are in less demand. Sales of the week amount to three hundred bales.

Silks.—Prices are weak. Four to five bales of Brussels silk have been sold this week at between £T27 and £T28 the kilo.

Cereals.—The stocks of corn have completely disappeared. There are several lots of barley, which have risen 12 to 13 piastres the oke. There are no fresh arrivals to report. Maximum prices previously fixed for flour have been increased by £T1 the sack, and now are: £T14.75 the sack for extra indigenous, £T12.75 the sack for secondaries, £T15 for American flour.

Stocks of flour are decreasing sensibly, but arrivals are expected at an early date.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.—A brisker tone has characterised the market, and the indications are that the stagnation which has obtained for some considerable period is now passing. Retailers are disposing of their stocks with facility, owing to the development of consumption.

Figs.—This commodity is in strong demand, but supplies are not available in adequate quantities. Smyrna Naturals were sold during the week at from 38s. to 45s., according to quality.

Sultanas.—Rather more transactions have taken place, but business is, of course, restricted by insufficient stocks.

Sugar.—The new schedule of official prices has been automatically followed by an increase in the price of free sugar. Prices in American continue to move upward, and it cannot be said that the outlook is such as to inspire any confidence in the prospect of lower prices for some months to come.

Coffee.—The demand for home consumption has been rather brisker, and its development will unquestionably have a marked effect on prices in view of the general position with regard to this commodity. At present, however, prices are a shade easier. The futures market has been quiet, quotations being: May, 110s.; July, 108s. 6d.; September, 106s.; December, 104s.; and March, 103s. 6d.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson state in their weekly report:—"New York has given us better markets on the whole during the past week, and the net balance in the interval is an advance of 15 to 37 points. Interest has been centred in the May position, and continued absorption of contracts by leading importing firms has been a feature. Coffee that can be advantageously delivered is in moderate compass, and if the longs decide to take delivery, prices for May might conceivably advance. At the same time, a good deal of transferring to the later months of the crop year has been taking place, and the rapid narrowing of the discount these had been standing at compared to May, until in cases these have been reversed into premiums, shows possibly the trend of operators' inclinations. The previous trouble with the railway strikers in America is happily in course of settlement, and this, no doubt, has been a cause of the better tendency on the New York Exchange. Congestion of traffic is unfortunately one of those evils easily contracted, where a few days' mischief means weeks of weary worry to smooth out again. It represents a serious problem with the vast distribution over her great continent that takes place in coffee from New York and adjacent ports. Importing houses and traders have been the main supporters of the market during the week, which apparently brings the position down to one of actual supply and demand. On this basis the situation warrants higher prices. We have not heard of any further sales to Italy direct from Brazil. A shipment to France is notified in March clearances from Brazil, no doubt under an old contract. Given some improvement in Continental exchanges, trade in coffee should actively expand, and as production of the raw article has not reached pre-war standards, prices would quickly respond in face of an improved demand to satisfy current requirements and efforts to build up depleted stocks in consuming countries. We still favour the 'Bull' side of coffee for the long view."

Oilcakes, etc.—The market has in general been in favour of buyers. Linseed cake has been done at 480s., rapeseed cake at from 310s. to 360s., soya bean cake at 480s., and decorticated cottonseed cake at 420s. Oils have been featureless. Linseed oil has come to business at 105s. spot, 102s. 6d. April, and 92s. 6d. May-August. Rape oil has been easy with refined at 115s. Turpentine has been a shade easier at 210s. spot, 200s. May-June, and 171s. 6d. May-August.

Oilseeds.—Transactions have been up to the average, but supplies are in excess of demand, and on the whole the level of prices is easier. Linseed has declined to 44s. 3d. Calcutta to London, and is quoted 43s. 5d. April-June. Bombay is 3d. cheaper, while La Plata Hull afloat has come to business at 37s. 10d. Rapeseed has been fairly steady, but inactive with Toria and Ferozepore at 41s., and Brown Cawnpore at 39s. 6d. Cottonseed is firm with Bombay at 17s. and Egyptian at 24s. 6d.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

It is announced that forms of assent covering the necessary percentage of shares having been received, the provisional agreement entered into between Barclays Bank, Ltd., and the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., has become definitive. It will be remembered that in terms of the above agreement Barclays Bank offered to acquire at least 50 per cent. of the shares of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, giving nine fully-paid "B" shares of £1 each in exchange for each £15 share (£5 paid) in the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

BRITISH and Foreign Manufacturers, Importers, and Exporters should consult the Commercial and Intelligence Department of the Anglo-Latin-American Press Co., Ltd., 4/5, Copthall Court, London, E.C.2, if they desire to develop their business in foreign countries. Full particulars will be given free of charge.

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THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st January, 1920.

LIABILITIES.

	£E	£E	£	s. d.
Capital:—				
Shares—496,000 Ordinary of £5 ..	2,418,000			
2,000 Deferred of £5	9,750			
125,000 Preferred of £10 4 per cent. Cum.	1,218,750			
		3,646,500	3,740,000	0 0
Debentures—£2,350,000	2,291,250			
(3½ p.c.) £4,220,000 Guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	4,114,500			
		6,405,750	6,570,000	0 0
Sundry Creditors, etc.:—				
Interest accrued on Preferred Shares	4,062.500			
Interest accrued on Debentures in circulation	48,596.077			
National Bank of Egypt's remuneration, as per statutes ..	11,384.456			
Sundries	80,231.139			
		144,274.152	147,973	9 9
Ordinary Shareholders' a/c.	388,288.552			
Deferred Shareholders' a/c.	331,037.921			
		719,326.473	737,770	14 10
Unclaimed Dividends and Interest		33,840.510	34,708	4 4
Staff Provident Fund		59,692.443	61,223	0 5
General Reserve Fund		677,624.179	694,999	3 2
Special Reserve Fund (provided by Article 40 of Statutes)		60,486.708	62,037	13 0
Provision for Depreciation on Investments		245,000 —	251,282	1 0
Other Reserves against items per contra marked "a" to "d":		167,055.439	171,338	18 3
Interest on Loans accrued, due by borrowers after 31st January, 1920		66,704.325	68,414	13 10
Profit and Loss		248,993.005	255,377	8 10
		12,475,247.234	12,795,125	7 5

ASSETS.

	£E	£E	£	s. d.
Cash:—				
Agencies	13,313.719			
Mixed Tribunals (Deposit Account).....	1,950			
National Bank of Egypt	481,259.718			
Bank of England	6,430.069			
		502,953.506	515,849	15 0
Investments:				
Agricultural Bank of Egypt 3½ p.c. Debentures at cost	1,846,531.082			
Government Securities at cost .. (The value of these securities at mean market price on 31st January, 1920, was £E4,242,172.)	4,486,881.881			
197,471 Mortgage Cy. of Egypt, Ltd., Ordinary Shares of £5 stg. each, of which £1 5s. 0d. paid, at cost	394,937.943			
		6,728,350.906	6,900,872	14 6
Advances against Securities		58,500 —	60,000	0 0
Investment of General Reserve Fund consisting of Government Securities at original cost ..... (The value of these securities at mean market price on 31st January 1920, was £E563,974.)		664,031.245	681,057	13 10
Staff Provident Fund Investments in Government Securities, at cost ..		43,290 —	44,400	0 0
Sundry Debtors		19,944.116	20,455	10 1
Loans:—				
On Mortgage, over £E1,000	134,277 501			
On Mortgage (B), £E1,000 and under	3,480,679.311			
On note of hand	1,673 —			
		3,616,629.812	3,709,363	18 2
Buyers of land expropriated through Tribunals, for the part representing balance of capital due by former borrowers		19,139.157	19,629	18 1
Buildings, Land, Furniture, and Printing Office		50,721 —	52,021	10 9
Discount and Expenses of issue 3½ p.c. Bds. (to be written off by 31st January, 1949)		537,927.728	551,720	14 11
Buyers of land expropriated through Tribunals, for the part representing arrears of loans (a)	18,600 —			
Land acquired by foreclosure (b) ..	21,672.983			
Debtors for land acquired by foreclosure, and resold, by the Bank (c)	43,058.124			
Instalments overdue (d):				
Capital £E51,557.738				
Interest £E32,166.594	83,724.332			
		167,055.439	171,338	18 3
Interest on Loans accrued, payable by Borrowers after 31st January, 1920		66,704.325	68,414	13 10
		12,475,247.234	12,795,125	7 5

THEO. LEVI, *Chief Accountant.* F. T. ROWLATT, *President.* R. G. WESTROPP, *Managing Director.*

We have examined the above Balance-sheet and certify that in our opinion it is a full and fair Balance-sheet, and properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs, as shown by the Books.

Cairo, the 6th April, 1920. RUSSELL, HARRIS & CO.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the period from 1st February, 1919, to 31st January, 1920.

	£E	£E	£	s. d.
General Expenses	92,125.084			
Writing off, Depreciation, etc.	12,696.534			
		104,821.618	107,309	7 0
Directors' Fees		2,461.875	2,525	0 0
National Bank of Egypt, as per Statutes		11,384.436	11,676	6 11
Debenture Interest, etc.		235,625.250	241,666	18 6
Interest on Preferred Shares		48,750 —	50,000	0 0
Loans and Instalments in Arrear Current Year		22,427.499	23,002	11 3
Provision for Depreciation on Investments		47,467.866	48,684	19 10
Interest on amounts carried forward				
A/c Ordinary Shares	18,489.931			
A/c Deferred Shares	15,763.710			
		34,253.641	35,131	18 9
Reserve Fund		20,532.450	21,058	18 5
Special Reserve (provided by Article 40 of Statutes)		15,561.409	15,960	8 5
Amount available		248,993.005	255,377	8 10
		792,279.049	812,593	17 11

	£E	£E	£	s. d.
Loans and Instalments in Arrear on 31st January, 1919, recovered in 1919 20		66,929.972	68,646	2 6
Amount recovered in diminution of Reserve required for Buyers of Land, etc. (see letter "a" in Balance-sheet)		14,400 —	14,769	4 7
Land Acquired by Foreclosure:				
Sales during 1919/20				
(a) By Cash £E12,119.147				
(b) By Instalments £E 2,673.338				
£E14,792.485				
Less cost of Land acquired during 1919 20 ..... £E 8,906.719	5,885.766			
Debtors for Land Acquired by Foreclosure and Resold by the Bank:				
Encashments during 1919 20 ..... £E29,681.801				
Less Sales by Instalments ..... £E 2,489 —	27,192.801	33,078 567	33,926	14 9
Interest Collected:				
(a) On Loans in arrear at 31st January, 1919	35,651.206			
(b) Interest on Arrears and Interest on Loans due in 1919 ..	313,383.800			
		349,035.006	357,984	12 5
Interest on Loans over £E1,000		11,914.229	12,219	14 5
Interest on Investments, etc.		299,313.977	306,988	13 11
Interest on Bank Account		17,607.298	18,058	15 4
		792,279.049	812,593	17 11

Chief Accountant. THEO. LEVI.

Managing Director. R. G. WESTROPP.

President, F. T. ROWLATT.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Pensacola, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on April 30.

The Prince Line s.s. Scottish Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast Ports, and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on May 4.

The Ellerman Line s.s. City of Oxford, for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 8.

The Moss Line s.s. Limoges, for Morocco ports and Gibraltar, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 10.

The Papayanni Line s.s. Trentino, for Algiers, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 1.

The Bibby Line s.s. Derbyshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on May 5.

The Henderson Line s.s. Sittang, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Glasgow on May 3, and at Birkenhead on May 12.

The Harrison Line s.s. Gladiator, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 4.

The R.M.S.P. Co.'s Treneglos, for Gibraltar and Morocco, will close for cargo in London on May 4

Notes.

The new steamer Garbeta, built by Messrs. William Gray and Co. (1918), Ltd., at their Weir Shipyard, Sunderland, for the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., left the builder's yard on April 13. The main dimensions of the vessel are: length, 400 ft.; breadth, 52 ft 3 in.; depth moulded, 31 ft., with a deadweight carrying capacity of 8,200 tons. The propelling machinery, built at the Central Marine Engine Works of the builders, consists of triple expansion engines with cylinders 27 in. 44 in., 73 in. diameter by 48 in. stroke; and three boilers 15 ft. 6 in. diameter by 11 ft. 6 in. long, adapted for a working pressure of 180 lb. per square inch, and fitted with Howden's system of forced draught.

Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., launched at Belfast, on April 22, the large twin-screw motor ship Dorsetshire, built to the order of the Bibby Line, of Liverpool. The new vessel is 450 ft. long by 57 ft. beam, and 7,500 tons gross tonnage. She has a straight stem, cruiser stern, and will have two steel masts. The Dorsetshire is the first motor vessel built for Messrs. Bibby Bros. and Co. She will be propelled by two sets of Diesel engines of the four-stroke cycle type, each set having six cylinders. The vessel has seven watertight bulkheads extending to the upper deck, and the upper and middle decks are continuous fore and aft, the lower deck being forward and abaft the motor room. The Dorsetshire will be equipped with powerful windlass and winches, patent steering gear, etc., all electrically operated.

Dock Congestion at Constantinople.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed that to relieve the congestion which exists at the port of Constantinople a compulsory sale will take place very shortly of all goods which have been lying in the Custom House for more than one year and one day. A list of such goods has been prepared, and it is stated that the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States (Inc.) 34/35, Buyuk Tunnel, Han, Galata, Constantinople, is in possession of full information. United Kingdom firms who are interested in this matter are advised to communicate with that body without delay.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Business Still Restricted.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The market during the past week has been overshadowed by the crisis on the wages question, and this matter has been very thoroughly discussed. The deadlock in the negotiations between the employers and the trade union officials has been relieved by the intervention of the Ministry of Labour, and at the time of writing discussions are taking place in London. It is hoped a way out of the difficulty will be found, but it must be remembered that the employers and the operatives are far apart in their ideas as to what the settlement shall be, and, failing arbitration, it will not be easy to bridge the differences which exist. Trade cannot move freely until this menace to the industry is removed. Sentiment in raw cotton circles has been rather bearish, and the downward movement in American qualities has had some effect upon Egyptian cotton prices. No news of any importance has come through relating to the Egyptian crop Yarns made from Egyptian cotton have not attracted much attention. Some spinners are not in so strong a position as a few weeks ago, and order lists are running down rather rapidly. Price concessions have been possible in numbers about 60's. In cloth for the Near East there has only been a dragging demand. The currency question has caused a little uneasiness. All kinds of fabrics have been slow of sale for Egypt and the Levant. Leading shippers to India have looked on. Comparatively few wires have been received from the other side, and Manchester merchants are in no mood to anticipate future wants. Only odd lots have been sold for China. No activity worth mentioning has occurred for South America. Although manufacturers are not so deeply sold as a couple of months ago sellers have held firmly to quotations. Prices in American yarns have favoured buyers, and the offtake has been very poor. Comparatively little has been done in shipping bundles.

NICKEL COINAGE IN INDIA.

In the House of Commons on April 21, Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could give the House any information regarding the issue of nickel coinage; and whether the issue of such coins of values higher than eight annas was contemplated.

Mr. Montagu: In September, 1919, legislation was passed in India authorising the issue, in addition to the existing two-anna and one-anna nickel coins, of eight-anna and four-anna nickel pieces. These coins are legal tender for payments up to one rupee. The object of the measure was to conserve the available supplies of silver for the coinage of rupees, and consequently to reduce the demands of the Government of India on the silver market. Up to the end of February the absorption of nickel coins exceeded in value five crores of rupees. The coins, with the exception of the eight-anna piece, the mintage of which has been temporarily discontinued were well received by the Indian public. The recent Indian Currency Committee pronounced against the issue of a nickel rupee, and I am not at present contemplating the coinage of nickel pieces of any new denomination

The British Armenian Chamber of Commerce held its inaugural meeting at Grocers' Hall on April 27.

The latest Indian trade returns show a large increase in imports from America and a decline in imports from Japan.

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CIRCASSIA ABOUT MAY 4.
OLYMPIA ABOUT MAY 12.

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BULGARIAN CREDIT REGULATIONS.

The Commercial Commissioner to H.M. Legation at Sofia reports that a protocol dealing with commercial credits was published in the *State Gazette* of March 17. According to this, the following decision has been made:—(1) It is generally permitted, without need to mention cases separately, by the Centrale des Devises to contract obligations in foreign moneys against credit abroad. The credit thus obtained can be disposed of without hindrance by the holders, that is, they may sell the change on the open market at the market rate of exchange and cover their obligations abroad, etc., by bank transactions. For each operation of opening foreign credit the acquirers must notify at once, at the time of opening such credit only, the Bulgarian National Bank, the Centrale des Devises, for information only, of the sources of their credit, the quantity and nature of same. The holders of credit in foreign exchange abroad and means of payment in foreign moneys in the country, which, according to Article 5 of the Law for the Centrale des Devises, has not been declared before the same, and who have not been obliged to declare such credit, may freely dispose of it, by selling on the open market at the current rate of exchange, again notifying the Centrale des Devises, for information only, of each operation. Deposits abroad against withdrawals abroad, against Bulgaria in foreign exchange, will be ceded in full to the Centrale des Devises at the rate of exchange on the day of sale or purchase in the Centrale des Devises. (2) The accumulated sums, the value of imported goods at the Bulgarian National Bank and private banks, may be freed before the term fixed expires, if the importer of the goods arranges, through other permissible means, to withdraw the sums accredited to him, by having it paid to him at the free rate of exchange or to have sent to him a permit for the export of foreign exchange and other means.

MACEDONIAN OPIUM.

Greek Macedonia yielded, in 1919, approximately 4,500 lb. of opium, whereas the previous year's crop amounted to 5,600 lb., according to figures compiled from reports made by the larger opium dealers of Salonika, says an American consular report.

Available stocks in Greek Macedonia do not exceed 2,840 lb. grown within its limits. However, there are approximately 42,000 lb. stored in Salonika remaining from the Serbian crops of 1917-18 and 1918-19. According to conservative estimates, the available stocks on hand at the end of January, 1920, amount to 2,150 cases (320,500 lb.), as follows: In Salonika, 300 cases or 45,000 lb.; in Serbia, 1,400 cases or 210,000 lb.; in Bulgaria, 450 cases or 67,500 lb.

Precise information regarding the stock of opium in Bulgaria is not available here, but it is understood that there existed in that country at the time of the armistice 112,000 lb. It is reported that the Bulgarian Government has sent a large part of this stock to the United States. Opium dealers here estimate the present stock in Turkey at approximately 8,000 cases, or 1,200,000 lb.

Prices prevailing in the Anatolian, Smyrna, and Constantinople opium markets have an important influence on the opium market in Salonika. The existence at Constantinople, Smyrna, and in Anatolia of considerable quantities which were held up during the war greatly influenced the Salonika market at the time of the armistice, causing a considerable drop in prices.

Barring adverse weather conditions, prospects for a much larger acreage during the coming season are bright. Many fields devastated by the war have been cleaned and put into condition to receive the next crop. The principal exports of Greek Macedonian opium during the last year have been to America and England, opium dealers estimating that more than 75 per cent. of the total quantity exported was sent to these countries. The remainder was exported to France, Holland, Scandinavian countries, Cuba, Mexico, and Germany.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

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EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
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LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

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LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY.
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS: 7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES: 41-45, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
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PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. TUNIS, Africa ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

The market this week has been very irregular, the Budget and the San Remo negotiations being unsettling factors. Business has been on a rather restricted scale, and prices are generally lower, but there are evidences to-day of an improved feeling and of a rather free inquiry.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds are 1¾ down on balance at 72¾, but the 3½ per Cent. Prefs. have improved one point to 59. Some business has been done in City of Alexandria Bonds round 66¼. Turkish Fours of 1891 are 3½ points down at 66, the 3½ per Cent. Loan of 1894 has lost 5½ points at 52½, and the 4 per Cent. Unified Loan is 2½ points down at 33.

In Bank shares Nationals have dropped to 20⅞, and Agriculturals are 3/32nds lower at 5 3 32. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are ¼ lower at 18½.

Among Railways Delta Lights have declined ¼ to 6.

In Land shares Aboukirs are 1s. 6d. lower at 39s. Béhéras are ⅜ down at 19½. Consolidated Lands, on realisation in view of the coming calls, are 3½d. down at 2s. Delta Lands have lost 1s. 3d. at 16s. 6d. Egypt and Foreign Trust are fractionally lower at 16s. 1½d. Gharbieh Lands have been a firm spot, with business doing round 3¾. New Egyptians have changed hands to a fair extent, but on balance are closing 7½d. down at 34s. 6d. Sudan Plantations are ⅛ firmer at 7 3-16, and Union Foncières have been a good and improving market, closing ¼ up at 5¾.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations (now fully paid) are quoted at 13s. 9d. Alexandria Waters are ¼ down at 10½, round which price some business was done. Salts and Sodas have been a firm spot, and are closing 2s. 6d. higher at 57s. 6d. Khedivial Mail Prefs. are dull and ⅛ lower at 3¼, and Morums Stores are fractionally lower at 18s. 9d.

Among Greek securities the 1881 and 1884 Loans are unchanged round 54, while Rentes have improved 2 points to 42. The other loans have remained more or less the same, but there has been some large demand for the 1914 5 per Cent. Loan (French). Sellers, however, have been rather scarce.

Among Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B have jumped about 8s. to 78s. 9d., Roumanians are 6d. down at 21s. 6d., and Traians have lost a similar fraction at 8s. 9d.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rubber.

The report of the Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rubber Estates for 1919 states that the balance at credit of profit and loss account, after writing off depreciation from machinery and buildings, and the payment of the small amount of preference dividend, is £14,208. The directors carry to reserve £2,000, and recommend a dividend of 12½ per cent., carrying forward £1,992. A resolution for revising the amount of the remuneration payable to the directors is to be submitted.

Barsi Light Railway.

The interim report of the Barsi Light Railway Co., Ltd., states that the approximate results for the year to March 31, as advised by cable, are:—Gross earnings, Rs. 13,90,000, with working expenses Rs. 6,16,000, compared with Rs. 10,10,400 and Rs. 4,87,400 respectively in the previous year. Owing to the favourable rates of exchange at which it has been possible to get the profits remitted home during the past year, it is estimated that the net revenue for the year (after providing for probable taxation thereon in India) will amount to some £87,000, as against £37,768 last year. From this has to be met the interest on the 4 per cent. debenture stock, and the interest and sinking fund instalment on the 4 per cent. "Latur Extension" debentures, totalling £11,249. The directors have now declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent., together with a bonus of 2 per cent., or 10s. per share in all (i.e., at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum), which will absorb £13,000. The past season has been a good one in the district served by the company's line, and the pilgrim fairs at Pandharpur have been well attended, but the continued restrictions on the through booking, of both pilgrims and goods, with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway *via* Kurduvadi Junction have seriously curtailed the traffic which might have been carried.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 22:—Rain nearly general in Kashmir, Assam, and Southern India. Local in North-West Frontier Province, Bengal, South Burma, Central Provinces, Malabar, and Bombay Deccan. Crop conditions generally good. Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good broach, April May, Rs.484; July-August, Rs.488. Piece-goods market steady and improving. Calcutta jute market quiet, with prices unchanged, but nominal. Hessians fairly steady, with prices tending upwards. Heavy goods very quiet. No change in bank rates.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at January 31, 1920, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500
Special Reserve	487,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	18,182,400
Mixed Tribunals	2,595,929
Egyptian Government	9,808,809
Sudan Government	97,839
Bankers' Accounts	2,587,123
Cheques and Bills payable	310,783
Sundry other Accounts	984,618
	£E39,442,501

	£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	15,492,734
Sundry Securities	283,915
Advances on Merchandise	4,618,722
Advances on Securities	1,788,875
Advances otherwise Secured	317,990
Sundry other Advances	503,481
Bills of Exchange	10,140,395
Local Bills Discounted	71,627
Buildings and Furniture	225,809
Money at call and at short notice	1,457,625
Bankers' Accounts	1,169,155
Sundry other Accounts	235,738
Cash:—	
Notes £E2,698,994	
Gold 22,298	
Silver, Nickel, etc. 415,143	
	3,136,435
	£E39,442,501

Issue Department.

	£E.
Notes Issued	64,300,000
	£E64,300,000

		£E.
Gold	£E3,333,190	
*British Treasury Bills	28,816,810	
		32,150,000
Securities:—		
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	436,966	
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	31,713,034	
		32,150,000
		£E64,300,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills deposited in lieu of Gold. (See "Journal Officiel," 30th October, 1916.)

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Manager, A. G. M. Dickson.

London Manager, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price April 20	Price April 26.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	28	27
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	66½	66½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	74⅛	72⅝
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	58	59
Greek 5%, 1881	54	54
Do. 5%, 1884	54	54
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	40	42
Do. 5% 1890	55	55
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	53	53
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	44	44
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	39	39
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	49	49
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	72½	72
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	69½	66
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	58	52½
Do. 4% Unified	35½	33
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5 3/16	5 3/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	66	66
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	68	68
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	18¾	18¾
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	6⅝	6⅝
Bank of Roumania	5 3/16	5 3/16
British Trade Corporation	9½	9⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	8 1/16	8 1/16
Imperial Bank of Persia	9	9 1/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	6⅛
London County and Westminster	14 13/20	14 13/20
National Bank of Egypt	21⅜	20⅝
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6½	6
Do. 5% Debs.	68½	68½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	14	14
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	41	36⅛
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	32	31⅜
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	40/6	39/-
Do. 6% Debs	140½	140½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	16/6	16/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	75/-	75/-
Béhéra Co.	19⅞	19½
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	32/-	32/-
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/5 paid)	2/3½	2/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	17/3	16/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	6/6	6/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	16/4½	16/1½
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	29/-	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	84½	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61⅛	61⅛
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅝	6⅝
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	35/1	34/6
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	7 1/16	7 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp.	10,6	13/9
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	55/-	57/6
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	96⅝	96⅝
Khediv al Mail Ord.	5 1/16	5 1/16
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3½
Levant Co. (fully paid)	17/6	17/6
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	19/-	18/9
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	98½	98⅜
Chinese 4½% 1898	58½	59½
Do. 5% 1896	75⅜	77½
Argentine 5% 1890	70½	69
Do. 5% 1907	80⅜	81
OIL.		
Algerian	3/6	3/10½
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	70/7½	78/9
Anglo-Persian Pref.	2?/10½	22/6
Do. 5% Debs.	82	82½
Anglo-Roumanian	7/4½	8/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/6	4/10½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	14/6	14/6
Roumanian	22/-	21/6
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	5/3	7/-
Traian (Roumanian)	9/3	8/9

The imports into India in March were valued at 24 crores of rupees, an increase of nine crores of rupees as compared with the corresponding month in the previous year. The exports were 32 crores, an increase of 9 crores over the figures for March of last year.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	March 19. Rs.	April 26. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	59	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	303	303
Bank of Bengal	1770	1840
Bank of Bombay	2280	2260
Bank of Madras	1700	1700
Bank of India	135ex	135ex
Tata Industrial Bank	52⅛	52½
COAL.		
Baraboni	14	15
Bengal	804	750
Burrakur	50½	50
East Indian	37½	37½
Equitable	45	44
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	65	68½
Standard	64½	69½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	570	595
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	4150	3875
Bowreah	1090	1286½
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	750	750
Cawnpore	210	195ex
Century	1205	1275
Central India	4185	4630
	2092½	2315
Elgin	118	130
Gold Mohur	1800	400
		200
Khatau Makanji	725	725
Muir	238	300
New Ring	930	1050
Phœnix	1115	1202½
Svadeshi	4480	4600
JUTE.		
Alliance	755	685ex
Barnagore	154	168
Budge Budge	614	6 9
Clive	300	340
Dalhousie	511	540
Delta	695	675
Fort Gloster	1000	1036
Gourepore	1335	1340
Howrah	45½	47⅞
Kamarhatty	878	895
Kanknarrah	700	727
Khardah	570	616
Kinnison	1106	1164
National	420	412½
Standard	694	730
Union	858	940
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	81⅞	80½
Bengal Timber Trading	708	704
Burn and Co.	300	300
Carew and Co.	91	81
Cawnpore Sugar	355	320
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	335	335
Howrah Oil Mills	34	138
India General Steam	135	140
Indian Iron and Steel	140	—
	95	43
Marshall Sons and Co.	12½	13½
Titaghur Paper	352	382

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON APRIL 8.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	21⅞
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	60½
,, ,, Div.	Frs.	95
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	17⅞
,, priv.	£	3 1/16
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	75
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 7/16
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5 1/16
Société des Immeubles	£	73ex
Bonded Stores	£	20⅝
Unifiée	£	73½
Privilégiée		61⅜
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 9/16
Nungovich Hotels	£	11½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5½
,, ,, Fond.	£	440
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅛
,, Ord		108/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21 5/16
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	93ex
,, Jouissance	Frs.	124ex
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		37/-
Egyptian Markets		24/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	417
,, Div.	Frs.	400
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	295
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	8⅛
Egyptian Salt and Soda		54/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	634
,, Fondateur	Frs.	8800
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	405
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	250
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	270
Consolidated Land	P.T.	15
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1 1/16
Menza'eh Canal Navigation	P.T.	340
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	1⅛
Urbaines & Rurales		3⅝
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4½
Gabbari Lands	£ E.	3 1/32

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	April 20.	April 27.
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	57½	58½
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	63	63½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		98½	83⅛
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		68	69
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		69½	67½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		76xd	73½xd
Eastern		7⅜	7⅜
Mercantile of India A.		43⅛	43⅜
National of India		56½	54½xd
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		9/3	8/4½
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		14/9	13/1½
Burma Corp.		11⅜	11⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		9/10½	9/9½
Champion Reef Gold		3/1½	3/-
Mysore Gold Mining		14/9	15/-
Nundydroog		13/1½	13/3
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		18/6	17/6
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		23/9	23/9
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		42/6	37/6
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		35/-	35/-
Brit. Burmah		4⅛	4⅜
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		17 1/16	17⅛
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		18,9	18/9
Do. 5% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9½	9⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		49	49
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		130	130
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		49½	49⅜
Bengal-Nagpur		111	110½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		101½	100
Burma Railways		104	105½
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		12½	12⅛
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		13	12⅜
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		12	12
Madras and S. Mahratta		109	109½
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		127⅜	127⅜
Nisam's Guaranteed State		71½	71½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		58/1½	55/-
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		83	81
Do. Deferred		6 0	500
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		61	62
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16	16
British Indian Tea Ord.		7½	7½
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15	15
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		11/7½	10/3
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		63/1½	61/3
Consolidated Estates		44/6	44/6
Darjeeling Co.		18/9	19/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon, Ord.		61/3	61/3
Dooars Tea Ord.		52/6	53/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		22/-	21/6
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		69/7½	67/6
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		31/-	31/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.		21/3	21/3
Jhanzie Tea Association		10 7/16	10 5/16
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		20⅜	19⅜
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		16/3	14/6
Lanka Plantations Ord.		21/3	21/3
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		22/3	22/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		43/6	40/-
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		12⅜	13/-
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		28/9	28/9

An Egyptian agricultural committee has left for Mesopotamia to instruct the inhabitants in the art of cotton growing.

It is estimated that the yield of cork this season from the oak forests of Khroumirie, Tunisia, will amount to about 4,000 tons.

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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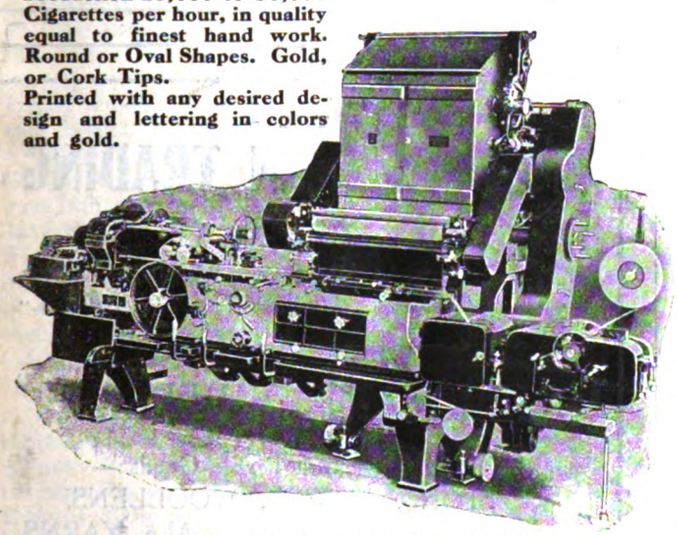

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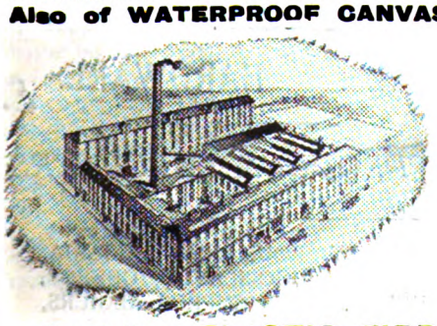

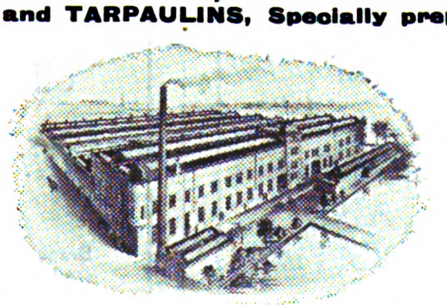

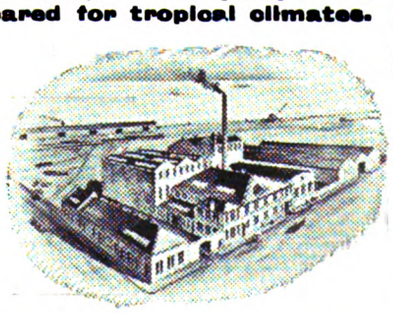

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 470.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Turkish peace delegates left Constantinople on Saturday, and by the time these notes appear they will have arrived in Paris. Before their departure they were received in audience by the Sultan. Turkey has doubtless a very good idea of the terms to be offered her, and the Allies are probably almost as well informed regarding the attitude likely to be assumed by Turkey towards those terms; but until the delegation has returned to Constantinople and the Treaty has been examined by the Sultan and the Sublime Porte, it would be little more than an idle amusement to speculate on the subject. Meanwhile the Nationalists are clearly making all possible preparations for a big fight, if the Treaty should be considered (by them) unsatisfactory; and though they have met with a reverse at the hands of Government Volunteers at Kastamouni, they have elsewhere achieved several successes. At Urfa they have inflicted serious loss on the French troops, and they have cut the Baghdad railway in two or three places. No matter how the Constantinople Government may act, it seems certain that the Allies will sooner or later have to employ force to secure the practical application of the Treaty. It would be comforting to be able to believe that they were prepared for all emergencies.

The Emir Abdullah, second son of the King of the Hejaz, is now in Cairo, returning the visit which Lord Allenby lately paid to King Hussein. The visit may be regarded as another sign of the recognition by Great Britain of the increasing importance of the Arab factor in the problems that confront her to-day, especially in the Near and Middle East; and a further frank exchange of views between the Emir and Lord Allenby should lead to valuable results. It would be idle to pretend that all is well in the Arab lands just now. In Syria there is much dissatisfaction over the recent award of mandates, and if the feeling is less pronounced in Irak, where the Arabs have already had opportunities of seeing some of the advantages of Western guidance, it would be too much to hope that that somewhat fickle region will at once put aside its restlessness and forget its taste for intrigue. Moreover, the old tribal jealousies and the lack of cohesion among the Arabs of the towns and cities are again coming to the fore, and though opposition to foreign control, or anything resembling foreign control, may unite all classes and opinions for a while, the centrifugal tendency will inevitably impose a severe strain on Arab leadership—and, possibly, on Western patience—in the near future.

Fortunately the Arabs are not without leaders of their own race, who, if to some extent they lack experience of world politics, have given proof of possessing other qualities that justify our placing high hopes upon them. Among these leaders we would place the King of the Hejaz and his two brilliant sons, whilst Eastern Arabia can claim to possess in Ibn Saud a ruler of rare force of character. There are others, such as the Sheikhs of Koweit and Mohammerah, who have made their mark, and the Idrissi, who enjoys a high reputation that appears to be well deserved. If it were possible to assemble these and other leading Arabs in a Pan-Arab Conference, put before them the advantages of a closely federated Arabia, and, appealing to their racial pride, induce them to unite in working for it, the result should show whether it will ever be possible to revive the days of Arabian greatness. If France and Great Britain would make an experiment along such lines—and make it whole-heartedly—they would deserve well not only of the Arabs but of the world at large. In the House of Commons last Thursday Mr. Lloyd George showed that he was aware of the responsibilities attaching to us and our French Allies in this matter: it is to be hoped that the two Governments will see that they are not shirked.

Both politically and economically the situation in Syria is thoroughly unsatisfactory. Trade has taken alarm as much at the political outlook as by reason of the French fiscal policy. Formerly the coinage of the country was Turkish; since the Armistice Egyptian money has held the field, and now come the French authorities with an attempt, supported by the penalties of the law, to impose French paper money on the inhabitants. Little wonder that Manchester can point to orders amounting to three millions sterling cancelled at the last moment. So little do our French Allies grasp the realities of the position, that some people are being driven to adopt the despairing attitude that things cannot be better until they have become much worse. Unfortunately, Great Britain stands to suffer for France's vagaries. We have already seen the anomaly of the British Government, after having been required to withdraw its troops from Syria, being associated with the French demand to the Emir Faisal to report himself at Paris. Now that the mandate has been officially given to France, it would be well if it were made clear that, while Great Britain will gladly bear her share of responsibility in the Near and Middle East, it can only be on the understanding that the policy with which she is asked to associate herself has her complete approval. British and French co-opera-

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tion might do much good in the East, if it were to conform to a definite policy that could be discussed, approved, and enforced uniformly.

Yugoslavia has been suffering for some time from strikes, the most serious being that of the railway workers, and it is reported that at Liubliana, Belgrade, and Agram there have been riots, leading to serious conflicts between the strikers and the military. In view of the very widespread unrest, it is doubtless only natural that Yugoslavia should be afflicted by the fever; but it is none the less deplorable, for the country needs above everything a period of peace in which to adjust itself to its sudden, if long-desired, expansion. Unfortunately, political circles are no more peaceful than commercial; and, failing to secure the necessary quorum, the Government has declined to take any further part in Parliamentary debates until the Opposition ceases its obstructionist tactics. The most cheerful news from Belgrade is that M. Pashitch has recovered from his illness, and has left Belgrade for Paris, to resume his leadership of the Yugoslav Peace Delegation.

The Shah of Persia left Marseilles on April 28 on his return journey to Persia, and intends to travel by way of Baghdad. Possibly his Imperial Majesty may take the opportunity of visiting the sacred shrines at Kerbellah and Nejef, and it would be strange indeed if he did not visit the neighbouring mosque of Kazimaim. Before leaving Paris he performed a graceful and statesmanlike act by calling upon the British Ambassador and informing him of his intention to adhere loyally to the Anglo-Persian Agreement. At the same time he expressed his confidence in the Vossuk-ed-Dowleh Cabinet, which, he was pleased to remark, had worked ably during the past two years for the restoration of order and the prosperity of Persia. These gracious words will be echoed by Englishmen who follow events in Persia, and the Shah's action in regard to the Agreement will be highly appreciated in this country. It should dispose finally of the rumours that the Russo-Persian understanding would prejudice the Anglo-Persian Agreement.

The bodies of the Egyptian students who lost their lives in the accident to the Trieste-Vienna express a month ago were landed in Egypt on April 27, and were accorded a public funeral, which was made the occasion of a remarkable demonstration. The Sultan was represented, as was Lord Allenby—who had interested himself personally in the arrangements and had previously sent a letter of sympathy to the committee which organised the funeral—and the procession included Princes of the Sultania family and delegates from most of the schools in Egypt. Thanks to the excellent handling of the situation by the authorities, everything passed off satisfactorily, though some anxiety had been felt lest the Extremists might succeed in stirring up trouble. As a matter of fact, a few days earlier one fanatical sheikh in Alexandria had declared, in the course of a speech delivered in the Abu Abbas Mosque, that the British had caused the accident to the express in order to prevent the students going to Germany; and had recommended that at the funeral there should be a great demonstration by armed men, who should "attack anyone who opposed them." This was presuming rather too far on the authorities' patience and the sheikh's arrest was ordered; but on the day of the funeral there appears to have been no serious attempt to create disturbance.

Such comments as we have seen on the suspension of the informal conversations between India and Afghanistan suggest more than anything else the incompatibility of modern methods of publicity with the traditions of Asiatic diplomacy, which is one of the oldest institutions in the world. In Asia, treaties have commonly been the work of years, and more or less desultory fighting has gone on all the time. We need not, therefore, share our contemporaries' surprise at the fact that while Afghan representatives were enjoying our hospitality at Mussoorie, parties of Afghan troops were stirring up trouble at various points on the frontier; and if the representatives profess entire ignorance of such affairs it is only in accordance with the recognised rules of the game. Similarly, if the Afghans are arguing, as they are said to have argued, that they have the Bolshevists at their back, they are only playing a card which fortune has placed in their hands; the statement is, at any rate, geographically true, and that cannot be said of every diplomatic contention. It is really useless for the public to attempt to follow step by step the production of a work of art, such as the Treaty—when it comes—is bound to be; they must wait till it is finished, and then judge it as a whole.

It was inevitable that the wild Khalifate agitators should pretend to exploit the Afghan representatives in their own interests, and we have no doubt that this also is part of the game which is being played. At the same time there is something to be said for the idea now being put forward, apparently as a threat, that those Indian Moslems who feel very strongly on the subject of the Khalifate should migrate to some other region of the world. There are plenty of precedents for such action, which indeed follows logically from the resolutions which have been passed, and the public declarations which have been made. No doubt Mr. Shaukat Ali and his associates feel that India would suffer a terrible blow by their departure: India as a whole probably thinks otherwise, but despite this conflict of opinion we imagine that it would conduce to the happiness of both parties if the agitators carried out their threat.

Quite another aspect of the many-sided question of Indian emigration is given prominence in Mr. T. J. Bennett's recent letter to *The Times* regarding the attitude of certain colonies and protectorates to the Indians living in their midst. The gist of the letter is that the Imperial ideal of equality, which has long been adopted by the Government of India, should now be frankly incorporated in the accepted principles of the Colonial Office, and that Whitehall and Downing Street should be co-ordinated effectively to secure this object. We certainly think that co-ordination is desirable. To put the matter on no higher ground, it is bad administration that the Colonial Office should sanction a particular measure, and then have to alter it in deference to objections raised by the Secretary of State for India. Things would go much more smoothly, and opportunities for inflammatory agitation would be much rarer, if the two Departments were to put their heads together in the first instance; but Downing Street has the reputation of being the most self-contained unit in the administrative machine, and possibly it may not be prepared even now to admit the advantages of systematic consultation with its neighbours.

Among the real or fancied grievances of Indians against other portions of the Empire has been the refusal of facilities to students, and from time to time we have heard bitter complaints of the exclusiveness of universities and technical schools even in the United Kingdom, while the fashion has grown up of urging young Indians to turn rather to such free countries as Japan and the United States. A fair test of the value of this advice is furnished by a pamphlet drawn up by Mr. R. K. Sorabji, which has been sent to us by the Indian Bureau of Education; the writer sets out without bias or attempt at controversy the facilities for Indian students in the countries we have named, and the result of his work is to show that the facilities are really very small. Speaking broadly, over-crowded institutions in England do their best to favour Indians by accepting their educational qualifications and in other ways, while in foreign institutions Indian students have to fight for their own hands, and, in the case of Japan, to master the language before they can begin their studies. We do not believe in making things too easy for young men of any nation, but the inference to be drawn from this pamphlet is that England is still the best place for Indians who wish to study abroad.

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Unfortunately the fact of overcrowding remains, and it is very much in evidence at the present time: the great English institutions are not in theory Imperial, and there are obvious limits to their capacity to provide for an indefinite number of students from other countries. The true lesson to be drawn from the present inconvenience is that India must increase the provision for her own students; the rank and file should be able to pursue their studies at home, and the limited facilities available in this country should gradually be reserved for young men of outstanding abilities, in order that they may fit themselves to take the lead. It is satisfactory to be able to record that the "pious founder" is giving more and more attention to educational institutions, but the need for money is practically unlimited, if adequate provision for the rank and file is to be made, and there is an opportunity in India just now for millionaires to do real good such as has rarely been offered by any country in the world.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

After San Remo.

Mr. Lloyd George has returned from San Remo, and he found no serious difficulty in defending his European policy in Parliament, largely because his opponents omitted to criticise the sudden despatch of those rather sharp notes to France a month ago which caused a serious feeling of disquiet in this country as well as on the other side of the Channel. All's well that ends well, and the lover's quarrel has now been smoothed over, but the Government will be wise to recollect that even lovers should not quarrel too often, particularly by letter. France is naturally more concerned than we are over the full performance of the Versailles Treaty, and a great deal of the language used by Mr. Asquith and his followers in favour of the revision of the details caused a feeling of nervousness in Paris, mainly perhaps because the Prime Minister has not always dissociated himself from such loose talk quite so emphatically as was desirable.

Recent debates in foreign policy have left a general feeling that the House of Commons could easily be strengthened in its discussions of these matters. Apart from official Government apologists, little of any importance is said. Mr. Asquith contents himself with vague generalities and vaguer doubts, Sir Donald Maclean gives one the impression of performing a painful duty when he speaks on foreign affairs, and Lord Robert Cecil, despite his fervent advocacy of the League of Nations, does not seem to carry the weight he should. The young Tories have some able men in their ranks, and foreign affairs are, or used to be, a favourite study of theirs, but they have contributed little of importance during the past year. The Labour Party has been absolutely ineffective in this matter, either enunciating mere aspirations after a better world without showing how it is to be attained, or sitting "silent upon a peak in Westminster." It would be a good idea, both from the standpoint of the party and of the country at large, if the Labour Party could depute one of their members to make a special study of foreign affairs, so that the Opposition should not lack an authoritative voice in the counsels of Europe.

Mr. Chamberlain Stands Firm.

The threatened revolt of business interests against the excess profits duty in the Budget collapsed after a couple of hours' discussion in the Commons. One rather expected it; these advertised rebellions usually fail. "Big business," like Labour, is still new to politics, and both teams are under the impression that numbers count for everything and argument for nothing. Numbers, of course, do count for a good deal, but when the units of the army are only paraded to show how formidable they would be if they fought, and the Government has a shrewd impression that they do not mean to fight in the end, then numbers count for nothing at all. One man who will really die in the last ditch is more formidable than a whole regiment which lays down its arms after a formal demonstration.

At a matter of fact, the business interests are faced with a dilemna. They do not like the excess profits duty, and consequently they do not like the Government which imposes it; but they cannot turn the Government out, and if they could, the alternative of a Labour Government, which is committed to nationalisation, and is an avowed enemy of trusts, combinations, and capital generally, would be still more unwelcome. But the remedy obviously is for business men in politics to show the Government a better way of raising the money, and this they seem unable to do. A little constructive thinking would be worth reams of negative criticism.

Home Rule.

The real battle over the Home Rule Bill begins on Thursday, which is the first of the twenty-one days allotted to the Committee stage of the measure. As it contains sixty clauses, three sections a day will see the thing through. But the discussion will differ from all previous Irish discussions, since there will be practically no Irish members present, Independent Liberals are sullenly opposed but not quite sure of their ground, and Unionists are rather dubiously in favour—and also a little uncertain where they stand. But the Bill will probably be discussed more adequately than its predecessor in 1912-14, which was forced through the House by the "guillotine," and that obedient mechanical majority, which did so much to discredit the Asquith Government.

Coalition and Independent.

The Independent Liberals are continuing their efforts to thrust the Coalition Liberals out of their ranks, and at a party congress in Scotland this week the official Liberals of the North, who heard the Coalition apologists impatiently, showed a large majority against participation in the Government, and the mention of Mr. Lloyd George's name was greeted with cries of "Tory." It is always difficult to decide how far these party congresses count for public opinion. Liberalism in Scotland is now officially pledged to oppose the Coalition on every possible occasion, but it has shown itself unable to win seats even in Edinburgh, which rather discounts its valour.

Meanwhile, Lord Haldane, who has been indulging in a desperate flirtation with Labour, while assuring Liberalism that his heart is still true to his old love, and that he is not going to set up house in the rival establishment, seems to be urging a rival coalition of Liberalism and Labour. But those who protest against the immorality of coalitions holding office can hardly form another coalition for the avowed purpose of obtaining office, and in any event Labour, like the unspoiled debutante at a ball, is ready to accept all the compliments showered upon her by elderly admirers like Lord Haldane, but purposes to reserve her dance programme exclusively for partners of her own age. She takes the worship as her rightful due, but is fully determined not

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to allow an ardent courtship to develop into matrimony. After all, Labour remembers that she was formally betrothed to Liberalism in the 1906-14 Parliaments, and treated rather like a girl just out of the schoolroom; now she has broken off the engagement and come into her own money with the prospect of more, she is more circumspect.

Labour Day.

May Day has long been the festival of organised Labour on the Continent, and this year was no exception to the rule. It has generally been more or less ignored in England, where ardent politicians prefer meetings to demonstrations through the streets; the average Englishman dislikes public ceremonies, and cannot get over the idea that he looks rather a fool walking in a public procession and carrying a banner. However, this year something more ambitious was attempted, and great marches through London and platform speeches by Labour leaders were arranged. The speeches were mostly of the frothy type, and a good deal of wild language was indulged in, which nobody took very seriously, least of all the audience; the recognised leaders of Labour in Parliament left the work to their lieutenants, apparently without much regret. The crowds were good-humoured, and although thousands of men took a day's holiday, the enjoyment of a "day off" does not necessarily mean very much.

To judge from the banners exhibited, everything was to be "nationalised," but now that Mr. Lansbury after his recent visit to Soviet Russia has explained that nationalisation means strict discipline for the working-man and apparently the conscription of Labour, the enthusiasm for nationalisation may subside a little. The working-man has at least as good an idea of the liberty of the subject as his teachers, and although he may not mind conscripting capital, he has not the least intention of conscripting himself.

A Policy that Failed.

An attempt to adopt the "stay-in" strike on the railways, in order to extort the additional pound a week that is demanded, seems definitely to have failed. The "stay-in" strike implies that the men remain at work, but that they adhere with meticulous accuracy to every rule and regulation of the companies, many of which are disregarded as superfluous in ordinary working. A strike of this character some years ago brought the old Austrian Government to its knees, and another seriously embarrassed the Italian State Railways. If carried out thoroughly it delays traffic so hopelessly that it causes absolute disorganisation and chaos.

In the present instance in England it was discountenanced by the railway leaders, who knew that any form of strike was premature, and who have always held that this particular form is ridiculous and rather childish. A few men may have attempted to carry it out, but the great mass refused, and trains ran punctually as usual.

One or two advances of wages have been registered in other trades during the week, and at Bristol there have been riots against the continued employment of women by the tramways when demobilised soldiers are unemployed. The men have gained their point after emphasising the fact that every woman who was dismissed could at once get employment in domestic service at good wages. But in spite of wholesale dismissals of this character, the domestic servant, rare before the war, now appears to be almost extinct. To judge from the advertisement columns of the papers and the frantic appeals and complaints of housewives, one would think that the only people who were killed in the war were female servants. Nobody knows what has become of them.

Chilly Cricket.

The cricket season opened on Saturday with the Cambridge Freshmen's match and Surrey v. Northants at Kennington Oval. The first matches in May are usually rather heroic affairs, and these were no exception, for the day was distinctly chilly. This particular spring, with its torrid March, arctic April, and the promise of a sullen May, has once again proved that our climate, like Habakkuk, is "capable de tout," and some of our cricketers will probably admit privately that they prefer the pavilion to the field during the next fortnight or so, if these conditions continue.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, April 17.

Politics.

The Government has not yet resigned, but the end is expected almost any day now that the Orthodox Easter is over, and Ministers are returning from their short rest. As the Government could not secure a quorum, it is reported to have proposed to pass a special law resolving itself into a quorum, a rather high-handed proceeding which the acting Speaker objected to. It is stated that he suggested a novel method of preventing the Government forming a quorum of one hundred members, suggesting that in that case he would convene a separate Parliament of the Opposition, who could also form a quorum, and so two Parliaments would be sitting in opposition to each other, and of equal strength. This *reductio ad absurdum* was the end of the suggestion. Besides, it is extremely unlikely that the Regent would have countenanced such a proceeding.

The negotiations for a Coalition Cabinet conducted so patiently by Dr. Smodlaka have failed; but there must soon be an end of some kind to the present intolerable situation. In Radical circles it is rumoured that M. Stoyan Protitch, who is a strong man and the backbone of the Radical Party, will shortly retire from politics. The veteran statesman quite recently lost his wife, and probably has little taste nowadays for public life. The other veteran Radical leader, M. Pashitch, recently took a severe chill while inspecting some property of his in the country, and so is prevented from attending the conference at San Remo; and it is believed that he will not return to the Delegation, but will also retire into private life. In the absence of these two experienced politicians, the Radicals will probably be unable to maintain their present position, and probably either a coalition or a neutral Cabinet will be formed to carry out the general elections and summon the Constituent Assembly which the country is crying for. The late Democratic Prime Minister, Dr. Davidovitch, it is stated, will take no further part in politics, so the leadership of the Democrats falls upon M. Milorad Drashkovitch, who won high opinions among the foreign colony in Belgrade during his recent brief tenure of the portfolio of communications.

Fiume and Skutari.

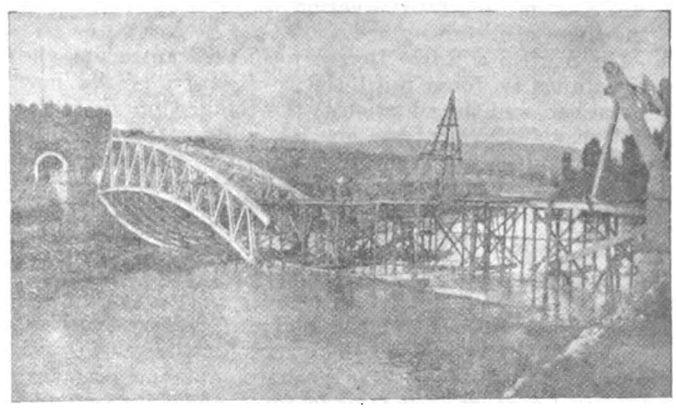
Rumour about Fiume has been busy lately. Energetic and vigorous meetings have been held all over the new provinces, especially in Croatia and Dalmatia, protesting against the throttling of Yugoslavia and the sacrifice of vital national interests at Fiume and Skadar (Skutari in Albania). The British public have overlooked the importance of the latter town in the pre-occupation about Fiume. The Serbs would not unnaturally like to have it, on the grounds that it is a former capital of the old Serbian State, that Montenegrins took it by siege, after desperate fighting on Tarabosh in 1913, but was compelled by England, to oblige Austria, to give it up to the infant State of Albania. The Serbs very naturally say that if they are not to have it themselves it should go to the Albanians, to whom it most naturally belongs, provided that Serbian interests in the navigation of the Boyana are safeguarded; for this commands the approach to and feeding of Montenegro. But the Serbs very rightly have the strongest possible objection to Italy's holding it, and on this point they vigorously support the claims of the Albanians themselves. Italy cannot justify any claim to it.

The question of Skadar is a vital one to Serbia, as vital as Fiume, and if ignorance or interest on the part of the Powers overrides the national claims of the Yugoslavs the seeds of much future trouble will be sown, and the ground prepared for another war. At the present moment, Yugoslav feelings have been irritated to the extreme; an imposing public meeting was recently held at Zagreb, where twenty-five thousand people paraded the streets, and passionate speeches were made outside the Army H.Q. and the Ban's Palace. Similar, smaller but equally sincere, meetings are reported from Dubrovnik, Serajevo, and other towns. A monster meeting has been convened for Belgrade on the 18th, which has been organised by the combined associations, bodies, and institutions in Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, the attitude of the Government has been, as always, extremely correct, but it may not be strong enough to restrain a wave of public indignation.

A Rumour and a Story.

A sensational rumour is repeated from Budapest to the effect that the Magyars propose to offer the Crown of St. Stephen to the Crown Prince Regent of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

An interesting story is told of the late M. Stoyan Novakovitch, who, as one of the Serbian delegates at the Conference of London to arrange the Balkan



Bridge at Nish, over River Morava, blown up during the war, under repair.

settlement after the war of 1912, had occasion to speak to the Russian Ambassador in London, the late Count Benckendorf. M. Novakovitch opened the conversation in Russian, but the Ambassador replied in German, and as M. Novakovitch knew no English he was obliged, to his great disgust, to continue the conversation with the great protector of the Slavs in the language of their hated enemy.

Russian Refugees.

Not only Belgrade, but the provincial towns are beginning to be largely Russianised; refugees from Denikin's army are especially numerous at Panchevo, but are to be met with almost anywhere. A Russian engineer has obtained the post of Municipal Engineer in Belgrade. Apart from officers, some of high rank, many interesting representatives of the Russian *intelligenzia*, are here. M. Suvorin, of the *Novoe Vremya;* Chaliapin, the singer; Pomerantseff, of the Moscow Opera; and several other well-known musicians are either here or expected shortly.

A new bronze medal is to be struck to commemorate the appalling retreat through Albania in 1915. It will be given to all soldiers and to all members of foreign missions who went through that terrible experience. On one side will be the two-headed white eagle of the Nyemanitch dynasty, with laurel wreath; the inscription on one side will be "To his war comrades—Alexander," and on the other "For devotion to the Fatherland, 1915."

The Railway Strikes.

The late Minister of Communications, M. Drashkovitch, made an arrangement with the railway employees by which they received extra pay on account of the increased cost of living. A loaf of bread has risen since last summer from one to three dinars. Now the new Minister, M. Koroshets, has cancelled this arrangement. Consequently there is a strike of all railways

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and river steamers on the Danube and Save. Public opinion sympathises with the strikers, who, it is generally anticipated, will get their reasonable demands in a few days.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, April 10.

Political Situation.

As indicated in my previous letter, the Agrarian League at the elections did not secure the 120 to 140 seats that it expected, but only 110. By comparison with the previous Chamber this means a gain to them of twenty-seven seats; but since it does not give them, in a Chamber of 229 members, the majority necessary for a homogeneous Cabinet, it is most probable that there will be another Coalition Cabinet. Immediately the results were known, the three non-Agrarian Ministers—namely, the Progressist Minister of Finance, Dr. Daneff, and the Narodniaks, MM. Madjaroff (Foreign Affairs), and Athanas Buroff (Commerce and Labour), tendered their resignations to the Prime Minister. M. Stambolisky requested them to continue to carry on their duties until the opening of the Chamber, on the 15th, when he will tender the resignation of the entire Cabinet, and a new one will be formed in accordance with the public will as expressed by the nation on March 28. To this the three Ministers agreed.

On April 3 a Royal Decree was issued approving the remaining in force until the convocation of the new Chamber, and the adoption of the Budget for the financial year 1920-21, of the law for appropriating 6-12ths of the Budget for 1918 for the second half-year of the financial year 1919-20, ratified by decree of October 30, 1919.

War Prisoners from Serbia.

An agreement has been reached between M. Stambolisky, Prime Minister and Minister for War, on one hand, and the head of the Serbian Military Mission, Major Dimitrievitch, on the other, for the release and return of the Bulgarian prisoners of war and hostages. Preparations are being made for their transport and reception, and trains have been sent to Nish for their conveyance. M. Stambolisky, who will be accompanied by Major Dimitrievitch, will go to the frontier to welcome the prisoners.

A Bolshevist Leader.

The *Zemledetchesko Zname*, the organ of the Agrarian League, published lately (April 7) some interesting information on the views of Dr. Rakovsky on Bolshevism in Bulgaria. Dr. Rakovsky, who was born at Kustendje, and is a relative of the great Bulgarian patriot and revolutionary leader, Sava Rakovsky, a native of Kotel, is, with Lenin and Trotsky, one of the leaders of the Bolshevist revolution. Under the name of Christian Gregorievitch, he enjoys extraordinary authority and wide popularity in Bolshevist circles, and he is described as "the first orator of the Russian revolution and the best organiser of its political forces in Southern Russia." Speaking of Bolshevism in Bulgaria he said: "Regarding land reform in Russia, the Bolshevist revolution aimed at attaining such an organisation as Bulgaria has possessed for decades. Bulgaria in this respect stands better than Russia. Political organisation also is superior in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian State possesses a democracy trained in politics, which makes for the unfettered progress of the labouring and less wealthy classes." Questioned as to the chances of Bolshevism in Bulgaria, Dr. Rakovsky declared that the Bulgarian Communists could not blindly imitate the methods of Russian Bolshevism, which is developing amidst quite different economic, political, and social conditions. Furthermore, he declared that while Bolshevism outside Bulgaria might help the Bulgarian cause, Bolshevism inside Bulgaria might be fatal to the Bulgarian lands.

Communist Successes.

The great success of the Communists in the towns is due to the votes they got from the striking officials and teachers, who during the period of the strike were financed with funds lately brought from Russia by Zaborovsky, a Russian Jew and the emissary of Lenin and Trotsky, who is now actually in Sofia, in hiding in the houses of the Communists. The Bulgarian police authorities are actively searching for him, and hope to effect his arrest. With this object in view, during the elections, surprise searches in private houses were undertaken at night, with the result that many citizens were so alarmed and so exasperated that instead of voting for the Agrarians they voted for the Communists.

At Rustchuk, Slivno, Yamboli, Gabrova, Varna, and other provincial towns where the municipal councils are communistic, the strikers received grants of bread and coal from the municipalities. In such circumstances it is not surprising that the Communists were not only able to hold their own at the elections, but even to secure another seat. There are, however, protests in regard to some of the elections, and it is quite possible that the Communists will yet lose a few seats to the Agrarians or other *bourgeois* parties.

MALTA.

VALETTA, April 15.

Gloom.

Malta pursues its weary way, approaching its normal state, but still under abnormal conditions. There is the same old laxity in the interest of local affairs, and although the year is getting on and Self-Government is to come with the New Year, there is no sign of anything being done to adopt a policy or to find a national leader. All ends in clamour and club and coffee-house chatter. What is foremost in the public mind just now is that everyone is discussing emigration to America, and many have gone. As these represent in the majority of cases skilled artisans, and fine healthy specimens of humanity, it is thought, not unreasonably, that this exodus will in time have a great effect on the island. Yet, after all, there is little for the emigrants to regret leaving behind. Poor pay, increased taxation, and rising prices of foodstuffs are the conditions staring the island in the face. Large increases of salary have been granted to all branches of the public service, with depleted coffers to supply these increases; and what with the demobilisation of troops and the approach of summer with its empty houses and hotels, the outlook is gloomy indeed!

"Small Talk."

With the absence of news proper, we are largely driven to make our own. A few of the topics of discussion in our local Press may prove of interest to outside Malta! Are Scotchmen more alcoholic than patriotic? Why raise the price of tobacco made from leaf which has been long imported? Was St. Patrick a Scotchman? England is the cheapest country to live in. The Maltese is the only man in the world who cannot work without talking. In connection with this a wag suggests that many Maltese talk without working! The latest echo is as to where St. Patrick was *really* born.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

—Omar Khayyam.

A friend of mine is collecting "Agony Column" advertisements, and has asked me to keep my eye open for specimens. I have been doing so for a few weeks, and have been struck by the entire lack of shame that characterises many of the folk who make use of this medium. They cannot say "to beg I am ashamed," for they beg with a brazen effrontery that must turn the stomach of anyone with a grain of self-respect. Quite a number of young gentlemen—and a few middle-aged ones, too—appear to be under the impression that, having "done their bit" (to use an expression to which they seem to be extremely partial), they are entitled to expect that some "kind lady" or "kind friend" will "adopt" them. Others, less slack-wristed, merely desire the kind lady or friend to put down a few hundreds or thousands to enable them to make a start in business; and sometimes these weird creatures offer "references" and promise to "repay."

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Now, I feel tolerably sure that any really "deserving case" would scorn thus to beg. Even if a man *has* fought for his country (and I, for one, wonder what percentage of these "agonising" advertisers have done *that*), I fail to see that that entitles him to expect any individual man or woman, with whom he has not the slightest acquaintance, as his advertising proves, to adopt (!) him or give him a large sum. His claim, if he has one, lies against the State, not the individual; and, by forgetting that fact and whining, he puts himself on the level of the veriest street cadger. Of course, a man who asks for work, or for other people to help him to get work if they know of any opening, is on quite another footing; and if he is "down on his luck" he has my sincerest sympathy. But the cadger—ugh!

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Please pardon the foregoing outburst, which really is not so utterly divorced from the East as it may look at first sight. For, in looking through *The Times* advertisements a few days ago, I came across this:—

> "BORED WITH LEAVE. Funds low.—INDIAN CIVIL (ex-Army) OFFICER on long leave desires TRAVEL with some SPORTSMAN who will pay all expenses.—Box ——, *The Times*."

I do not reproduce the Box number in case the rush of replies might embarrass this very haughty Indian Civil Pooh-Bah. It would have been interesting if he had inserted in his advertisement a few particulars regarding the return he proposes making for the probably large outlay that the acceptance of his invitation (!) would involve. Is he prepared to valet the "sportsman," to toady him, or merely to give him the pleasure (or the reverse) of the company of a bored and impecunious ex-Army officer? To me, the offer does not look attractive, and I fancy that the I.C.S. will not feel very proud of this advertiser.

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It would be interesting to know whether the Vatican and the Greek Patriarchate would unite in petitioning for the removal of the Turk from Constantinople. I observe that the Patriarchate sent to San Remo a telegraphic protest "against the Pope's action in urging the claim of Rome to the see of St. Sophia," to which, of course, it claimed that the Greek Church had the right. Again, the Vatican has announced that it considers that, while the Catholics should be left in undisturbed possession of the sanctuaries held by them in Palestine, "the question of those in possession of the Orthodox Church should be settled by Commissions." There may be something beautifully unselfish behind these claims, but to the ordinary man they will inevitably suggest that both the great Churches concerned are "out for all they can get," and indulging in the game of grab which is so fashionable in our "new" world. Such an exhibition can hardly be regarded as a good example for Moslems—or anybody else, for that matter; and it certainly looks as if the spirit prevalent in the days when the rival Christian factions had to be kept by Turkish soldiery from butchering one another in the sacred places of the Holy Land had by no means passed.

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With all due respect to that august person, I respectfully suggest that when the Editor published the article on Port Said last week he missed an opportunity; for, I observe, an evening paper headed a paragraph on that salubrious seaside resort (see Cairo Correspondent of The Near East for testimonial to said salubrity), "The Wickedest City." Now, that is a much more "catchy" title. For do we not all love to hear, or read, of "wicked" people and places? By the way, I wonder how one estimates the iniquity of any city. By the number of "saloons"—of various kinds—that it contains in proportion to its size? The paragraph in the evening paper referred to above does not enlighten me on this point. It only tells me that a certain Wesleyan C.F., who "knows Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras," and has lived in the East for a quarter of a century, has "seen more sin and appearances of sin in one hour in Port Said" than in all the rest of his experience. Well, well! I am inclined to think that the gentleman in question must have been wearing dark glasses during his hour's walk through poor Port Said. It may be a not entirely innocent little village, but——! Personally, I should have thought Suez—Old Suez—was "wickeder" to the square inch, so to say. But I should like you, my dear readers, clearly to understand that I lay no claim to expert knowledge on such subjects, never having investigated them personally.

Corsair.

RECREATION IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

A lecture was given on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Society on Friday, April 23, in the rooms of the Royal Society at Burlington House by Professor T. E. Peet, an official of the society. The subject chosen was "Recreation in Ancient Egypt." The lecturer called attention to the singular fact that most of our knowledge of Egyptian sport and games is gathered from the painted scenes with which their tombs are adorned. The reason of this is that the Egyptians were never able completely to reject the belief that life after death bore the closest resemblance to that on earth, and therefore scenes of play and recreation were painted on the walls of their tombs in order that, through the workings of magic, they might ensure the continuance of amusements in the next world.

The outdoor sports of the Egyptians were probably mainly survivals of the day when they were a hunting people, before they settled down to a life of agriculture and pasture in the Nile Valley. Thus the wealthy or noble Egyptian loved to hunt the wild animals which abounded in the deserts which surround Egypt, accompanied by his favourite retainers and his swift greyhounds; or he would sail over the marshes and lagoons of the Delta in a frail canoe of papyrus reeds, bringing down with the boomerang the wild geese which swarmed there, or in the same canoe go spearing fish with his two-pronged harpoon.

Of indoor amusements there was no lack. The tombs contain frequent scenes of wrestling matches, in which the progress of the rounds is shown in a series of pictures which produce a kind of cinematograph effect, and enable us to follow every movement of the struggle. Dancing, too, was a favourite diversion, and often formed a part of the funerary ceremonies. A somewhat rare scene in a tomb of the Middle Kingdom at Beni Hasan seems to represent an attempt at *tableaux vivants*. In one group three figures imitate by their attitudes the bending of the reeds in a storm, and the scene is entitled "The Wind"; in a second, entitled "Beneath the Feet," a defeated enemy is seen crouching at the feet of his conqueror Games played with pieces on a board are occasionally found in good preservation in the tombs. The lecturer illustrated one of the finest of these by means of slides, and described the attempts which have been made to reconstruct the moves of the game. He also showed some examples of the game of *sent*, perhaps the prototype of our modern chess, and explained its connection with the funerary ritual, the moves of the game constituting a symbolic replica of the journey of the dead man from this world to the next, the defeat of his opponent representing his victory over the various malevolent creatures, often in the form of serpents, who, according to the Egyptian beliefs, were likely to oppose his passage to the life beyond.

Egyptian music was briefly referred to, the various types of harp, lyre, and flute being illustrated and described, and their connection with the singing discussed. The lecturer closed with a short description of the nature and procedure of an Egyptian banquet.

The *locum tenens* of the Œcumenical Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church has accepted the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury to send representatives from the Holy Synod of the Church of Constantinople to the forthcoming Lambeth Conference.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Peace.

In an article in the *English Review* (April), Mr. Austin Harrison, who terms his comments "The Africanisation of Europe," indulges in spirited and characteristic condemnation of the Peace. In discussing Europe he goes a little off the track, but what he says is quite germane to his theme. Here is an example:—

"Suffer the little children," said the Saviour; so Turkey, too, is to be evangelically carved up. Greece sails into Smyrna; we occupy Constantinople, and the Arabs, who were promised independence as their reward for military assistance, now find themselves equally duped over Syria, which is to go to France, and Mesopotamia, which is to be our portion of the "spoils," plus an absurd Jewish creation as unreal as the "Kingdom come" of Sancho Panza. To this war-created Europe we must add Egypt, who has proclaimed independence; Ireland, who has proclaimed a Republic; India, who herself is "proclaimed"; and America, who also proclaims independence by refusing to be bound by either Treaty or Covenant. There never was anything quite so "bedevilled" as the Europe of the three men who could not agree about anything except their own opinions. There never was anything to compare with the economic crisis now threatening to convulse their handiwork. Most certainly nothing in history will equal the stupendous crash of this utterly artificial structure unless very speedily a re-beginning is made on foundations of political and economic security.

What he says upon Russia will be of interest to Near Eastern readers:—

And so, just when we are preparing to pay higher rents, rates, taxes, and a shilling for the loaf, we are threatened with a war (1) against revolutionary Germany, (2) against an Arabian-Islamic-Turkish irredentism, (3) in support of Poland versus Russia and Roumania versus Russia, (4) against Hungary versus Roumania, (5) against Italy or against Jugo-Slavdom, besides the numerous other little military operations in Persia, India, Egypt, Syria, Ireland, Baku, Georgia etc., etc. If the Polish war starts, chaos will be immediate. The prospects are prodigious. Our debt is only £8,000,000,000. Why not add another £1,000,000,000 and have a 2s. loaf? Only one man can be really smiling to-day in Europe, and his name is not Lloyd George. It is Lenin. For we have re-nationalised the Russias. No Russian will ever consent to our mandate over Georgia or Baku, to Bessarabia going to Roumania, to Poland standing on Russian soil, to the excision of the Northern Provinces, thus bottling Russia up in the Baltic as our possession of Constantinople bottles her up in the south. Lenin and Denikin will "shake" on the issue of nationalist Russia. We have made of Russia a life enemy. We have capitalised Lenin for a bankrupt Poland. Small wonder if a sacred picture somewhere in France has started to "bleed."

Smyrna and Armenia.

The *Morning Post* of April 29 has a spirited leading article called "Remnants from San Remo." After paying a very full tribute to the diplomacy and success of M. Venizelos, it proceeds:—

M. Venizelos, as we should have expected, has shown his statesmanship in not pressing for the acquisition of Smyrna outright. The summary transfer of that port would have created lasting bitterness in the minds of the Turks, and there is still ample Turkish national sentiment afloat in the East to have concentrated against such a decision as a common object for revenge. The work of the Peace Conference is not to dispose of the immediate difficulties of to-day or to-morrow, but to discover settlements that are likely to hold good for the next quarter of a century. The compromise by which Turkey is apparently to retain the sovereignty of Smyrna while Greece takes over the administration, and the future destiny of the place is deferred to a plebiscite of the inhabitants, to be taken five years hence, is, of course, not free from objections. It is, in fact, obviously full of possibilities of friction. But the plan is preferable to presenting the Turkish Nationalists with a challenge and a rallying cry. Much may happen, after all, in five years; and although it cannot be said that appearances in Asia Minor wear a promising face, the situation of the insurgent National Party, now that it has been disowned by the Sultan and is cut off from Constantinople, does not look to be any too secure. The Turk at bottom is very much what his leaders make him, and if the Conference, which must eventually find some means of supplying the vacuum which will be created on the suppression of Mustapha Kemal, can manage to introduce the right guidance, the peasantry of Anatolia may be led back into the useful and tranquil existence for which Nature has intended them.

There remains, of course, the eternal difficulty of Armenia, which appears to have been offered in turn to every country that could conceivably have been imagined to have a hankering for a Protectorate, but has been declined by all. The definition of the future of Armenia rests for the time being with President Wilson, who has already expressed his opinion that "its boundaries should be drawn in such a way as to recognise the legitimate claims of the Armenians, and particularly to give them an easy and unencumbered access to the sea." The only difficulty, unfortunately, is to arrange for the execution of this desirable arrangement and to see that neighbours do not transgress the boundaries after they have been laid down. Their sanctity will not be impressed all of an instant on the surrounding populations. At the moment the remnant of the Cilician Armenians are threatened with being driven into the sea to which Mr. Wilson is so anxious that they should have access; and the prospects of the new Republic of Armenia with its capital at Erzeroum are certainly not roseate. The neighbour Republics of Georgia and Azerbaijan appear to be rapidly coming under influences which are a compound of Bolshevism and Pan-Islamism, the resultant of which comes to Cut-throatism. At the head of the movement is Enver Bey, who from his eyrie in Daghestan manages to exercise an influence over the Kurdish clans which bodes no good to Armenia. To help a country so isolated, whose people lack the capacity for standing up for themselves, and yet will not accept the alternative of effacement and subjection, is a tolerably hopeless problem, while the work implies more altruistic effort than any statesmen in the world think that they are justified in demanding of their own countries. It only remains for the League of Nations to devise a combination that will undertake the thankless work.

Constantinople.

In the April issue of the *Nineteenth Century* Canon Barry expresses the disappointment of Christendom at the decision by which the Turks are to retain power in Constantinople. He is consoled, however, by the prospect that the present settlement is but temporary. On this point he says:—

We are servants and subjects of the Divine oracles; in less antiquated speech, of truth and fact. I wish to look realities in the face. Notwithstanding the gibes of mere politicians, that vast creation of the Gospel known as Christendom is not yet an obsolete power. Again, both East and West recognised in our civilisation, which in thought is Greek, in ideals Christian, an energy of science destined to subdue the most recondite forces of Nature. And these two "mighty streams of tendency" may, so long as they will, run the same course together. On the other hand, while granting that Mohammedanism displays a remarkable power of resistance to Western ideas, I can perceive it to be slowly yielding, not only by the loss of temporal dominion, which is the genuine motive of an agitation in many respects factitious, but (what is far more grave) by the felt want of a philosophy, a scientific insight, and a political genius, which would enable it to hold its own. Men like the Syed Ameer Ali and the Aga Khan, let me say it with every consideration, scarcely realise how far they have travelled on Western paths. As for the Ottoman Turks, a totally different sort of Moslem believers, we must allow with Cardinal Newman that they are "pledged by the very principle of their existence to barbarism." None of the attempts made to bring them into our system, to assimilate them in anything except vice and frivolity with European manners, has hitherto succeeded, or is likely to succeed. Somewhere in Central Asia their home abides, on the high mountain plains, whence, to the world's misfortune, they rushed down upon the Eastern Roman Empire and made of it the desolation which all who behold it except themselves deplore. They must go. Sooner or later the classic lands of Asia Minor, claimed by history as lying within the great circle of civilisation, will be given back to it and to us. No financial jobberies, no new Disraeli, no manufactured unrest of peoples afar off, as ignorant of Turkish Caliphates as of Old English Chronicles, will in the long run hinder this consummation. It is in the oracles of Nature, science, law, of human progress and the Christian good tidings.

Articles to Note.

"Arabian Nights and Days," by W.; and "Subadar Sher Ali Khan," by E. F. K., in *Blackwood's Magazine* (May).

"The Prospects of Jewish Colonisation in Palestine," by Redcliffe N. Salaman, M.D., in the *Contemporary Review* (May).

"The Middle East," by Robert Machray, in the *Fortnightly Review* (May).

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MOSLEM TALES FROM JERUSALEM.*

III.—THE STORY OF THE "MUGRABEH" AND THE TWO BAGS OF GOLD.

The short twilight of a winter's afternoon was deepening into night when a tall stranger entered a small Moslem village situated some two and a-half hours' distance from Jerusalem. He was a *Mugrabeh* lately come from Egypt. He did not know the place, nor was he known to any amongst the villagers, so he made his way to the khan, called for coffee, and sat down to rest for a while. Presently he began to talk to the men of the village as they drifted in for coffee and conversation after their day's work.

"To whom does yonder field belong?" presently asked the *Mugrabeh*.

"To me and to my brother, and to the eight sons of my father's brother—to ten men," answered a sturdy-looking fellah who was seated opposite him.

"Oh, favoured of Heaven," said the *Mugrabeh*, "know that I have read in my book that in your field, and in the field of no other, is buried much money. You have but to dig and be rich."

"Is that the truth?" cried several of the men at once; and they cast envious looks upon him who owned a tenth part of the golden field.

"On the word of an Englishman, it is true!" answered the *Mugrabeh*, with dignity. "Come with me, and you shall see for yourselves and be convinced."

He led them to the field, and began to dig in one corner where the stones were loose. In a very short time he came upon a bag which, when he had opened it, was found to be full of money, but only copper money of low values—*kubaks, asheras, bishliks*, and the like. The simple villagers asked for no further proof than this. Joyfully they hailed him as a great man indeed, and feasted him on the fattest sheep the owner of the field possessed. How should they know that the *Mugrabeh* himself had buried that bag secretly overnight?

When they had eaten, the *Mugrabeh* said that there was gold in the field, but it could only be found by placing in the ground a bag of gold, when the attraction of the precious metal would draw out what was hidden in the earth. In answer to the eager questioning of the villagers, he said, with obvious compassion for their poverty: "Oh, my brothers, not less than fifty napoleons will suffice, and the more is put in, so much the more by fiftyfold will be drawn forth from the earth. On my head be it."

There was not enough gold in the village, so the people borrowed from the villages around; and meanwhile the *Mugrabeh* lived like a prince in the house of the sheikh. When at last all the gold had been got together, it was put into a bag, which was tied up and sealed with the sheikh's seal in the presence of them all. The *Mugrabeh* had also provided himself with another bag, exactly like the one which he had first hidden, but holding only copper coins of no value, as before. This bag he hid carefully under his cloak.

The whole village followed him to the field; the men and women left their work, and the children their games, to come and see gold brought out of the earth. The *Mugrabeh* made a large circle and burnt spices and powders to make a thick smoke, while he recited aloud from the Koran and prayed. Then he told the men to dig a hole in the middle of the circle, and into this hole they dropped the bag of gold, which the *Mugrabeh* covered over with the cloaks of the ten men to whom the field belonged. After this, he ordered them all to separate one from the other and to keep careful watch at the four corners of the field, lest any stranger or any evil *jinnee* should draw near to destroy their hopes. He stayed a moment longer to make up the fire to a great size, and under cover of the thick smoke and the gathering darkness he drew out the bag of gold and laid the bag of coppers in its place. Then he called the sheikh and said: "I must now go to pray, but I will soon return to rejoice with you when the earth yields up its gold. Do you keep watch here just without the circle, and if it chance that my prayers delay me long, you may uncover the hole without waiting for me; but wait until the fire has quite died out."

So he went away. The people waited long and patiently for him. At first they loudly praised the piety which kept him so long at prayer, but as the cold night drew on they began to fear that he had struck them from behind. The fire had now died out.

"I will uncover the hole," said the sheikh; "at least we shall have our own gold that we saw him put in."

So they uncovered the hole, and drew out the bag of—coppers.

Apparently the *Mugrabeh* escaped with the gold to Egypt, for the poor villagers never saw either the one or the other again. It was left to them to repay the gold they had borrowed at his bidding; and they had also to pay the fees of the various zaptiehs who had kindly made inquiries for them in Jerusalem. ESTELLE BLYTH.

* This story is perfectly true. It was told to us at the time it happened which was at the end of the year 1899. A *Mugrabeh* is a native of Morocco.—E.B.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

To those who hoped that the Academy would incorporate some of that new spirit in art which the European War has generated or developed, this year's exhibition has come as a disappointment. There is little evidence that the attitude of Academy painters towards things in general is any different in 1920 from what it was in 1914; that is to say, the pictures this year are on the same dull, correct, and lifeless level of previous years. There are the usual landscapes, the usual (though fewer) portraits, the inevitable khaki-clad immaculates, and the (seemingly) permanent lack of imaginative works. The works that have a peculiarly Near Eastern interest are, fortunately, no worse than the remaining pictures, which have for the most part English subjects; but there is in these nothing of the highest importance

The Scriptural paintings are fairly numerous and rather above the average in both craftsmanship and insight. "The Three Wise Kings," by G. Spencer Watson, is a quite vivid piece of work; and "The Flight Into Egypt: Rest by the Way," by Ernest Board, creates a certain amount of atmosphere with its mixture of pale white and blue. "Lazarus," by Agnes C. Tatham, is an intense study of the shock of resuscitation; and there is a painting of "Jairus' Daughter," by William Strang. But the best of the pictures in this category is "Gethsemane," by R. J. Enraght Moony, in which persons and trees alike are impregnated with rich coloured gloom.

A portrait of Major-General Sir Charles Townshend, K.C.B., D.S.O., by R. Grenville Eves, should be mentioned, if only to record the fact.

There are two pictures dealing with Tangier: the first, "A Room in Sunlight, Tangier," by Sir John Lavery, in which there is a boldly effective contrast of many colours; and "August Evening, Tangier," by Edward Walker, in which the composition of a very neat and finished picture is excellent. "In a Tunisian Café," by Edgar Bundy, is not particularly distinguished; and the same remark applies to "A Reminiscence of Algiers," by Sir Ernest George. "An Egyptian Waterwheel," by G. A. Boden, is a clever effort, the roughness of the subject being presented very accurately; similarly, "A Corner in Cairo," by Ernest Longmate, a picture of quiet space, is a faithful representation. "The Burning of Salonika, 1917," by William A. Arrowsmith, is a subject full of possibilities, and the painter has done his work very effectively, contrasting the glare of the fire with the blue sky by the side of it. (The fire, incidentally, he has painted as something between a glow and a riot of uncontrolled flame.) "Turkish Sunset," by Tristram Ellis, is a harbour scene, in which the purple rays of the sun shine on the ships in the foreground. "A Street in Jerusalem," by Percy R. Craft, is a straightforward picture, full of light and with little subtlety; but "Entrance to the Old Mosque at Damascus," by M. Murray Cookesley, is a more beautiful thing, for the high grandeur and the rigid loftiness of the pillars make a most impressive picture. "Nocturne in Silver and Blue, Baghdad," by Donald Maxwell, whose work is good if never moving, completes the list of the more important pictures dealing with the Near East.

It remains but to express wonder whether the Academy will ever prefer works of imagination to those of decoration, and whether it will always place correct sight before (possibly incorrect) vision. If it adheres to its present course, there is small prospect of a renaissance of art in England. The standard of dull uniformity was inexplicable before the war; but the discovery that the war has made no difference is a matter for pained surprise.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' INDIAN TOUR.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, in a written answer to Captain R. Terrell, who asked what Indian representatives have been appointed to the advisory committee to discuss the arrangements for the Prince of Wales's tour in India, says:—The Indian representatives are as follows:—H.H. the Maharaja of Gwalior (Hindu); H.H. the Maharaja of Bikanir (Hindu); H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala (Sikh); Mr. Banerji (Brahman); Sir Umar Hyat (Moslem); Sir Dinsha Wacha (Parsee).

The S.P.G. hear from India that their work is being carried on under great difficulty there. The race spirit is opposed to Christianity, which some of the people identify with what is English and anti-Indian.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NILE CONTROL WORKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your issue of April 1, 1920, "Nile Control Works, 3."

I have just received my copy of your esteemed weekly of the above-mentioned date, and have read with blank astonishment the very misleading statements made therein.

The future of the Sudan is so greatly a matter of "Imperial" interests that I would beg you to publish the following comment on your Cairo Correspondent's article.

As a first principle, it is not the waters of the Lakes Albert and Victoria Nyanza that are responsible for the formation of the equatorial swamps of the Southern Sudan (commonly known as the Sudd region), and although the wastage of the waters that pass Gondokoro is admittedly great, yet the total that is annually spilled therefrom is small in comparison with the gigantic input from the rivers of the Southern, Eastern, and Western rims of the great depression known as the Sudd region.

The rainfall of the rims of the depression are swept by rapid rivers into the swamps almost as fast as the rain falls, and as yet few people realise the vastness of the waters thus annually running into the swamps, or the fact that owing to the growths of reeds and sedges in the mouths of the rivers but a very small tithe runs out into the Nile. From these two sources alone the annual wastage of water in the swamps would water both Egypt and the Sudan several times over, without recourse to any water from the Albert Nile.

The following statement is made at the close of the second paragraph of the article in question:—

"Consequently, proposals that contemplate a continuance of the waste in the Sudd region in all years in order that a fraction of it may be recovered by gravitation or pumping need not be considered."

The above may be coupled with the last paragraph but one, thus:—

"The Sudd region is of enormous extent, and consists of land which, owing to its position, its climate, and its rainfall, is too valuable to consecrate in perpetuity as a malarial swamp; in the future a large portion of it may be drained by making the Lake Albert reservoir large enough to hold the excess water even in the highest flood."

Either your Correspondent cannot have visited the swamps or he has been greatly misled as to the true circumstances of this region.

I may say that there is no mystery in the swamps; the Sudd region is a perfectly natural depression into which a portion of the waters of the Lake Albert Nile do fall annually, but by far the greatest waters that go to maintain the swamps is the natural rainfall that is led into the swamps by a host of tributary rivers having their origin in the rim of the depression.

For thousands of square miles this depression is almost level, with hardly any fall towards its outlet, and in the great flood of 1917 the vastness of the expanse of the waters was a sight which was truly awe-inspiring; however, it was invaluable to an engineer, and a rapid survey of the swamps indicated the lack of slope—even a few inches rise in the waters meant additional thousands of acres under water. Nature herself presented a picture with the LEVELS writ large upon the picture. The great saucer was full to the uttermost limit, and the lands submerged till so far as the eye could see there was no change in the aspect of the great lake thus formed.

The exit from the swamps is through a bottle neck into a river which has the gentlest of slopes for several hundreds of miles.

Thus it is obvious that the recovery of these swamps for purposes of agriculture cannot be accomplished by any system of canalisation of the Albert Nile. It will help undoubtedly, but the final solution must be drainage, and drainage means pumps and power. Every drop of water that is lifted in the draining of the swamps will naturally be pumped to the Nile, and will assist in the watering of both Egypt and the Sudan; no doubt drainage by gravitation will assist, but in view of the picture of the year 1917, there is no doubt that the final recovery of the waste lands will be by pumps. Both the Sudan and Egypt will benefit.

With the "aftermath" of war still upon us we talk in millions, we scheme big schemes—the control of the Nile and the Lakes. It sounds fine, no doubt. We talk glibly of finishing in 1955 (?), but there is a lot of time for water to pass down the Nile between then and now, and in the meantime the decade 1920 to 1930 is still with us. It is in these years that the water will be wanted, and these schemes for 1955, though of great interest, will not help us through the immediate future.

The Sudd region holds the solution of the immediate difficulties—not these wild schemes that finish in 1955; their time will doubtless come; but to canalise the Albert Nile will require from 25 to 35 millions of pounds sterling and a great many years to attain.

At the best, the total increase in water requirements for Egypt during the next ten years is but a small affair as compared with the water available, and can be had at a very small cost. On the other hand, what of the Southern Sudan? For every acre that there is in Egypt suitable for cultivation there are twenty in the Sudan—millions of acres with a fair average rainfall, millions of acres that can be brought under cultivation for £4 to £5 per acre; land that to-day has no value, not land at £150 to £500 per acre, as in Egypt. At the moment, and with all this colossal waste of water, the Southern Sudan may not draw a drop even of the waste waters.

I have said that it is an *Imperial* matter; it is. To-day, as a result of the policy foreshadowed in your Correspondent's article, the Sudan is well-nigh starved for food supplies. Dhurra, the staple food of the Sudan and to a large extent the staple food of Egypt, has been forced by shortness of supplies to the unprecedented price of 400 piastres and over in the markets of the Sudan (£28 to £30 per ton, as against £2.50 to £3 50 in good seasons in pre-war days). The Sudan should be the granary of Egypt, yet at the moment it cannot supply itself; thousands of Shadoufs on the Nile in the Sudan are barely supporting workers thereof; and Egypt, with a plethora of cotton and no foodstuffs, is robbing other parts of the world that can ill afford to part with their supplies.

It must not be lost sight of that, whatever we may do for Egypt, the fact remains that in a few years Egypt can no longer support her ever-growing population; there is not sufficient land. On the other hand, there is no limit to the available land in the Sudan—not the narrow fringe of the Northern Sudan alongside the Nile, but the huge areas of land away to the south, in addition to the forty odd millions of acres known as the Sudd region.

With a reasonable policy, the Sudan can feed Egypt and herself, and still have to spare, but it is the immediate future to which we have to look and with which we are mostly concerned. The swamps offer all the water that either Egypt or the Sudan can want in the immediate future.

I have found the statements in your article to be misleading, and the times are serious enough to warrant those who are studying the case and watching the future of the Empire to draw attention to errors that have crept in.—I am, etc.,

35, Sharia Falaki, Cairo, April 19, 1920. JOHN WELLS.

THE THRACIAN COUNCIL.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of April 22 you published a communication from the *Agence Télégraphique Bulgare*, despatched from Giumuldjina, and pretending that the Supreme Administrative Council (Provincial Assembly) of Western Thrace, now occupied by Allied troops, has submitted to General Charpy, commander of these troops, a resolution asking for an autonomous *régime* for this province.

This communication contains an actually inaccurate ver-

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sion of what has happened in Giumuldgina, and I beg to communicate to you the following:—

The Supreme Administrative Council (Provincial Assembly) of Western Thrace is composed of five members—two Greeks (the Greek members were not even mentioned in the communication of the *Agence Télégraphique Bulgare*), one Turk, and one Bulgarian. The President is a Greek. An attempt by the Young Turk to vote a resolution in favour of the autonomy of Western Thrace has completely failed, owing to the opposition of Greeks and Turks opposed to the Young Turks. The Provincial Assembly did not vote the resolution, which, in consequence, was not presented to General Charpy.

On the other hand, General Charpy, closing the session of the Provincial Assembly, addressed the members as follows:—"I don't know if the powers of the Governor of the Province will be renewed. His place here is but temporary. We have the duty to conform ourselves to the just decisions of the Peace Conference."

I am, etc.,
D. CACLAMANOS.

The Greek Legation, 25, Knightsbridge,
April 27, 1920.

[The letter from His Excellency the Greek Minister supplements, rather than contradicts, the message of the *Agence Télégraphique Bulgare*, which, as was pointed out in the "Notes of the Week" of our issue of April 22, omitted to make any reference to the Greek members of the Supreme Administrative Council. In fairness to the Agency's telegram, however, it must be pointed out that it was not stated that the Supreme Administrative Council took any official step; but that after the opening ceremony a deputation of thirty Bulgarian and Turkish notables presented a petition to General Charpy. Reports as to the constitution of the Council vary. In our last issue we published a statement of a Greek paper that the Council consists of nine members—four Greek, one Bulgarian, three Turkish, and one Jewish. The Greek Minister speaks of five.—ED.]

POLICING MESOPOTAMIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—While in the main I agree with you in your leading article of April 29 on the subject of Mesopotamia, I must point out that there has been no neglect in the matter of initiating measures for the defence of the country and the maintenance of order by the employment of Arabs under British officers. As far back as 1918 local militia was formed in the Hillah grain-producing district, and since then local forces have been reorganised and considerably extended. There now exist the Mosul Gendarmerie, the Kurdish Levies, and the various units of Militia in the Baghdad and Basrah vilayets, to a total of not less than 6,000, of a fine type of man, all armed with modern H.V. rifles and led by British officers and W.O.'s, and having a fair standard of discipline. The main difficulty in their employment is local intrigue, which will, I think, cease to a large extent now that the mandate for the country has been settled.

Their efficiency in procuring order in many of the districts has been very marked, and they are usually the only force the Political Officer can call on for fifty or even a hundred miles. In the Kurna district one Shabana, Dhari ibn Finjaan, has already been awarded the M.C.

I am, etc.,
Laburnum Cottage, Clayton Lane, Near Newcastle, Staffs, April 30, 1920. C. S. DEAKIN.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—JERUSALEM (DISTURBANCES). ARMENIA (MANDATE). SAN REMO CONFERENCE: Near Eastern Questions.—Palestine (Administrative Posts). DAMASCUS (REPORTED RISING). ALBANIA. INDIA: Army Officers.—Amritsar Riots (Lord Hunter's Report).—Army Pensions (Lieutenant's Claim).—Chaplains (War Gratuity).—Civil Servants' Leave (Transport Accommodation).—Army Commissions (Candidates). (April 26).

PERSIA: Railway or Road Communications. JERUSALEM RIOTS. PALESTINE (RESTORATION TO JEWS). EGYPT (LORD MILNER'S MISSION). INDIA: Free Transport (Soldier's Wife).—Retired Officers' War Service (Pensions). CEYLON (CIVIL SERVICE). (April 27).

INDIA: British Cavalry.—Rawalpindi Riots.—Empire Fiscal Preference.—Interned Germans.—Indian Army (Officers' Dependants' Pensions).—Kut Officer Prisoners (Compensation).—Transferred Men (Pay Sheets).—Afridi Outrage (Capture of Officer's Wife).—Civil Service and Army (Pensions and Annuities). MONTENEGRO. PALESTINE: Anti-Jewish Disturbances. AFGHAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. PALESTINE.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

THE BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL.

The Beethoven Festival Week was held at the Æolian Hall, and lasted from April 26 to May 1. All the seventeen quartets were played in chronological order by the London String Quartet, and every performance was well attended. That these things should be is a matter for great congratulation, for it is doubtful whether in any country other than Germany an audience would tolerate Beethoven on six successive days. The fact that a London public not only tolerated but enjoyed the experiment demonstrates two things: the eternal and ever-appealing qualities of Beethoven, and the excellence of the London String Quartet.

It is difficult to praise too highly the London String Quartet. Its present composition is Mr. James Levey (first violin), Mr. Thomas Petre (second violin), Mr. Waldo Warner (viola), and Mr. Warwick-Evans ('cello). There was a time when it was thought that the absence of Mr. Albert Sammons and Mr. W. H. Reed (the old first and second violins) could not be compensated for, but the lack of individuality which was at first noticeable in the playing of Messrs. Levey and Petre becomes less and less every day. Again, it was a common complaint that this Quartet was led by its 'cello, but, although Mr. Warwick-Evans is very occasionally too prominent, the reproach is no longer a just one. Of the viola playing it can scarcely be necessary to speak: Mr. Warner has a genius for, and is a genius in, chamber music. The absolute perfection and utter finish of which this Quartet can boast come not through the absence of individuality but through a trained yet natural unanimity of conception. Other Quartets (for example, the Bohemian String Quartet, on a series of performances by whom I hope soon to comment) certainly have more individuality, but none has such exquisite finish and such refinement of tone. In these things it is, I should think, without its compeer in the world.

If there is one word to fit Beethoven, it is "colossal." Even in his earlier quartets, the six Lobkowitzs and the three Rasoumowskys, he is unique; you find him writing in Op 18 (No. 3), for instance, an *Andante* which in the simplicity of its tune attains a greatness never reached by any other composer of chamber music. As early as Op. 95, written in 1810, you find him as modern as you may like or dislike; while in Op. 133, the "Grosse Fuge," written in 1825, you find him most startlingly modern. The last work, indeed, if it had been written to-day (and such a thing, of course, is inconceivable), would certainly have been hailed or damned as radical. (It is a most amazing admixture of melancholy sweetness and of exuberance, and, though originally intended as a Finale to Op. 130 [the thirteenth quartet], seemed to merit its position as a separate quartet.) Thus, to say that Beethoven is always new is, when speaking of his main works, literally the truth. It may surprise some people to know that few Quartets are capable of playing the whole of Beethoven, for, though he is nearly a century dead, the import of his later works is still far from clear. That the London String Quartet were never in doubt as to their interpretation of him signifies much for their musical, as distinct from their technical, knowledge.

Beethoven's career is commonly divided into three periods:—(1) Imitation—until 1801; (2) Transition—1801-1815; (3) Reflection—1815-1827. This division has, like all arbitrary divisions, many disadvantages; but for the quartets it certainly is of certain use. The first six quartets, written in 1800, are sometimes as much Haydn as Beethoven; the form and the conceptions, with a few new ideas, are set and not created. In the second period, during which he wrote the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh quartets, he was occupied chiefly with his mighty orchestral works, the outcome of the recognition of his individual lot as part of a universal experience. And in the last period, the period of his remaining six quartets, when blindness had overcome him, and when he was meeting his fate with noble serenity, he is reflecting upon life in general. It is these later quartets which stamp Beethoven as the most dominant personality in all music. Without the "Solemn Mass," without the ninth Symphony, even with the great last sonatas (all of which were written during his last few years), these quartets would preserve Beethoven's fame as the most colossal and most dignified mind in music. The only names that can approach his are those of Bach and Wagner, and the energies of these were not directed towards chamber music. To undertake, therefore, for six days to unravel Beethoven's mind is an achievement of which the London String Quartet may well be proud, and one for which the London public should be eternally grateful. I hope that this is the initiation of a series of such performances on the part of this Quartet, for it is an example which should mark (for other nations to behold, and for us to enjoy) the British as really, if not consistently, one of the most musical races in modern times.

An Arabian Jewish Folk-song was included in the violin recital which Mr. Dushkin gave at the Wigmore Hall on April 22. How far Jewish music is essentially Jewish is a matter on which few people know much; but this song of the Yemenite Jews certainly seemed to be quite original, and derived unmistakably from a minor and unhappy land. It was played with a feeling that was all the more deep for not being excessive; but everything that Mr. Dushkin does is performed with fastidious sense and refined judgment.

On the following day, at the same hall, another Russian violinist, Miss Lena Kontorovitch, gave a recital, and raised a good deal of enthusiasm. She commenced with Elgar's now well-known Sonata and into it she certainly infused much beauty. Her tone and phrasing were especially good, and though there was scarcely the stamp of individuality in her performance, there was never any falsity of taste. She was even better in Bach's unaccompanied Suite in E major, playing with a clarity and finish which, seeing the incompleteness of her technique, were unexpectedly pleasing. It was not good, after this, to hear her descend (relatively) to trifles by Saint-Saëns and d'Erlanger; but she had already proved herself an artist who is not far below the first rank.

A very different reading of Elgar's Sonata was made by Mr. Alexander Cohen at his recital (with Mr. Anderson Tyrer at the pianoforte) on April 24 at the Æolian Hall. Mr. Cohen's playing was limited only by his technique; he always knew, and obviously felt deeply, what ought to be expressed, but he did not always express it. The spirituality of the violin playing and the loveliness of the pianist's playing would have been overwhelming but for the hitches on the strings; there were consequently a series of spells rather than a continuous one. Franck's Sonata in A, Medtner's Three Night Pieces, and Catoire's Poem Sonata (Op. 20) were all performed with the same depth and fineness.

Upon April 23, St. George's Day, there was a concert at the Queen's Hall organised by "Brother" Ernest Newland-smith. In celebration of this day—a celebration which is only partially, but should be rigidly, observed—musical services were held in the cathedrals and processions were organised by the League of Arts (an account of whose work I hope to give soon), but the Queen's Hall was the only performance at which I was able to be present. This, moreover, consisted of "an appeal to Church and State," and had an object other than a purely musical one; it therefore lay outside my province. The moral mission of art, which "Brother" Newlandsmith maintained was its only purpose, is a question into which I cannot enter here; I can only add that the achievements, vocal and instrumental, made at this concert fell humanly short of the angelic ideal.

At the Æolian Hall on April 27 a group of young musicians, who are also artists (including Mr. Arthur Bliss as conductor, Mr. Gerald Cooper as singer, and the Philharmonic String Quartet), conspired to give a programme that was at once notable and notorious. For they produced for the first time in England Stravinsky's 'Ragtime." Having enjoyed their mirth, and having escaped with nothing more than a polite sort of applause, these young men should refrain from any more public tricks. For in the music was nothing but offence, and the only really funny thing in the whole show was the painfully serious back of the conductor. Even if Stravinsky is to go the way of Erik Satie, whose ineffable compositions at the Empire a few months ago are unfortunately not yet forgotten, there is surely no need to proclaim the fact. Cannot such demonstrations be left to those countries which believe in progress?

Mlle. Yvonne Arnaud will certainly be known to the English readers of this journal as an accomplished musical comedy actress, but at the Wigmore Hall on April 30 she showed her versatility by playing at the pianoforte in a concert of French chamber music. In some pieces for 'cello and pianoforte by Caix d'Herveloix and Chausson she played with discretion and unobtrusiveness; but in César Franck's Quintet, in which M. Mangeot and Miss Sylvia Sparrow were the violins, Mr. Jeremy the viola, and M. Pitsch the 'cello, her zeal outran her. In a bad performance of this Quintet, however, she was by no means the only sinner; in the matter of wrong notes alone the second violin transgressed beyond all hope of forgiveness. Mlle. Arnaud fully realised the charm of French chamber music, but she did not succeed in inducing (with the partial exception of M. Pitsch) the others to infuse much body or dignity into it.

ANDANTE.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"ALBANIA, The Master Key to the Near East." By Christo A. Dako. (Boston, U.S.A., E. L. Grimes Company. Price $3.50. Post free.)

II.—"THE HANDBOOK OF CYPRUS." By H. C. Luke and D. J. Jardine, O.B.E. (London: Macmillan and Co. 12s. net.)

I.—THE CASE FOR ALBANIA.

The Supreme Council has travelled so far from the principle of nationality in its settlement of the Near Eastern question that it will seem to many like beating the air to invoke the doctrine at this stage. But there is still one country that fondly nurses to itself the hope that the Great Powers will, at least in its case, remember their pledges and see that justice is done to its people in the final settlement. The prospect for Albania, it is to be feared, is not very bright. Practically the first time the Supreme Council deigned to notice its existence was to propose the allocation of substantial portions of Albanian territory to Yugoslavia and Greece by way of compensation for disappointments elsewhere. Already at the outbreak of the war Italy had proclaimed a protectorate over Albania, and it seems to occur to no one of the Allied Governments that, whatever claim to Valona may be made out on Italy's behalf from a military or Imperialist point of view, there can be none on the basis of nationality or self-determination.

In this book on Albania an Albanian states the case for his own country. As might be expected, M. Christo Dako is outspoken; he reflects the spirit of the Albanian mountaineer, and is not concerned with the veiled phraseology of diplomacy. An Albanian, at any rate, will not be accused of Imperialist designs. The Ishmael of the Balkans has so little in common with any other nationality that he could not bring himself to desire even jurisdiction over aliens. Certainly he desires still less that aliens should have jurisdiction over him, and his "case" is that he should be left to himself. So strong, indeed, is his national consciousness that he is prepared, backward in civilisation as he admits himself to be, to dispense with any protection or administrative advice.

But we may let M. Dako speak for himself, and from the following extracts the tenour and purpose of the book can be gauged. As the author writes in a foreign language, he is to be congratulated on his achievement; but it is a matter for regret that he has not been better served by the writer of the preface or some other friend, who might have touched up his English here and there, and by his publisher, who might have printed the chapter headings at the top of each page, instead of repeating the badly divided title of the book.

After sketching the recent history of Albania, M. Dako sums up the position thus:—

> Not only the inhabitants of Albania itself could not be persuaded either by political oppression or by religious intrigue, or by foreign propaganda of civilisation and culture to abandon their national characteristics and national consciousness, but even those who emigrated into foreign countries did not do so, as may be seen by the survival for centuries of the Albanian colonies in Calabria (Italy) and Attica (Greece).

And he adds:—

> What do all these historical facts mean? Do they mean that the Albanians are incapable of civilisation and progress? No. They simply tell us that the Albanian nation held itself *always* distinct from its neighbours, neither sharing their sympathies nor their aversions. They tell us that the Albanians have rejected, with an equal impartiality, the civilisation of Greece, Rome, and Byzantium. . . . They demonstrate that the Albanian nation is of a stock with *strong national consciousness*, that of being Albanian by race, language, customs, and feeling and therefore impossible to be assimilated.

From these premises, supported by strong denunciation of Italian, Greek, and Serbian action against the Albanians, the author passes to what he claims can be the only solution:—

> The restoration of Albania cannot possibly have another political status, except that of a sovereign independent state, politically and economically, for only under such a status will she be free from all foreign intrigues, able to develop and progress, and become an element of good order and peace in the Balkans.

It is only fair to the author to add that, although he writes in America, he has had personal experience of the troubles through which Albania has been passing, and he is ready with both a political and an educational programme for the reconstruction of Albania as an independent State.

II.—CYPRUS.

This useful guide appeared originally in 1901, the editors being the late C. D. Cobham, C.M.G. (so well known to all interested in Cyprus) and Sir Joseph Hutchinson. Several issues followed up to 1909. The first editors considered that "in point of bulk" the small volume of about 120 pages had "probably reached its limit." In 1913, however, two officials, Mr. H. C. Luke (author of "The Fringe of the East," etc.) and Mr. D. J. Jardine, took over the task and greatly improved the scope of the work by the addition of much useful information. And now, after an interval of six years, a fresh edition, which has grown to 300 pages, gives further proof that the work has fallen into able hands. It has become, in fact, a valuable and up-to-date handbook, and presents vivid sketches of the island under most of its aspects.

The historical portion has been judiciously expanded, and furnishes a concise but very interesting record, from the legendary period of mythology, through classic and mediæval ages, up to the present time. The island has known prosperous times, and many long centuries of adversity. The most brilliant epoch was that of the Lusignan kings, which followed the conquest of the island by our crusading King, Richard Cœur de Lion (1191 A.D.). They ruled for three centuries (to 1489), and left as memorials the splendid remains of French Gothic architecture, which date from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and are among the principal attractions of the island. It was a period of feudal pomp, of sport, and luxury, to be followed by ages of poverty and desolation, which, happily for the people, ended with the British occupation.

Honesty compels the admission that during our tenure and trusteeship all has not been done that should have been done. The reader will gather, none the less, what a transformation has been effected in the life and fortunes of the Cypriots since 1878, when there was not a post office or a printing press in the island, and not a road except an indifferent stretch of 26 miles from the "port" of Larnaka to Nicosia. A company now runs motor-cars between the six principal towns. The population has increased from 180,000 to 307,000, including about 60,000 Moslems and 147,000 non-Moslems. Under normal pre-war conditions Cyprus could be reached in five and a-half days from England and eighteen hours from Port Said.

The island is far less visited than it deserves to be, for its fascinations are great, and call for even more space perhaps than is bestowed upon them. The reasons why it has not been brought into the itinerary of travellers is simple. Neither hotel accommodation nor steam communication is what it should be, for the tourist of to-day expects to travel in comfort and to find good quarters on arrival. Moreover, nothing has been done locally to develop a tourist trade. When peace restores the world to more normal conditions facilities should be increased, and visitors may be confidently advised to spend a few weeks in the island during the winter season (November to May). In the heat of summer it should become more and more a holiday resort and sanatorium. Travellers will always visit Egypt and Palestine, and many will again prolong their tour to Smyrna, Constantinople, and Greece. No one would regret a passing sojourn in Cyprus, and for those who contemplate one this handbook is precisely what is required. A map, reduced from Lord Kitchener's survey, shows the administrative districts, the roads and railway, and forest land is now coloured green.

The war, during which Cyprus proved useful in various ways, has inevitably affected the cost of living, for "prices have risen immoderately, and still continue to rise." There would be nothing to mar the picture of steady, if slow, progress, were it not that an agitation, fostered by the Greek-speaking town communities, for union with Greece has tended to place a drag on the wheel. The reports of successive High Commissioners show clearly how needful is the co-operation of the Cypriots themselves towards the restoration of prosperity, which has been lost, but can yet be regained.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"The Chorales." By A. W. Wilson, M.A., Mus. Doc. (London: The Faith Press, Ltd. 4s. 6d.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. May	1920. April		1338. Shaban.	5680. Iyar.
6	23	Thursday	17	18
7	24	Friday	18	19
8	25	Saturday	19	20
9	26	Sunday	20	21
10	27	Monday	21	22
11	28	Tuesday	22	23
12	29	Wednesday	23	24

The Maharani of Baroda returned to London on April 29 from Paris.

Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. George Akers-Douglas returned to London on April 29 from the Continent.

Brigadier-General the Hon. Charles and Mrs. Fortescue have arrived in London from Dalmatia.

M. Frederic Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, is back in London from Bucharest.

Sir Lancelot Sanderson, Chief Justice of Bengal, arrived at Plymouth on April 27 from India.

M. Alexandre Cretziano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on April 30 from Paris.

M. Pashitch, head of the Yugoslav Peace Delegation, has left Belgrade for Paris, having now recovered from his illness.

Mr. Alex. Devine, who has been visiting Trieste on behalf of the British Relief Mission to Montenegro, has left Rome for Paris and London.

On April 28 Lord Allenby personally invested the Emir Abdulla, second son of the King of the Hejaz, with the Grand Cross of the British Empire.

Viscount Allenby was officially represented at the funeral of the Egyptian students who were killed in the recent railway disaster in Austria.

Mrs. Arthur F. Walter, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. A. E. Gill, left on April 29 in the steamship Lancashire on a visit to Egypt and Palestine.

Sir Arthur Evans delivered a lecture on the excavations of King Minos's Palace at Cnossos, in Crete, at a meeting of the Anglo-Swedish Society at Stockholm on April 26.

The Shah of Persia, who left Paris for home on April 28, paid a visit on the previous day to the President of the Republic and bestowed upon him the Collar of the Order of the Crown of Persia.

Dr. Howard S. Bliss, the President of the Syrian Protestant College, Beyrout, having given evidence on behalf of Syria before the Peace Conference, sailed on May 2 for New York.

The Earl of Lytton, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, has completed his inquiry into the pay and conditions of the native workmen employed in the dockyard at Malta, and left on April 28 for Syracuse *en route* for England.

Donations for the establishment of medical scholarships for Serbian girls should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. H. Flinders Petrie, care of Dr. Dickinson Berry, 21, Wimpole Street, W.1 (London Provincial and Union Bank of England).

The members of the Royal Navy Club 1765-85 will dine at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue on May 18 to celebrate the Battle of the Nile (August 1, 1798) and the bombardment of Algiers (August 27, 1816). Admiral Sir R. Nelson Ommanney will preside, and the guest will be Air Commodore E. M. Maitland.

The annual Indian Cavalry Dinner will be held at the Savoy Hotel (Embankment entrance) on June 8, at 8 p.m. Early application for tickets should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Austin Low, Esq., C.I.E., Messrs. Grindlay and Co., 54, Parliament Street, S.W.1.

The members of the Indian Khalifat Delegation were entertained at dinner by the Cambridge Moslem Association on May 1. The President (Mr. S. J. Imam) took the chair, and was supported by Professor E. G. Browne, Mr. J. C. Lawson, Dr. H. Rackham, and other members of the University.

Sir Herbert G. Dering, his Majesty's High Commissioner in Bulgaria, was married on April 27 at Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, to Edith A. Mountjoy, widow of J. R. Middleton Smith. Among those present were Sir Henry and Lady Dering, the Hon. Lady Bromley and the Hon. Audrey Pauncefote, the Hon. A. and Mrs. Akers-Douglas, Sir Algernon and the Hon. Lady Law, Lady Joyce, Sir Rennell Rodd, Lady Addis, Sir Ernest and Lady Birch, General and Mrs. Dundonald Cochrane, and Colonel and Mrs. R. McCalmont.

The Royal Geographical Society has arranged for the following lectures to be delivered in the Æolian Hall (135, New Bond Street) at 8.30 p.m. on the dates stated:—"The Valleys of Kham," by Capt. F. Kingdon Ward, on May 17; "Ocean Research in the Dutch East Indies," by Prof. Dr. G. A. F. Molengraaf, on June 7; and "Through South-West Abyssinia to the Nile," by Major L. F. I. Athill.

The marriage of Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., of Ockham, Hurst Green, Sussex, and 63, Queen's Gate, and Miss Beatrice Greig, elder daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Greig, of Ridge House, St. George's Hill, Weybridge, and half-sister of the Archdeacon of Worcester, was celebrated on April 29 at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. The officiating clergy were the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, the Rev. A. G. Rogers, rector of Catton, Surrey, and the Rev. C. Bicknell. The reception was held at Claridge's, and was attended by over four hundred guests, these including Constance Lady Boyle, Miss J. Greig, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Guy Gold, Major and Lady Dorothy Henley, the Serbian Minister, the Hon. Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius, the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires, the Earl and Countess of Haddo, Lord Channing and the Hon. Julia Channing, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree, Lady Grogan, Sir John Cockburn, Sir Charles des Graz, Sir Krishna Gupta, Sir John Stavridi, Sir Cecil Hertslet, Sir John and Lady Jordan, Sir Roper Parkington, Lady Acland, Lady Cowen, Mrs. John Mavrogordato, and Major Boyd-Carpenter, M.P.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. George Cretziano has been appointed Roumanian Minister to Brussels. He was formerly Minister in Madrid.

Sir Herbert Dering was received on May 1 in audience by the King, and kissed hands upon his appointment as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary Designate to the King of the Bulgarians.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred in Athens of M. Vlassios Gabrielidis, editor of the *Acropolis*. He occupied a very prominent position in Greek journalism.

Mr. T. H. S. Biddulph, who died in London on April 24, had a distinguished career in the Financial Department of the Government of India, which he joined in 1869. His first appointments were in the Accounts branch of the Public Works and Railway Department. After holding the important posts of Accountant-General, Bengal (1896) and Madras (1900) he was selected in 1901 to re-organise the finances of Patiala State, a most difficult task. Mr. Biddulph was engaged in this till his retirement in 1909. The Government of India marked its appreciation of Mr. Biddulph's labours by recommending his appointment as a Companion of the Indian Empire, in June, 1907.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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SPELLS OF RUSSIA.

To go from the Royal Academy to the Grafton Gallery, where nearly 200 paintings by Nicolas Roerich are exhibited, is to experience the joy of emerging from the stifling air of narrow officialdom and of entering into the invigorating atmosphere of broad independence. For the pictures of this Russian master, whose work is derivative only in the sense that all great work must of necessity have some points of comparison with other great works, come as a refreshing surprise, even to those who knew his earlier paintings. It would be superfluous to enumerate the merits of Roerich: of form and of conception alike he is such a master that his work must be seen to be believed.

To readers of THE NEAR EAST, Nos. 12, 14, and 173—"Burgustan, Caucasus," "The Blue Range, Caucasus," and a sketch called "A Persian Theatre" will be of peculiar interest; but it is difficult to imagine that the other paintings, which consist chiefly of the historical or present landscape, life and spirit of Northern Russia, could possibly fail to fascinate anyone. The wealth of colour at Roerich's command, colour which both indicates and inspires an intensity of feeling; the uncanny wanderings, together with the deliberate purpose of his genius; the magnetic mysticism which informs his legendary or spiritual compositions—these are things of which dreams are made, but of which the reality is seldom seen. It may be that a full comprehension of his art is not possible; it may be that as yet so strong and so strange a personality is too much for Western minds to appreciate. Whether that be so or not, it is certain that the startling vagueness of impression which his work creates will, of its nature, be the less easy to forget.

The most sure and the most sudden thing in the exhibition is the responsiveness which Roerich's pictures evoke; this appeal they make is always certain, though not often precise. Ignorant or understanding, you must enter into the secret of these pictures; it is impossible coldly and from a distance to admire them. Take, for instance, No. 15—"Confession" (but which I understood from Mme. Jarintzov, the author of an illuminating brochure upon Roerich, should more accurately be "Repentance"); it is the picture of a solitary figure wending her way through the snow to an old Russian church—here is a perfect and most moving presentation of an emotion and of an act known to all mankind. Or take No. 98, "The Call of the Sun"; it is the very apotheosis of the old pagan spirit which informed the lives of the early Russians. But there is nothing that Roerich draws which has not a meaning; in places, indeed, he touches the very fundamentals of life. It is this very greatness, this originality, this universality of his conceptions that makes his work so indefinable. Suffice it to say that in this exhibition of his work there is matter for days' study and for weeks' pondering, and that, in more utilitarian terms, the work of Roerich is worth the whole of the Academy put together.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Serbian military censorship was to be abolished as from May 5.

According to latest estimates, 85 people were killed and 83 injured in the recent railway disaster at Moradabad, India.

Daylight saving measures have been introduced into Yugoslavia, clocks having been put forward one hour on the night of April 9-10.

Anzavour Pasha, leader of the anti-Nationalist movement in Anatolia, has arrived in Constantinople, and has been received by the Sultan.

Committees are being appointed for welcoming the Prince of Wales at Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, and other important centres throughout India.

Mgr. Barlassina, Patriarch of Jerusalem, was received by the Pope on April 25. His Holiness showed a deep interest in the present situation in Palestine.

L'Echo de Bulgarie, which is published at Sofia, has been forced, owing to the increased cost of paper and of labour, to raise its price from 30 to 50 stotinki per copy.

Intending visitors to Zagreb should note that the difficulty of obtaining accommodation there is very great. The housing question has assumed such serious proportions that the authorities have taken over everything and "billet" everybody. People with large houses have to give up rooms which are not necessary for their own use, and the situation is extremely difficult. No visitors are given more than a two-days' permit by the Bureau des Etrangers, and every visitor must accept the hotel accommodation allotted to him or her by that office.

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WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1920.

LESSONS FROM THE PACT OF LONDON.

The official text of the Treaty of London, the agreement between Italy, France, Great Britain, and Russia, signed in London on April 26, 1915, on the eve of Italy's entering into the war, has now been published. In spite of the threat recently conveyed to the Yugoslav Government that the Supreme Council in certain circumstances might allow its provisions to be put into force, the Pact is as dead as it deserves to be. Apart from the historical interest attaching to it, however, its publication at this stage may well serve a useful purpose, as the document affords a valuable object-lesson to Governments and peoples. The treaty was concluded at a time when the Entente Powers were in special need of Italy's help against the Central Powers, and to secure this help they showed themselves ready to sacrifice principles and common sense. In so far as the British and French Governments undertook to reward Italy at the expense of their own countries, they were entirely within their rights; Italy had the advantage in the bargaining, and was virtually able to dictate her own terms. When, however, she claimed territory belonging to third parties, the Allies were in such a strong position to resist the demands, or to refuse to commit themselves until the views of those concerned could be ascertained, that a firm stand on the point must have facilitated the negotiations by convincing Italy that there were limits beyond which she could not hope to push the Entente. Deprived of their sheet-anchor of moral considerations, the latter were no match for Italy in the game of bargaining. The terms agreed upon with regard to the eastern coast of the Adriatic showed a lamentable ignorance of the Near Eastern question as a whole; the disposal of Albania and of the islands of the Dodecanese was a cynical endorsement of the very policy which was declared to be the head and front of Germany's offending. Unless all the signs are at fault, there is a danger that history may repeat itself, and that principles and common sense may once more be sacrificed, this time to enable the Allies to follow the smoothest road to an early settlement. The goal to be reached in 1915 was Italy's co-operation, and to gain it scant attention was paid to details. To-day it is desired to wind up the tedious Peace Conference, in order, apparently, that what is at present most unmistakably the Allies' business may become nobody's. The Pact of London has been directly responsible for the delay in the arrival at an understanding between the Italians and the Yugoslavs, and may yet bring the two peoples to war. The misgivings aroused five years ago among the Serbians have never been wholly allayed, and these have in turn served to stiffen Italy's insistence upon her pound of flesh. Among the Allies there has appeared no statesman capable of mastering the complicated question and strong in the confidence of a righteous cause, who might have compelled the contending parties into reasonableness. Consequently the quarrel over the Adriatic continues, and, directly or indirectly, helps to swell the volume of unrest and strife in Europe and Asia.

That the Allies have travelled a very little distance on the road to knowledge since 1915 is apparent from some of the decisions that have already been taken. They have, however, the experience of the mistake made with Italy. It would be invidious now to attempt to strike a balance between Italy's war contribution and the part that she has subsequently played both as a handicap to an early settlement and a clog on reconstruction in South-Eastern Europe. But there can be little doubt that, if the Entente politicians who signed the Pact of London could have foreseen the course of events, with its Caporetto and Fiume, they would have been less eager to prejudice their own cause by acquiescing in Italy's imperialist demands. Their necessity at the time was their excuse. The plea no longer holds good. The need for an early settlement is admitted, but the signing of the Turkish treaty does not promise to settle anything in connexion with the chief danger spots in Asia Minor, Transcaucasia, and Syria. For the settlement of these problems two things are essential to the Allies, candour as between themselves and strict adherence to all that they have so repeatedly declared to be their war aims. It is to be hoped that the San Remo Conference has done something to establish the advantage of the former. Until the exchange of plain speaking between Great Britain and France there had been a tendency on the part of the Allied Great Powers to imagine that difficult questions might be settled by studiously affecting to ignore them. President Wilson has tried to break down this diplomatic fallacy, but circumstances have combined to weaken the stand that he made for straight dealing. The trouble in Turkey at the present moment is largely due to a lack of candour among the Allies in regard to the Turkish settlement. To counteract the supposed weakness for the Turks on the part of one Power, two others have adopted a policy which has encouraged a certain section of the Turks in their *intransigeance*. A candid exchange of views and insistence upon officials on the spot carrying out in the spirit and to the letter the intentions of their respective Governments would have robbed the Turkish question of many of its thorny points. Again, it is of little use for one Power to model its policy on the principle of nationality and to pay deference to national susceptibilities, if it allows an ally to offend in this respect at every turn. Great Britain experienced the embarrassment and danger of this subservience during the many years that a mistaken sense of loyalty to the Anglo-Russian agreement caused her to countenance her ally's aggression against the Persians. There is no reason to perpetuate that weakness, particularly as the resultant evil will be far more serious in the case of Syria and Mesopotamia than in that of Persia.

At the back of the minds of the signatories of the Treaty of London there was probably the idea that, provided that the present was secured, the future could be left to look after itself. The incentive to follow the same line of least resistance is as strong now as at any time during the war, but such a policy can only prove fatal to the world's hope for peace. There has been a manifest desire to apply it to Transcaucasia and Central Asia, with the result that the situation in those territories has gone from bad to worse. With the passing of Baku into Bolshevist hands it is impossible to disguise the seriousness of the position. Less is to be feared, perhaps, from "Red" armies than from "Red" doctrines. It is the spread of the latter rather than the advance of the former which is responsible for the Baku success, although the Russian Bolshevists had made the oilfields an objective from the first, and will know how to take advantage of the new developments at the Tartar capital. The mistake made by the Allies is to suppose that there is no alternative to a military expedition for the help of the countries threatened by Bolshevism. In the last two issues of THE NEAR EAST Mr. Ikbal Ali Shah has called attention to the policy of drift in Central Asia that has allowed the Bolshevists and the Afghans to come together. Red armies may have been in the background, but the Bolshevist success was based on a thorough knowledge of the situation in Afghanistan, and was achieved by exploiting Afghan misgivings in India. It is not to be supposed that Kabul was an objective in itself; through Afghanistan the Bolshevists hope to reach India, and through India to aim at Great Britain. Some expenditure of money was necessary; but the most effective weapon would seem to have been skilful propagandism, which in turn has been helped by British *laissez faire*. With the accession of Aman Ullah it was to be expected that Afghanistan would try to gravitate towards the north. There was no reason, however, why the Bolshevists should have everything their own way, and the reopening of negotia-

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tions between Afghanistan and India six months after the treaty had been signed suggested that circumstances were proving too strong for Kabul. The discussion has been interrupted, apparently on no adequate ground. It will be unfortunate if the British Government lets slip the opportunity of regaining the confidence of Afghanistan. If the pernicious effect of Bolshevist intrigue across the Border had been appreciated, there would have been considerable reluctance to allow the meeting to be rendered nugatory. Propaganda must be met by propaganda, and both in Transcaucasia and Central Asia it must be on a large scale and well informed if it is to be successful.

AMONG THE RED SEA CORAL REEFS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The well-known Parsee firm of Cowasjee Dinshaw and Brothers runs a number of small steamers between Aden and South Arabian and Red Sea ports, and it was one of these that we boarded after dinner at Hodeidah, in the Tehama, for a trip to Jeizan, in Asir, some 130 miles to the north. The ship lay a mile and a half from the shore, and we found her surrounded by dhows into which were being discharged Busreh dates packed in palm matting, Bombay flour in sacks, and bales of piece goods, also from Bombay; while roped to her stern were six small dhows laden with hides and coffee berries, both packed in the ever-useful palm matting, for shipment to Aden *en route* to European markets. The captain had had our beds made up on the roomy bridge; but with the incessant noise of the winches on either side of us and the Bedlam of shouting from the Arabs and Somalis in the dhows, sleep was wooed in vain. It was late next morning when the hatches were closed and the ship weighed anchor.

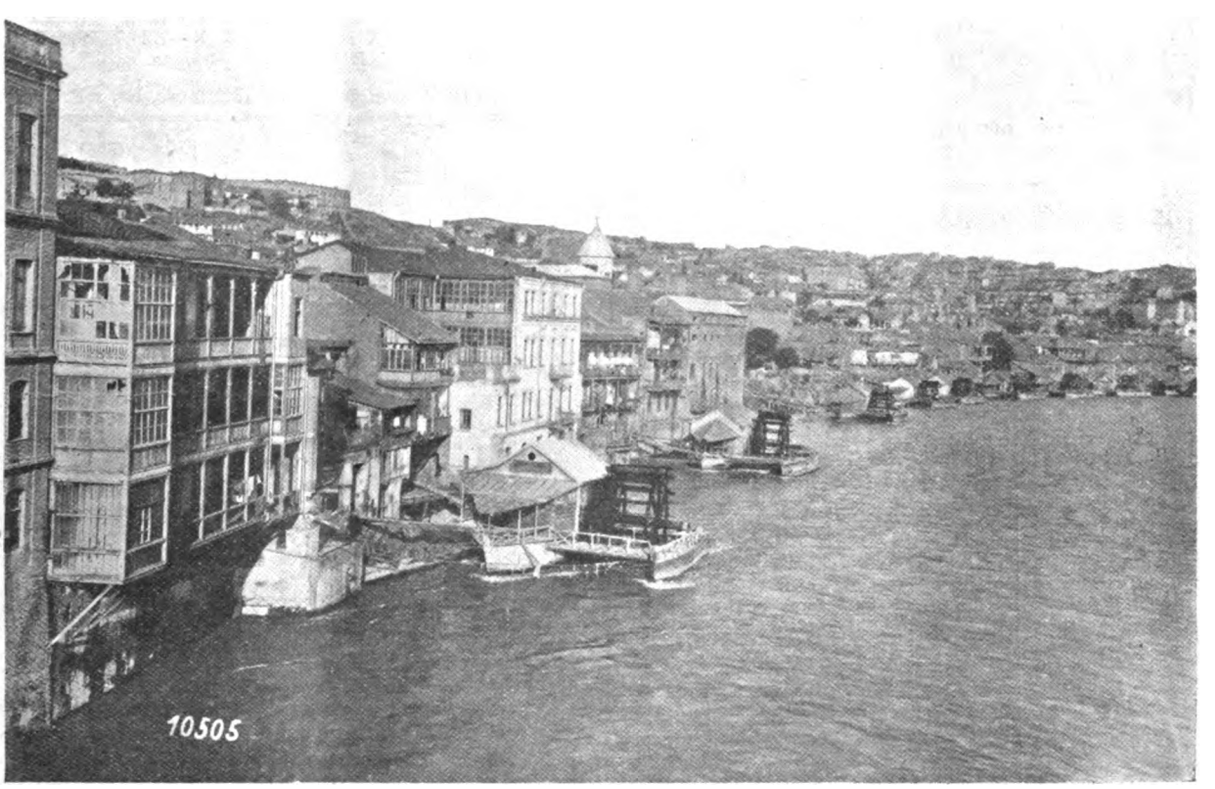
A call was made at the island of Kamaran, on which is the Turkish quarantine station for pilgrims to Mecca, at present in charge of the British military authorities. There is a neat and clean village on this sandy island, situated in a pleasing little bay and close to the lazarette; the water, too, is beautifully clean and clear; and cleanliness seems the great feature of the place, as it rightly should be. At the Military Administrator's house small trees are being assiduously encouraged to continue their difficult existence. These, with a few palms, are the only evidence of plant life, but officers declare that they have been happier at Kamaran than in other of these seemingly unnatural geographical phenomena on which the imperial Englishman is called upon to spend a portion of his life in Arabia and other ill-provided countries.

Opposite to Kamaran on the mainland is Salif, where there are valuable salt mines, which are not at present being worked.

Leaving Kamaran at tea-time, we steam northwards among the coral reefs, in view always of the low-lying sandy coast, monotonous and uninteresting save for an occasional hill or headland, village, or short stretch of palm trees. At a distance from the sea, varying from forty to fifteen miles, runs a mountain chain; it is, however, seldom visible, owing to a haze which enshrouds it during the greater part of the year, and which robs us of the interest and beauty of scene that a clear atmosphere would lend to the traveller. High peaks, rising to ten thousand feet, are to be found in the highlands of the Yemen and Asir, barriers of a mysterious land.

The ship follows a tortuous track inside the main line of reefs, anchoring for the night off the town of Loheiya, whose white coral-lime houses stand out conspicuously in the evening light. Loheiya is built on a prominent headland, and is the chief port of Asir. It is now struggling to re-establish its trade, which was seriously interrupted during the war.

It would be foolhardy to navigate a ship among these reefs in the dark, and a good many sailors would not care for the job even in daylight. Some of the obstructions stand out by day as low but well-defined sandy islands and islets, sometimes with some scrub or a palm tree to add to their visibility; some are just awash, their presence betrayed by breakers when there is wind, while in calm water they remind one of an alligator lying in wait for his prey; and some are just below the surface of the sea, giving to the water a beautiful light-green colour, as warning of their presence. The mariner cannot steer a course by chart only, for the chart is inaccurate; and, were it accurate, he would still have to see exactly where he was going, for there are no lights in these waters and no buoyed channels. Even by day, in good light, it is extremely difficult to pick out one's way when the course steered is straight into the sun. Shoals abound, also, which show no sign to the eye and make the pilot's vigil the more anxious. Our captain, however, knows every reef and every shoal; and he refers to them in terms of affection



TIFLIS.

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or dislike, as though they were alive and possessed of personality and purpose.

As might be expected, these shoal waters are full of fish. The sea, in fact, seems literally alive with them, for wherever you look, at all times of day, you see their splash on the surface, you see them leap from the water, and you see them in flight over it. The porpoise, black-fish, shark and whale are all present, the black-fish and whale only in deeper waters and the last-named seldom seen. Mother-of-pearl shells are found, and there are pearl oyster fisheries conducted in primitive fashion by the Arabs, and no doubt capable of scientific cultivation and extension.

At Jeizan the cargo discharged and shipped was of the same character as that at Hodeidah. The Jeizan boatmen are Arabs, Negroes, Somalis, and men of an admixture of any two or all three of these races. They occupy a low place in the scale of civilisation, and are as abrupt in their behaviour as are the whole people of the Arab coast; but we heard less of their voice that night at Jeizan than we had expected, and were fortunate enough to sleep a little. Jeizan is a village built at the base of a brown rock headland which stands sentinel on a barren shore, a village of some two hundred conical huts, built of brushwood on wooden frame, mud plastered inside, and some thirty or forty small stone houses. There is a round stone fort on the hill-top, and a large stone house for guests is in course of construction. Water is brought on camels from a distance, and is of poor quality and brackish. There is a considerable trade with Aden, but the bazaar is small and mean in appearance, not apparently much affected by the movement of goods to and from the interior.

This small port shares with the larger hut-town of Sabiya, a few miles inland, the honour of being the home of Sayyid Mohammed el Idris, the ruler of Asir, one of the five important chiefs of Arabia. The house of Idris has ruled in Asir for a few generations only, and cannot compare in lineage with other rulers of the land, who trace a far descent; but as the leader of the Ahmadi teaching in Islam, promulgated by his ancestor, the Idrissi is held in greater reverence than some of his compeers who guide their rival factions of the Faith. For chiefs in Arabia find it convenient to control both religious and temporal affairs, and make much use of spiritual aids to worldly advancement, which are sometimes moral, sometimes not. He is said to expend his State revenues entirely on purposes of State, and to meet all his personal expenditure from his private income, consequently enjoying repute which adds to his fame as a man of generous, tolerant and kindly disposition. Sayyid Mohammed accounts himself and is accounted by the people of the country as the firm friend and ally of Great Britain, and he played an honourable part in the Great War against the common enemy, the Turk, who formerly held precarious sway in this part of Arabia.

We had proposed to spend the night ashore with the kindly Sayyid who was our host, an elderly man of the ruling family who is so assiduous in the continual telling of beads that he seems to grudge the few words he occasionally permits to escape between his almost silent, mumbled prayers; but sandflies and mosquitoes drove us to the ship, and after another noisy night at anchor we sailed at dawn and retraced our track among the reefs.

EARLY MESOPOTAMIAN PEOPLES.

The "Origin of the Dwellers in Mesopotamia" was the title of a lecture by Mr. R. Campbell Thomson given at the Royal Institution on April 29. He said there were three primitive peoples who had contributed to the earliest inhabitants of that country. One of these, the Semites, were an offshoot of the race which, in neolithic times, inhabited the Mediterranean basin. This Mediterranean race had split into two divisions, the Nordic and the Hamitic. The pre-dynastic Egyptians were of the Hamitic race. They had long narrow heads, pointed chins and small beards; their hair was black or brown, and never woolly, like the negro's. From this Hamitic race an offshoot had pushed over into Arabia, and to this day the Arabs of Southern Arabia bore a marked resemblance to the pre-dynastic Egyptians. This branch of the Hamitic people became the Semites, and, striking northwards, had divided into Hebrews, Arameans, and Syro-Babylonians, the last of whom had occupied the middle and lower regions of Mesopotamia, but not the mountainous northern country. In Mesopotamia the Semites had met two other prehistoric peoples; one of these were the Sumerians, a Huranian race, who had come from the Pamirs about 3000 or 4000 B.C. They were a branch of the Armenoids, a broad headed race, with bushy beards, and these bushy beards they had given to the mixed race which had sprung from the union of the Semites and Sumerians. The third people were of Mongol type. They had come from Anan, 300 miles east of the Caspian, where it was claimed their civilisation could be traced back to 8000 B.C. In their original home they had been a people who hunted the horse and afterwards domesticated it. About 3000 B.C. they had a knowledge of copper; they had no gold or silver. From about 4300 B.C. they developed pottery, although they did not use the potter's wheel. Their pottery could be identified by a simple geometrical pattern with which it was decorated, and was found as far west as Anatolia and Southern Palestine.

Besides anthropological resemblances, the lecturer traced links between the Egyptian and Semitic languages and between Turkish and Sumerian. The lecture was illustrated with a number of interesting lantern slides.

CHESS.

I understand that an international tournament will be held at Veldes, Yugoslavia, commencing on June 15. It is proposed to have a double round contest, and the entries will apparently be limited to ten.

M. Kostitch has just completed a brief tour in Scotland and Ireland, in the course of which he gave four simultaneous exhibitions, in which he lost only four games out of 97.

The match in the London League between the Metropolitan and Brixton Chess Clubs has resulted on adjudication in a victory for the former by 3½ to 7½. The result leaves North London head of the league.

A short Whitsuntide tour has been arranged by the Hastings Chess Club, in the course of which matches will be played with Oxford University, Oxford City, and the Leicester, Sheffield, and Birmingham Chess Clubs.

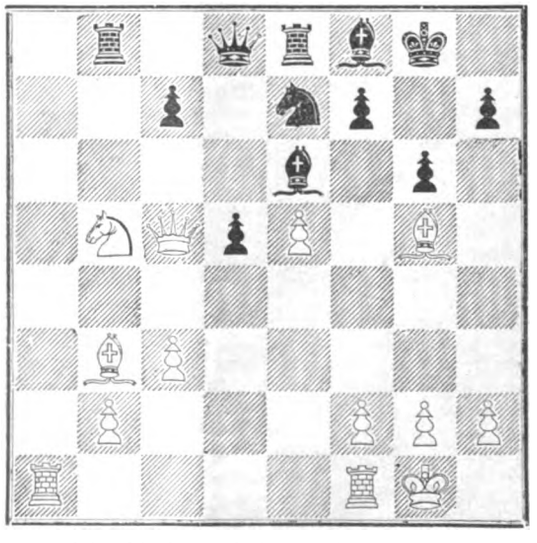
The decision to hold this year's congress of the British Chess Federation at Edinburgh is to be regretted from some points of view. Congresses in Scotland have always been most successful and normally no better venue could be found than Edinburgh; but this year sees the resuscitation of the British championship, after an interval of five years, and in the circumstances it would, I think, have been better to have chosen some more central place—London, for preference.

The following game was played at Bromley:—

RUY LOPEZ.

White. E. G. Sergeant.	Black. A. Louis.	White. E. G. Sergeant.	Black. A. Louis.
1. P—K4	P—K4	18. Kt x P (2)	P—B3
2 Kt—KB3	Kt—QB3	19. Kt—Q4	Kt—B4 (3)
3 B—Kt5	P—QR3	20. Kt x B	Q x B
4. B—R4	Kt—B3	21. Q x B ch	R x Q
5. 0—0	Kt x P	22. Kt x Q	R x B
6. P—Q4	P—QKt4	23. R—R6	R—QB
7. B—Kt3	P—Q4	24. R—R7	R—KB
8. P x P	B—K3	25. P—K6	P x P
9. P—B3	P—KKt3 (1)	26. Kt x P	R - K
10. P—QR4	R—QKt	27. R—B7	R—K2
11. P x P	P x P	28. P—K Kt4	Kt—R5
12. QKt—Q2	Kt x Kt	29. Kt—Kt5(4)	R—K5
13. B x Kt	B—Kt2	30. P—B3	R—K7
14. B—Kt5	Kt—K2	31. R—B2	R—K8 ch
15. Q—Q4	0—0	32. R—B	Kt x P ch
16. Q—B5	R—K	33. K—B2	R x P ch
17. Kt—Q4	B—KB	Resigns.	

Position after White's 18th move, Kt. x P.



(1) Unusual in this form of the opening, and not to be commended.

(2) A decidedly risky departure. White had rather the better of the position at the time, and quiet development would probably have led to a break through in due course.

(3) An excellent move, and one to which it is difficult to find a satisfactory answer.

(4) Ingenious, but without effect.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

In a memorandum that has recently been circulated in Roumania the large landowners, who have had a considerable part of their holdings taken from them, for the benefit of the peasants have laid their finger on the weak spot of expropriation. The extensive agriculture that made Roumania a big exporter of cereals was one of the outcomes of large holdings, and it was inevitable that when these were split up among numbers of peasants the absence of organisation and individualistic tendencies would materially affect Roumania's production of grain. The signatories of the memorandum contend that the grant of land to peasants will delay the economic transformation of Roumania into an industrial state, by retarding the supply of labour to urban industries, will injure Roumanian credit abroad, and will endanger the existence of the non-agricultural portion of the nation by reducing the volume of exports required for the normal activities of the country.

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All these dangers, I am confident, had been foreseen in Roumania, and as far as under-production was concerned some attempt had been made to obviate it by the spread of co-operative enterprise. A variety of circumstances has helped to lend support to the forebodings of the large landowners, not least among them being the general economic position of the whole world. There must needs be a falling off in the Roumanian production of cereals, and under present conditions this factor may make some people sceptical, if not of the wisdom of expropriation, at least of the moment chosen for enforcing it. But in regard to this, it is necessary to bear in mind the situation in which Roumania found herself and the attitude of the peasants. The delay in demobilisation interfered with the autumn sowings, the reports of the spring sowings are more favourable, and demobilisation is being pressed on. The country, it is true, has a difficult task before it, but the confidence gained of having done a just thing must tell in the long run.

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It may, I think, be taken for granted that there is something—a very substantial something—in the various reports and rumours of negotiations with the Shell Transport and Trading Company. A denial has been given to the suggestion of proposed Government control, and it seems probable that the aim of the negotiations is merely to make the company a purely British concern. The "Shell" group is connected closely with the Royal Dutch group, and this connection with foreign interests has, of course, to be taken into account in regard to any question of the development by the Shell organisation of the oil resources of Mesopotamia and elsewhere within the Empire.

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The root factor which governs the oil position at the present time is the growing danger of a world scarcity, and, in the face of this possibility it is essential that British supplies of oil fuel should be safeguarded. Great Britain is very badly placed as regards oil, but America, the largest consumer in the world, may soon be no better off, as it is reported that at the present rate of consumption it has only 18 years' supply of oil. Herein lies an additional reason why steps should be taken to safeguard British control of the powerful Shell organisation, for it is not America's habit to be backward in securing her interests in emergencies.

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Rarely a week passes without some fresh instance of the inadequacy of postal communications between this country and the Near East coming to my notice. The latest complaint reaches me from the Levant. The writer explains that he has not yet received a paper sent to him three weeks before the date on which he writes. "The posts," he adds, "are bewilderingly irregular. It will turn up sooner or later, I expect, but the delays are not good for business." That is precisely the point which I have been trying to impress upon the authorities for months past.

***

The news published in these columns last week that it had been decided to sell by auction goods that had been warehoused at Constantinople more than twelve months suggested very plainly the approach of the commercial crisis forecasted some weeks ago by our Constantinople correspondent. Private advices received this week confirm this view. It appears that large consignments of goods are being reshipped to England, while it is understood that goods ordered in Italy have been deflected to this country. There is no doubt, unfortunately, that some losses are likely to be sustained as a result of the unfavourable developments at Constantinople, and I can only hope that our Correspondent's frequent warnings have led our readers to reduce their commitments in that region for the time being. I use the qualification advisedly, for whatever may be happening now, in due course the market will be, as it has been in the past, one of the greatest outlets for trade in the Near East, and I only trust that present developments will not discourage the activities of British traders in the future.

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While the Bolshevist successes in South Russia have, of course, been the main factor in bringing about a commercial crisis at Constantinople, conditions in the interior of Turkey have also played their part, and, as the importance of the Constantinople market in normal times depends on its position as a distributing centre, it follows that it is the latter factor which really counts in the long run. So far, unfortunately, progress in reconstruction in some districts of Turkey has been very slow. I have received a letter this week from a correspondent who has just visited Brusa district, and the picture he draws of conditions there is anything but encouraging. "The sowing," he writes, "is about 25 per cent. of the usual quantity, because the cultivators are afraid of 'requisitions' by the National Forces and theft. Railway communication with the interior is interrupted by the blowing up of bridges, and the roads are so insecure that farmers do not care to risk their produce. Even if security is restored by May or June the materials available for export will, in my opinion, fall far short of the amount necessary to restore the situation."

***

A further expansion of business is shown in the report of the Ionian Bank, the gross profits, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, amounting to £424,866, an increase of £37,529 on the figures for the previous year. There was, however, a marked decline in the net profits, which were £40,575 lower at £39,290, the decrease being due to losses incurred through the exceptional fluctuations of the Greek exchange and depreciation in securities. The dividend and bonus is maintained at 7s. per share free of tax, but the allocation to reserve is only £5,000 as against £35,000, and the carry forward is much the same at £11,307.

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The announcement in the report of the retirement, owing to ill-health, of Mr. Falconer Larkworthy, C.O.R., who has been chairman and director of the Ionian Bank for more than twenty years, will be received with great regret by his many friends within and without the banking world. By his able grasp of financial questions Mr. Larkworthy had gained for himself a great reputation in business circles, and he had come to be regarded as one of the leading authorities on finance.

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The changes in the higher posts of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, which have been pending for some time, have now taken place. Mr. T. H. Whitehead, who has been associated with the bank for a considerable number of years, retires; Mr. W. E. Preston becomes general manager: Mr. George Miller and Mr. J. S. Bruce are the London managers.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866.)

Head Office: 27, THROGMORTON ST., LONDON, E.C. 2.

Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
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A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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BRITISH-ARMENIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

INAUGURAL MEETING.

The inaugural meeting of the British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce was held on April 27 at Grocer's Hall, London, E.C., Mr. E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts presiding.

The Chairman said that the association was promoted to help commercial relations with Armenia. It would assist trade and financial relations between the United Kingdom and Armenia, promote the industries and the exploitation of the natural resources of Armenia, keep members and others in the United Kingdom or Armenia informed of trade openings, Government or other contracts, and trade disputes, study markets, prepare and furnish reports, collect statistics, publish a journal, promote exhibitions, etc.

The Earl of Denbigh explained the geographical and strategical importance of Armenia, which country, as now delimited, he said, would consist of a plateau at an altitude of about 1,500 to 1,800 metres and an area of about 450,000 square kilometres.

The Chairman followed with an address on the commercial and economic importance of Armenia. Quoting from a lecture delivered by Dr. Gregory Artzrun in 1879, he said that the whole of Armenia abounded in mineral springs and deposits. Thirty or forty kilometres from Erzerum, in the environs of Hassan-Kaleh, there was naphtha in great quantities; the oil was procured by wrapping long poles in rags and dipping them in the wells. Under Turkish methods, modern capital could not be attracted, as at Baku. Close to Hassan-Kaleh there were sulphur mines and extensive coal deposits. Numerous sulphur and iron springs occurred in the vicinity of Erzerum. In the Kars district, near Kaghizman, there existed large deposits of salt, and in the same neighbourhood there was found in enormous quantities a peculiar kind of vari-coloured stone resembling marble. This stone was so soft on winning that it could be cut with a knife; but it hardened with exposure. The environs of Olti were rich in black amber, which resembled anthracite in appearance, but possessed in all other respects the qualities of amber. There were abundant naphtha springs in the Van district. In Kamakh, in the Erzerum district, there were salt deposits and coal seams, also mineral springs having a high temperature in winter, but very cold in summer. There were further salt deposits at Derjan, about 70 kilometres from Erzerum; but the richest of these deposits were to be found in the district of Mush—Armenia was so rich in salt that it was believed it could supply all Europe and Asia. In the vicinity of Bitlis there was an antimony mine, from which the inhabitants obtained a yellow pigment and dyes. Between Bitlis and Diarbekir copper was mined; and, generally speaking, copper and iron were found in great abundance throughout the country. At Isbir and Kiskim there were also traces of ancient gold mines; Solomon was believed to have obtained the gold for his temple from this region. On the borders of Erzerum was a very rich silver mine, worked by the inhabitants in the most primitive manner. It was called Kumush-Khaneh—*i.e.*, silver house. Cilicia was quite as rich in minerals as the other parts of Armenia; iron was mined near Zeytoun, and silver existed in the same region, also mineral and sulphur springs.

Armenia had well-watered pastures with rich and succulent grass; it was famous for its sheep, horses and cattle, the sheep being of the fat-tailed variety, and for its long-haired goats. The soil was fertile, the population thrifty and industrious. Fruit, including a peculiarly large kind of apple, flax, tobacco, cotton, rice and silk, were among the products; also a particular kind of wine, known as kharbort, which had a pleasant taste and fine aroma. It was a strong wine, half-way between madeira and sherry. Mush was regarded as the original home of honey. The wool work of the women was remarkable, and the men were splendid metal workers; the country would flourish if it could be left undisturbed by Turks and Kurds. It was in the interests of the British Empire to foster and safeguard Armenia.

Mr. E. R. Bartley Dennis, M.P., who proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Lord Denbigh, said that wherever in the world we could encourage the production of food and raw materials, it would be so much the better for the people of these islands. In the newspapers it was announced that there would be a mandatory power for Armenia; it was hoped that power would be America; but, failing America, it might be England.

The vote of thanks was unanimously accorded, and the first Council of the British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce elected.

NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

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TRANSPORT IN SOUTH-WEST PERSIA.—I.

Great Opening for British Motor-Cars.

(From a Correspondent.)

About a year ago a business man of considerable experience in many countries decided to investigate the prospects in Persia. He telegraphed to a well-known Persian firm in Bushire to reserve him rooms in the best available hotel. In due course he arrived at Bushire, where he was met by the interpreter of the firm, who showed him to a house where he had been allotted a room. After a day or two he found sundry causes for complaint, but was then informed to his amazement that he was not in an hotel, that there was no hotel in Bushire, and that he was a guest in a private house belonging to his agents. As in Bushire, so in other parts of Persia. Outside Teheran there are no hotels in Persia.

However, Bushire, although the principal port of the Persian Gulf, and the starting point of the main trade route in Persia, is not one of the main markets, but rather a clearing-house and forwarding agency. For purposes of business it is necessary to proceed to the interior. On the Bushire-Caspian route the first important town met with is Shiraz, 185 miles away. The writer undertook this journey in April last year. The journey necessitated the use of seven mules, and cost about £75. The time actually taken on the road was nine days, but it was only after many promises of backsheesh that the muleteers could be induced to go so fast, for it was then the grazing season, and the muleteers thought that an allowance of twenty to twenty-one days for the journey would be more reasonable. No supplies were procurable on the road, and we had to carry everything with us. The only accommodation available at nights was in caravanserais, most of which were filthy.

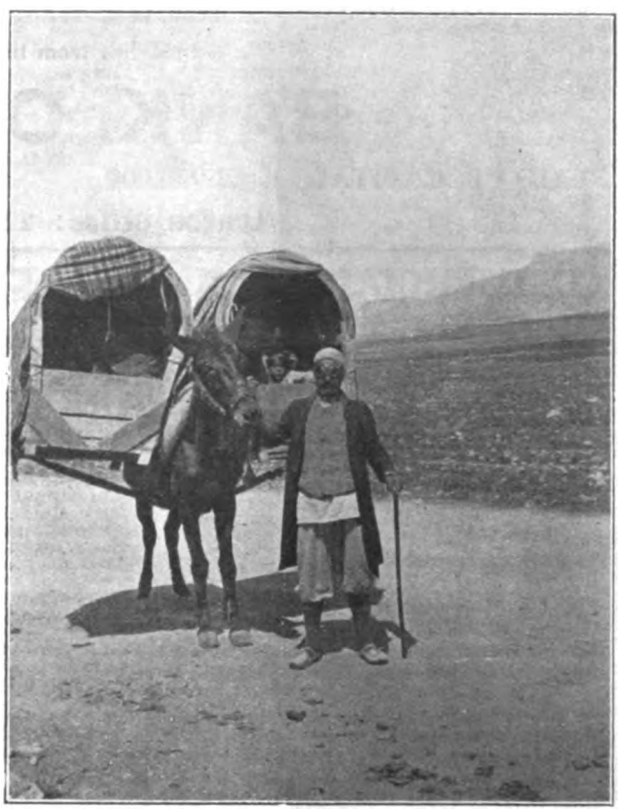
It is true that the Bushire to Shiraz road is supposed to be one of the worst roads in Persia, but conditions everywhere are very much the same. For instance, from Shiraz to Ispahan the distance is about 390 miles, and the journey is covered by mule in about twenty-one days. Travellers can sometimes obtain carriages on this road, but as there are nowadays no relays of horses, and as halts have to be made at the regular posts, the journey, even in a carriage, cannot be accomplished in less than ten or eleven days. Further, the cost of hiring a carriage for two persons with little or no luggage would be £50 or more. From the above it can readily be seen that travelling in Persia under present conditions is uncomfortable, slow, and costly—in fact, an ordeal not lightly to be faced. As for passengers, so also for goods. The average speed of caravans does not exceed ten to fifteen miles a day, and the present methods of transport, especially when taking into account damage and loss on the road, make the price of goods exorbitant beyond all dreams.

Good Motor Road.

It is obvious that motor transport, if practicable, would be the means of improvement. Let us, therefore, examine how far motor transport could be utilised in Persia. The two main trade routes in Persia are the route Baghdad to Teheran and the Caspian Sea viâ Kermanshah and Hamadan and the route from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian, that is the route Bushire-Shiraz-Ispahan-Teheran to Resht. When the British forces advanced from Baghdad to the Caspian in 1918 one of the chief difficulties they encountered was transport. There was then a sort of a road which had in point of fact been covered by motor-cars even before the war, but it could hardly be considered fit for military motor convoys. Now, under stress of war conditions, a metalled road has been built the whole way, and the motor convoys of military lorries go over it at regular intervals. In fact, this road is now in such excellent working order that the quickest and cheapest route from the Persian Gulf or even from India to Teheran is viâ Busreh and Baghdad, and yet this route is hundreds of miles longer than the more direct route viâ Bushire and Shiraz. As military lorries do this journey without difficulty, there is no reason why commercial cars cannot do likewise. There are no great difficulties. The road surface is good, and petrol is easily obtainable from the Gulf, and can be stored with other necessary supplies in such places as Baghdad, Kermanshah, Hamadan, and Teheran.

The other route, Bushire to the Caspian, is not so easy, especially the first stretch, Bushire to Shiraz. Motor-cars have been many times the whole way between Bushire and Shiraz, but as a rule man and mule power have been required on two of the mountain passes. The difficulties are, in fact, such that military convoys went as follows:—Bushire to Borasjun (39 miles) by rail, Borasjun to Radek (41 miles) by motor lorries, Radek to Rahdar (14 miles) by mules and camels, Rahdar to Poli Abgineh (23 miles) by motor lorries, Poli Abgineh to the foot of Kotal-i-Pirizan (22 miles) by mules and camels, Pirizan to Shiraz (45 miles) by motor lorries. A new road fit for motor-cars was projected some months ago from Radek to Rahdar and also from Rahdar to Shiraz viâ the Shahpur valley, avoiding the worst mountain-passes. When this road is completed motoring will present no great difficulties.

From Shiraz to Ispahan and Teheran there is no real road in the European sense, but the track is not bad, and carriages have covered the distance regularly for many years, as also many motors in recent times. A friend motored from Shiraz to Teheran last autumn, the chief difficulties encountered being in connection with tyres which burst with astonishing frequency. As regards petrol, he had taken all necessary precautions by sending supplies ahead. It is an extraordinary thing that with petrol refineries so near at hand petrol is almost unprocurable in the interior of Persia. This led my friend to express the opinion that the most suitable car for Persia would be a steamer, as paraffin can always be obtained at a price, but not petrol. However, the difficulty of petrol can easily be overcome with a little foresight. Supplies of petrol could, in the first place, be sent up from the coast even on mules, if necessary, and then depots could be arranged at different centres.



The Rival of the Motor. [*Photo by E. Betts.*

As regards other routes in Persia, motor-cars have been over the road from Teheran to Meshed and thence to Askabad on the Trans-Caspian railway, also from Meshed to Baluchistan and India. The road Teheran to Yezd and Kerman and thence to either Bunder Abbas or India does not present any great difficulties. In fact, the majority of the army lorries in Shiraz came to Persia by that route.

Pioneer Work Done.

There is no question that motoring in Persia is quite practicable; it remains to examine how far a service of motor-cars would be commercially profitable; in other words, how far the Persian would be willing to adopt such modern methods. Two thousand years ago Persia enjoyed a high degree of civilisation, but for many reasons there has been but little progress since that period, and Persia is to-day one of the most undeveloped countries in the world. And yet the present day Persian is not nearly so averse to progress as many other Orientals. That there was no development in the years immediately preceding the war must be attributed to circumstances arising out of the international position. To-day the Persian is enthusiastic for progress, but does not know the way. However, as regards the introduction of motor transport, the pioneer work has already been done. The Persian has seen military motor convoys at work, and realises how far superior they are to his antiquated methods of transport. He understands that motor transport will save him money, time, and hardships on his journeys, and he realises that it will reduce the cost of conveyance of goods. He requires no further convincing, and the offer of a motor transport service would be welcomed with open arms.

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Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

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EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

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ENGINEERING.

A Swing Bridge Repair.

Some little time ago, inspection showed that a swing bridge which carried a highway and a single electric street railway track was in need of repair. The bottom chords of the swing span were in what could only be described as a dangerous condition, as the steel work was badly corroded. This was due to the effect of street drainage, which had been allowed to drip down on to the members since the bridge was first erected. The most immediately required repair was the renewal of these chords, but as the bridge carried a large amount of fairly heavy traffic, and there was no alternative route, a certain problem was encountered at the very commencement of the work.

The first and most obvious suggestion was to build a temporary bridge close beside the main structure, and to divert the traffic during the repair, but the expense of this was found to be too high for consideration. Various other plans were suggested, and ultimately a system of temporary adjustable substitute members of sound timber of ample cross-sectional area was adopted. These members were used to carry the bottom chord stresses whilst the permanent members were being renewed, and it was found that with ordinary care the work could be carried out quickly and expeditiously and without bringing any undue strain on any other parts of the bridge. The temporary members were first fixed in place, after which the corroded steel work was cut out. After the new steel booms were fixed and tightened, the wooden substitutes were removed. The method adopted did not interfere in any way with the free use of the bridge, and, further, there was no interference with the river traffic, as the bridge was free to swing when desired and allow of the passage of vessels. The bridge was of fair size, having a span of 203 feet, with a fixed span of 232 feet at each end of this swinging portion. The feat, which ranks high amongst engineering performances, was carried through without a single mishap, and the work actually occupied less time than was at first considered possible.

Zephyr Pistons.

A specially interesting form of piston for use in internal combustion engines is being made which has a short skirt at the top, carrying two rings and a bottom skirt, bored for lightness, the gudgeon pin fixing being between the two. These pistons, which are made by Messrs. James, Talbot and Davison (1916), Ltd., at the Zephyr Works, Lowestoft, have been subjected to tests by the leading car manufacturing firms, and it has been found that they tend towards higher speeds, increased power, reduced vibration, longer life and lower fuel costs. It is said that they gave exceptionally satisfactory results on the Atlantic and Australian flights, and set up world's records on the fastest motor boat in existence. Numerous car records have also been achieved by cars with engines fitted with these pistons. Some few weeks ago I had an opportunity of examining the Zephyr car, 11.9 h.p., made by the firm at their Lowestoft works, and I regard it as a very fine example of massed production. It was not only extremely well constructed from a mechanical point of view, but it was very well finished, a feature which is not always noticeable in mass production work, especially in the case of cars of trans-Atlantic origin.

A Big Wireless Undertaking.

The Government of India has decided to re-organise entirely the existing wireless telegraph system, and also to extend it considerably, with a view to improving its efficiency in every possible way. An Indian Wireless Telegraphy Board has been formed, and the new Civil Wireless Department will be placed under the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, and it is hoped that the new arrangements will not only improve the means of communication with ocean-going vessels but will also be of great service in the development of commercial aviation. A special advisory board is to be set up with the following functions, viz.:—

(1) To co-ordinate the commercial, strategic, and naval requirements of the Indian Empire in connection with wireless telegraphy.

(2) To advise on any questions that may be referred to them by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

(3) To make any such recommendations as they may consider necessary on questions of general policy where the interests of more than one department are concerned.

It is hoped that further particulars as to the special functions and powers of this board will be forthcoming shortly, and that the example thus set will be followed in both South Africa and Australia.

A New Electric Welder.

A special type of electric welding machine has recently been placed on the market, designed for the purpose of welding seams in cylinders from, say, 2½ to 4 inches in diameter and from 4 to 8 inches in length. Either sheet iron or steel, or lead-coated metal can be dealt with, and a completely gas and water-tight joint made at a single operation. It is not, however, sufficient for a number of purposes that such a joint should be mechanically sound, and the machine has consequently been designed with a view to making an absolutely smooth joint which can be plated or enamelled without any further finishing being necessary. As a matter of fact, this machine can be used for finishing off articles that have been drawn or spun to shape before the welding operation is carried out. It is consequently likely to prove of great service in the hardware trade for finishing off hollow-ware of various kinds. The machine can be driven by a half-horse power motor, and it only occupies a floor space of 16 by 70 inches. It is 50 inches in over-all height, and whilst the maximum diameter of the die that can be used is 5 inches, the upper die has a travel of from 5 to 9 inches.

An Electrical Vaporiser.

A new form of electrical vaporiser has recently been placed on the market by a leading British firm of electrical manufacturers. Simple in construction, it consists of a well-made asbestos cushion, which contains a highly efficient electric heating element. This cushion is mounted on a base which can be fixed in any desired position. For medical and fumigating use the base can, of course, be just placed in position, but where the vaporiser is to be used for industrial purposes it can be fixed with screws or bolted down.

It is likely to come largely into use in connection with internal-combustion engines, not only for land and similar work, but also for motor-cars and motor-boats, inasmuch as it permits a low grade of fuel to be used. The vaporiser can be mounted, for example, between the induction and carburettor pipe flanges, so as actually to enter the induction pipe. The suction stroke of the engine draws in petroleum or other low-grade fuel, which impinges in the form of a spray on to the asbestos cushion, where it is at once converted into vapour by the heat. The device is cheap, neatly made, easily fitted, and is certain to be of use for a variety of purposes.

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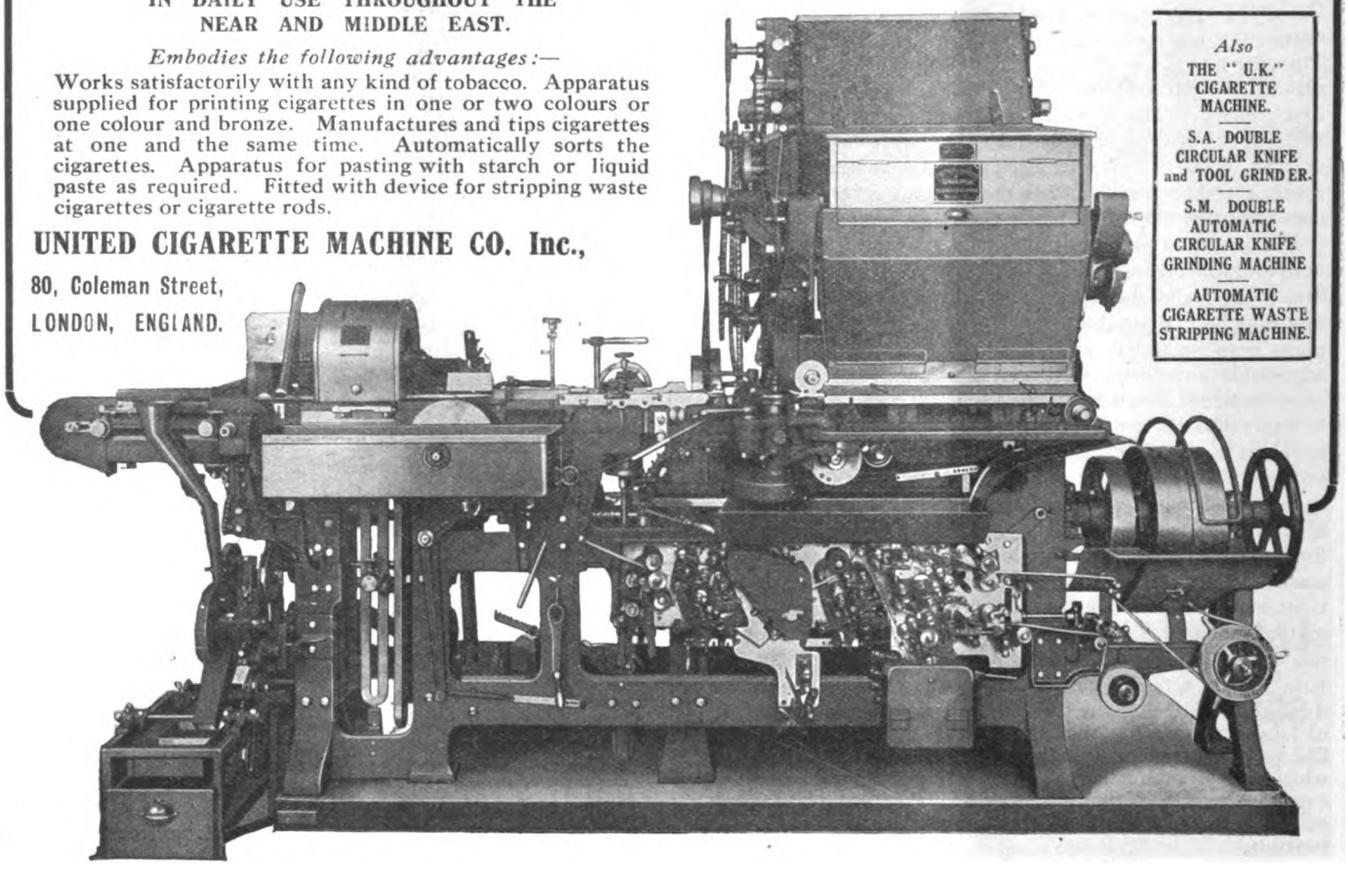

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A Current Limiting Device.

An extremely interesting and remarkably simple device has just been placed on the market, by which the consumption of electrical energy in excess of that amount for which the circuit or apparatus used is intended is prevented. If an electric iron or an electric furnace, to give two widely-differing examples, is installed on an electric circuit, and one of these new current-limiting devices installed in connection with it, then the current-limiter can be set at a safe figure in amperes, and it will be impossible under any circumstances short of tampering with the apparatus either to overload the appliances, to drive more current through it than it is intended to work with, or to damage the limit device.

To all intents and purposes this new invention will give the same security to small power or domestic applications of electricity with regard to accidental overloads as does the big and expensive device known as a circuit-breaker to larger installations of power, as in traction or in long-distance transmission. A further point in connection with it which is worthy of consideration is that in places where electric light is supplied to tenants as a part of the convenience hired in the rent, and where light is supplied at a flat rate of payment, the device can be placed in a main circuit and locked at a certain current value. This will prevent the tenants or lessees, as the case may be, from adding other and more powerful lamps to their installation and so obtaining a greater amount of electrical energy than they are allowed by agreement.

The controller consists of a neat case containing a trigger and a small electric magnet in series with the circuit. When the current taken exceeds the allowed amount the trigger is drawn forward and releases a hammer-action bolt, which throws off the switch governing the main circuit. To restore the supply an internal switch handle is turned to reset the trigger, and the act of doing this moves the main switch to an "on" position. This resetting handle is, of course, protected by a key when used to govern the sale of current. If, on the other hand, the device is in use merely to prevent an overload of current from damaging some piece of apparatus, there is no need for the apparatus to be locked. It will be seen that the device described acts not only as a circuit-breaker and current-limiter, but also as a safety fuse. The device is sufficiently sensitive to come into action at so low an excess of current as 30 watts.

The Cost of Cooking.

The subject of electric cooking is likely to come into prominence during the next few weeks. Undoubtedly, considerable advances have been made in the design and construction of electric ovens, grillers, toasters and water heaters, and the simplicity of all these, the ease with which they can be installed, and the comfort of being able to switch off the heat when required, with the entire absence from fumes and waste products of combustion, are such that even were they more expensive to use as regards fuel costs than coal or gas ovens, they would yet be cheap and desirable domestic appliances.

In connection with the use of electric cookers, to speak generically of all these forms of apparatus, a somewhat wordy and bitter warfare has arisen which has had the effect of clouding the issue, so far as the general public are concerned. When first introduced the electric cooker, although crude and expensive, was nevertheless efficient. The gas suppliers of the kingdom, and all those who were interested in the manufacture and sale of gas-using devices, immediately saw that a strong competition was likely to arise, and very astutely they at once began to attack the newcomer on the grounds of expensive operation. They presumably argued that the electrical people were scientists and engineers rather than business men, and that their lack of commercial knowledge, coupled with a pugnacity which seems second nature to an electrical expert, would lead them to rush off on to any side issue along which a red rag of contention was waved. The gas people therefore said that the electric cooker was expensive, and the electrical people ever since have seemed to me to be spending valuable time and money in advertising the fact that their productions are really very cheap indeed.

As a matter of fact, the whole question of cost is entirely a side issue. Whether it be first cost or running cost there is nothing in it! Personally speaking, I have tested all kinds of electric cooking and heating appliances, know exactly what they cost to operate, and between any kind of electric device and any kind of gas-heated apparatus designed for similar work, and of similar capacity, there is little or no difference in any of the things we regard as going to make up the cost. And why should there be? In each case we are using a certain amount of energy, derived from coal, to do a certain amount of work, and from an engineering point of view it would be a serious reflection on the makers of either class of apparatus were it found to be markedly more expensive in operation, so far as energy consumption is concerned.

The question of operating costs is a side-issue, not worthy of time being spent in its consideration or debate. What does matter is the saving of loss, the reduction of waste, the retention in the pocket of good money that would otherwise go out into the street as the smell of baked meats. With the electric cooker it is a matter of "Look what you save." Some little time ago a certain school of cookery arose who baked and boiled, and, I believe, even fried, their foods in paper bags. In this idea they were taking a leaf from the electric cooker. The whole point was that the bag retained all the moisture, etc., that would otherwise be driven off in the form of steam and fumes, and that the resultant food was not dried up nor had it lost weight. Here in a nutshell is the case for the electric oven. The gas oven burns a flame inside the cooking compartment which uses up oxygen and forms by-products of combustion which are actually poisonous. To get rid of these, ample ventilation has to be provided, and during the use of the oven these escape into the air, accompanied by large quantities of steam, vaporised fats, and other valuable and useful foodstuffs. The result is that, given two joints of equal weight, the one to be cooked in an electric oven will be served to the table weighing approximately just what it weighed in the butcher's shop; the other, to be cooked in the gas cooker, will "shrivel up," as the cook calls it, and come to the table a mere shadow of its former self. That is where the electric cooker scores, with meat at anything from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb. If a cook can save three or four shillings on a single meal by using an electric oven instead of a gas cooker, it surely is that fact that should be advertised, be made public, be blazoned abroad. Yes, our gas friends were fairly astute when they persuaded the electrical fraternity that the public would judge the respective merits of gas and electric cookers by a question as to which cost a farthing or so an hour.

Tractors for Madras.

Three tractors have been purchased by the Agricultural Department of Madras, and ploughing demonstrations have been given at various places under the supervision of the Government's agricultural engineers. Further tests are being widely advertised with a view to interesting Indian agriculturists in the use of tractors. It is confidently predicted that India will ultimately prove a very good market for motor-ploughs and tractors.

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THE PORTS OF INDIA.

II.—Influence of Suez Canal.

We give below some further extracts from Sir George Buchanan's paper on "The Ports of India," which was read before the Royal Society of Arts on April 15.

The immense amount of work that must be done in the future in India in port development was not generally realised, said Sir George, and as first and foremost there must be a sufficient depth of water in the river and harbour entrances, it would be well to consider what would possibly be required in the years to come.

East of Suez, port development had been largely guided by the size of vessels which could pass through the Suez Canal, and although the war awakened the Indian ports to the fact that there was an alternative route round the Cape, and a number of vessels visited India which could not have passed through the Canal, the depth in the Canal was the key to the situation. Before 1873 the maximum draught of vessels permitted was 24 ft. 6 in.; in 1901, 25 ft. 7 in.; in 1907, 27 ft., and at the present time, 30 ft., whilst the scheme of improvements now being carried out aimed at permitting the transport of mercantile vessels of 33 ft. draught. Supposing they added 2 ft. to the proposed draught of 33 ft., and made 35 ft. the maximum to work to in the near future, then, according to a recent ruling, there should be 40 ft. of water in entrance channels through sea bars, 37 ft. in ordinary entrance channels, and 36 ft. in wet docks and alongside quays and wharves. That was to say, there was not a single port in India which could take a vessel of such a size. Not only did they require existing ports improved and extended and their spheres of influence and transport facilities behind the ports extended, but the development of new ports, wherever demanded by trade, such ports competing fairly with others in the neighbourhood, and being controlled by local committees.

There were several ports in Southern India worthy of development, and for the last thirty years report after report by engineers has been received, considered, and put aside. In his judgment this was not the way to approach the subject, as what was required in the first instance was a careful examination and report on the prospective trade of the port, the area of country to be tapped, the possibilities of increasing that area, and giving better transport facilities to the port, also the prospective revenue and maximum capital expenditure permissible to begin with. Armed with this information, the engineer could and must cut his coat according to his cloth, and say what could be done for the money. A grandiose scheme prepared with at this information was a mere waste of time.

It must also be remembered that the success of a port depended on its management as much as its engineering, and that the two branches must work hand in hand, constantly devising schemes for the giving of better facilities for trade, as a port could never be said to be completed, and there were very few ports which could not have their expenditure reduced and their revenues increased by improved methods of administration.

The new port of Busreh was not an Indian port, but it was being developed on the lines of Indian ports and he was therefore tempted to use it as an illustration and warning, because he was afraid nearly all the defects he had pointed out in this paper on port development and administration could be seen there, either active or in embryo. In the arrangements for the conversion of the port from war to civil requirements, there had been no competent counsel, and there had been no properly thought-out scheme for the administration of a civil port, by people versed in port affairs. A Port Trust was to be established, but, as he had already pointed out and illustrated by examples, the creation of a Port Trust did not make a port.

Schedules of rates and rules and regulations had been copied from other ports, regardless of the fact that a new port in a new country required individual treatment, and the rates had been fixed on a scale which would make Busreh one of the expensive ports of the East. This was a matter for regret, because the immediate future of Mesopotamia and Persia lay as much in correct port administration and development as in anything else.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

BRITISH and Foreign Manufacturers, Importers, and Exporters should consult the Commercial and Intelligence Department of the Anglo-Latin-American Press Co., Ltd., 4/5, Copthall Court, London, E.C.2. if they desire to develop their business in foreign countries. Full particulars will be given free of charge.

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Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard S.S. Co. will despatch a steamer from Liverpool to Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, and Batoum during the current month, but the date has not yet been announced.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Andalusian, for Patras, Venice, and Trieste, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 14.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. City of Oxford, for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 8.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on May 15.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Trentino, for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on May 12.

The Anchor Line s.s. Baron Ardrossan, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on May 12, and at Liverpool on May 18.

The Bibby Line s.s. Warwickshire, for Marseilles, Port Said and Rangoon, will leave London on May 11.

The Bibby Line s.s. Herefordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on May 19.

The Clan Line s.s. Clan Macintyre, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (cargo for Persian Gulf transhipped at Bombay), will close for cargo at Birkenhead on May 8.

The Henderson Line s.s. Sittang, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on May 12.

The Houston Line s.s. Defender, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on May 18.

The R.M.S.P. Co.'s s.s. Tremeglos, for Gibraltar and Marseilles, will leave London on May 8.

The Powell Line s.s. Petworth, for Rabat, Larache, Tangier Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador, will close for cargo in London on May 20.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned:—

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.—Supply of steel work for bridges. (Specn., £1, Secretary, 43, Cannon Street Avenue, London, E.C.2.) May 11.

Egyptian State Railways: Telegraphs and Telephone Administration. Supply of Cables. Tenders will be received up to 10 a.m. on May 12. (Particulars may be seen at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Tenders are invited by the Spanish Government in Morocco for the supply of material and rolling stock for the railway from Tzuditza to Tetuan. Among the items required are the following: 37,423 sleepers, 1.75 to 1.95 metres long, 0.19 m. maximum width and thickness 0.12 m. 1,545 metric tons, 330 kilos. of rails, 12 m. long, 30 to 31 kilos. weight per lineal metre, Decauville type. 37 metric tons 152 kilos. of clamps, 11 metric tons 783 kilos. of screws. 72 metric tons 749 kilos of seating plates. 12 junctions, 1 metre gauge. 2 locomotives, 350 h.p. 12 closed wagons. Specifications are on view at the Moroccan Section of the Ministry of State, Madrid, and the Government Offices (Delegacion de Fomento), Tetuan. Tenders will be examined on May 24 at the Government Offices in Tetuan, and delivery of the goods, it is stated, must be made within six months of the date of the placing of the contracts.

Athens: Ministry of Communications.—Supply of telegraphic materials. (Particulars may be seen at Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) June 20.

It is reported that the Ceylon Government have authorised a survey for a light railway between Maho Junction, Batticoloa, and Trincomalee

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.

Market conditions are now much more promising as regards currants. The demand continues on the up grade, and supplies are being taken up much more rapidly.

Sultanas continue in steady request, and consumption would no doubt increase given adequate supplies.

Sugar.

The refined market has been fairly brisk, controlled sugar being in fair request. A quiet tone has characterised the free market, white Mauritius being 148s. spot, white Java 146s., and West Indian crystallised 130s.

Coffee.

The tone of the market has been dull, with transactions restricted. Brazilian has been done at 118s. to 122s., Costa Rica at from 180s. to 190s., Indian at 158s. to 190s., and Mocha at 180s. to 190s. The futures market has been fairly steady. Quotations are: May 110s., July 107s., September 104s., December 101s. 3d., and March 98s. 6d.

In their report for the week ended April 29, Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson state:—New York Futures show a decline of 42 to 50 points on balance since the previous Wednesday's close. Attention has been centred on the May liquidations, a good many contracts of which position have been absorbed by trade interests against sales of late deliveries. A fair amount of transferring to later months by those long of May has taken place, which shows the confidence of operators in future prospects. The decline in the dollar exchange has, in a market devoid of any stimulating counter factor, contributed largely to a softening of values, although on Friday last the decline was attributed to lower Rio offers. Despite the easier Rio market to the accompaniment of large receipts the undertone of Futures is steady, and the market in New York is looking for a substantial improvement in prices when the May liquidation is finished and tenders finally disposed of. The remainder of this season's Brazilian crop is shaping itself into very moderate compass, and the question of how the balance of the Government holding is going to be handled might have a very important bearing upon prices. Should this coffee be definitely held off the market, prices would undoubtedly considerably benefit. If the new season's is an early crop, action of this sort would assist the Brazilian shipper in making a good start at remunerative prices for his early sale. Sales of new crop at a good discount from present prices have been effected, a fair quantity being speculative transactions. These should come to be a help to the market when they have to be covered in. Shipments of coffee from Brazil to Europe have been in better quantity the last month, and, we think, should steadily improve as time goes on. Germany, after prolonged negotiations, has arranged supplies of food commodities from America on a credit basis to a total amount of $40,000,000. She has also had ratified a credit agreement with Holland for 25,000,000 gulden for food supplies. These are highly important transactions, and bespeak the initial steps to progress in other directions. It is possible with any further decline in the New York sterling exchange there may be occasions of lower prices ruling for Futures there. These would be favourable opportunities for purchases, as we still incline to the long side of coffee for the eventual advantage of operators.

Oilseeds.

A quiet tone has characterised the market. Indian linseed has been done at 43s., and La Plata has come to business at 37s. Rapeseed has been firm with Brown Cawnpore at 38s. 6d. Cottonseed has been very weak.

Oilcakes and Seedoils.

The trend of the market is all in favour of buyers of oilcakes, large stocks coupled with a moderate demand having a weakening effect on prices. Linseed cake has come to business at 23s. 6d. per cwt., cottonseed cake has been done round about 13s., ground nut cake at 15s., and rapeseed cake at from 12s. to 16s.

Oils have been variable, linseed being easy at 101s. Rapeseed oil is quoted 110s. for crude and 115s. for refined. Indian cottonseed has been done round about 93s., and Egyptian at about 5s. dearer. Turpentine is fairly firm at 210s. spot, 200s. May-June, 170s. May-August, and 137s. July-December.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended April 9:—The sales this week on our market amount to 41 cases at 1,050 piastres per oke for current qualities, equalling 20s. per lb. c.i.f., and piastres 1,130 for extra manufacturing druggists = 25s. The market closed firm, with buyers having still engagements to fulfil. The exchange is to-day at piastres 460 per pound sterling, and 0.87 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,520 cases against 285 at same date last year.

Messrs. Barker Brothers report as follows for the week ended April 17:—We have to report a fairly active market again this week, with sales amounting to 37 cases from piastres 950 to 1,250 per oke as to quality. The oke is equal to 400 drams, and the lb. 141 drams, therefore the equivalent in sterling per lb. of above prices at present exchange will be equal to 17s. to 22s. per lb. c.i.f.; charges from 6 per cent. to 7 per cent. Our exchange to-day is piastres 475 per pound sterling for cheque, and 0.85 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,535 cases against 334 at same date last year.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Jaffa's Trade in March.

As in previous months, nothing was exported from Jaffa except oranges, the exports of which amounted to 60,000 cases. The export of food products remains prohibited.

Rice.—The local authorities, with a view to putting an end to the exploitation of consumers by speculators who have been making an unlawful profit on the sale of this commodity of from 50 to 75 per cent. on account of its scarcity, are importing on their own account 150 tons, to be sold on the basis of PT620 per sack.

Flour.—In view of the extraordinary price of this commodity here (PT6½ per kilo), and with the object of aiding the poorer class of consumer, the Military Government of Palestine has provisionally freed flour from the Customs duty of 11 per cent. and from the octroi of 1 per cent. These new regulations, coupled with the arrival of important supplies, have made the market somewhat uncertain, and prices have fallen by about 10 per cent.

The forecasts of the new crops are very satisfactory. It is estimated that the yield of wheat and barley will be 50 to 60 per cent. greater than for the past year.

Balikessar, March 16.

Agricultural Position.

The preparations of the winter season have come to an end in good conditions, and now the fields present an appearance of much promise.

GREEK LOANS.—The Greek Legation informs that it has addressed a circular to the Banks and Paying Agents in the United Kingdom warning them not to pay Greek Coupons or Drawn Bonds forwarded to the United Kingdom for encashment from Germany or by German nationals, unless accompanied by a declaration stating that they have not belonged to Germans from the 30th June, 1917, to the 28th June, 1919. The Greek Legation has, at the same time, informed them that any purchase in the United Kingdom of Greek Coupons or Forwarded Bonds having belonged for the aforesaid period to Germans, is not considered legal. London, the 26th April, 1920.

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COMPANY MEETING.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The report of the directors on the working of the bank for 1919-20, submitted to the shareholders at the seventeenth ordinary general meeting held at the offices of the bank in Cairo on April 29, states :—

The directors have to report that the net profits of the bank for the financial year 1919-20, in accordance with Article 40 of the statutes, amount to £E580,846,550. From this amount there has to be deducted : the service of the debentures, £E235,625,250; the provision for the reserve fund, £E20,532,450; the provision for the special reserve fund as per Article 40 of the statutes, £E15,561,409 - £E271,719,109, leaving £E309,127,441; and there has to be further deducted : dividend on £1,250,000 preferred shares, £E48,750; commission to the National Bank of Egypt, £E11,384,436—£E60,134,436; leaving £E248,993,005, which is available for distribution as dividend on ordinary and deferred shares. The ordinary shares have to receive, in the first instance, dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900; the balance of £E128,093,005 is available to the extent of one-half, or £E64,046,503, for the ordinary shares, and to the extent of one-half, or £E64,046,502, for the deferred shares. The amounts therefore available for dividend on these shares are as follows :—Balance from the year ending January 31, 1919, £E369,793,621; interest for the year, accrued on the above balance, £E18,489,931—£E388,283,552; for dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900; further amount available, £E64,046,503; total, £E573,235,055. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the financial year 1919-20 amounting to £E193,440, and to carry forward the balance of £E379,795,055. The amounts available for dividend on these shares are as follows : balance from the year ending January 31, 1919, £E315,274,211; interest for the year, accrued on the above balance, £E15,763,710 -£E331,037,921; further amount available, £E64,046,502; total, £E395,084,423. The directors propose to pay a dividend of £40 per share, amounting to £E78,000; and to carry forward the balance of £E317,084,423.

In proposing to maintain the dividends at the same rates as those declared during the previous year we have been guided by a careful consideration of the profits of the year and of the prospects of future years. We would call attention to the fact that the total amount of arrears collected during the past year, an amount of £E102,581, has gone entirely to the profit of the year, whereas the total of arrears outstanding for encashment in future years is £E83,724. We must therefore expect in ensuing years a marked decrease in this source of revenue. On the other hand, there are signs of a slightly increased demand for new mortgage loans as compared with those made during the past year. The fund formed in past years for depreciation on investments stood at the beginning of the year at £E191,000, and, as the result of certain realisations of investments, was increased during the year to £E197,532. We have decided to set aside from the profits of the year a further amount, so as to bring the total up to £E245,000. This provision would allow us to value all our Government securities in the general investment account at the market price on January 31, 1920. Although a large proportion of our investments are in War Bonds, which will mature at a premium in the next few years, we consider it prudent to allow for full depreciation on these in view of the possibility of our having at any time to realise some of our investments for employment in new business. As regards the ordinary shares of the Mortgage Company of Egypt held by the Agricultural Bank, we are of opinion, in view of the present position of that company, that these shares may be considered as worth the cost price at which they stand in our balance-sheet. The position of this company has greatly improved during the year under review; instalments in arrear show a further reduction, and, owing to the present demand for land, due to the prosperous condition of the country, all the holdings which the company had to acquire through foreclosure have been sold on favourable terms. The company made an offer in 1919 to purchase a certain amount of its own debentures at a price considerably below their face value, which operation, we expect, will have resulted in considerably benefiting the bank as ordinary shareholders in the company. The dividend paid for the year ending on March 31, 1919, was at the rate of 8 per cent., the same as in the previous year.

Arrears.

On January 31, 1920, the total arrears outstanding were £E83,724, against £E151,326 on January 31, 1919. Of the sum of £E83,724 in arrear shown above, £E32,167 represent interest. No credit has been taken in the profit and loss account for any part of this sum, since, in accordance with the statutes, only interest actually encashed can be included in the profits. The whole of the remainder—viz., £E51,557, representing capital overdue, has, as required by the statutes, been deducted from the profit and loss account before arriving at the balance available for distribution. Consequently any encashments made on account of the sum of £E83,724 will go entirely to the profit of the year in which they are effected. Up to March 15 the encashments since February 1, 1920, on account of the arrears of £E33,724, amount to £E11,600.

The sums collected during the past year from the annual instalment due and from the arrears of past years are, we consider, satisfactory. £E552,175 were collected out of the annual instalment of £E590,920, and £E102,581 from the arrears, making a total collection as regards these two items of £E654,756. Our encashments therefore exceed the annual instalment by £E53,836, and the total of outstanding arrears is decreased by this amount. The prosperity of landowners in Egypt has still further increased during 1919. All kinds of agricultural produce have been sold at very high prices, and although in many cases the cultivators had sold their cotton before it reached the record prices at which it stood towards the end of the year, yet in all cases they realised a very large profit on their crops, and were able to meet their annual engagements with ease and to repay a considerable amount of outstanding arrears. The arrears now due to the bank stand at £E83,724, as compared with £E1,394,546, at which they stood on January 31, 1915.

The total of loans exceeding £E1,000 each was £E134,277 on January 31, 1920. Our arrears on these loans were £E2,828.

Land Acquired.

The reduction in the area of land acquired by the bank during the year and in the total land still held by the bank is a further proof of the general agricultural prosperity referred to previously. The area of land which the bank found it necessary to acquire during 1919-20 was 207 feddans, as compared to 455 feddans in 1918-19, and we have sold 531 feddans, as compared to 1,588 the previous year; our land holding has thus decreased by some 324 feddans.

We hope to be able to sell gradually the 748 feddans remaining on our hands at satisfactory prices. The number of expropriations made by the bank during the year are as follows :—Number of cases in hand on February 1, 1919, 1,049; number of new cases begun during 1919-20, 1,135; total, 2,184; cases settled, 1,314; balance, 870; cases brought to expropriation, 90; balance pending on January 31, 1920, 780. In 15 of these cases of expropriation 87 feddans were bought in by the bank, and in 75 remaining cases 503 feddans were bought in by third parties.

In accordance with the statutes, the board has temporarily elected as a director Mr. T. S. Richmond in the place of Sir John Rogers, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., whose resignation was announced last year. This nomination is submitted to the shareholders for confirmation at this general meeting.

The directors beg to thank the staff in the head office and in the agencies for their satisfactory work during the year; they would take this opportunity of expressing their high appreciation of the services rendered by many of the Egyptian members of the agencies staff during the disturbed period when they protected the bank buildings and property at considerable personal risk.

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

The Guaranty Trust Company of New York has just issued through its London office a booklet entitled "Bank and Public Holidays Throughout the World," which, as its name indicates, gives a complete list of the world's holidays, and the dates on which they fall. A calendar shows the countries where business is suspended on each date, and an alphabetical list of countries enumerates chronologically the holidays observed in each. This book is one of the series of informative publications issued by the company, and distributed to its customers and others.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended April 7 were :—Cattle markets £961, general markets £628, total £1,589; total for year £29,619.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a General Meeting of the above-named Company, held in Cairo on the 29th April, 1920, it was decided that a Dividend of 8s. per Share on the ORDINARY Shares of £5 each, and £40 per Share on the DEFERRED Shares of £5 each, shou'd be paid on and after the 3rd May, 1920, at THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.).

Payment will be made in London, less Income Tax.

The said Dividends will be paid to the holders of Ordinary and Deferred Share Warrants to Bearer on presentation of the respective Dividend Coupons (ORDINARY No. 17, DEFERRED No. 16) at the above Banks.

Forms for listing the above-mentioned Coupons will be supplied on application by the Bankers above mentioned.

Coupons must be left with the Bankers for previous examination.

By order,

F. T. ROWLATT,
President.

Cairo, 29th April, 1920.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Forty-second Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Offices, Alexandria, on Tuesday, the 1st June, 1920, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant to Act of Parliament and also to pass the two following resolutions: INCREASE OF THE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY: Resolution 1.—To increase the Capital of the Company by the creation of 20,000 Shares of £5 each nominal, to be offered to the Shareholders at par. Resolution 2.—To authorise the Board of Directors to issue these Shares, either in part or all, at such period as it may consider favourable in the interests of the Company.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer desiring to attend or to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their Share Warrants in London before the 20th May, 1920, or in Alexandria before the 28th May, 1920, until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

By order of the Board,

J. E. CORNISH,
Secretary-General

Alexandria, 29th April, 1920.

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INADEQUATE PRODUCTION OF ROUMANIAN COAL MINES.

According to an article recently published in the Roumanian newspaper *Bursa*, the general management of the Roumanian Railways have recently been considering the means to be taken for effecting an immediate increase in the present output of coal, which is totally inadequate to meet growing requirements. The representatives of the coal mines explained that the decreasing output was principally due to the lack both of workmen and working implements, and also to the destruction caused by the Germans having mined the coal without consolidating the mine-shafts. To remedy this it has been suggested that approval be obtained for the employment of a number of experienced miners from Germany, as the local workmen, who are not professional miners, are unable to undertake the work. The management of the Roumanian Railways have been asked to place such wagons at the disposal of the mines as are required for the transport of coal dust, and thus remove the present congestion at the pit-head. The urgent necessity for procuring rolling stock was also raised at the meetings held between the Railway authorities and the representatives of the mines. The railway management pledged itself to help the mines in every possible way, and it is hoped, now that the situation has been made clear, that the present monthly output of 14,000 tons will be raised to 23,000 tons.

ASIA MINOR'S DECREASED POPULATION.

The decrease in population forms one of the most serious questions in connection with Asia Minor, says the United States Trade Commissioner at Constantinople in a recent report. During the last five years many Greeks and Armenians have been deported or killed. As these elements were always conspicuous in the industrial life of Asia Minor, it will be necessary to receive a considerable influx of population of some sort before the industries of that region can in any way be restored. Also, the Turks themselves have suffered a marked decrease in population among their own numbers. Residents in Turkey are hopeful that when the political future of Asia Minor is settled and conditions in the interior become reasonably safe the rich, natural resources will attract desirable immigrants.

The finest tobacco-growing districts of the Turkish Empire were those of Samsun, Bafra, and Tcharchambe, on the Black Sea. These three districts in 1910 produced 2,576,675 kilos of tobacco, valued at £T1,871,865. In 1917 the production fell to 922,379 kilos, valued at £T650,363. Due to deportations, the number of tobacco growers decreased from 9,303 in 1915 to 3,145 in 1917.

In the district of Erythraea (Tchesmé), near Smyrna, whence the whole population, composed exclusively of Greeks, was expelled in 1914, the cultivation of the olive and the vine, which used to yield a goodly revenue, has since given place to the production of charcoal, manufactured by Turks from the trunks of the olive trees.

Sparse population means slow business recovery, less possibility for immediate profits for new investments of capital, and diminished purchasing power for the country as a whole. Four wars succeeding each other with scarcely a break have left their mark on Asiatic Turkey. The present situation concerns not only the immediate residents of Turkey, but also all foreign business initiative and extension.

Nundydroog.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., May 12, 12.30 p.m.

It is announced that coupons of the Imperial Government of Persia 5 per cent. Sterling Loan, 1911, due May 15, will be paid at the Imperial Bank of Persia 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C., or at their bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Company, 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

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VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
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London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The market has been decidedly slow throughout the past week. Considerable attention has been paid to the wages dispute, and as a result of the intervention of the Ministry of Labour the employers and the operatives in the spinning section have narrowed their differences. The Masters' Federation has offered an advance of 25 per cent. on current wages, but up to the present the trade union officials have refused to accept less than 35 per cent. It is anticipated that the differences will be bridged before the end of this week, and a strike avoided. There is not likely to be much difficulty in settling matters in the weaving branch of the industry. Fluctuations have taken place in Egyptian cotton, and the outlook remains uncertain. On the whole, rather more favourable news has been received relating to the new crop. Egyptian yarns have been purchased sparingly. Engagements of producers are getting more irregular. In cloth for Egypt business has been restricted. According to some exporters clearances on the other side are quite satisfactory, but some manufacturers are being asked to delay deliveries. The turnover in piece goods for India has been quite unimportant. Makers of dhooties in Blackburn and district are in need of orders. The further fall in silver has checked trade for China. There has not been very much activity for South America. Cloth prices have been fairly steady, but the tendency of values has been in favour of buyers. American yarns have dragged in demand, and spinners during the week have not nearly sold the output of the machinery. Export bundles continue comparatively quiet.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

The report of the Ionian Bank for 1919 states that the profits provision having been made for expenses of management, losses, all bad and doubtful debts, depreciation of securities, bonus for staff, rates, taxes, income-tax and excess profit duty, both in Greece and England, amount to £39,289, and £11,008 was brought in, making £50,297. An interim dividend at 3s. per share free of tax was paid in September, £14,567, leaving available for distribution £35,730. The directors propose a final dividend for the year at 3s. per share free of tax, £14,567, and a bonus for the year at 1s. per share, free of tax, £4,856, payable May 12; transfer to reserve fund (making it £125,000), £5,000; carried forward, £11,307. The business of the bank continues to show satisfactory expansion, but the profits of the year have been adversely affected by depreciation of securities and by losses incurred through the exceptional fluctuations in the Greek exchange. The directors announce with sincerest regret the retirement, owing to failing health, of their colleague Mr. Falconer Larkworthy, C.O.R., who had been chairman and director for over 20 years. Meeting, Basildon House, Moorgate Street, E.C., May 11, at 11.

Bombay Gas.

The report for 1919 states that the profit as shown by net revenue account, after allowing for interest and exchange, amounts to £31,661, making, with £23,533 brought forward from preceding year, £55,194 available for dividend. Deducting interim dividend paid in November last (£11,200), and placing £1,374 to reserve fund, £5,614 renewal fund, and £153 to insurance fund, there remains £36,852, out of which directors recommend a dividend of 4 per cent. (less tax), making 8 per cent. for year, which will leave £25,652 to be carried forward. Meeting: Moorgate Station Chambers, E.C., May 13, at 11.30.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week to April 18, nil (last week, nil); Hurgada production for week to April 18, 2,534 tons (last week, 2,176 tons).

ON CHANGE.

General Depression.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

There has been a fair amount of business doing this week, but prices have again been on the down grade. There has been good buying, however, going on as the decline has proceeded. In Government stocks City of Alexandria have come back 1¼ to 65, at which price some business has been done. Egyptian Unified are about one point down at 69⅝ x.d., and the 3½ per cent. Pref. are one point down at 58. Turkish 1891's have dropped a point to 65, and Turkish 3½ per cent. 1894's are half down at 53.

In Bank shares Nationals have gone back ⅝ to 20¼; but Agriculturals, after dipping to 4⅞, close unchanged at 5 3-32. On the other hand, Agricultural Pref. have dropped ⅜ to 5¾. There has been a decline of 5s. in Bank of Abyssinia's to 30s., and Land Banks have had a smart fall, closing ⅝ down at 5½.

In Railways Delta Lights are ⅛ lower at 5⅞.

Amongst Land shares, Aboukirs have gone back 3s. to 36s., Béhéras are a point down at 18½, and Building Lands are 2s. lower at 30s. Consolidated Lands, on the other hand, have been a firm spot, and are closing 3s. for the fully-paid share. Delta Lands have lost 1s. at 15s. 6d., Egyptian and Foreign Trusts are 4½d. easier at 15s. 9d., and Gharbieh Land have dropped ¼ to 3½. New Egyptians have been an exceptionally good feature, and, after rising 3s. to 36s. 3d., are closing 1s. 3d. higher at 35s. 9d. Sidi Salem have dropped ¼ to 2½, Union Foncière are ⅛ lower at 5⅝, and Sudan Plantations are almost £1 down to-night at 4⅛ x.d.

Among miscellaneous descriptions, Alexandria Water are ⅛ lower at 10⅜, and Salt and Sodas have dropped 2s. 6d. to 55s. Morum's Stores are fractionally easier at 18s. 6d.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B are 5-16ths down at 3⅝, Roumanians are 2s. 6d. lower at 19s., and Traians have dropped 1s. 3d. to 7s. 6d.

Greek securities have been a very firm spot generally. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are both one point higher at 55, the 1910 Loan has risen half a point to 39½, and the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan one point to 50. The 4 per cent. Rente is exceptionally one point lower at 41.

ROUMANIAN MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed by the Commercial Secretary to His Majesty's Legation at Bucharest that the Council of Ministers, under the presidency of General Averescu, has published a Decree Law, establishing a Department of Labour and Social Protection (Welfare). This is a new departure in Roumanian administration. The Department of Labour and Social Protection will be under the control of a Minister of State, and M. Trancu-Jasi has been appointed to this office.

The new Minister is reported to have great sympathy with the workers, and under his auspices the recent labour troubles with the hairdressers' assistants and the men employed in the machine shops in Bucharest have been settled. It is understood that he is now visiting the Petrosani coalmines in Transylvania with the object of arriving at a working agreement between the miners and their employers.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price— April 26	May 4.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	34
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	27	27
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	66½	65
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	72⅜	69⅜xd
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	59	58
Greek 5%, 1881	54	55
Do. 5%, 1884	54	55
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	42	41
Do. 5% 1890	55	55
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	53	53
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	44	44
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	39	39½
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	49	50
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	72	68¾
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	30
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	66	65
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	53½	53
Do. 4% Unified	33	33
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5 3/32	5 3/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6⅛	5⅞
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	66	66
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	68	68
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	18⅛	18½
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	30/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	6⅞	6⅞
Bank of Roumania	5 7/16	5 7/16
British Trade Corporation	9⅛	9⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	8 1/16	8 1/16
Imperial Bank of Persia	9 3/16	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	5⅞
London County and Westminster	14 13/16	14 13/16
National Bank of Egypt	20⅛	20¼
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6	5⅞
Do. 5% Debs.	68½	68½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9¾	9¾
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	14	14
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	36½	35
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	31½	31½
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50½
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	39/-	36/-
Do. 6% Debs	140½	140½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	16/6	16/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	75/-	75/-
Béhéra Co.	19½	18½
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	32/-	30/-
Egyptian Consol 5/-	2/-	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	16/6	15/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	16/1½	15/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	29/-	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	84½	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61⅛	61⅛
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	34/6	35/9
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	2½
Sudan Plantations	7 7/16	4½xd
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp.	13/9	13/9
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10⅜
Associated Cotton Ginners	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86⅛	86⅛
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	57/6	55/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	96⅜	96⅜
Khediv al Mail Ord.	5 5/16	5 5/16
Do. Do. Prefs.	3½	3½
Levant Co. (fully paid)	17/6	17/6
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	18/9	18/6
Sues Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	98⅜	98
Chinese 4½% 1898	59½	59⅞
Do. 5% 1896	77½	78
Argentine 5% 1890	69	72
Do. 5% 1907	81	83
OIL.		
Algerian	3/10½	3/7½
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	78/9	72/6
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/6	22/6
Do 5% Debs.	82½	82½
Anglo-Roumanian	8/-	8/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/10½	4/9⅜
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	14/6	14/-
Roumanian	21/6	19/-
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	7/-	7/-
Traian (Roumanian)	8/9	8/-

The directors of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., announce a final dividend at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, making 10 per cent. for year ended December 31, 1919, declared on Ordinary, subject to confirmation at annual general meeting to be held on May 26.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	March 19. Rs.	April 26. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	59	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	303	303
Bank of Bengal	1770	1840
Bank of Bombay	2280	2260
Bank of Madras	1700	1700
Bank of India	135ex	135ex
Tata Industrial Bank	52⅛	52½
COAL.		
Baraboni	14	15
Bengal	804	750
Burrakur	50⅛	50
East Indian	37½	37½
Equitable	45	44
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	65	68½
Standard	64⅛	69½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	570	595
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	4150	3875
Bowreah	1090	1286½
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	750	750
Cawnpore	210	195ex
Century	1205	1275
Central India	3185 / 2092½	4630 / 2315
Elgin	118	130
Gold Mohur	1800	400 / 200
Khatau Makanji	725	725
Muir	238	300
New Ring	930	1050
Phœnix	1115	1202½
Svadeshi	4480	4600
JUTE.		
Alliance	755	685ex
Barnagore	154	168
Budge Budge	614	619
Clive	300	340
Dalhousie	511	540
Delta	695	675
Fort Gloster	1000	1036
Gourepore	1335	1340
Howrah	453	473
Kamarhatty	878	895
Kanknarrah	700	727
Khardah	570	616
Kinnison	1106	1164
National	420	412½
Standard	694	730
Union	858	940
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	81⅜	80⅜
Bengal Timber Trading	708	704
Burn and Co.	300	300
Carew and Co.	91	81
Cawnpore Sugar	355	320
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	335	335
Howrah Oil Mills	34	138
India General Steam	135	140
Indian Iron and Steel	140 / 95	— / 43¾
Marshall Sons and Co.	12½	13
Titaghur Paper	302	382

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON APRIL 16.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

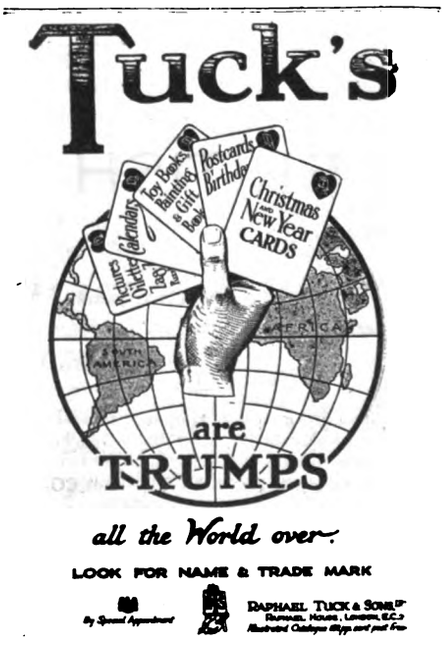
National Bank of Egypt	£	21⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	64
" " Div.	Frs.	87
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	10⅞
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	19⅜
" priv.	£	4
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	76
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 17/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 3/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	5 1/32
Société des Immeubles	£	7⅛
Bonded Stores	£	20 1/32
Unifiée	£	7 7/32
Privilégiée		61xd
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 1/16
Nungovich Hotels	£	11½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5 3/32
" " Fond.	£	430
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3½
" " Ord		107/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21 5/16
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6¾
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	93ex
" Jouissance	Frs.	134
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		36/6
Egyptian Markets		24/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	400
" Div.	Frs.	400
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	295
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	8 1/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		56
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	652
" Fondateur	Frs.	8800
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	392
" 1903 "	Frs.	279
" 1911 "	Frs.	266
Consolidated Land	P.T.	15
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	1 1/32
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T.	338
Upper Egypt Hotels	£	1⅞
Urbaines & Rurales		3⅝
Anglo-American Nile Steamship		4½
Gabbari Lands	£	

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	April 27.	May 4.
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	58½	58½
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	63½	63⅜
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		83½	83½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		69	67
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		67⅛	67½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		73½xd	72½xd
Eastern		7⅛	7⅛
Mercantile of India A		43⅜	34½
National of India		54½xd	54½
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		8/4½	8/4½
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/1½	13/1½
Burma Corp.		11 7/16	10 15/16
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		9/9 3/4	9/9 3/4
Champion Reef Gold		3/-	3/7½
Mysore Gold Mining		15/-	15/-
Nundydroog		13/3	12/9
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		17/6	15/6
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		23/9	24/4½
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		37/6	34/9
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		35/-	35/-
Brit. Burmah		4⅜	4 19/20
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		17⅜	17
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		18/9	18/9
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅛	9⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		49	50
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		130	129
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		49⅛	50
Bengal-Nagpur		110⅜	113¾
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		100	100
Burma Railways		105½	104
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		12⅛	12½
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		12⅛	12⅛
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		12	11⅝
Madras and S. Mahratta		109½	112
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		127½	123
Nizam's Guaranteed State		71¼	70½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		55/-	54/4½
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		81	77
Do. Deferred		500	494
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		62	62½
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16	16
British Indian Tea Ord.		7½	7½
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15	15
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		10/3	10/3
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		61/3	61/3
Consolidated Estates		44/6	41/3
Darjeeling Co.		19/6	19/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		61/3	61/3
Dooars Tea Ord.		53/-	51/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		21/6	20/9
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		67/6	67/6
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		31/-	29/6
Hewagam Rubber Co.		21/3	21/3
Jhanzie Tea Association		10⅝	10⅝
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		19⅛	19⅛
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		14/6	14/4½
Lanka Plantations Ord.		21/3	21/3
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		22/6	22/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		40/-	37/9
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		13/-	12½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		28/9	28/9

Suez Canal Company.—The general meeting will be held in Paris on Monday, June 7 next.



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AND

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Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital - - -	,,	**88,21,400**
Reserve Fund - - -	,,	**40,00,000**
Reserve against Depreciation of Govt. Paper and other investments -	,,	**11,00,000**

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - - -	**£1,197,468.**	**Reserve Fund** - -	**£220,000.**

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Reserve - - - £710,000.

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KASHMIR	9,000	May 22	May 29	Bombay and Calcutta
KALYAN	9,000	May 29	June 5	Bombay and Japan
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SIRSA	5,100	May 15	—	Bombay and Karachi
HATIPARA.....	8,182	May 26	—	Madras and Calcutta
NEVASA	9,071	June 2	—	Pt. Sudan & E. Africa

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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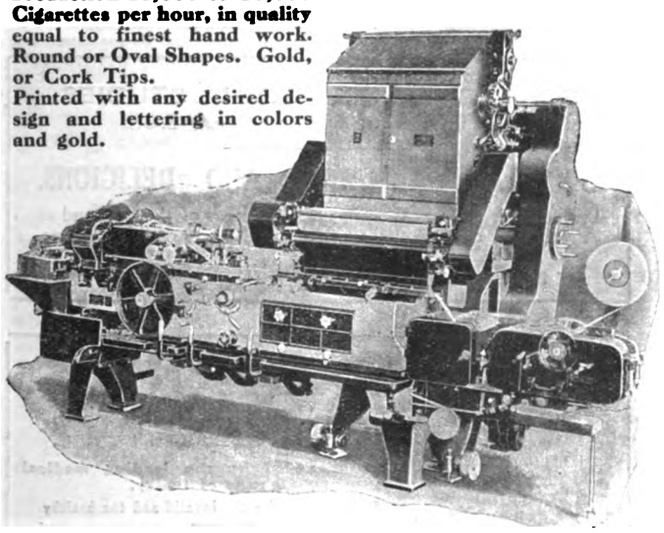

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No. 471.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Before these notes are in print the Peace Terms will have been presented to the Ottoman Delegates. Officially they can hardly be made known before the Constantinople Government has had time to examine them, but the Paris *Journal* on Monday published a summary of them which is probably neither very incomplete nor very inaccurate. We prefer, however, still to refrain from comment upon them until the official version is forthcoming. There is little new or startling about the summary, the most interesting new points being: (1) The definition of the new Armenian territory as the provinces of Van and Bitlis, as well as part of that of Erzeroum; (2) the entrusting of the Holy Places to a British Commission, under the League of Nations; (3) the handing over to the League of Nations of the protection of minorities, and the abolition of the Catholic protectorate; and (4) the announcement that the Turkish Army is to consist of 50,000 long-service men, while the Turkish Navy is to be abolished.

The abolition of the Turkish Navy will almost certainly grieve nobody but those very few Turkish sailors who took their profession seriously and those others—far more numerous—who, frankly disliking the sea and failing to understand ships, regarded it merely as an excuse for drawing unearned pay and commissions. It is possible that in course of time the reduction of the Army would prove not altogether unacceptable to many perfectly patriotic Turks; and, indeed, most of the conditions laid down would have at least a good chance of acceptance, even though some of them must admittedly prove terribly humiliating to a people with pride and a martial spirit, like the Turks. The loss of Thrace will certainly be a bitter pill to swallow; but in view of the fact that the Turks have more than once contemplated the possibility of being driven out of Constantinople, the relief of being left there, upon conditions, may enable them to get the pill down. But the decision regarding Smyrna is likely to cause far worse trouble, and it remains to be seen what action the Turks may decide to take in this matter. It is practically certain that they will make counter-proposals regarding the taking of the plebiscite, probably asking that it shall be taken at once, and under international auspices.

According to the *Morning Post's* Constantinople correspondent, the Sultan of Turkey, the Crown Prince, the Grand Vizier, and the Ministers stand pledged to resign their functions and offices collectively "if the Allies present a Treaty which deprives Turkey of Smyrna and Thrace." It is to be hoped that the threat will not be carried out; for the Sultan and his present Ministers are probably better than others who would take their place, and they appear to be in earnest in their endeavours to act aright in very trying circumstances. The trouble is that the opponents of the Government are at least as powerful as the Government; that they are uncompromisingly hostile to the Allies; and that the presentation of the Peace Terms is likely to strengthen their power for evil enormously. They have shown quite lately what they can do in the way of mischief, at Baku, where they have evidently played an important part in putting a Bolshevist Government into power; and they are reported to have concluded a military convention with the Russian Bolshevists—who promise to give them "moral and material aid" if Turkey is obliged to defend herself against the Allies. In view of other developments, the outlook is far from satisfactory in regard to the Turkish settlement, and we can only repeat the hope already expressed in these columns, that the Allies are fully prepared for all emergencies. If strong action is called for all the Allies should take their share in it.

On his arrival in Athens, on May 2, M. Venizelos was accorded an enthusiastic welcome by his countrymen. He has signalised his return in characteristic fashion; for there can be little doubt that the decision of the Greek Cabinet to grant an amnesty to two hundred political offenders was due to his inspiration. The move is undoubtedly a wise one, and it will meet with even more approval outside Greece than among the Greeks themselves. Greater Greece, which, as M. Venizelos said when thanking the citizens of Athens for their welcome, seems destined to become the centre of future progress in the Near East, can afford to be generous, both at home and abroad. She needs the services of all her able men, without distinctions of party, and she easily can find scope for their talent within her enlarged borders. She can also afford to forget many things that have happened since 1914, and it looks as if she is bent upon taking a wider view than has been possible to her in the past.

Political rivalries in Yugoslavia appear to have reacted unfavourably on Yugoslav interests in the negotiations with Italy regarding Fiume. The Belgrade *Samouprava* is reported to have announced that

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"at last the Crown Council has decided to leave to Italy the sovereignty over Fiume," and though the report may be incorrect it serves to show which way the wind is blowing. The Yugoslavs themselves are now represented as being divided in their desires on the matter, some wishing to agree to Italian sovereignty over the port, some wishing for a buffer State, and some desiring that the League of Nations shall control the port permanently. As Signor Nitti and M. Trumbitch are understood to favour the second course, it seems to have the best chance of being adopted.

In the course of the statement he made in the House of Commons (on April 29) concerning the San Remo Conference, Mr. Lloyd George, after paying some handsome compliments to the Emir Faisal, said: "One of the decisions come to at San Remo was to invite him to Paris in the next few weeks. I have no reason to think he will not accept the invitation. I am sure it is vital to his interests, as well as to the two countries who have undertaken these responsibilities [*i.e.*, the mandates for Syria and Palestine] that we should discuss matters with him and come to an understanding, as I hope will be possible in the course of our meeting." It is now announced that the Emir has declined the invitation. It would seem either that he does not share Mr. Lloyd George's optimism regarding the chances of reaching an understanding, or that he holds that he can best serve the vital interests of his country by remaining in it to check the hotheads. For it cannot be denied that there are plenty of hotheads in Syria who would push matters to extremes in their desire to see their country free from foreign soldiery and foreign officials, and it is doubtful whether they could be held in by anybody except the Emir himself. It would be foolish, therefore, to attribute to him any other motives in rejecting the invitation: but in any case it would seem to be a matter for France rather than the Peace Conference to concern itself with. Meanwhile Arabs are raiding villages in the French zone south of Tyre, and refugees are flocking into the British area.

After a period of comparative quiet, the Egyptian extremists have suddenly resorted to methods of violence again. Shots have been fired at British soldiers, and an officer of the Royal Munster Fusiliers has been shot and killed by four *effendis*, while walking in what is described in one of the telegrams as "a brilliantly lighted portion of the Sharia Bulaq." In another case two orderlies were wounded, and it is rather disconcerting to learn that up to the time of writing no arrest has been made in connection with either outrage. Another case of a similar character reported is an attack upon Hussein Darwish Bey, the Minister of Wakfs, at whom a bomb was thrown, fortunately without injuring him. This renewal of the campaign of violence is disappointing, because it was hoped that the agitators were beginning to realise that they would achieve nothing by such methods. That they will have to learn the lesson sooner or later is not to be doubted, but meanwhile Egypt suffers, and, it is to be feared, the criminals positively enjoy the notoriety which is theirs.

Having completed their inquiries in the Sudan, the members of the Nile Irrigation Commission returned to Cairo, and Judge Booth, of the Egyptian Mixed Courts, has been added to their number, as legal member for the purpose of taking evidence on oath. In connection with this inquiry it is not uninteresting to observe how frequently the Egyptians refer to "our" water. Nor is it unnatural to wonder what the result would be if the Sudan took steps to deprive its northern neighbour of any considerable portion of the supply. The Nile is, of course, the life of Egypt, and it is painful to contemplate what such a deprivation would mean to the Egyptians. Yet, though it may seem extremely improbable, it is not utterly impossible that something of the kind might be brought about, or at least attempted, in the future, if Egypt and the Sudan were both left to their own devices. And in view of the past it would seem that in such case the Egyptians might have cause to regret the loss of the British protection of which to-day they profess so much anxiety to be rid.

The Report of the Foreign Office Committee on British Communities Abroad has been published as a White Paper [Cmd. 672], and makes interesting reading. We cannot here examine it in detail, but it is pleasing to note that the Committee have done their work expeditiously and well, and that many of their recommendations show a very clear determination to move with the times. Perhaps the most important thing in the report is the advice "that His Majesty's Government should make it known without delay that they take a sympathetic interest in the activities of British communities in foreign countries, and are prepared in certain cases to afford them practical support." The recommendations as to establishing and supporting British schools—primary and secondary—chambers of commerce, libraries, and schools of archæology are, upon the whole, admirable. The Committee recognises the prestige which is acquired by the existence of an English church in a non-Christian country, and advises that Government assistance should be given to such churches in suitable cases and when necessary; and it urges strongly the formation of "a Society or League on the lines of the Alliance française for the encouragement of the study of English literature and arts." The report is a good one, and we should like to see effect given to the majority of its recommendations with all possible despatch.

Two Parliamentary replies made last week by the Secretary of State for India appear to furnish some support for the view occasionally put forward that Mr. Montagu is gifted with a double personality, a courageous statesman jostling a stubborn bureaucrat. In one case he was pressed to interfere with the discretion of the Governor of Bombay regarding the return of an individual who had been deported, and his reply was quite uncompromising: the matter was one for the Governor's decision, and that decision, whatever it might be, would be accepted by him. In that answer we seem to hear the voice of the courageous statesman who in the Joint Report insisted on the need for strengthening the hands of the authorities in India, and curtailing the practice of interference at this end of the cable. A Secretary of State may, indeed, secure the recall of a Governor whom he is unable to trust, but so long as a Governor retains his confidence, he is not to be tempted into usurping that Governor's functions.

In the other case, Mr. Montagu admitted that he had help up the Government of India's proposals for the European Defence Force because, as he said, he is opposed to the institution of compulsory military service in peace time. Surely that is the voice of impenitent bureaucracy. The authorities in India consider the maintenance of the force to be necessary, and they have worked out a scheme which has been accepted by the great bulk of representatives of the community immediately affected; but considered Indian opinion must give way to the principles or prejudices of the individual who happens to be in authority in Whitehall. We are not, of course, arguing that the decisions taken at Delhi or Bombay are necessarily infallible, but only that Mr. Montagu is able to speak with two different voices in the space of half-an-hour, a fact which may be read as throwing light on some of the less comprehensible happenings in India during the last few years.

It is satisfactory to see from an advertisement published last week that the authorities are at last taking steps to fill the depleted ranks of the Indian Agricultural Service, that small body of experts who have to lead the way in the economic development of the country. It is not going too far to say that no branch of the Indian Administration has suffered more grievously from the war. The Agricultural Depart-

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ment was constituted in 1905 as a skeleton force, and the terms offered were even then barely sufficient to secure the absurdly small staff sanctioned at the outset. Ten years of silent solid work followed, and by 1914 it had become plain that, given men and money, the problems of development would be solved. Then came the war: chemists, botanists, and agriculturists were quick to answer the call, and since 1915 the Department has barely been in a position to cope with its daily work. India is, in consequence, already six years behind, and the arrear is increasing month by month. The immediate need is for men, and we trust that the terms now offered, approximately the same as those recommended by the Public Services Commission, will prove sufficient to attract suitable recruits.

Whether the forty-eight appointments now offered will meet even immediate needs is a question to which we cannot give a confident answer. At the moment a good many posts are, we understand, actually vacant; almost every province is asking for a larger staff; the Cotton Committee recently urged the appointment of thirty men to deal with that crop alone; and it can hardly be doubted that the Sugar Committee, which is still sitting, will press for a large further addition. The work to be done in India involves a certain period of preliminary training, and we confess we should have preferred to see a hundred experts instead of forty-eight sent out this year, provided that so many could be found. The supply is, however, doubtful, and perhaps Mr. Montagu's advisers have limited the number to what they can reasonably hope to obtain. In that case the public can acquiesce in their proposals as an instalment, but speaking for ourselves, we shall not be satisfied until we know that the Department has accumulated an adequate reserve.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

The Liberal Split.

The Liberal congress at Leamington completed the work begun at the Scottish Liberal Federation at Glasgow the week before. The Independent Liberals have long talked of the need of "purifying" their ranks, which in practice meant the elimination of the Coalition Liberals from the party, and they have now carried out their aim with much professed satisfaction. But both the method and the time of what the world is bidden to look upon as a triumph of political principle leave one very doubtful as to the wisdom of the step. At the very moment when the Coalitionists were being excommunicated at Glasgow they were winning an election at Edinburgh; on the day on which they were laid under an interdict at Leamington the Coalition Liberal, Sir Hamar Greenwood, won his seat at Sunderland by over ten thousand votes, while the Independent Liberal candidate forfeited his deposit owing to the smallness of his poll.

In these circumstances, nobody among the Coalition Liberals will be a penny the worse; they will have to work rather more closely with the Unionists than before in the constituencies, and that is all. But the old Liberalism is irretrievably split, for it is not so much the going of the Coalition Liberals as the order of their going that has made for bad feeling. The Independent Liberals at Leamington were obviously determined to eject them; they refused a hearing to the Coalition speakers, howled them down and insulted them, and finally the latter lost patience and left the Congress-room disgusted, as well they might be, at the manners of those who had once been their colleagues.

Independent Liberalism, the dregs and ullage of a once glorious party, has become soured, intolerant, and reckless of consequences. It cannot win a by-election; its leaders are becoming forgotten, and its small rank-and-file are unknown. Mr. Asquith is as ineffective in the House as Mr. Runciman out of it, and Sir John Simon is immersed in the law; their thin vituperations of their former associates move no emotions and rouse no passions. Of constructive policy they show no sign; their tactics are purely destructive. Liberalism outside the Coalition is dead as a fighting force for the next ten years at least, as the result of this week's work, and it will not revive in its present mood. Nobody ever yet won the public suffrage on the ground of bad temper, and it is bad temper pure and simple that has accounted for recent tactics, however it may be cloaked under the semblance of virtue and political purity.

The Autumn Session.

The Government are now hopeful of avoiding an autumn session, and few voices have been raised in favour of one, outside the political journalists who are lost when Parliament is closed. All the Ministers want a rest, and Mr. Lloyd George is particularly in need of relaxation. In office continuously since the end of 1905, he has not had more than a few days at a time since the opening of the war, and the strain has been almost greater since the Armistice than before. If Parliament rises in the middle of August, he will probably go for a sea trip for a month or six weeks for a thorough rest—if he can find a quiet part of the world to go to. The cynic who suggested a holiday trip to the Levant for the Prime Minister is not likely to find his suggestion adopted.

Home Rule.

The Home Rule Bill was postponed a few days on account of the illness of Mr. Walter Long, but little time will in fact be lost. There will be practically no opposition. The half-dozen Irish Nationalists in the House have washed their hands of the Bill. The Independent Liberals, pursuing their usual policy of hiding their heads in the sand, have decided to take no part in the debate after the first day or so; and Labour seems likely to follow the lead of its late master.

It is curious how politicians of all schools seem to be bitten from time to time with the idea that this kind of "masterly inactivity" impresses the country. I have seen leaders of all parties solemnly refuse to touch a measure, and after a rhetorical denunciation of the Government of the day, walk out of the House with all the dignity at their command, followed by the rest of their political party. (Mr. Bonar Law was, I think, the last who did this, in the early weeks of the war.) One is always told that the scene is extraordinarily impressive—personally, I have never found it so—and that it will echo through the land as no mere argument could do. But it never does. Nobody ever takes the least notice of politicians on strike except politicians not on strike, and these know the trick too well to attach the least importance to it.

The Budget and Profits.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain has not only had his way—that was anticipated—but very much the best of the argument with the business men over the excess profits; and that, to put it quite frankly, was not anticipated. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is one of our most interesting studies in political evolution, and I wonder that our contemporary character-sketchers like Mr. E. T. Raymond do not devote more attention to him. Twenty years ago he was the mediocre son of a brilliant father, and as a loyal Unionist remarked: "We all say nice things about Austen because we all love Joe." Then came the days of the father's eclipse, his long illness, patiently borne, at Birmingham, and his death just before the war. By all the rules the son ought to have been at least partially eclipsed, if he were but the pale shadow of his father, but he has gone ahead amazingly since then. He is not a good speaker—he always impresses me as dull—but he has character; and if one may parody Tennyson's remark that Browning had poetry in him but couldn't get it out, Mr. Austen Chamberlain appears to have politics in him but he cannot get it out. But he is beginning to leave on one—and particularly on those who disagree with him—the image of a heavy full-back at football, the sort of person who doesn't seem to count for very much until you try to score a goal at his expense, when you suddenly find yourself on your back and the ball in his possession.

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The City Churches.

The Church of England made a special appeal last Sunday for funds to assist its hard-pressed priests, and the Diocese of London has this week taken a practical step towards improving the financial position. It has recommended the demolition of nineteen of the City churches, the sale of the enormously valuable sites on which they stand, and the reduction of the number of livings so that the stipends can be applied elsewhere. The report seems entirely reasonable, but it has roused a big outcry from all the people who talk about "vandalism" and the protection of ancient buildings. One of the ancient buildings is St. Dunstan's, in Fleet Street, which was built in 1832, the very worst period of English Church architecture; other of the condemned churches are little more than barns, whose demolition would be as little loss to architecture as to religion. Hardly anybody ever uses these churches, and a reduction in the number would still leave a large amount of vacant pew-space to be divided among the caretakers and charwomen who are the resident population of the City, and the proceeds would help very considerably in the building of new churches in the suburbs, where they are much needed.

The Lambeth Conference.

The sixth Lambeth Conference assembles in July. At the first meeting in 1867 there were seventy-six bishops present, but for the present Conference there have already been 279 acceptances. Nothing could show more clearly the way in which the Church of England is going ahead overseas than this enlargement of its episcopate. Many of the bishops who arrive for these conferences are very different from the ordinary type of English bishop, who has to administer a relatively small and thinly populated area; some of the Australian bishops, for example, spend more time on horseback than in the pulpit, and cover thousands of miles in a year. It is a strenuous life, and I should imagine that in the evening of their years many of these good men must long for the peace and quiet of some of the English cathedral cities, "where it seems always afternoon"—and Sunday afternoon at that.

British Tobacco.

Inadvertently I did English tobacco an injustice the other day in commenting on the position of the industry in this country. The directors of the Home-Grown Tobacco Company have forwarded me a very interesting pamphlet describing the past efforts to establish the industry in the years immediately before the war and the present position. The company has resumed operations, which were necessarily suspended during the war, this year on a small estate in Norfolk, but it is their intention considerably to extend the present venture as soon as success justifies an enlargement. The object is to grow a light tobacco suitable for blending with the heavier pipe and cigarette tobaccos imported from abroad; and experience has shown that tobacco in this country should be grown as far as possible in the Eastern Counties, where the soil is light and sandy, but from the very informative booklet which I have read with interest there seems no reason why the industry should not eventually be placed on a firm footing. I have smoked most of the tobaccos produced on this planet, and I hope the day will come when the Home-Grown Tobacco Company will inform me that I can buy a pound of the best Norfolk at the stores.

The Eastern Counties generally seem to be flourishing. I read in the papers that a meeting of farmers and landowners was held at Colchester last week, at which it was decided to raise several thousands of pounds to develop the flax industry in Essex. One gathers that at present prices this should prove profitable to the producers. It will certainly be a source of further strength to the country, and help to increase the rural population.

Prices and Production.

There has been even more discussion than usual on the question of prices on account of an enterprising daily paper having reported the opinion which was expressed at a certain business conference to the effect that prices had begun to fall. Whether the fall is anything more than the usual annual reduction which occurs about May as a result of supplies coming forward, and is cancelled in the late autumn by the automatic process of supplies shrinking, remains to be seen.

It is suggested that some, at least, of the public are beginning to revolt against high prices in the only effectual way—by refraining from purchasing, and some of the produce merchants in Mincing Lane and Mark Lane are understood to have expressed the view that a general shake-out of prices and values could not be delayed much longer. But the good effect of a reduced price of tea and coffee and tinned fish will be more than offset by the further increase which is forehold in bread and sugar, and the additional 14s. 2d. on domestic coal. This last increase, which is directly due to the miners' insistence on a still further advance of wages, will certainly provoke bitter criticism from the consumer, who, in this matter, at least, cannot very well reduce his consumption.

The Week's Books.

The growing demand for serious books since the war, on which I have commented before, seems to be reflected in two which have reached me this week. One on "Divine Personality and Human Life" (George Allen), by Mr. Clement Webb, forms the Gifford Lectures for 1918 and 1919, and it constitutes a notable contribution to modern philosophical thought, which is less concerned to define than to inquire. Mr. Webb's book is the latest volume in the celebrated "Library of Philosophy" which contains Mr. Bertrand Russell's well-known "Introduction to Mathematics"—his mathematics are more trustworthy than his politics—and Mr. Bradley's classic "Appearance and Reality," of which it has been said that the more you read it the less are you sure what is real and what is only apparent.

The second work of this character which has been issued is "Science and Theology" (Blackie), by Mr. F. W. Westaway. The author's summary of the present position of science appears to be excellent, so far as I have examined it; his theology strikes me as a little amateurish and inadequate, but he promises another book on that part of the subject in due course. As it stands, however, these chapters should furnish a convenient introduction to those who want to know the position at the moment in physics, chemistry, and other scientific matters.

By contrast, the week's novels include "Passion," by Shaw Desmond, a tale in which the characters live and move. Mr. Desmond has created real people in a real world, and the story should be popular. "Hands Off," by Beulah Marie Dix (Nash) is an American novel of adventure which is full of excitement; and "An Adopted Husband" (Hutchinson) is a translation of the Japanese classic by Futabatei. Japanese literature is hardly known in this country, and it will be interesting to see whether its descriptions of very different forms of social life will find many readers.

A biographical work of some interest has just been published in "Mary Russell Mitford and Her Surroundings" (John Lane), by Miss Constance Hill, who has already written similar lives of Jane Austen and Fanny Burney. I am afraid that Miss Mitford is less remembered than Jane Austen, who still has her admirers—although few would agree with Macaulay's estimate that she was worth all Dickens and Pliny put together—but there is a great deal to be said for these inclusive biographies, which revive interest in authors whom a hasty public and a succession of new books tend rather to crowd out of their proper place.

EMIR OF HAIL MURDERED.

News has reached London, says a Reuter's message, of the murder of Ibn Rashid, Emir of Hail, one of the two principal rulers of Central Arabia. He was in alliance with the Turks during the war, and Ibn Saud, the Wahabi Emir, was engaged in hostilities with him on behalf of the Allies. The family of Ibn Rashid has been decimated by murder for several generations, and the line is now probably extinct except possibly for an infant son. It is stated that the murder was the outcome of a tribal affair, and has no political significance. Ibn Rashid and Ibn Saud were on good terms at the time of the murder.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, April 19.

The Succession to the Sultanate.

On Friday last Field-Marshal Lord Allenby had a special interview at Abdin Palace with the Sultan, to whom he announced that H.B.M.'s Government had decided to recognise Prince Farouk, the son who was born to his Highness on February 11 last, as the lawful heir to the Sultanate of Egypt. The letter by which ths important announcement was communicated to his Highness ran as follows:—

The recent happy occasion of the birth of a son to Your Highness has caused His Majesty's Government to consider the order of succession to the Sultanate of Egypt.

I have accordingly been commanded by His Majesty to inform Your Highness of the recognition of Your Highness's son Prince Farouk and his male descendants in the male line in order of primogeniture, or in default thereof such other sons as may be born to Your Highness and their male descendants in the male line in order of primogeniture as Your Highness's heirs by whom the dignities of the Sultanate of Egypt shall lawfully be held.

In congratulating Your Highnesss on this auspicious occasion I avail myself of the opportunity of expressing my sincere conviction that the maintenance of the cordial relations essential to the interests of Great Britain and Egypt will ever be the aim of Your Highness's successors.

This document, which is of more than passing interest, goes to complete the series of historic documents concerning this country which the war has produced, starting with the letter to Prince Hussein Kamil, dated December 19, 1914, announcing the deposition of the Khedive and the appointment of his Highness as Sultan of Egypt, and ending with that of October 9, 1917, addressed to Sultan Fuad, informing him that he had been nominated in succession to his brother, Hussein, who had just died. The first-named document provided that the succession should remain in the family of Mohammed Ali in an order to be determined later on; the second laid down that it should vest in the heirs of Sultan Fuad in an order to be determined; and the document now executed definitely fixes the order in which that succession shall follow. Thus the descendants of the ex-Khedive Tewfik, the eldest son of Ismail Pasha, the father of the late and present Sultans, are definitely excluded from the succession so long as Prince Farouk lives and any other son is born to Sultan Fuad.

This decision of the British Government has had a threefold effect. It has given the death knell to the hopes of the Khedivialist party, which is very strong in Egypt, and had been working hard for the nomination of Prince Abdel Monem, the eldest and only surviving son of the ex-Khedive. It has materially strengthened the position of Sultan Fuad, against whom there has been a persistent campaign in this country, since it has shown that the British Government supports him, and in that it may be regarded as a snub to the other Princes of his family, who recently made a dramatic entry into the arena, ostensibly as the champions of the Egyptian independence cause, but really in order to gratify their enmity of the present Sultan and give an impetus to the movement against him. Finally, it has given an effective hint to the political agitators that Great Britain does not intend to abdicate one iota of her political position in Egypt.

The Political Situation.

As stated in last week's letter, H.E. Adly Yeghen Pasha left Egypt for France last Saturday by the same boat as M. Clemenceau. The ex-Minister for Education had a tremendous send-off from Cairo, where several of the Ministers, ex-Ministers, and members of the Zaghlul Delegation were amongst those who bade him farewell at the station; he was enthusiastically cheered when his train passed through Tantah; and there was another great demonstration on the Quay before the Sphinx left Alexandria. Officially, Adly Pasha is proceeding to Europe in order to take the waters as he used to do in pre-war days, but it is no secret that he received a telegram from Zaghlul Pasha asking him if possible to hasten his departure, and that in conference with the latter in Paris he will endeavour to find a formula which will enable the Egyptian political leaders to enter upon a discussion with the British Government before the Milner Mission presents its report.

It is indeed a tribute to the high esteem in which Adly Yeghen Pasha is held by all parties in this country that, although the hope underlying his visit is generally known, even those who have set their faces dead against any *rapprochement* with the British Government before the "national" claims of the country have been granted have in this case refrained from their usual practice of calumniating those who do not endorse in every respect the extremist doctrines which they propound. At the same time this may be regarded as a straw showing which way the wind is inclining, and indicating that a gradual change is coming over the general attitude on the political question.

CAIRO, April 26.

The Sultan's Heir.

A warm exchange of telegrams has taken place between the King and Sultan Fuad on the occasion of the recognition of Prince Farouk as the heir to the Sultanate of Egypt, which was reported in my last letter. Sultan Fuad, in his telegram of thanks, said: "I avail myself of this opportunity to assure your Majesty that the maintenance of cordial relations required by the interests of Great Britain and Egypt will always be the object of my interest, and I believe that I can always rely on your Majesty's valuable support and kind friendship." The King replied: "I have read with much pleasure your Highness's wire, and I can assure you of my interest in and support of all that concerns the prosperity of Egypt, as well as of my personal wishes for the comfort and happiness of your Highness and your dynasty." Several delegations have this week come up to Cairo from Alexandria and the Provinces in order to congratulate his Highness.

The Emir Abdullah.

This afternoon the Emir Abdullah, the eldest son of the King of the Hejaz, arrived in Cairo, accompanied by Colonel Charles Vickery, C.M.G., the British Agent at Jeddah. A guard of honour provided by the Middlesex Regiment was drawn up at the station, where the Emir was received by the Hon. T. Scott, Councillor to the Residency, representing the High Commissioner, and Said Zulfikar Pasha, Grand Chamberlain, representing the Sultan. The Emir, who has come to Cairo in order to return the visit which Lord Allenby recently paid to his father at Jeddah, is the guest of the British Government, and is staying with his suite at Shepheard's Hotel. Lord Allenby paid him an official visit a short time after his arrival.

Cotton Research in Egypt.

The First Progress Report of the Cotton Research Board, which has just been published, is welcome as an indication that the serious problems in connection with cotton growing in Egypt are at last receiving close attention. Not that one would wish to infer from this that they have not received attention in the past; far from that, much money and time have been expended by the Egyptian Government in the appointment of Commissions and the engagement of staff to study and deal with particular aspects of the question. Hitherto the research work has, however, been conducted more or less in water-tight compartments, and, as the Report points out, "past experience has shown the disadvantages attaching to the investigation of cotton problems from the point of view of any one branch of science, however eminent the investigator and whatever the range of his experience in his own particular subject."

The Board, which was formed in May, 1919, has been constituted to bring together experienced workers in those branches of science which are intimately connected with agriculture (botany, entomology, chemistry, and physics), and so form a body whose duty would be to

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initiate and direct scientific research into all matters connected with the cultivation of the cotton plant. In other words, after having proved by experience the disadvantages of conducting research by means of independent scientists each of whom ploughs his lonely furrow, intent on his own branch, and paying little or no attention to what fellow scientists in other branches are doing side by side with him, the Egyptian Government has decided to initiate what one might by contrast call a "Team" system, under which the experts in each branch will work in close co-operation so as to complement wherever possible the particular line of research which each of their colleagues is conducting.

We all know how for example the success of a football fifteen depends not only on the individual progress of the players but also on their "combination" and on the ability of the captain to make this combination as perfect as possible. The same thing would apply to a body such as the Cotton Research Board, the success of which will depend on the "team" work of the members and on the manner in which the chairman co-ordinates their activities and gets the best out of them individually and collectively.

The report, after outlining the experiments which are being carried out and the programme which it has laid down, says that "the advantage of having experiments inaugurated and controlled by the board and carried out by experts in close co-operation is already evident." If, therefore, the members, who are all experts in their own particular line, show that *esprit de corps* which characterises Englishmen working as a body, be it for their school, their college, their battalion or their side, there is every reason to anticipate that success will speedily crown their united efforts. Certainly everyone who is interested in the future of cotton cultivation in Egypt will subscribe to the board's remark that "lost opportunities cannot be retrieved at once," and will be prepared to accord to it the time "thoroughly to study the situation and to initiate and carry through new work," and the confidence for which it asks.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, April 24.

Belgrade and the Fiume Question.

Citizens of Belgrade have had plenty of subjects for conversation during the past week. The first item of interest was the public meeting, convened by the Mayor, last Sunday, to protest against the anticipated injustice in connection with the Fiume question. Large meetings had already been reported from the provinces, the most enthusiastic and impressive being at Zagreb, where, according to accounts, a crowd some 25,000 strong, marched through the streets, paraded in front of Army H.Q. and the Ban's Palace, and made patriotic speeches. The meeting at Belgrade was very largely attended by an orderly crowd, chiefly of better-class people, and a number of good speeches were made, and received with enthusiasm. Finally, six resolutions were passed, as follow:—First, the gathering insisted on the right of self-determination for all nations, great and small alike; secondly, it protested against the secret Treaty of London, which places over 400,000 Slavs under the sovereignty of Italy against their will: it protested against the rumoured separation of Rijeka (Fiume) from Yugoslavia, to which the Yugoslavs could never consent; fourthly, it expected the Government of the S.H.S. to exert all its energy to prevent this separation; fifthly, it appealed to the democracy of Italy to stop the Imperialistic policy of their rulers, which clashes with her own splendid traditions, and to put a stop to the present threatening position, which may well be fatal to that Yugoslav-Italian friendship which is so essential to the peoples of the Adriatic; and, sixthly, it expressed the hope that both States would take all possible steps to develop friendly relations—such as, for instance, the freedom of the Adriatic Sea and both coasts, the mutual protection of minorities unavoidably included within the other's territories, and the drawing of a reasonable frontier line between Italy and Yugoslavia, so that it would be possible for the two neighbouring races to live on friendly terms.

The meeting was impressive, the speeches were patriotic and determined, without being chauvinistic or aggressive; there was no sign of hostility to Italy, but every desire to maintain friendly and neighbourly relations. At the same time there was a spirit of absolute determination to insist upon their just claims. One speaker said that if compelled by force of circumstances to accept an unjust decision now, they would know how to wait patiently for justice, which they would attain sooner or later, just as they won their freedom from the Turks and from the Hapsburgs.

Government Matters.

Early in the week it was announced that the Government had resigned, but this was afterwards corrected. It appears that what actually happened was that M. Protitch submitted a memorandum to the Crown, to the effect that he could no longer carry on the government of the country without a quorum in the Skupshtina, suggesting a coalition, rather than a neutral Cabinet, which would have to deal with the vitally pressing problems of the Rijeka (Fiume) settlement, the Peace Treaty, the moratorium, and the elections for the Constitutent Assembly. Conversations are proceeding, and it is generally anticipated that before long the Radical-cum-Narodny Club *bloc* will yield more or less gracefully to a coalition Cabinet.

The Belgrade Press.

Belgrade has been without newspapers for the best part of the week as the result of a dispute between masters and men. The latter suddenly made certain demands to which the masters retorted by a lock-out. They then created a precedent for the country, in following the example of Paris, and bringing out the *Belgrade Press*—that is, a single sheet, where each paper has a certain space allotted to it; consequently we have the amusing circumstance of finding a heading like this:—*Pravda*.—"62nd Day of the Usurping and Bloody Rule of M. Protitch" (how they love each other!), and immediately beneath it, in the same column, the leader of the *Samouprava*, which is the Radical organ. But the Labour organ had the time of its life, when for some days it was the only paper appearing, and for the sake of its few telegrams was eagerly bought up by the public of all parties.

The Subotitsa Incident.

A quite sensational affair occurred at Subotitsa, marked on our old maps as Szabadka, near the Hungarian demarcation line. In this prosperous little market town there is a very mixed population, where Magyars, Germans, and Jews combined easily outnumber the Serbs. Magyar national propaganda is active all along the northern parts of Yugoslavia, and a few days ago the fires that have been smouldering some time burst into flame at Subotitsa. A crowd, chiefly of Hungarians, armed with moderns weapons—bombs and machine guns, it is reported—attacked the Serbian police authorities and murdered three police commissaries and a gendarme. It is now believed that more perished. A battalion of Serbian infantry came to the rescue and very quickly restored order. Apparently there were numerous casualties, including over twenty gendarmes, one officer, and several N.C.O.'s, and some regular troops. The ringleaders were arrested and court-martialled at once. The leader of the Belgrade Labour Party, Zhivko Topalovitch, was arrested among them, but was released by the authorities on his satisfying them that the object of his presence there was to calm the strikers, and prevent any Serbian hotheads from playing the Magyar game; for the Labour Party here are Serbs first and Socialists afterwards. The Magyars had proclaimed a Soviet Republic, in order to mask their national movement under the guise of Bolshevism.

All this is disquieting, as it shows that the Magyar majority will be an indigestible morsel for the Serbs. They have full political liberties; for the Serbs are very easy-going and tolerant; indeed, too much so. The vast majority of railway officials in the Banat, Rachka, and elsewhere across the river are the original men con-

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firmed in the posts, and great numbers of them are pure Magyars, speaking neither Serb nor German, which often makes travelling inconvenient. Magyar officials are quite numerous, and the use of their own language is not interfered with. But they resent their inclusion in Serbia, and many who refuse to take the oath are leaving the country. This is the best solution, for Serbia wants no unwilling subjects. The Magyars have many engaging qualities, but have been the enemies of the Serbs for many centuries, and their association is practically impossible, unless the Magyar will accept the situation, stop political intrigue, and carry on his business in peace. But he resents his lost supremacy.

Perhaps the most disquieting part about the whole business was revealed by the Press Bureau, which called attention to an article in *Il Messagero*, published in Italy, describing the "Revolution in Yugoslavia," and the proclamation of a Soviet Republic on the morning before the incident took place. This is proof enough that the whole business was carefully planned, and was known in Italy in advance, and the irresistible conclusion is that Italy was not only cognisant of the plot, but assisted in it. And this at the moment when Belgrade publicists were making speeches inviting the friendship of the Italian people!

The Railway Strike.

Then we have had the railway strike. This began as a purely economic question, on the grounds that the Radical Government suddenly cancelled the arrangement made with the men by the Democrats; but it quickly assumed a political aspect, as the discontented parties across the river made capital of it. There were a few cases of sabotage reported in Bosnia and Croatia. The Government restored order by calling up for two months' training two classes of railwaymen liable for military service. As one-third of those in Serbia declined to strike and supported the authorities, the strike quickly languished. For a few days we were almost without a train, then a partial service was effected. Now the strike has collapsed and almost all the men have voluntarily returned to duty. It is expected that the full normal service will be resumed in two or three days. Foreign visitors were hit by the stopping of the Orient Express, for a party of British travellers were detained several days at Vinkovtse, the junction for the Bucharest branch. Two coaches left on the 22nd and the 23rd, on a military train, but there are now none left, so that no one can leave till the next Orient Express comes in.

For two days there was a general strike in Belgrade to show solidarity with the railwaymen, but the boat, waterworks, postal and telephone services were not affected. In other branches many men refused to stop work.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, April 17.

Opening of the Chamber.

The first extraordinary session of the Nineteenth Ordinary National Assembly was opened on Thursday (April 15) by M. Stamboliski, the Prime Minister, who was authorised by the King to read his Royal Message to the new Parliament. This Message, or Speech from the Throne, made reference to the grave situation in which the country finds itself to-day, and urged the national representatives to continue with even greater energy and boldness the vitally necessary work of reconstruction and pacification of the country, which, supported by the sobriety and commonsense of the hard-working Bulgarian people, is following the path leading to its salvation. Anarchy and disorganisation are rapidly disappearing; the danger threatening so many of the smaller States has been removed; and the country has started on the road of peaceful cultural and economic development that will lead it to a brighter future. The message concluded with the statement that the nation had entrusted its fate to its chosen sons, and the hope that they will justify its confidence; and no reference was made in it to the legislation that will occupy the attention of the Chamber.

The sitting began with a religious service conducted by the Bishop of Sofia and his assistant clergy, after which the deputies took the oath. Before the reading of the Royal Message the Communists demonstratively left the hall amidst marks of disapproval on the part of the Agrarians, who advised them that their proper place was a lunatic asylum.

Election of Officials.

The Prime Minister proposed that the Chamber should proceed to the election of a president and two vice-presidents, and requested the senior deputy to take the chair and preside over the election. M. Ivan E. Gueshoff, leader of the Narodniaks, being the senior member, accepted the invitation, and appealing warmly to the deputies for union and co-operation asked them to give their votes in writing. In the result it was announced that M. Alex. Boteff was elected President and MM. Constantin Thomoff and Christo Manoloff Vice-Presidents. All three of these gentlemen belong to the Agrarian group. The new President, after taking the chair, thanked the Assembly on behalf of himself and his colleagues for the confidence bestowed on them, and promised that the sittings should be conducted with absolute impartiality. The Chamber afterwards adjourned to the 19th inst.

Reconstruction of Cabinet.

A Royal Decree was published to-day, accepting the resignation of Dr. Daneff, Minister of Finance, and of MM. Michael Madjaroff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and M. Athanase Bouroff, Minister of Commerce and Labour. The Decree charged M. Stamboliski with the conduct of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Raiko Dascaloff (Minister of Agriculture), with the Ministry of Finance, and M. Nedelko Athanasoff, Minister of Public Works, with that of Commerce and Labour, until the appointment of special Ministers. A special committee has been appointed by the Agrarian League to negotiate with the Parliamentary groups of the Democrats, Narodniaks, Progressists, and Radicals regarding their participation in the government of the country.

Agrarians and Communists.

At the opening of the Chamber, the Communist deputies did not take the oath before their respective clergy, as all the other deputies did; but only signed their names under the formal declaration of the oath. This proceeding is regarded by the Agrarian Parliamentary group as insufficient; and the Agrarians will formally demand in the Chamber that they shall take the religious oath, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Should the Communists refuse to do this, they will be regarded as "unbelievers" and will be debarred from attending the sittings of the Chamber, and will forfeit their mandates as deputies.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, March 19.

This week the Greek Government has mobilised the Hellenic subjects in the Aidin Vilayet between the ages of twenty and twenty-six, and already some 12,000 men have been shipped off to Mitylene and Chios for training. For the present only those Hellenic subjects of the Orthodox and Catholic religion are recruited; Hellenic subjects of other religions as well as Ottoman Greeks (*rayahs*) are not yet recruited. The withdrawal of so many workers makes the labour question in Smyrna still more acute, and is undoubtedly another nail in the coffin which some people prophesy is slowly but surely being prepared for Smyrna trade and industries.

Since the beginning of the year the mail service to Smyrna is worse than it has ever been. This week letters posted in London on February 5 have been delivered in Smyrna. Some of the mail bags for Smyrna have been sent to Athens, and bags for those towns sent to Smyrna. The bags sent to Athens are eventually delivered to the Smyrna Greek authorities, who take a week or two to make up their minds to deliver them to the British Post Office.

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WHEN the interests of the Empire and the individual are identical it is not difficult to adopt the imperialistic point of view.

The purchaser of Dunlop tyres *knows* that he is not only furthering British trade but is ensuring satisfaction to himself: hence their universal popularity.

DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LTD.,
Founders of the Pneumatic Tyre Industry,
BIRMINGHAM.

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SYRIA.

BEYROUT, April 17.

The High Commissioner.

Before leaving Deir El Qamar the High Commissioner visited the small French graveyard to perform the pious act of laying a wreath on the tomb of the glorious dead of 1860. The Maronite Bishop held a short commemorative service to which the tricolours lent a very impressive character. The distinguished Commander-in-Chief was touched by the reverent thought which prompted the municipality of Deir El Qamar, the Curate of Beit Eddine, and the French School of the latter village, as well as the Druses of Baaqleen—a fact of singular significance—to send each a large wreath.

At Beit Eddine a Druse orator, after referring to the traditional friendship between England and the Druses, expressed regret that it should have been so interpreted as to imply an anti-French feeling. He paid the Haut Commissaire the compliment of having won, by his wise administration and justice, his goodness and clemency, the hearts of the Druses, and he ended by paying a tribute to France, and urging his compatriots to let themselves be guided by this tender foster-mother.

After the reading of another address by another Druse notable the Commander-in-Chief made a suitable reply.

At the conclusion of his speech he announced the pardon of some Druses who had recently been condemned, and stated that Baaqleen was to become henceforth the seat of the Kaimakam of the Chouf—news that caused great joy among the crowd of listeners.

MALTA.

VALETTA, April 27.

Rhodes Scholarship.

Malta, speaking generally, has always been a loyal colony, but nevertheless has been denied many privileges attendant on her Empire membership. There has been no little indignant discussion of late locally anent the refusal of Maltese as emigrants to her sister colonies. Hence the visit of Mr. Dawson, a distinguished member of the Victorian League, in connection with the establishing of a Rhodes Scholarship for Malta comes opportunely and is doubly refreshing. A number of visits to the various educational institutions by the distinguished representative cannot but do good, and it is hoped that the matter of the scholarship will work out for the good of the island. Let us hope that there will not be the usual "buts" raised, as is so common an occurrence in countries suffering from insularity.

Lord Lytton's Visit.

Lord Lytton, First Civil Lord of the Admiralty, has paid a visit to Malta to inquire into the organisation of His Majesty's Dockyard. His visit is timely, as many of the most highly skilled dockyard labourers are emigrating, being dissatisfied with the general local conditions, and there are ominous signs of unrest and discontent. Prices are going up and the quality of the staple food—bread—is going down.

Russian Refugees.

There are still a fairly large number of Russian refugees with us, and although they cannot be classed as poor refugees their protracted and enforced presence here has taxed their resources greatly. There have been many local charitable efforts made on their behalf, and the latest has been a grand Russian fête, café chantant, exhibition, and sale of Russian works of art—the work resulting from their enforced confinement here. The exhibition appears to have proved a great success, despite the many calls on the purse of Malta, and it was held under very distinguished patronage, being opened by Lady Plumer.

Scarcity.

Useful and necessary commodities have since the beginning of the war come into the island in an erratic manner. At present matches are a great rarity, but on the information of the Control Board we are to receive 300 cases by the 10th.

Gas Charges.

The Gas Company (an outside company) has just notified the public that gas is to be 13s. 8d. per thousand cubic feet! We should think this is almost a record. Increased cost of production is put down as the cause. The public are finding a remedy in the installation of electric light, which is a Government concern.

Navy and Army Canteen Board.

There can be no doubt that local traders have been hit very hard by the establishment of the Navy and Army Canteen Board in the island. Grumblings have been very rife in the past, and they have just culminated in an interview between the Governor and a representative body of those aggrieved. The Chamber of Commerce was represented, and 500 merchants also. Dr. Bartolo acted as spokesman for the signatories, and he did his work well, making out a strong case, backed by correct defence. That the Navy and Canteen Board has been constituted a monopoly was proved up to the hilt, and its detrimental effect on local dealings was clearly established. The Governor, being placed in a dual position, had a difficult brief, for he had to be both a soldier and a governor. Specific instances on both sides were advanced. His Excellency was not in a position to give a definite reply until the Naval and Military authorities had been consulted; but later it was stated that a copy of the memorial had been sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Contractors and merchants can only wait in patience, but there is no doubt that what will be done locally will depend upon the attitude taken by the Home authorities.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, April 10.

The Question of Salaries.

A considerable number of officials are anxious to take leave, while others are retiring; but the difficulty of obtaining passages is as great as ever, and to this are added the risk and expense of delays in Egypt. The question of an increase of salary for all officials, and for pensioners, presses for consideration, and, it is hoped, will be speedily settled. The papers point out that £100 in Cyprus is now only worth £30 in pre-war value. Municipal employees throughout the island, and many others, for whom no provision exists, are naturally now calling for the attention which their circumstances demand. The position of village schoolmasters again is engaging attention. They cannot be expected to live on their present miserably poor pay, and unless their condition is improved this year many of them will have to seek other work: and many schools will be either without masters or carried on under incompetent teachers.

The Greek Deputation.

The Greek members of the Legislative Council, who are again leaving to join the London deputation, are Mr. N. Paschalis, Ph. Zannétos, and N. Lanitis. They hope to proceed via Athens, Brindisi, Venice, Trieste, and Paris. The Archbishop, while spending some days at Alexandria, exchanged visits with the clergy and the leading members of the Greek community, including those of the "Cypriot Brotherhood."

Easter Celebrations.

The Easter season is always the principal time of festivity and rejoicing for the Greek community, which would be glad this year if dates fixed for national celebrations could coincide with those observed in Greece in honour of Hellenic territorial acquisitions and the political triumphs of M. Venizelos. Greeks are also reminded by the Press that next year will bring the hundredth anniversary of the Greek Revolution, which brought constitutional freedom to Hellas. It began in April, 1821, though it was not till 1830 that it was arranged that Greece should become an independent State. In 1833 the first King, Otho (second son of the King of Bavaria), began his reign.

Emigrants to America.

Misfortune and disappointment haye attended a number of Cypriots who, in spite of warnings, went to the United States in hope of making a good living there. About eighty have just found their way back, after considerable difficulty and some very disagreeable experiences. They were refused a landing, some on account of health, others owing to being penniless, or illiterate. They have in most cases only themselves to blame, as they have had repeated warnings both by friends and by the local press. The *Phoné tes Kypron* ("Voice of Cyprus"), in particular, has not ceased to caution would-be emigrants to America not to run any risks without positive assurance from relations or from a reliable source that they will find suitable employment on arrival. Young Cypriots who are physically fit can find work in the island, or should try countries nearer home. The glamour of the dollar, and visions based on the good fortune of some who have really done well in the States, are still a powerful incentive; but their last example should be a sufficient warning to all who are not fully qualified as acceptable citizens for the Republic. One cannot, however, but feel sorry for these unfortunate islanders who have brought such troubles upon themselves.

MOROCCO.

TANGIER, April 24.

Visitors.

Visitors continue to arrive in Tangier in considerable numbers. Since my last letter, the following have arrived: The Marquès de Najera, the Dowager-Marchioness de la Pasture and the Marquesa del Castillo, General Creenly, Lt.-Col.

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Curtis, Captain Schreiber, Commander Good, R.N., Lady Evelyn Cobbold, Col. and Mrs. M. P. Adams, Messrs. Charles Tower, Dickinson, Robotham, Brig.-Gen. Rudkin, C.M.G., D.S.O., Mr. F. F. Scott, Major I. S. and Mrs. Woolcombe and Mr. Roy Wilson, Mr. John St. Loe Strachey (editor of the *Spectator*), and Mrs. Strachey, Mr., Mrs., and the Misses Travers, Dr. H. C. and Mrs. and Miss Loevenstein, of New York; Mr. R. D. Setine, of Bombay; Mr. and Mrs. Corcos, Col. the Hon. Arthur G. Brodrick and Lady Brodrick, Col. the Hon. E. S. d'E. Coke, Lady Tweedmouth, Lady Farrar, Major and Mrs. Thompson, Miss Corners, Lady and Miss Prendergast.

Departures.

Lady and Miss White left for France. Sir John and Lady Lavery have returned from the coast, and leave shortly for England. The Rev. Waldo Burnett left on the 20th for England viâ Spain and France. Mr. Burnett is greatly liked here, and not only the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, but all the members of the British colony hold him in high esteem, and hope that he will find it possible to undertake the chaplain's duty for the fourth time next season.

We have lost another well-known British resident in the person of Miss Ellen Winslow, who came here in 1887. Miss Winslow represented for many years the R.S.P.C.A. here, and was very active in the service; she also took a great interest in the welfare of freed slaves, by whom she will be sorely missed.

General.

An Allied Committee has been formed to raise a fund for a memorial to be erected in Tangier to those citizens of the Allied nations in this city who lost their lives in the great war. Dr. Verdon was elected to represent the British community on this committee.

One of those sad accidents, which we have to deplore almost every winter, occurred in the bay one night recently, when seven members, including the captain, mate, chief and second engineers of the French steamer, "Navette" lost their lives when returning by boat to their ship. It is remarkable how very rarely the native boatmen meet with accidents, which generally happen to strangers unaccompanied by someone accustomed to the bay.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE THRACIAN COUNCIL.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your last week's issue you published a letter from the Greek Minister in London, Kirios D. Caclamanos, in which he tries to persuade your readers that the telegram of the *Agence Télégrafique Bulgare*—published by you on April 22, and relating to the Western Thracian Supreme Administrative Council—"contains an actually inaccurate version of what has happened in Gumuldgina." His Excellency makes a point of the fact that the Greek members' names have not been mentioned in the telegram, and further endeavours to prove that all that has really happened was nothing more than "an attempt by the Young Turk to vote a resolution in favour of the autonomy of Western Thrace," which "has completely failed, owing to the opposition of Greeks and Turks opposed to the Young Turks."

Your readers will be best able to judge for themselves "what has happened" and what is the desire of the majority of the population in that province if they know the following facts:—

1. The Supreme Administrative Council was not elected by the inhabitants, but was simply appointed by the French authorities. Thus a Greek by origin, but one who was for many years the official French Consul in the same province, was appointed as President of the Council. Therefore this is not a representative body from which one could judge of the proportion and the wishes of the different races represented there.

2. Quite recently the French occupation authorities took a census of the population of this region. The result is: Turks, 74,000; Greeks, 56,000; Moslem Bulgars, 12,000; Christian Bulgars, 54,000; Jews, Gipsies, etc., 8,000; total population, 204,000 souls.

3. On the eve of the San Remo Conference, 84 out of 90 communes in Western Thrace sent through the Entente representatives a formal petition to the Entente Prime Ministers, signed by the legal representatives of these communes. There is a covering letter accompanying the petition, which expresses the firm desire of the whole Turko-Bulgarian population for a *plébiscite* and against annexation by Greece.

As from his Excellency's letter it seems that he knows all the details of what happens in Western Thrace, is he aware that not long ago the Greek Bishop at Gumuldgina issued an order by which all the corpses of deceased Christians of non-Greek nationality buried during the previous years in the Greek cemetery of that city were to be disinterred, and that the French authorities, on learning of this order, which was directed chiefly against Bulgarian dead, compelled the Bishop to withdraw it?—I am, etc.,

May 10. A BULGARIAN IN ENGLAND.

CHRISTIAN CROSSES AT JERUSALEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Well authenticated reports are arriving from Palestine that Zionist Jews in Jerusalem are objecting to the crosses on our soldiers' graves, and that there is a danger of these being removed. The main cause seems to be that the cemetery in which our soldiers have been buried is visible as you go towards the site for the new Zionist College.

It would be a great scandal if this kind of spirit were allowed to prevail, and it would endanger the peace which some people have hoped for as a result of the restoration of the Jews to their ancient land.

Will not Jewish leaders try to influence their people? The only possible result of such conduct will be a repetition of the past misfortunes of the Jewish race. One had hoped for a spirit of brotherhood between Moslem, Christian, and Jew in the land of Palestine, to all of whom it is sacred. But an anti-Christian, materialistic Zionism will not aid the Jewish cause, any more than an anti-Jewish prejudice will fit in with the true spirit of Christianity. Cannot Jewish leaders combine with us in a joint effort to further the Messianic hopes common to both religions—that "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more"; but rather "beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks"?—I am, etc.,

BERESFORD POTTER.

Rake Manor, Milford, Surrey.

THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In perusing the columns of THE NEAR EAST of April 1, 1920, I came across a letter by Dr. Alexander Schepolief (who has a record of professorship behind him) on the question of the right of the new Caucasian Republic to the name of Azerbaijan.

As one well acquainted with the ancient and modern history of the Middle East, I venture to say a few words on the point which has become the bone of contention between Messrs. R. Mareau and A. Schepolief, and hope that you will not deny me the hospitality of your columns.

Dr. A. Schepolief, in the first phase of his letter, dismisses in typically Moscovic fashion, with the single word "stupid," all the historical facts that Mr. Mareau has cited in his letter of January 2 in support of his point of view, evidently unmindful of the fact that a vehement gesture or a passionate utterance can neither prove nor disprove a question, nor can it convince the readers and hearers in one way or the other. In the second part of his letter he gives a long list of places where "Azerbaijan Turks" can be found, and winds up his letter with the following remarks:—

"The Turks called their country Azerbaijan when one part of them received independence and formed a Republic. It was quite natural that this Republic should be called after the name of the country where it was formed." Such arguments breathe an ignorance and confusion of mind that even an ordinary man without a claim to the prefix of doctor or professor would not allow himself to betray. All his contentions amount to this: that there are people called Azerbaijan Turks, and wherever they have settled down they called the land after their name. First of all, Azerbaijan is the name of a certain province, not that of a race, and the point of contention is, Where is Azerbaijan, the classical Atrapaten? Secondly, there is no trace in history of a people or race called Azerbaijan! On what grounds, then, does he make such an assertion? Besides, the very name belies the assertion, because Azerbaijan is a Persian word, not a Turkish! Moreover, it is sheer ignorance to say that the name of a country or province changes with the change in the nationality of the major part of its inhabitants.

Again, what evidence has he in support of his statement that for more than eight centuries Persian Azerbaijan has been a Turkish region, and not in the least an Iranian home? Then, what was the name of the Persian Azerbaijan before it was called by Azerbaijan Turks after their name? And by what race was it inhabited before the Turk settled there?

Dr. Alexander Schepolief's assertion will remain a mere assertion unless he, in the interests of enlightening readers of THE NEAR EAST, deals with the points raised above and answers those questions one by one, provided that his arguments and answers be based not on assertion, but on strictly historical data.—I am, etc.,

CHARLES WATNEY.

Courtfield House, Courtfield Road, S.W., May 8, 1920.

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TURKEY, GREAT BRITAIN, AND THE SETTLEMENT.

By COLES PASHA.

"What feud has Turkey with us?"

By the time this article is published the Turkish delegates will have received the terms of peace at the hands of the Allies, and the punishment awarded, no matter how severe, will doubtless be acclaimed by the Press as an "act of justice." This being so, it may be considered a work of supererogation on my part to discuss further to what extent Turkey should be held responsible for her share in the war. Nevertheless, with the editor's permission, I will endeavour to show that the Turks have a much stronger case than the public has been led to believe, and justice demands that their claims should be considered if only in mitigation of their sentence, for without doubt the terms will be "dictated" even if accepted by the Porte.

When Mr. Lloyd George interviewed the Indian Moslem Deputation he asked them the question which appears at the head of this article. Failing to get a satisfactory answer the Prime Minister lectured the delegates on Turkey's crimes, stating how not only had the Straits been barred against us without cause, but by declaring war Turkey had "tried to stab us when we were engaged in a life and death struggle for the liberty of the world."

Being Mohammedans, perhaps it was only natural that the delegates should lay more stress on the religious rather than the secular side of the question. This was, I think, a mistake, as it opened the door to accusations of fanaticism, whereas if they had studied Turkey's political history for the past fifty years it might easily have been shown that it was the Turks who were engaged in a "life and death struggle," not for the "liberty" of the world but for their own existence. In fact, the Porte had every reason to have "a feud" not only with England but with all the Christian Powers, not excluding Germany, who, posing as a friend, had not hesitated to make secret treaties and aid and abet in the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire. Let us now see what evidence can be produced in support of this accusation, and to persuade the House of Commons (with whom the final ratification of the Turkish Treaty will rest) that Turkey has never had fair play at the hands of Europe. It is to the House of Commons, therefore, that I am making this final appeal. In the first place I would ask the members not to ignore entirely the Khalifate question. I know that many of our legislators look on the whole agitation as fictitious, and only requiring a little firmness on our part to cause it to simmer out. Undoubtedly agitation has largely assisted in the matter, as is apparent from the Hindu extremists throwing in their lot with the Mohammedans. But religious fanaticism once started is, as we know, very difficult to control even amongst our more civilised Christian communities; much more so is it amongst semi-barbarians, of whom there are many among the followers of the Prophet. Pan-Islamism is, therefore, a dangerous combination which had better be made use of than ignored or trifled with. But it is Turkey's political rather than religious rights that I am concerned about, and in support of my contention that Turkey has never had fair play at the hands of Europe I cannot do better than refer the Members to:—(a) The Cyprus Convention and the correspondence which led to it; (b) Dr. Alfred Francis Pribram's exposition of the secret treaties which followed immediately on the signing of the Treaty of Berlin.

As regards the Cyprus Convention we learn from Lord Salisbury's letter to Mr. Layard, H.B.M.'s Ambassador at Constantinople, dated May 30, 1878, that: "Asiatic Turkey contains populations of many different races and creeds possessing no capacity for self-government. . . ." and, after Turkey's defeat by Russia and occupation of Batum and Kars: "Emissaries of intrigue will issue forth to be in due time followed by invading armies," and Russia "will exercise a powerful influence in disintegrating the Asiatic dominion of the Porte." After pointing out how this will stimulate the Armenians and others to desert "the Power which is thought to be falling into decay," Lord Salisbury goes on to say that H.B.M.'s Government cannot allow this to take place, as it "deeply concerns the Oriental interests of Great Britain." Lord Salisbury then proposes that the best way of assisting Turkey is an engagement by some Power "strong enough to fulfil it" "to stop these encroachments by force of arms." He then suggests that the Porte shall hand over Cyprus to Great Britain, not to annex but to administer, so that "the proximity of British officers and, if necessary, British troops will be the best security that *all* the objects of the Agreement shall be attained."

Lord Salisbury only stipulates that the Porte shall on her side undertake to introduce the necessary reforms in the government of the Christian subjects. But "it is not desirable to require more than an engagement on "general terms," the measures to be taken to be settled after "careful inquiry." The Porte at once accepted, and Cyprus was occupied.

What conditions were subsequently agreed on I am unable to say, but from Lord Salisbury's later declaration that "we have been backing the wrong horse" it is to be presumed that in the opinion of the Foreign Office the Porte did not introduce the necessary reforms. This change of policy on the part of Lord Salisbury was very naturally noted by the subject races, who, as predicted, took every opportunity of bringing about the dismemberment of the Empire which was at one time thought deeply to concern our Indian interests. The Porte having once accepted our intervention and occupation of Cyprus, it seems extraordinary that Lord Salisbury was unable to bring the necessary pressure to bear; but I suppose that it was the old story—fear of Russian complications if we insisted on sending officers to take a more active or direct part in the government of Armenia. Thus little or nothing was done, but we continued to occupy Cyprus.

By this time, too, our continued occupation of Egypt and loss of Crete were making the Porte very anxious as to our promise to stand by Turkey or our ability to fulfil our engagement by "force of arms if necessary." The German Emperor, being no fool, seized on the psychological moment, and we know the rest. The last straw was undoubtedly our refusing to allow Egypt to assist, and our failure to protest in any way against Italy's action, in Tripoli. I was in Egypt at the time, and can testify to the ill-feeling created by what the Turks and Egyptians looked on as a pure act of brigandage on the part of Italy—and indeed it is hard to call it by any other name.

Now let us turn to Turkey in Europe and see what happened there. *The Times* review (see *The Times* of March 17, 1920) of Dr. Pribram's book mentioned above has greatly facilitated our doing so. We learn that the ink of the Berlin Treaty was hardly dry before "three of the signatories of the treaty were ready to overthrow two of its main provisions. Thus the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia had been foreseen and approved by Germany, Austria, and Russia in 1881. The same Powers in defiance of the same treaty had at the same time foreseen and approved of the annexation of Bosnia, which was postponed till 1908. The annexation of Tripoli by Italy had been approved by England in 1887 (probably on account of our occupation of Egypt), by Germany in 1891, and Austria in 1902. Although the annexation did not actually take place till 1912. The extension of Serbia into the Valley of the Vardar, the partition of Turkey in Europe, and the formation of an Albanian State, which came to pass in 1913, had ben approved, the first in 1881, and the two others in 1877 and 1900."

With this record before us dare we any longer ask what feud has Turkey with Europe? Can our statesmen ever again question the political morality of the Porte? Mr. Lloyd George may become eloquent over the devastating influence of the Turkish Government, but with no money, frequent wars and continuous intrigue on the part of her Christian subjects and the European Powers, what possible chance has Turkey ever had, even if her statesmen had been the ablest men in the world?

After the Treaty of Berlin the British Government could have taken Turkey seriously in hand or left her severely alone and chanced the result in Central Asia and India. We did neither. To occupy Cyprus and tinker with a few travelling consuls was worse than useless, as it opened the door to all sorts of questionable transactions by the other Powers.

The whirligig of time and the chances of war find us in the same position we occupied in 1878, but for the moment Russia is much less dangerous, though potentially perhaps more so. We had only to shoulder our burden as the greatest Mohammedan Power, and we should have very soon become the leader in a very powerful combination of modern States, more or less independent, but together quite capable of tackling the Bolshevists. Again we hesitated, hoping that America would come to our assistance. The result it is impossible to foretell; but one thing is quite certain: if we desert Turkey, the Moslems will no longer look on us as their guide, philosopher, or friend.

I hope that I have said my last word on the Turkish problem, and I can only trust that the House of Commons will see to it that in the Near and Far East the British Government's reputation for justice will not be in any way tarnished by the terms which the Porte may be forced to accept.

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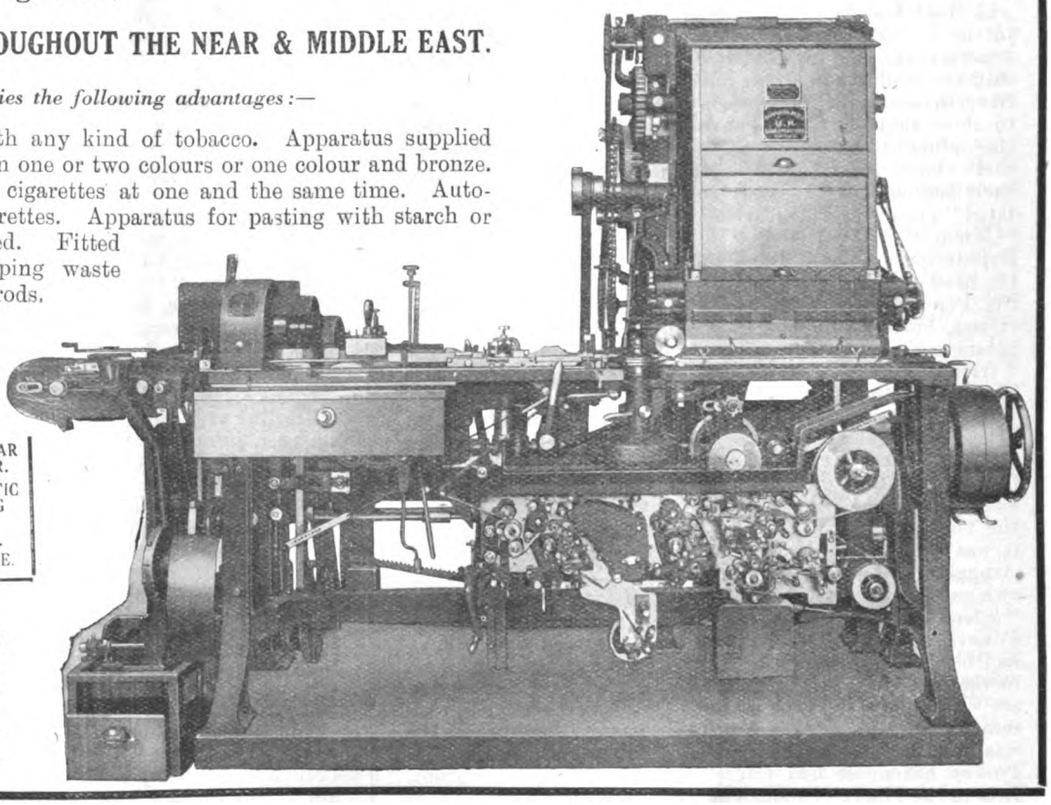

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Turkish Empire.

The *Outlook* of April 24, in an article entitled "The Near East," is gravely impressed with the difficulties existing in the Turkish problem. Its conclusions are the essence of caution:—

The Turk, though beaten, is not easily rendered impotent for harm. Economic pressure, which would bring to heel a people more advanced in civilisation, will scarcely trouble him. Disbandment of his regular forces has proved ineffective. There is a strong case for those who hold that the nearer he is to naval guns, the better he will behave, but, whatever the terms laid before him, we should assure ourselves in advance that they can be enforced. That is the crux of the matter. Asia Minor is not an easy country with which to deal. If, a few years hence, the Turks, dissatisfied with the Treaty, refuse to conform to it, the other signatories will, presumably, have to take action. Military expeditions in such a land cannot be lightly contemplated. On a small scale, they would be useless; on a large scale, very costly. Prospect of them conflicts with all our hopes of disarmament and economy, and should the eventual British contribution in men and money be on the small side, we cannot expect that France and Italy will care to shoulder much heavier burdens. Clearly, it would be better to leave the Turk acknowledged master over various Christian populations than to dethrone him on parchment and to let him resume his rule whilst the ink was drying. In dealing with him, we must threaten nothing we cannot perform, undertake no task we cannot fulfil.

There are grave reasons against unnecessarily irritating Moslem opinion. The first of them is, perhaps, the safety of those Christians who will remain either under Turkish rule or as near neighbours to the Turk. The worst possible peace would be one which seemed to degrade the Khalif but actually left Turkey defiant and with a measure of strength. All existing religious feuds would be intensified. Certain peoples, thinking themselves at last free, would not unnaturally assume a provocative attitude. Their old masters might for a moment stay their hands, but vengeance, when it came, would be terrible, and it would come at the slightest sign of European weakness or disunion. Massacres and misrule cannot be ended merely by painting the map in new colours, and the San Remo Conference will be best employed if it devotes itself chiefly to discussion of ways and means. No commitments should be undertaken without a clear idea of what they may cost in men and money, and the comparative worth of game and candle will have to be exactly weighed. For us, the question is whether the not impossible sacrifices of the future will be adequately compensated by the benefits to the British Empire, to British citizens, and to humanity. This test can and ought to be applied by our representatives to every problem before the Conference.

Persia.

In *Land and Water* of May 6, Mr. Robert Machray writes on "The Bright Promise of Persia." His subject will be of interest to readers of this journal, more especially in view of certain articles we have recently published on the same topic. The concluding paragraphs of Mr. Machray's article are as follow:—

By the Agreement Great Britain undertakes to respect the absolute independence of Persia, to provide experts for Persian administration, to supply officers and equipment for a Persian force to act as police, to make a loan for these purposes of two millions sterling at 7 per cent. repayable in twenty years, to co-operate with the Persian Government in constructing roads and railways, and to appoint a joint commission to revise the Persian tariff. Administrative experts and a Military Mission were sent out to Persia, and have been at work for some time. The necessary funds have been supplied. The joint commission has revised the tariff, and brought it more in consonance with the needs of Persia without antagonising other interests. An Anglo-Persian Military Commission is regularising the armed forces of Persia, part becoming the nucleus of a standing army and part being used simply as police.

Under the influence of the British Persia is tranquil, as she has not been for many years, and her economic recovery is assured, with corresponding benefit to British trade, for which she furnishes fresh opportunities. Formerly Russia had most of the trade of Persia, but Russia is not a competitor now, and this should react favourably for the British merchant. But the most hopeful thing for Persia is that the British are applying themselves energetically to carry out that part of the Agreement which binds the British Government, in co-operation with that of Persia, to open up the country by the building of roads and the construction of railways. In the latter stages of the war, British troops greatly improved some of the existing roads, as, for example, the road, 600 miles long, in Eastern Persia, from Mirjawa, in Baluchistan, to Meshed, which was made fit for motor traffic. Other roads were and are being turned into good roads.

At the moment Persia is an almost railwayless land; there is a bit of a line, six miles long, near Tehran, which is of little use, and there is an extension of the Tiflis-Erivan line from Julfa to Tabriz, a distance of about ninety miles, but it was partly destroyed during the war, and efforts are now being made to get it into running order again—some day a branch will connect it with the railway centre, which will be Tehran. In the meantime a powerful syndicate, consisting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, in which the British Government has the controlling financial interest, and of the Armstrong-Whitworth, Vickers, and Weetman Pearson groups, is undertaking the survey of a railway to link up with the line east from Baghdad, the railhead of which is now at Kuretu, on the Persian frontier. The survey is to proceed along the great Kermanshah-Hamadan-Kasvin road to Tehran, and when the railway is built it will have a branch from Kasvin to Enzeli.

It is probable, according to a recent statement of an authoritative kind, that this trunk railway will be running within the next five years from Baghdad to Tehran, and this will mean the opening up of the Middle East in a truly wonderful way. For railway-building will not stop west or east. The Baghdad Railway will be completed via Mosul. The railway from Tehran will go on to Meshed, and then turn south to join the Quetta Railway at Mirjawa, thus getting into close connection with the railways of India, or a line may strike from Tehran across to Mirjawa by the more direct route via Kum, Ispahan, and Kerman. Doubtless many of the readers of this article will live to see the Overland to India Railway an accomplished fact—"Calais-Calcutta" will perhaps be the phrase in vogue.

The annual dinner of the Gurkha Brigade will take place at the Trocadero on Thursday, June 10, at 7.45 p.m. Officers intending to be present should communicate with the honorary secretary, Mr. W. C. F. Leggatt, 9, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

The King has been pleased to approve of:—Mr. Eishiro Nuita as Consul of Japan at Bombay; Mr. E. Hambro Danchell as Consul of Denmark at Bombay; Cavaliere Arturo Maffei as Consul of Italy at Aden. (Dated April 28, 1920.)

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MUSICAL NOTES.

THE BRITISH MUSIC SOCIETY.

In Britain during the last two hundred years the cause of music, and particularly of British music, has been in a most miserable state of decline. This fact has resulted from two quite remediable traits in the national character, namely, modesty and ignorance. There has been a feeling amongst the mass of people that Englishmen (by which term I mean any one of the four races in the British Isles) do not excel in the performance or in the composition of music, and that this art should therefore be left to the other nations; and there has constantly been made by people who should know better the assumption that England has not been, is not, and probably never will be, a musical nation. This, roughly, was the situation as it existed before the late war.

But the war changed much, and among the many unsuspected capabilities of the English was found to be one of music making. This discovery, however, and the impulse that led to it, would probably soon have been forgotten but for the action of the British Music Society, which, founding itself two years ago, has consistently sought to demonstrate the national faith in musical achievement, and to justify that faith by its works. Yet it is not merely a national society with narrow ideals, for it is international in the best sense of the word, and is striving to uphold in Britain the cause of music generally.

Already it has done much. Tremendous enthusiasm and an enormous amount of voluntary work have been responsible for the organisation of hundreds of provincial centres. An "Annual" has been published which, containing a very complete list of the works of British composers, should be extremely useful to foreign musicians. (The list, in fact, is too complete; for merely successful writers are mixed with real composers in a way that is disconcerting to us, and will be rather disillusioning to foreign readers.) And its latest act was to hold a Congress, intended to serve both as a temporary climax to its efforts and as a guide to its aims.

There were three main concerts held under the auspices of this Congress: on May 4 at the Queen's Hall, on May 5 at the Æolian Hall, and on May 6 at the Æolian Hall.

The first was an orchestral concert, where our best orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, under one of our best conductors, Mr. Albert Coates, played Elgar's Overture "In the South," Vaughan Williams' "A London Symphony," Ravel's Ma mère l'Oye," and Scriabin's "Poem of Ecstasy." (With Miss Agnes Nicholls, who, unhappily, was not in good voice, it performed an extract from Berlioz's "Damnation of Faust," and an Air from Bantock's "Christ in the Wilderness.") The chief interest of this concert lay naturally in Vaughan Williams' Symphony, of which a revised and final form was given. It is a most noble work, full of majestic ruggedness. Though intensely individutl it does not provide shocks that you can at once like or dislike; it goes straight on its determined way, without lingering on passing beauties or uglinesses. I should not like to say from this, my first, hearing of it that a place in the repertory of the world's orchestras is assured to it, but that desirable event seems to me most probable.

The second concert was devoted to chamber music, when a programme consisting wholly of British composers (Bridge, Speaight, Goossens, Waldo, Warner, and McEwen) was played by the London String Quartet. Frank Bridge, whose "Bologna Quartet" was given, is a facile and uneven writer: in this Quartet, for instance, he drops, after writing two beautiful movements, into most disappointing commonplace in the third *scherzo* movement. Speaight's "The Lonely Shepherd" and Goossens' "By the Tarn" are two sketches on which I think I have commented before in these columns; suffice it to remark, therefore, they are very fine examples of the purely English style. J. B. McEwen's "Threnody Quartet" is glorious music, which by its utter simplicity and beauty makes an instant appeal. With the London String Quartet, whose playing at this concert seemed to me a little lacking in freshness and in atmosphere, Mr. Gervase Elwes sang Vaughan Williams' "On Wenlock Edge" cycle, and some other songs by Roger Quilter, W. G. Aikin, and H. G. Ley.

The third concert consisted of a violin (Mr. Albert Sammons), pianoforte (Mr. William Murdoch), and a choral recital (the Holme Valley Male Voice Choir). Of Messrs. Sammons and Murdoch, who played Beethoven's Sonata in C Minor (Op. 30) and Elgar's Sonata (Op. 82), there is no space to write; it is enough to say that this combination is the best existing in England at the present time. To the Holme Valley Choir, which I, in common with most of the audience, heard for the first time, much praise could be given, together with a certain amount of hostile criticism. That robustness and joyousness which nearly all Northern choirs possess are their best qualities, and their tone is very good, even though their baritones and basses lack a certain amount of resonance. But they certainly display their skill on too many occasions; they overindulge their delight in tone-colour, and their realistic renderings of such things as Elgar's "Réveillé" and Walford Davies' "Storm Joy" may have been good sport, but they were not good art.

For the sake both of foreign readers and of space, I have thought it best rather to catalogue the events than to criticise the achievements of the British Music Society Congress; and for the same reason I must conclude this account by saying that the Society can and will, if it is financially supported, and if it avoids the common error of falling into cliques, be the means of giving rise to a musical renaissance in this country. It deserves all possible encouragement, and that encouragement can come just as conveniently from abroad as from home. To all classes of readers, then, I commend the British Music Society most heartily.

To the English critic there are only two pianists who play Beethoven—Busoni and Lamond. Except in the hands of the two masters, the earlier sonatas of Beethoven can as easily bore as produce any other emotion—one knows them so well; and the later sonatas few artists dare to approach. At the Queen's Hall on May 8 Mr. Lamond's recital consisted wholly, except for the sonata called "L'Adieu" (Op. 81a), of Beethoven's last sonatas—that is, of Op. 101, 106, 110 and 111. These works, all written in Beethoven's maturity, make the greatest possible demands, both technical and interpretative, on the pianist; and the fact that Mr. Lamond's performance was a consistent and supreme triumph stamped him (although it was known before) as the possessor of the greatest mind among contemporary British pianists. His style of playing seems to me most eminently suited to Beethoven; his keen intellectuality, his rugged tenderness, his massive strength, his faithful brusqueness, and, above all, his glorious breadth of playing, are qualities which the composer himself loved and which he would surely have had inform all presentations of his works. It was literally impossible to note any special excellencies in this recital: Mr. Lamond was superb throughout. Without any doubt at all he is the greatest pianist, and one of the greatest artists, in this country at the moment.

The Bohemian Czech String Quartet, which is giving a series of performances at the Wigmore Hall, is well known in this country, and probably to all my readers. Last week it gave on May 3 a Czech programme, consisting of Novak's Quartet in D major (Op. 35), Suk's Pianoforte Quintet, and Dvorak's Quartet in A flat (Op. 105), and on May 5 a "Romantic" programme, consisting of Schumann's Quartet in A minor (Op. 41), Brahms' Quartet in B flat major (Op. 67), and Schubert's "Trout" Quintet. The Bohemian Quartet is rather an extraordinary one. Its methods are very curious, for it employs an ugly roughness of manner without producing any roughness of result. In the noisy second movement of the Novak, for instance, one felt that the angular methods of the first violin in particular ought to produce disaster; but nothing of the kind was ever within a hundred miles of possibility. And in the *Vivace* of the Brahms their passion might easily have become vapour, but it remained pure all the time. This quartet certainly has not the finish or the artistry of some of our own quartets, but it undoubtedly has more personality than most of them. Every one of its members is a thorough musician, and in the matter of time, touch and rhythm it has a fixed and very high standard. In music by Czech composers no one will ever equal the playing of this quartet, for for intensity of interpretation it is most probably without its equal in the world.

Mme. Pavlova's programme at the Drury Lane Theatre on May 6 was not much changed from the time when I saw her a few weeks ago. The orchestra under M. Theodore Stier has improved, but it still leaves too much to the imagination, or rather (since most of the things are hackneyed) to one's knowledge. The ballet called "Amarilla" is still given as an opportunity of showing Mme. Pavlova at her weakest point, that is, in miming; but a ballet called "The Walpurgis Night," taken from Gounod's "Faust," while nothing very notable musically, provides a conclusive demonstration that Mme. Vera Karalli is a most marvellous dancer. For pure dancing, indeed, she is in this company a genius second only to Mme. Pavlova. Saint-Saëns' "Le Cygne," for which Mme. Pavlova will always be accounted incomparable, and the Syrian dance from "Samson and Delilah" are still kept in the programme; for in these two things Mme. Pavlova is so differently yet so utterly perfect that repetitions do not stale, but merely make deeper and more lovely one's impressions. The universal fame of Mme. Pavlova and of her company goes on increasing, yet must one day die; but she herself will surely become a tradition.

ANDANTE.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"MY CAMPAIGN IN MESOPOTAMIA." By Major-General Sir Charles V. F. Townshend, K.C.B., D.S.O. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd.)

II.—"SAADA, LA MAROCAINE." By Elissa Rhais. (Paris: Plon Nourrit et Cie. 5fr.)

I—GENERAL TOWNSHEND AND MESOPOTAMIA.

A glamour of romance clings to the name Mesopotamia; it calls up visions of splendour and of splendid human activity where history vies with fiction. Here Belisarius revived for a while the glory that was Rome, and shed a last fierce ray of glamour on a dying empire. Here Haroun-al-Rashid, resplendent and humane, made history, while Sinbad the sailor, born at Busreh, and many others gave rise to immortal legends. And here, again, within the last few years, history has been in the making, adding yet greater glory to records of the past, for the sons of an Empire mightier than ancient Rome have delivered Mesopotamia from the oppressor and restored it to the descendants of those whose history lay in the golden past.

We are fortunate in having before us a faithful record of one phase of the most recent history of Mesopotamia—the account of General Townshend's campaign in that country. This book, intensely human in its revelation of a strong and ardent character, fulfils throughout the conditions laid down by the author in the preface. "In order that military history should produce all the advantages that one has a right to expect from it, it should be accurate and true, not only in its recital of the facts it has to trace, but in its *exposé* of the causes which had more or less influence on the events with which it deals." The book does more—it shows us the working of the mind of a highly trained leader, of a profound student of history who is entitled to rank among such master-minds as Marshal Foch and General Mordacq, to whom the author refers. Above all, this work adds glowing pages to the history of our race in giving the story of indomitable purpose, of hardships bravely borne and of fortitude in adversity; in short, of the British fighting man as the world knows and respects him.

The book is divided into five parts, and each part has its own appendix, giving memoranda, operation-orders, and other official correspondence. There is also a preface—in itself an interesting introduction of the author to the reader, in which the former suggests that those that are not interested in military tactics will begin reading at Chapter II., as Chapter I. is devoted to the six great Fundamental Principles of War as established by Napoleon. The author hopes that at least military students, many civilians, especially diplomats and Members of Parliament, will read it (Chapter I.), "for these principles form the so-called German doctrine, which was applied both to the Army and the diploma of that highly efficient people." Let us echo General Townshend's hope. What with Supreme Councils and Leagues of Nations, one never knows when the application of these principles may not again become insistent.

Part I. takes the reader from India to Busreh, thence to Kurna and up the Tigris to Amara in pursuit of the beaten Turk. The reader will note the examples of our national tradition in the direction of overseas expeditions. There were an apparent absence of definite plan and an evident parsimony in fitting out the expedition; land transport there was none, according to General Townshend; and, owing to a shortage of gun ammunition, artillery could hardly be used in the first action. Of peculiar interest is General Townshend's *exposé* of his views on secondary theatres of war, such as Mesopotamia obviously was; but the decision was with the Simla authorities, so an advance on Kurna was ordered, and General Townshend was put in command of the force told off to capture that place. It meant stiff fighting, of course, and the narration of the event, together with the account of the necessary preparations, make most interesting and instructive reading. Surmounting many great difficulties, the British force drove the defeated Turks to Amara. The advance from Amara on Kut-al-Amara is described in Part II. Before this phase of the advance up the Tigris began, General Townshend was obliged to take sick-leave to India, and was by no means fully restored to health when he returned to Mesopotamia to carry on the operations which seemed to have the capture of Baghdad as the final objective. There was to those at home much of glamour and romance in the idea of a march on Baghdad; to those who undertook the operation there was stern reality in carrying out such a venture, and this the author makes very plain to those who read his book. His force was numerically inadequate and short of many necessaries; but, above all, the advance was in defiance of the "Fundamental Principles" the observance of which was the foundation of his victories at Kurna and Kut-al-Amara. Hence the inevitable check at Ctesiphon described in Part III., and the withdrawal to Kut-al-Amara. Chapters 8 and 9 deserve most careful study; they foreshadow coming events, dealt with in Part IV.—the tragedy of the siege of Kut! And then Part V., with its complete change of scene, of atmosphere. It depicts General Townshend as a prisoner on one of the little islands of the Sea of Marmora, eating his heart out, striving to get better conditions for the men who supported him so well and whom he loved, attempting one plan of escape after another, and finally obtaining another chance of serving his country by diplomacy, and bringing the Turks to sue for peace.

Indeed, this is a book that holds you by its "vivid narrative of events and its revelation of the inner history of a momentous phase of the Great War"; it should be in the hands of everyone who by vote holds the power to insist on efficiency which would make impossible such unnecessary sufferings as those endured by General Townshend and his gallant force.

B. Granville Baker (Lieut.-Col.)

II.—MOROCCAN GLOOM.

The story of a poor Moroccan family who leave their beloved home in Fez during the war to seek their fortunes in the unfriendly, already overcrowded town of Blidah. It is a relentlessly gloomy narrative. The impression of tragedy which is given by the sombre description of the arrival in the strange town of the little party—the beautiful Saâda, carrying her infant; her husband, her aged mother, and her little brother—all in the last stages of exhaustion, is unrelieved to the end. It is the obstinate determination of the crippled husband which has brought them to Blidah, and his steadfastly devoted love to Saâda through her passionate resentment and the hatred to which it turns is the one gleam of light that shines through the gloom of the story. The style is quiet and colourless and well suited to the subject; and the pictures of life in the Algerian town and of the types to be found there are clear and interesting.

BOOK NOTES.

A report on the alleged existence of a "White Terror" in Hungary has been issued as a White Paper [Cmd. 673.] through H.M. Stationery Office. The price is 2d. net.

The current *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains many items of interest. The "Notes and News" section gives some useful information regarding the Arabs who have been making trouble in Northern Syria and Mesopotamia, the boundaries of Palestine, and other topical subjects. The Rev. O. H. Knight contributes short "Notes on Cæsarea and Neighbourhood"; Mr. Stanley A. Cook writes on "The 'Holy Place' of 'Ain Dûk"; and the last of the "Archæological Notes on Jewish Antiquities," by the late Mr. Joseph Offord, are also included. A paper on "The Greek Easter at Jerusalem," which Miss Estelle Blyth contributed to the *Nineteenth Century* in 1915, is being reprinted in the *Q. S.*, and the first instalment appears in this number.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Jugoslav Popular Songs." English versions by Rosa Newmarch. French text by Austin de Croze. (London: C. P. Manojlovitch. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Serbian Kolos." By E. R. Clarke and Vivian Edwards. (The Bergmann Osterberg Union. 3s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. May 13	1920. April 30	Thursday	1338. Shaban. 24	5680. Iyar. 25
14	May. 1	Friday	25	26
15	2	Saturday.....	26	27
16	3	**Sunday**	27	28
17	4	Monday	28	29 Siwan.
18	5	Tuesday	29 Ramadan.	1
19	6	Wednesday	1	2

The Raja of Pudukota arrived in London from Paris on May 7.

The Raja of Kapurthala arrived in London from Paris on May 7.

Commander H. C. Luke, R.N.V.R., is temporarily acting as H.M. Chief Commissioner for Transcaucasia.

Mrs. Eckstein and Miss Eckstein have returned to 18, Park Lane from Algeria and Paris.

Lord Erskine has left Spratton Hall, Northamptonshire, for India. He expects to return at the end of June.

M. Yovanovitch, who was Serbian Minister in London during the war, has retired from the diplomatic service.

The Maharaja of Kashmir has foregone his claim against the Government of seventeen lakhs of rupees for the services of his troops overseas.

Prince Carol of Roumania has left Simla for Kashmir. After his tour in Kashmir he will proceed to Calcutta, whence he will sail for Japan.

Sir John and Lady Lavery, whose departure from Morocco is reported by our Tangier Correspondent, have returned to 5, Cromwell Place.

Mr. Henry V. Cobb, upon relinquishing his appointment as Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg, had the honour of being received by the King on May 6 at Buckingham Palace.

The Indian Khalifate Delegation and the Hon. Abul Kasim, who has been a member of the Bengal Legislative Council for the last six years, left London on Saturday for Paris on a special mission.

Lord Sinha, Under-Secretary of State for India, and Mr. Bhupendranath Basu, member of the India Council, have arrived at Marseilles from India, and their further journey to this country has been delayed by the railway strike.

At the request of Vice-Admiral Sir John de Robeck, who has just returned to Malta from Constantinople, Lord and Lady Plumer have formed a committee to provide for the urgent requirements of 6,000 Russian refugees at Mudros.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in June, between Lieut. E. H. O'Conor, Royal Navy, son of Captain and Mrs. O'Conor, of Charleville, Dunleer, Co. Louth, Ireland, and Miss Violet Marie Elliot, daughter of Sir Francis Elliot and Lady Elliot.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Ramsay, upon relinquishing his appointment as Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner in Baluchistan, and Mr. Frederick C. Goodenough, Member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on May 7.

Sir Ponnambalam and Lady Arunachalam have arrived in London from Ceylon. They have sustained the loss of their eldest son, Mr. A. Padmanabha, who died in London a week before their arrival. He was a speaker and writer on Indian philosophy, literature, and ideals, and was also an active worker for Ceylon constitutional reform, in connection with which the Ceylon National Congress has sent a large deputation, headed by Sir P. Arunachalam, to submit the island's claims to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. Frank O. Salisbury, whose picture of the National Peace Thanksgiving is now on view at the Royal Academy, has been commissioned to paint twelve large panels of historic incidents commemorative of the life and reign of Queen Victoria for the Queen Victoria Memorial, Calcutta. The idea for this building was originated by Earl Curzon, and the design is the work of Sir William Emerson, while Mr. Vincent I. Esch has been responsible for its construction. The King, when Prince of Wales, laid the foundation-stone, and it will be ready for opening early next year. Mr. Salisbury has already worked out his studies and ideas for the complete scheme, and these were viewed by the King and Queen when they recently visited his studio.

Mrs. Woods and Mr. H. Charles Woods, who were assisted in receiving their guests by Miss Christitch, gave an informal tea-party at 171, Victoria Street, on May 5, in honour of M. Gavrilovitch, the newly arrived Minister, at the Court of St. James of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. In addition to His Excellency and the members of the Legation Staff, among about one hundred guests present were:—Mrs. Allen and Mr. W. E. D. Allen, Mr. Ameer Ali, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Buxton, Mrs. Colin Ballard, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Buxton, Lady Marjorie Dalrymple, the Rev. Harold Buxton, Lady Grogan, Professor Hagopian, Sir Wroth and Lady Lethbridge, Sir Arthur Lever, Lady Henry, Mr. John Mavrogordato, Dame Maud McCarthy, the Hon. Lady Norman, Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall, Mr. Safrastian (Director of the Armenian Information Bureau), Brigadier-General Surtees, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Sergei de Vesselitsky, Mrs. Gwynne Vaughan-Morgan, Mr. H. M. Wallis, Mrs. Carrington Wylde, Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, and Count Michel de Zogheb.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Mihaili has been appointed Roumanian Minister for Transylvania.

Mr. Harold Patterson has been appointed British Consul at Bengasi.

Baron Starcea has been appointed Roumanian Minister for Bukovina, and M. Nistor for Bessarabia.

Mr. Charles Gordon Hill Fawcett, Indian Civil Service, has been appointed Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, in place of Sir Joseph John Heaton, who has retired.

M. Nicolas Misu was received in audience by the King on Thursday, and presented his Letter of Recall as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Roumania.

Lord Meston has been appointed to the office of Rede Lecturer at Cambridge University. The lecture will be delivered on June 10 in the Senate House, the subject being "India at the Crossways."

Our Sofia correspondent writes:—Mr. R. Leslie Craigie has arrived here, accompanied by his wife, and has taken up residence in the British Legation, where he will be in charge of British interests. He has had an interview with the Foreign Minister, and will very shortly see the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky.

The appointments are gazetted of:—Mr. M. Francis Crow, C.M.G., as H.M. Consul-General for the Governorships of Ispahan, Yezd, Gulpaigan and Konsar, the Province of Irak, and the districts of Chehkarmahal, Feridan and Bakhtiari, with residence at Ispahan (dated November 6, 1919); and of Mr. Harold Allan Dilke Hoyland, as H.M. Vice-Consul for the Morea and the Province of Acarnania and Ætolia, with residence at Patras (dated December 30, 1919).

OBITUARY.

DR. HOWARD BLISS.

In last week's NEAR EAST a paragraph appeared stating that the Rev. Howard S. Bliss, D.D., President of the Syrian Protestant College, Beyrout, had sailed for New York on May 2. This report reached us over the telephone shortly before the paper went to press; and, owing to some fault in the connection, the message was very imperfectly heard, and consequently was wrongly reproduced. Unfortunately, the fact is that Dr. Bliss died in America. We offer our apologies to his relatives and friends for any pain that may have been caused to them by the error, and our sincere sympathy in their loss. Dr. Bliss was born on Mount Lebanon in 1860; and his loss will be severely felt in Syria.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Martial law is to be raised at Athens.

Eight of the 100 aeroplanes given to India are expected to arrive there shortly.

The King has given to the Zoological Gardens two Barbary sheep from Morocco.

General Beppino Garibaldi has been delivering a propaganda address at Zara, in Dalmatia.

A violent cyclone has passed over Manikganj, in Bengal. Ninety-three persons are reported killed.

The King of Roumania, Reuter's Agency learns, has decreed a general amnesty for all offences against military law, with the exception of certain categories.

A new cinema corporation, the Indian Empire Players' Lasky Company, with a capital of £600,000, has been formed in New York for the production of pictures in India.

In consequence of a strike of railwaymen, states a Bucharest telegram, orders have been given by the Roumanian Government for the mobilisation of the strikers.

A delegation of Palestinian Jews has arrived in London to put the case of the Jerusalem Jews with reference to the riots in Jerusalem before the British public.

Most of the 5,000 employees in the locomotive workshops of the Northern-Western Railway of India have joined the railway power house employees who are on strike.

The Pathan tribesmen, who, in spite of their being British subjects, were recently abducted and carried over the border by Afghans, have now been returned to Chaman under an Afghan escort.

A resolution has been introduced in the Senate at Washington declaring that Northern Epirus and the twelve islands in the Ægean Sea on the western coast of Asia Minor should be awarded to Greece.

Liberals of Western India, representing the Moderates of the Bombay Presidency, have submitted a representation to Mr. Montagu against the retention of the residential qualification for candidates for election to the Bombay Legislature under the reform rules.

In a statement sent out by the British Armenia Committee in regard to the condition of Armenia, it is urged that permission should be given for superior British officers to accept posts under the Armenian Government, to assist in the equipment of the Armenian Army.

The Simla correspondent of *The Times* states that the Chemical Services Committee, presided over by Professor Jocelyn Thorpe, recommend the constitution of an Indian Chemical Service and the establishment of an Imperial Research Institute at Dehra Dun (United Provinces) and a provincial institute in each province; also the creation of a Ministry of Science as soon as possible.

An exhibition of recent accessions, by gift and purchase, to the Department of Engraving, Illustration, and Design, has been arranged in Room 132 of the Victoria and Albert Museum. The exhibits include a collection of drawings by the late Sir E. J. Poynter, P.R.A. These drawings range from sketches for details of the Museum Grill Room, the Ashanti War Medal, and other decorative work, to figure studies for well-known paintings, such as "Israel in Egypt" and "The Catapult."

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

League of Nations: Armenia. Egypt. Mesopotamia and Palestine (Mandates). Persia. India: Re-employed officers. Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom. (May 3.)

Egypt: Milner Commission.—Declaration of Independence.—Zagloul Pasha (Delegation). Roumania. Jerusalem Disturbances (Mr. Jabotinsky). Persia (Russian Loan). (May 4.)

Russia: Soviet Troops in Caucasus.

Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia, Palestine: Anti-Jewish Riots, Jerusalem.—Emir Faisal.—Restoration of Jews.

Cilicia, India: British Soldiers (Pay).—Opium Traffic.—Retired Army Officers' Pensions (War Service).

Malta (Religious Freedom). (April 29.)

India: Indian Defence Force Act.—Pensions (Army Officers).—Travancore Durbar (Labour Advances).—Mr. E. G. Horniman.—Indian Reforms (Lord Meston's Award).—Post Office Superintendents (Pay).—Leave Pay (Army Officers).—Medical Service (European Doctors).—Civil Service.—Plumage Trade.—Re-employed Retired Army Officers (Pensions). Egypt. Persia (New Army). Sudan (Irrigation Works). India: Country Spirits (Consumption and Excise Revenue).—Public Works Department (Revised Scales of Pay). British Army: British Troops at Batoum. Government of India Act. (May 5.)

Montenegro. Persia. Egypt (Sultan Fouad). Zeki Bey Kharsa. India: General Dyer. India: Army Officers (Pensions).—Officers, Civil and Military (Improvements). East Africa (Indian Subjects). Ceylon (Constitutional Reform). (May 6.)

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1920.

BULGARIA'S PENANCE.

Although the Government cannot be accused of ever having shown any disposition to treat Bulgaria leniently, it is just as well that we should recognise that there is to-day a tendency in this country to regard her more in the light of an unfortunate speculator than of a convicted criminal. Indeed, one may say that the British public is, on the whole, well disposed towards Bulgaria, desiring her friendship, and hoping for her recovery in the near future. That such should be the case does not strike the average Englishman as in the least remarkable. He is so accustomed to discovering virtues in his former enemies and so ready to make friends with them after a fight, that he is now even suspected of harbouring friendly sentiments towards Germany. In the circumstances, it is quite in accordance with the fitness of things, from his point of view, that he should be benevolently disposed towards Bulgaria. His Allies, however, unfortunately view such things from an entirely different standpoint, and in this particular case it is difficult to persuade some of them that British goodwill towards Bulgaria is quite consistent with loyalty to the Allied cause. With a view to removing all possible grounds for misunderstanding on this score it has been suggested that a British official pronouncement on the subject is desirable, but even admitting the necessity for taking the greatest care that the settlement in the Near East is kept clear of the San Remo atmosphere, we doubt whether official action is called for in this case. Even in the quarters where criticism of the Prime Minister is the order of the day pure and simple, it has so far never been suggested that his sinister influence is in any way responsible for the pro-Bulgarian leanings of a section of the public, and there is no evidence forthcoming that the Government has at any time attempted to mitigate in the slightest degree the severity of the peace terms imposed on Bulgaria. Such pro-Bulgarian feeling as exists in this country is quite spontaneous in its origin, and really stands for nothing more than an expression of friendly feeling on our part towards a people little known to the majority of Englishmen before the war, but with whom in the past three or four years we have become much better acquainted. The friends and well-wishers of Bulgaria in this country would, however, do well to remember that it is quite impossible for our Allies in the Near East to share their benevolent feelings towards a State which from the day of its deliverance from the Turkish yoke has been a constant thorn in the flesh to all her neighbours, never a good ally, and always a dangerous enemy. Bulgaria's entrance into the war was fraught with such disastrous consequences to Serbia, her old rival and antagonist, that it is to expect altogether too much of human nature to hope for a genuine *rapprochement* between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria for some time to come. Greece, and possibly Roumania, can perhaps afford to be more magnanimous, but to expect any of these nations to adopt the policy of the clean state where Bulgaria is concerned is, on the face of it, ridiculous.

It is only when we have grasped the fact that Bulgaria is quite a recent British discovery that the nascent pro-Bulgarian movement in this country becomes intelligible to us. In 1915, when our soldiers first met the Bulgar in the field and he gave them a taste of his quality as a fighting man, they had a practical lesson in the recent history of the Near East such as years of patient study could never have afforded them. They were not slow to grasp that the people of this peasant State who fought and won a war within a few years of their emergence from servitude, and later smashed the military power of Turkey, possessed virile qualities that no one could afford to ignore in the future. As the years of fighting on the Salonika front went on this impression was deepened, and while it would be absurd to say that our soldiers ever found any excess of chivalrous qualities in the Bulgar, they soon came to recognise him as a sportsman, and the discovery that he remained one in his hour of defeat earned for him their genuine respect. We cannot help liking an enemy who accepts defeat like a gentleman, and who pays the price of it without whining—that really suffices to explain British goodwill towards Bulgaria at the present time.

It is much to be regretted that some of Bulgaria's indiscreet friends in this country should show a disposition to make political capital out of these indications of popular goodwill towards her, but it was only to be expected that the opportunity would be seized upon for trotting out once more the discredited theory of the irresponsibility of the people in States under the monarchical form of government; and so we are now asked to believe that the innocent Bulgarians were led like sheep by the wicked King Ferdinand, that Bulgaria was pushed into the war without the knowledge and consent of her inhabitants, and similar nonsense. Although King Ferdinand was undoubtedly the person chiefly responsible, the ingenious theory that on his shoulders should be laid the whole burden of responsibility for Bulgaria's entrance into the war will not bear strict examination, and it is a great pity that it has ever been advanced. Anyone who knows the Bulgarians must be fully aware that they are not the kind of people who would ever allow their country to be led into a dangerous enterprise unless they were firmly persuaded that it would succeed. Bulgaria's war adventure was just a case of a nation putting its money on the wrong horse, to use the late Lord Salisbury's time-worn metaphor; and to carry it further, it is plain to the world that even if it was King Ferdinand who gave the tip the Bulgarian nation was not slow in taking it. The Kaiser and his friends brought Bulgaria into the war as a means for establishing an unbroken line of communication between Berlin and the Asiatic fronts, and if their criminal enterprise had succeeded, incorporation in the pan-German Empire would probably have been the fate reserved for her. Bulgaria had, however, very different aims in view when she threw in her lot with what she then believed to be the winning side in the great war. She succumbed to the lure of a great Bulgaria to be fashioned out of the territories of her neighbours. The scheme miscarried, and now she has to pay the penalty for her error of judgment, to put it at the mildest. That she must pay it to the uttermost farthing is the considered verdict of all the Allied Powers, not excepting this country, incidentally the one most embarrassed by her entrance into the war. We may therefore dismiss from our minds any question of the possible modification of the peace terms imposed on her. The Bulgarians, an eminently practical people, are, however, we may be quite sure, fully alive to the fact that there is little in the Peace Treaty calculated to retard the progress of their country in the future. It is true she has lost a certain amount of territory, including her southern coast line, but she is really in no worse position than she occupied before the Balkan wars, and the solid qualities of her people, their industry, and their innate genius for democracy cannot fail to tell heavily in her favour in the future. At present Bulgaria under a strong Government is concentrating her energies on the only thing that matters. She is getting back to work quietly and steadily, thus setting an excellent example to her neighbours, which they might copy with advantage to themselves and the rest of the world.

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ZOBEIR AND ITS SHEIKH.

(From a Correspondent.)

Zobeir, "The Gate of the Desert," lies about ten miles west of Busreh, and is a trading town of some importance, with a population of, perhaps, 10,000. Under the Turks it enjoyed several special privileges, and since our occupation of the country it has, for practical purposes, been left under the rule of a sheikh, instead of being administered directly by officers of the Civil Administration; and though there is an A.P.O. to act as guide, philosopher, and friend to this sheikh, it is to be feared that the guidance has been ignored, and the friendship lightly valued; while if the Sheikh has any philosophy at all it must be of a peculiarly cynical kind. The A.P.O.'s who have been stationed at Zobeir have found him a tough proposition, and their reports upon him are understood to have been far from favourable, while the inhabitants of the town would almost certainly welcome any change, holding, with the lady in *Punch*, that "it must be for the better." There is a saying among them: "Before the war Zobeir was free and Busreh a prison; now Busreh is free and Zobeir is in chains."

The individual who has wrought this unhappy change is Sheikh Ibrahim, and it is significant that when he was first installed in Zobeir by the Turks as *Kaimakam* they had to employ force. He was nominated by Talib Bey Nakib, but the town refused to accept him, and it was not until artillery was brought to bear upon it that it yielded, and received the obnoxious *Kaimakam*. He was the first sheikh to combine sheikhly duties with those of a *mudir*, and possibly the conservative Arabs resented the innovation.

He had been in office only a few months when the occupation of Busreh took place, and he was retained in authority by us. In the early days of our Occupation he undoubtedly rendered good service as an intermediary in dealing with the tribes outside Zobeir; but for that work he was handsomely paid: and there is no reason why he should be allowed to enrich himself at the expense of the people of Zobeir and of the Bedouin. Both, it is to be feared, have only too good reason to regret his exercise of authority.

It must be borne in mind that the population of Zobeir is of almost pure Bedouin stock, and that the town has always had the closest relations with the desert dwellers. In the days of Turkish rule the relations of the townsmen and the Bedouin were those of equals, or if the balance tilted either way it was in favour of the Desert Arab. The Turks imposed a small tax on cattle and sheep, collecting it—when they could collect it at all—at Zobeir, and there was no further tax on them at Busreh. Land was free to all who wished to build or go in for cultivation, and no ground rents were paid. The sheikhs of Zobeir used to collect a small tax on goods coming in from Koweit or from the desert; but they were never allowed, so all the townsfolk agree, to impose any taxes on the town other than a small sum collected from shopkeepers and householders to pay for the town watchmen.

Sheikh Ibrahim has altered all this. The desert Arabs are so shepherded and headed off from Busreh by a special police force that they *must* make Zobeir the gate of the desert, and must pay for the privilege accordingly; and to make matters worse they are sometimes fined by the Sheikh if they go to Busreh to make purchases rather than do their business in Zobeir. This is made all the more galling because most goods have to pay a tax on entering Zobeir; which, of course, means an increase in the selling price. Practically every article of necessity is taxed, and this hits not only the Bedawi but the town-dwellers as well. Thus, on camels and horses one must pay a tax of 2 rupees 8 annas per head on entering the town, on sheep and goats 4 annas, on cows 8 annas. On sugar and coffee the tax is one rupee per maund sack; and wheat, rice, flour, dates and several other articles pay 4 annas. Add to this the taxation of shops, deeds of sale, and so forth, and it is not difficult to accept the estimate given that Sheikh Ibrahim collects about 200,000 rupees a year in taxes. He has bluffed both Bedouin and tribesmen into the belief that he is vested with far greater power than is actually the case, and he is turning the deception to excellent account in the old Arab way. What becomes of the taxes it is hard to say: the policing of the town is not of a kind to cost much; the only "sanitation" undertaken seems to be the (very inadequate) sweeping of the roads; and the Sheikh's hospitality is not of a lavish character.

The lot of the townspeople is hard indeed. The Sheikh rules them with a rod of iron, and they hardly dare call their souls their own. They tell you that before the war taxation was comparatively light, and that the Turks allowed them considerable freedom; and this fits in with what was the case in regard to other places of similar character. They tell you, too, that they have petitioned for the removal of Sheikh Ibrahim from power, but that their petitions have been ignored. And they indicate pretty clearly what would be his fate if it were not for the power of the British Government behind him. For Zobeir has had rulers before who made themselves unpopular; but their rule did not last long—the townsmen saw to that! Sheikh Ibrahim, however, seems to stand so well—so mysteriously well—at Baghdad that to-day the townsmen fear to strike. British rule in the land has secured that much already; but whether it is a good thing for British rule that any town should harbour so much dissatisfaction as does Zobeir is not quite certain. It is a poor enough place, no doubt, but it *is* "the gate of the desert," and it can, and does, influence desert opinion by the tales it tells.

The tales it tells about Sheikh Ibrahim are not edifying. There is one about a man who was fined fifty rupees for no worse offence than paying the correct tax to our Government in Busreh; another of a man clapped into prison for bringing a bottle of whisky into the town; a third of people afraid to go to the British cinema lest by so doing they should incur the Sheikh's displeasure. As to the whisky, and even the cinema, a Puritan might conceivably argue that Ibrahim was exercising a good moral influence, but the regulation of your morals by other folk is no more popular in Zobeir than elsewhere.

Again, there is the story of a certain important citizen who dared to criticise, as unjust, the dealings of the Sheikh with a poor neighbour. A few nights later some of the Sheikh's soldiery arrived at this man's house, and said: "We have heard that so-and-so has been stolen from the Sheikh's house, and that it is hidden here. We have come to look for it." The householder's indignant protests were ignored; resistance was useless; the soldiers carried out their 'search' with peculiar thoroughness and, of course, took the opportunity to secure perquisites.

One more of these tales may be told, to show what life is like in Zobeir under Sheikh Ibrahim's rule. The town is one of the few places in southern Mesopotamia, if not the only one, where arms may be bought and sold more or less openly; though such traffic is nominally prohibited. A poor gunsmith of the town was asked by one of the Sheikh's bodyguard to buy a rifle from him; but, suspecting that it was the Sheikh's property, at first declined to do so. The would-be vendor swore by Allah that the rifle was his own, and when the gunsmith still hesitated, added cynically that he would make things hot for him if he did not purchase it. So, greatly against his will, the gunsmith at last bought the

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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weapon for fifty rupees. Soon afterwards he sold it to a Bedawi tribesman, who on passing through the city gate was arrested by the guard for being in possession of the weapon. Naturally, he explained where he had got it, and was thereupon permitted to go free. The gunsmith, however, was charged before the Sheikh with stealing the rifle. The guard swore that it had been taken from his house, and, in spite of the evidence of some shopkeepers who had witnessed the sale of it to the unfortunate prisoner, the latter was condemned and cast into prison till he should pay a fine of fifty rupees. So strongly was public feeling stirred by the injustice that the townspeople subscribed the amount necessary to free the prisoner.

Such incidents as these were common enough in the old days, when they were regarded as natural and inevitable, however painful. But with the appearance of the British in the country a new spirit is springing up, and the sense of justice has been sharpened; and that such things should be tolerated to-day is felt by the sufferers to be inexplicable. Certainly they are not calculated to enhance our prestige. The authority of sheikhs in the position of Ibrahim, it is understood, must be exercised subject to the observance of a reasonable measure of justice and equity; and it is inconceivable that any British Government would insist on the retention of such a sheikh in his place against the wishes of an overwhelming majority of his tribe or town. Yet Zobe'r is heartily sick of Sheikh Ibrahim, and there would seem to be very good reason for the feeling of dissatisfaction amongst its citizens.

Apart from his personal unpopularity, many of the leading citizens feel that Sheikh Ibrahim is hindering the development of the town. They wish for, and are willing to contribute to the cost of providing, a water supply, improved communications with Busreh (which is their metropolis), and improved sanitation. They have seen how Busreh has changed for the better since our occupation of it, and they are keen for Zobeir to follow along the same lines. Moreover, they resent strongly the humiliations to which they are subjected, and not a few who could afford it have left the place in sheer disgust.

Naturally such a state of affairs cannot and will not be tolerated indefinitely. There were doubtless very good reasons why Sheikh Ibrahim should be retained in his position, and given a certain latitude in his rule for a while. With the definite granting of the Mandate, however, things in Mesopotamia will have to be put on a new footing, and doubtless it will be a case either of Sheikh Ibrahim reforming his ways radically or—of his removal from office. Indeed, since Zobeir is, after all, an insignificant place in some ways, it would be by no means surprising if he had already reached the end of his tether, and been superseded, without news of the change having found its way to this country—or at any rate to the writer.

It has now been established that Mrs. Colebrook Taylor, the wife of the Resident Magistrate at Hazaribagh, Bihar, India, who on April 30 was reported as having been murdered, committed suicide.

Among the memorials which are to be on view at the Imperial War Museum in the Crystal Palace next month is a mortar, dating from the seventeenth century, which was taken from the Turks on the Tigris.

CHESS.

The game between Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. W. P. McBean, on the result of which the championship of the Metropolitan Chess Club depended, has now been played, Sir G .A. Thomas winning in something like thirty moves. By winning this event Sir George has set up a record, for no one has ever before won the championship of the City of London, Hampstead, and the Metropolitan chess clubs in the same season. As he was also triumphant at Bromley, he may be said to have literally swept the boards for the 1919-20 season. Only one more event remains to complete the triumph, and for that we must wait till the Edinburgh Congress in August.

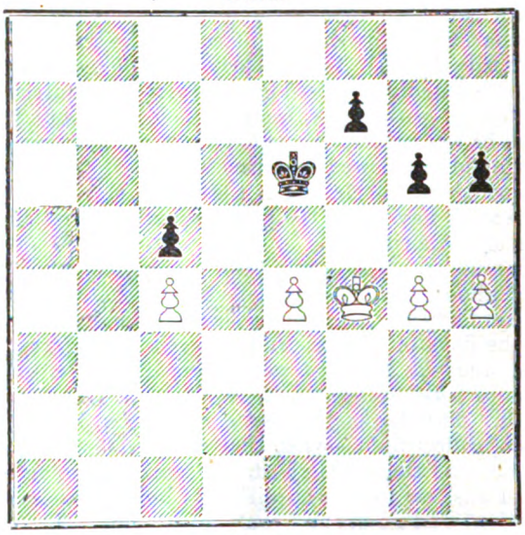
It is very satisfactory to learn that the cable matches between England and America are to be resuscitated. The last of the series was played in 1911, when England, by winning for the third time in succession, obtained permanent possession of the trophy presented by the late Sir George Newnes. A gold cup has now been offered to the British Chess Federation by Mr. Ferdinand Ruffer, the banker, for competition between the two countries by cable under the same conditions. It is understood that the American authorities are willing to renew the contest, though with reservations which will give them a larger choice of players, but the matches cannot be begun until next year at the earliest as the cable companies will not be in a position until 1921 to give the required facilities.

The above news makes me hope that in a not too far distant future the international matches between Oxford and Cambridge and the American universities will also be revived. The last of the series took place in 1910, when the American side won.

The entries for the international tournament to be held at Veles (Uskub) in the latter part of June will, it is reported, include Capablanca, Lasker and Rubinstein. I scarcely think, however, that Capablanca is likely to be seen at Uskub. It is not long since he left for Cuba after an arduous season in this country, and in view of his coming match with Dr. Lasker it is scarcely probable that he would care to make another visit to Europe in the meantime.

The following ending occurred in a game in the Paris Tournament of 1867.

Black.



White.

White to play; what result?

CARO-KANN.

In a successful operation near Meknez, in Morocco, the French losses amounted to nine wounded. The enemy lost 220 killed.

Complaints are still being made in the Press of India as to the shortage of steamship accommodation.

Reuter's Ahmedabad correspondent, writing on May 4, states: On May 3 the spinners in the cotton mills here struck owing to the Arbitration Board not having made their report by May 1, as was expected.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Although the various summaries of the Peace Terms to Turkey are probably not very wide of the mark, I prefer to withhold detailed comment until the Treaty is officially given to the world. I note, however, that the present service of the Ottoman Debt is to be maintained until 1923, and that a financial commission is to be established. Turkey, with her territories so radically cut down, will, it seems, find great difficulty in supporting the burden of the two-thirds of the War Debt for which she is to be responsible; but then she has always been in financial difficulties, and has yet always managed to "carry on" with the help she has received from outside. That help will, of course, be still afforded her, for the Powers will look after her finances, if only for their own sake, in the future as they have in the past. Thus, while I feel a certain sneaking sympathy for the humble and heavily-taxed Turkish peasant, who will, I suppose, have to pay the piper in the long run, I am not at all uneasy regarding European financial interests in Turkey—if only the Bolshevist wave does not sweep away all landmarks.

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The eagerly awaited prospectus of the P. and O. Banking Corporation was issued last week. The capital of the company is £5,000,000 in £10 shares, of which 250.000 shares were offered at a premium of 2s. 6d.; 80,000 of these shares had, however, been applied for by the London County Westminster and Parrs Bank, Lloyd's Bank, the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, and the P. and O. Company, so that the actual number offered for public subscription was 170,000. Very rarely has the investor an opportunity of obtaining an interest in a company launched under the auspices of a great shipping line and a group of powerful banks, and it is not surprising in the circumstances that the issue was over-subscribed on the day the prospectus appeared.

***

The new corporation has a very influential board of directors, which includes Lord Inchcape, chairman of the P. and O.; Sir Richard Vassar Smith, chairman of Lloyd's Bank; Sir Montagu Turner, chairman of the Chartered Bank of India; Sir Duncan Carmichael, a director of the P. and O. and of the Chartered Bank of India; and Mr. E. H. Cunard, a director of the Cunard Steamship Company and of the London County Westminster and Parrs Bank. In addition to banking, its objects, as shown by the articles of association, include financing trading, underwriting, company promotion, etc. The corporation starts its career with the great advantage of important connections here and in the East, and it does not need any great breadth of vision to prophesy for it a most important future. With its establishment one more is added to the list of notable enterprises which have as their aim the support of British trade endeavour in the new era which is just opening.

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In the Near East, as in nearly every region, since the outbreak of the war travel has been surrounded with difficulties. It is sometimes necessary, for instance, to have passports for going and returning, while there are many special vises which have to be obtained. All this takes time, for vises are not to be procured at a moment's notice, and the traveller who has been under the impression that they can be readily obtained is likely to find himself with a good deal of time on his hands in which to consider the workings of an unkind providence and of the local bureaucracy in particular. In some parts of the Near East, I am told that British travellers have been greatly handicapped by not being adequately informed of the various regulations. How this should be it is difficult to understand, for British subjects ought surely to be able to depend implicitly on the consular officials for information of this nature.

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I have just received a most illuminating illustration of the inefficiency of the cable services between this country and the Near East. My correspondent cabled from Bucharest to England on March 30, and the cable was delivered at his home in Kensington on April 26, two weeks after he had returned there! It is a pity that he did not send a letter at the same time. A most interesting and close contest should have ensued, with slight odds, I fancy, on the letter.

***

I learn that Bulgaria's representative at the Conference about to be held in Paris to arrange for the resumption of the Orient Express service on normal lines will be M. Morpoff, an ex-Minister and an engineer. It is hoped, I understand, that trains will be running right through to Constantinople within a month, which should be good hearing to those who have been anticipating further experiences of the many irritating changes and delays that have been entailed in travel to the Near East since communications were restored.

***

I have read with very considerable interest a memorandum by H.M. Consuls at Alexandria and Cairo on the appointment of agents in Egypt by British firms. The question of agents is one over which, particularly in regard to the Near East markets, British firms frequently trip up. The importance of the agent in regard to the Egyptian market may be gathered from the fact that something like half the import trade of the country is done through this medium. The number of large businesses able and willing to deal direct with houses abroad is very small, while there are very many small traders enjoying little or no credit who are too ignorant to venture on direct dealing with manufacturers. Thus it has happened that so great a proportion of the country's trade passes through persons on the spot whom the small trader will approach and who know how much credit may be permitted him.

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The result of this condition has been the development of an extremely numerous class of agents, many of whom have a few hundred pounds capital, and are merely actuated by the wish to make money as quickly as possible. They have no idea of making a permanent market for some articles, and naturally those whom they represent will merely suffer as the result of their activities. Even among the satisfactory agents there is no specialisation, the fact being that, except for Manchester goods, the demand for any special class of commodity needs to be stimulated.

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As regards retail commercial establishments in Egypt it is pointed out that there are comparatively few British firms and a ridiculously small number of British general commission agents, the result being that the foreign middleman has reaped a profitable harvest which might have accrued to British manufacturers and dealers had they been directly represented in the Egyptian market. Of course, the trouble is that British firms hesitate to increase the expenditure involved in the appointment of a direct representative. Some have done so with the most satisfactory results, but for the most part business has been done through the foreign and Levantine agents. In the future it is to be hoped that a more enterprising policy will be adopted, and that firms, if they are unwilling to appoint sole representatives, will at least combine for the purpose of direct representation. It is essential if their interests are to be adequately safeguarded.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, April 19.

A New Egyptian Bank.

A decree has been published constituting a new bank under the title of "Bank Misr." This new establishment, which must not be confounded with the "Bank El Masri" (Bank of Egypt) which failed in 1911, and the rights in the name of which have been purchased by a small British group, is an entirely Egyptian concern. The statutes lay down that the shareholders must all be of Egyptian nationality, and that transfers must be accompanied by a nationality certificate of the transferees. The capital is fixed at £E80,000 divided into 20,000 shares of £E4 each. It can be increased by an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders, but such increase cannot be issued at below par; and the extraordinary general meeting has also the power to issue debentures, provided that at the time of issue the total does not exceed the amount of the capital paid up.

It is to be noted that this is the first financial enterprise of this nature to be undertaken by Egyptians. During the Nationalist wave of 1907-1911 the project of an Egyptian bank was very strongly mooted, but nothing came of it, and it is only to-day as a result of the further impetus given to "nationalist" ideas that the project has materialised in the form of the "Bank Misr." It is understood that the new concern has taken the offices of the old Deutsch Orient bank, and it is expected to start operations very shortly.

It must be admitted that the founders of this bank have started in a very unpretentious manner, seeing that they propose to open with a capital of only £E80,000. It is, however, a foregone conclusion that if they are going to do banking business on any scale this capital will speedily prove quite insufficient, and that they will have to increase it considerably. There should indeed be no difficulty in this respect, for the country abounds in wealth, and it is to be presumed that in order to assist an enterprise which has for its object their gradual emancipation from the financial control of non-Egyptians, Egyptians will come forward not only with subscriptions towards its capital, but also with the very substantial sums which they are either hoarding or have deposited with existing foreign banks. No one can fail to sympathise with an enterprise of this description, and those of us who have in the past reproached Egyptians for not having commercial enterprise will be the first to congratulate the promoters of this venture, and to extend to them their sincere good wishes for the success of their efforts to promote the well-being and economic development of their country.

CAIRO, April 26.

The Cotton Tax.

The regulations for the collection of the cotton tax imposed by the decree of April 18 last have now been issued. Special tax-collecting offices have been set up in all the chief ginning centres of Upper and Lower Egypt, where before cotton is withdrawn from a factory full particulars of each consignment must be registered and the tax of P.T. 35 per kantar must be paid in cash, except where special arrangements have been made by the Ministry of Finance. No cotton can be transported by rail or by water unless a permit has been obtained. The tax will be payable on all cotton ginned after August 1 next, and in the case of cotton ginned before August 1, 1920, and still in Egypt, unless it is in Alexandria, a full declaration of each lot must be made before August 15 to the Ministry of Finance together with a remittance of the amount of tax due. Provision is, however, made for the exemption of ginned cotton which may be in Alexandria stored in bond after August 1, but which had reached that city before that date. All ginned cotton found outside factories without a permit will be confiscated, and will be sold administratively, provision being made for the reward of one quarter of the proceeds of the sale to those who denounced the cotton and the agents who carried out its confiscation, the remaining three-quarters of the proceeds going to the Treasury.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, May 5.

A Russian Enterprise.

It is reported that a Russian bank is to be founded here by refugees from South Russia. General Denikin's former Minister of Commerce is said to have deposited five million French francs to give it a start; and fourteen Black Sea ships are being brought from Constantinople, and will open a service on the South Dalmatian coast. They are bringing a vast quantity of material and agricultural implements from South Russia, saved from the Bolshevists, and the concern should be a godsend to the country.

PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, April 25.

Crop Returns.

Figures have just been published showing the returns of summer crops and fruits for 1919. They include durra and maize, sesame, olives (and olive oil), oranges, lemons, citrons, grapes, figs, melons, bananas and dates, the total of these being nearly 100 million kilos. The total for oranges is over 66,000,000 kilos, for maize 15,000,000, for grapes 5,600,000, and for figs 4,500,000. For all these products, as in the whole field of agriculture, there is a vast opening for expansion as soon as settled and progressive government holds the reins. Meanwhile, many vital projects, including better water supplies, are of necessity hung up.

Opening for Agricultural Machinery.

The general agricultural outlook is very promising. The severe cold and storms of February were succeeded by genial weather, which promoted a remarkable recovery, and has brought prospects of a cereal harvest above the average and hopes of a consequent fall in prices. Warm weather has brought out the splendid wealth of wild flowers for which the country is celebrated, and those who could indulge in country trips have been charmed by the profusion and variety that deck both hills and valleys in all directions. In many places peasants are preparing for summer sowing and breaking up new land—a healthy sign. Extended cultivation on a large scale will come when more cattle are available. Live stock has suffered terribly in recent years. Among the proofs of progress may be noted the promised introduction of threshing appliances, which are bound in the near future to supersede the patriarchal methods of the present threshing floors prevailing in this part of the world. At Haifa a Fordson Tractor has been on trial, and the demonstrations have been welcomed. There should be good scope for enterprise in the matter of agricultural machinery and appliances, and during the coming harvest experiments will be

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witnessed which will open the eyes of the more progressive and intelligent cultivators, and should lead to labour-saving improvements which will liberate animals and many hands for other profitable work. Loans on easy terms would be a godsend for the poor but honest and thrifty farmers.

Irrigation questions will be serious for Palestine, and will require much consideration, since the Jordan and Litani rivers both take their rise in territory that goes to the French mandate. It could little be imagined a year or two ago that Palestine would be separated from the "Syrian" portion by the artificial boundary that is being traced. Anglo-French friendship must find happy solutions for the important problems that will forthwith present themselves in working out the regeneration of the great and backward territories which lie on either side of the new scientific frontiers.

Combating the Locust.

The Government is taking timely steps to combat locusts. Directions are given in the official *Gazette* with a view to marking localities where eggs are deposited, and Mukhtars are called upon to report all swarms, and to take active steps to protect their respective villages. The instructions given are mainly based on those which were in force in Egypt during a serious invasion of the pest. At present the price to be paid for eggs is five piastres' tariff the oke. Invading swarms have not been serious of late years in O.E.T. (South); but the danger is fitful and ever-menacing, and will no doubt be efficiently dealt with under British guidance.

Miscellaneous.

All the arrangements for the tithe assessments and field work of the current year have been made and published.

The number of companies and partnerships registered at Jerusalem and Jaffa continues to grow.

Owing to the high cost of living, the collection of octroi dutis on wheat and flour has ceased, by order of the Chief Administrator.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, April 17.

Crop Prospects.

For all interested in agriculture the present is the critical time, the matter of rainfall being all-important. There have been welcome rains in the central and eastern districts—*i.e.*, the principal corn-growing areas. But in the west farmers must have more than has yet come their way. Cereal harvest prospects are much less favourable than they should be in all the western districts. The carob crop will be disappointing, owing to the serious damage caused by the abnormal cold and frosts which were recorded this year. The beans of last year are fetching very good prices, the village growers getting 36s. the kantar, or £8 a ton—merchants paying all weighing expenses, tithe, etc. Villagers continue also to get excellent prices for their wines; so that peasants who are thrifty are in a position to pay off a good deal of their debts to moneylenders, or should be able to do so if the present favourable conditions are maintained.

MOROCCO.

TANGIER, April 25.

The Currency.

Hassani money ceased to be current in the French Protectorate on April 20. The French papers state that much more silver was brought in than had been expected, so it would seem that the official statements of a year or so ago that the shortage was due to the large quantities of this silver that were being exported were not well founded.

It appears that the surrender of silver has been mostly in the towns, very little having been exchanged for French notes in country districts. The country people are very shy of these notes, and in some of the less completely pacified parts of the country it is probable that a very considerable amount of silver will remain in native hands.

Of course, the Dahir withdrawing Hassani does not apply to either the Spanish or Tangier zones—the action of the Banque d'Etat in the latter appears to be not yet decided. Hassani is still to be had from money-changers in the street at prices which vary considerably—last week the exchange was from 204 to 217 francs for 100 pesetas Hassani. Naturally, living is becoming more expensive, and is likely to become still more so as Hassani gets scarcer and, approaches the value of Spanish silver, which in Tangier will probably replace it.

Strike of Stevedores.

Tangier is suffering from a strike of stevedores, and Bland's boat from Gibraltar had to leave to-day without discharging her cargo. The lightermen, who are employed by the "Service de la Dette," struck some ten days ago, and have had their wages increased to 15 francs a day. The stevedore men, whose claim is being supported by two officials of the Gibraltar Union, demand 10 Hassani pesetas a day, equal to from 22 to 25 francs. They refuse to have anything to do with French money.

MALTA.

MALTA, April 22.

The Exchanges.

For all practical purposes Malta is only an importing country, and the unique position of the island in this respect has enabled all concerned to realise very fully the problem of the foreign exchanges. The Customs authorities have recently come in for considerable criticism in connection with the fluctuation in the exchanges of countries trading with the island. They have continued to charge duty at the rate of 25 lire in the case of imports from Italy in spite of the fact that within the last few days sterling has been exchanged at the rate of 100 lire. This means that where the duty is 10 per cent. the consumers are being charged at the rate of 44 per cent. Efforts are now being made to have this matter adjusted.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

Egypt.—The Egyptian War Department are calling for tenders for Portland cement. Tenders are returnable on May 21, and are to remain open seven days. All particulars may be obtained from Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1.

Tetuan.—Tenders are invited by the Spanish Government in Morocco for the supply of material and rolling stock for the railway from Tiztutin to Tafersit. Among the items required are the following :—35,423 sleepers, 1.75 to 1.95 metres long, 0.18 m. minimum width, and thickness 0.12 m. 1,545 metric tons, 300 kilos. of rails, 12 m. long, 30 to 31 kilos. weight per lineal metre, 1 metre gauge. 47 metric tons 152 kilos. of clamps. 11 metric tons 783 kilos. of screws. 72 metric tons 749 kilos. of seating plates. 12 junctions, 1 metre gauge. 2 locomotives, 350 h.p. 12 closed wagons. Specifications are on view at the Moroccan Section of the Ministry of State, Madrid, and the Government Offices (Delegacion de Fomento), Tetuan. Tenders will be examined on May 24 at the Government Offices in Tetuan, and delivery of the goods, it is stated, must be made within six months of the date of the placing of the contracts.

Greece: Ministry of Communications.—Supply of telegraphic materials. (Particulars may be seen at Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) June 20.

Roumania.—The Frontier Guards of Roumania desire offers, preferably in the French language, from British houses for the following medical supplies, instruments, etc. :—Boric acid, pure carbolic acid, antipirene, aspirin, quinine sulphate, dermatol, iodine, iodide of potash, permanganate of potash, protargol, sulphate of soda, bismuth salts, and vaseline; graduated syringes and needles, platinum needles, surgeons' knives with straight metal handles, probes, and general surgical instruments; cotton wool, gauze, rubber sheeting and bandages. As the amount of money at the disposal of the medical staff is limited, the quantities to be purchased are not mentioned, as these will depend upon the prices quoted. Offers should be addressed to : Monsieur le Commandant I Cerna, Corpul Greniceri, Boulevard Bratiann (Colt cu Batiste), Bucharest.

Greece.—The President of the Rice Cultivation Association of Messinia invites inclusive offers from British firms for the supply of rice-threshing, peeling, and polishing machinery, and motor-lorries for the conveyance of the rice. Tenders made out to the President of the Rice Cultivation Association of Messinia should be made on the basis of delivery c.i.f. Piraeus or Kalamata (Morea), and accompanied by designs, terms of payment, and any other relevant information, should be addressed to The Commercial Secretary, H.B.M. Legation, Athens, Greece.

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Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

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TRANSPORT IN SOUTH-WEST PERSIA.—II.*

TYPES OF MOTOR VEHICLES REQUIRED.

(From a Correspondent.)

A motor-car service could be used for the conveyance of mails, passengers, and goods. As regards mails, some arrangement would have to be made with the Persian Government, but apart from the prestige gained this would hardly by itself prove sufficiently remunerative. Much more important items would be passengers and goods.

I have given a summary of my journey from Bushire to Shiraz. The cost of hiring mules was 30 tomans each, equivalent at the exchange then in force to about £11 10s. each. This was certainly a high rate of hire, but the normal hire price is between 20 and 25 tomans each mule. The hire of a carriage from Shiraz to Ispahan costs anything over £50, and the rate is the same from Ispahan to Teheran. Now very much less could be charged for a motor-car service, and still enormous profits could be made. But even if the charges were the same as for other methods of transport, no Persian would ever travel except by motor. In point of fact, the Persian, like other people, would willingly pay more for the motor-car so as to avoid some of the hardships of the journey.

The Position of Bushire.

But it is in the conveyance of goods that there is the greatest scope for motors. Recently there were all sorts of rumours afloat in Persia that when the railways were built Bushire would lose all its importance as the natural line of railways would leave out Bushire. Apart from the fact that railways will take years to build, there is no doubt that Bushire, in spite of all its disadvantages, must remain the most important Persian port in the Gulf, as it is the point in the Gulf nearest to the chief trade centres. Engineering difficulties would probably make the construction of a railway from Bushire to the interior commercially unprofitable, but these difficulties do not apply to road transport. Under present conditions it is necessary to allow anything over three months for the transport of merchandise from Bushire to Teheran, via Shiraz and Ipahan, but by motor-car it is not impossible to accomplish the journey in a little over a week. And in spite of all the delays, in spite of the enormous cost of transport, there is an immense volume of traffic coming through the port of Bushire from this trade route. The whole of this traffic would go to any concern running an efficient motor service. As regards types of cars suitable for this service, the chief point to bear in mind is that the roads are not fit for heavy traffic. A London motor-bus would be useless. I should think the most suitable type would be some light lorry.

Quite apart from the openings for a motor transport service, there is at present in Persia a demand for all types of motor vehicles. In fact, Persia as a market for motor-cars is almost virgin soil. In Southern Persia last November there was a large number of military motor-cars, but the total number of privately-owned cars could be counted on one's fingers. The Persian Government may require external loans, the North of Persia may have lost trade in recent years owing to speculation in Russian roubles and the closing of Russia's frontiers, but South Persia is flourishing. The merchants have large trade balances in their favour; they have enormous sums of money in hand which they are only too willing to spend. The exchanges also are very much in their favour; the kran, normally worth about 4d., is now worth nearly a shilling. All these wealthy Persians are anxious to purchase motor-cars. At present their means of progression is the old-fashioned carriage and pair, or the still more antiquated donkey. This is not from choice, but because up to the present they have not been able to obtain the motors on which many of them have set their hearts. Every Persian who now owns a carriage would willingly buy a car instead.

British Goods Preferred.

Certain popular makes of American cars are already known to the Persians, who have also heard that there are better English makes, but few, very few, Persians have ever seen an English car at all. The writer was constantly being asked about English makes of motor-cars, and how to obtain them. Any English manufacturer who chooses to tackle the Persian market will start with a great initial advantage over his competitors. Nowhere in the world does the reputation of British manufactures stand higher than in Persia. The Persian will always buy British goods in preference to any other, partly because British goods have long been in his market, partly because of the political prestige of this country, and partly because of his unfortunate recent experience of other manufactures. During the war many articles which Persia had been accustomed to receive from England could no longer be supplied from here: matches, for instance, and cotton piece goods. The Persian had to content himself with Japanese substitutes. At first he was inclined to be pleased with the change, as the prices were substantially lower. Later he began to repent. Now he is clamouring for the original British articles, and will have no other. He has learnt that low prices do not necessarily mean cheapness. The result is that the reputation of British manufactures is higher than ever before.

It will be asked what types of motor-cars would be suitable for the Persian market. At the present day the wealthy Persian uses his carriage chiefly to go from his town house or his office to his country residence—say five to ten miles each way. Very seldom does he travel further afield. If he does he would travel on horseback or on a donkey. Presumably if he owned a motor-car his reluctance to travel might diminish. The hardships of a journey under present conditions are not alluring. Primarily, then, a Persian would want a motor-car for the same sort of reason as a business man in London. When, however, the country develops, as it must soon, and main roads are constructed, a use will be found for the motor-car in travelling from town to town. For this purpose a touring body appears the most suitable. On the other hand, the wealthy Persian would probably require a closed car for the use of the ladies of his household. The Persian of more moderate means needs a light touring car. Any light car at a moderate price would command a ready sale in such towns as Bushire, Shiraz, and Ispahan.

Opening for Light Cars and Motor Bicycles.

Where there appears to be even more scope would be in the sale of light commercial cars. At present all local transport work is done by donkeys, mules and coolies. A merchant in any of the principal towns is obliged to employ a large number of coolies and donkeys for his every-day work, for which he has to pay a high price. The same work could be performed very much more efficiently and at far less cost by a single motor-lorry, the scope for which in Persia is undoubted.

And now a word must be said as regards the opening for motor-bicycles. When in Persia last year I should have been prepared to pay almost any price in reason for the use of a motor-bicycle. No Europeans and few better-class Persians live in the towns. The residential quarter of Bushire is five or six miles away from the town. The main houses and gardens in Shiraz are between five and ten miles out. The

(*Continued on page* 695.)

* The previous article appeared in The Near East on May 6.

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cost of hiring a carriage was exorbitant, being two or three tomans on each occasion, while the time for a carriage journey was excessive. A motor-bicycle would solve all these difficulties.

For such journeys as Bushire to Shiraz under present road conditions the ideal conveyance is the motor-bicycle, perhaps with side-car. Last year, when I had to work out problems of travelling between these towns, I came to the following conclusions:—Travelling under the old conditions of mules and donkeys, the time required would be nine days, and travelling by motor-car two days (a halt at Kazerun), but a motor-bicycle could accomplish the journey in one day. All with whom I discussed this agreed with my estimate, whether Europeans or Persians, and any number of Persians would willingly buy any motor-bicycle available. Last November there was not a single privately-owned motor-bicycle in Shiraz. In Bushire there were two or three only. There is undoubtedly a good market for any reliable motor-bicycle.

Methods of Sale.

The motor manufacturer who decides to tackle the Persian market should speedily gain a rich reward. Various manufacturers have already sent agents to investigate Mesopotamia, but up to the present no one seems to have realised the possibilities of Southern Persia. Yet this market should prove even more attractive. There are various points which should be borne in mind. First, the business methods of Persia are not those of Europe. A representative sent to Persia should be well acquainted with the character and mentality of the Persians. No Persian will ever accept a proposition merely on trust. Advertising and the use of illustrated catalogues are essential; but the representative must also be well provided with cars for his own use, and, if necessary, for immediate sale and delivery. It would be an advantage for the representative to know the Persian language, but this is not absolutely essential, as interpreters are nearly always available, and in any case enough Persian for working purposes can be picked up in a very short time. Secondly, the distances between the various centres are great. From Bushire to Shiraz is 185 miles, from Shiraz to Ispahan about 300 miles, and it is about the same from Ispahan to Teheran. In the first place, it would certainly be necessary to establish a depot at Bushire, but the representative must be prepared to travel frequently between the main centres. Supply and repair depots must therefore be established at various points on the route.

On the whole the difficulties of opening up the Persian market are not very great, and what obstacles there are are inherent in all pioneer work.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 28:—"Rain nearly general in Assam, Kashmir, and Malabar. Local in North-Eastern India, Southern India, Rajputana, Central Punjab, and North-West Frontier Province. Crop conditions generally good. All India special wheat forecast:—29,537,000 acres, 9,774,000 tons. (Corresponding forecast for last year, 23,425,000 acres, 7,447,000 tons.) Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good Broach April-May Rs.474, July-August Rs.466. Piece-goods market: Moderate demand, with prices steady. Calcutta gunny market quiet, with poor demand. Hessians nominally steady, but prices tending downwards. Bank rate in Bengal, 7 per cent.; Bombay and Madras, 9 per cent.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, for the week ended April 10 amounted to £E11,880.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from April 12 to April 30 amounted to 6,870,000 francs, against 7,230,000 francs for the corresponding period of last year.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, have declared an interim dividend of 5s. per share, free of income tax, for the half-year ended February 28, payable on June 1.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, for the week ended April 21 were:—Cattle markets, £888; general markets, £608; total, £1,496; total for the year, £32,557. There were no receipts for the corresponding week of 1919, owing to local disturbances.

Egyptian Delta Land and Investment.—Dividend of 6d. per share will be paid on and after May 17.

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR MOROCCO.

Annual Meeting.

The fifth annual general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco was held in the Chamber's rooms at Tangier on April 7, Mr. G. F. Moore, president of the Chamber, being in the chair.

The chairman, in his address, spoke hopefully of the future of British commerce, notwithstanding the labour troubles, and said that the much greater interest taken by British manufacturers and merchants in Morocco, as evidenced not only by the large numbers of inquiries received by the Chamber, but by the increasing number of representatives of British firms visiting the country, and by the new branches of British houses being opened there was most encouraging. The critical period through which British commerce had passed after the Armistice had fortunately been safely weathered without injury to the country's credit.

Many of the subjects which the committee had had before them during the past year were then discussed in detail, such as the proposal for a British Consular post at Oujda, the sale of tribal lands, the export of produce to England (especially of eggs, chick peas, beans, and canary seed), Customs values, Hassani currency, British postal services, Bourses de Commerce, and mining rights.

Reference was made to the general dissatisfaction with the work of the company, which has the monopoly of discharging and loading at Casablanca—due very largely to want of foresight in providing sufficient means of handling cargoes and also, it had been alleged, to the favourable treatment of some ships in the supply of lighters. The hope was expressed that the existing restrictions on the export of grain would be entirely removed, this being especially desirable in view of the increase in the shipping facilities between Morocco and England which was confidently expected.

Referring to the institution of Bourses de Commerce, the president drew attention to the detrimental effect these would probably have on British interests if they were made applicable to British subjects, particularly in marine insurance and chartering business.

The continued delay in completing the roads between Tangier and Rabat had been a great disappointment. It could only be hoped that they would be finished this summer, though, after so many unfulfilled promises it did not seem safe to rely on any official statements about those roads, which were of such importance to the commerce of these zones.

Weather conditions had been most favourable, and, from all reports, a most prosperous year might, he thought, be fairly expected. The depreciation of the franc militated against British imports, but the demand for British goods was increasing notwithstanding this difficulty. The question of British schools had made progress, and he was very hopeful of their eventual establishment. A Dahir regarding schools had been published during the year; no doubt the Home Government would take care to safeguard British interests in this respect. The interruption in the publication of the Chamber's *Journal*, due to circumstances that were unavoidable, was most regrettable, but the committee and editor were doing their best to bring it up to date and to continue it with greater regularity.

The president then spoke of the great loss the Chamber had suffered by the death of Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, their first president, who had done so much to encourage the committee, and was so devoted to the objects of the Chamber. Sir Harry Maclean had taken a very special interest in the proposed British schools in Morocco, and had spared neither time nor energy in helping to bring the movement to a successful issue.

The report was duly adopted, as was that of the treasurer.

A proposal to reduce the numbers forming a quorum at the general meeting from 50 per cent. of resident members to one-third was passed. The retiring members of the committee were all re-elected, and Sir Basil Scott was elected to fill a vacancy. After the usual votes of thanks to the officers had been passed a very interesting discussion took place on the demonetisation of Hassani, and other matters, in which Sir Basil Scott, Mr. Weir Brown, Mr. Penry Cooper, the president, and others took part.

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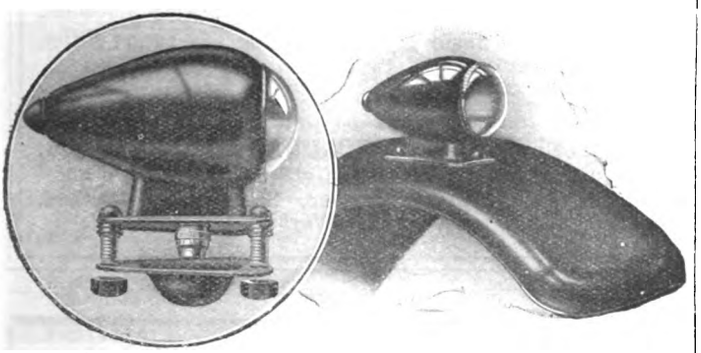
ENGINEERING.

Marine Oil Engines.

There is undoubtedly a future for the marine oil engine, and the next few years should show a great increase in their use. In the United States a great number of vessels, of from 2,500 to 3,000 tons deadweight capacity, have been fitted with engines of this type, the chief advantages being the great saving in bunker space, which permits of larger cargo room, and the facility and speed with which fresh supplies of fuel oil can be put on board. Usually twin-screw equipment is installed, consisting of semi-Diesel or hot bulb engines up to 500 horse-power. Swedish oil engines have been increasingly popular, and one of the big American concerns is now building engines of this type under licence. That country has also become noted for Diesel engines for marine work, but there is no doubt as to the ability of British firms to turn out an equal, if not a superior, product from their shops. The two-stroke Diesel engine is being made by several firms for marine work, and one of the largest vessels fitted with this type of engine had two power units, each of 3,200 indicated horse-power. Certain changes in design were necessary, as compared with the ordinary type of engine, and so far it appears that the equipment has given perfect satisfaction.

A New Side Lamp.

I have just had an opportunity of seeing a new type of electric side-lamp for fixing on the mudguards of a car, and, as the illustration shows, this is a smartly designed article which should command a ready sale. From an engineering point of view the construction leaves nothing to be desired;



NEW ELECTRIC SIDE LAMP FOR MUDGUARDS.

the body is spun in one piece so that there are no joints to give way, and the front lens is of the well-tried bull's-eye pattern. A feature of interest is the provision of a ruby lens at the back. The plate for fixing the lamp to the underside of the mudguard is cupped out so that it completely covers the lamp adaptor, thus making it practically watertight and mud-proof. The fixing bolts are of ample size, and if properly screwed up in place, with a spring washer between the plate and each nut there is no possibility of it working loose. Messrs. Brown Bros., Limited, of Great Eastern Street, inform me that the lamps can be supplied at a very reasonable price in either brass or nickel finish, or, if desired, in the all-black finish which is now so popular.

Packing for Export.

A number of complaints have reached this country recently from buyers in the Near Eastern and other markets as to the methods by which machine tools, small engineering appliances, and pieces of more or less delicate machinery are packed for export. It appears that in many cases these are not sufficiently protected against rust, and are not firmly fastened in place to the packing to prevent damage by vibration. In some instances the packing-cases themselves in which the goods are sent are of too light a character, and come to pieces during transit. In other cases, again, they are not strong enough to bear slinging during transhipment.

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The net result of all this is that the condition in which such machinery is received is such as to give rise to a good deal of dissatisfaction on the part of both the merchants who import such goods into their countries and the buyers. It is said that before the war the German products were always packed with exceptional care, and it seems a pity that our exporters should run the risk of obtaining a "bad character" in Near Eastern markets for the sake of a little extra care and attention to detail in such matters as packing and protecting machinery from rust and accidental damage.

It seems that one of the chief causes of trouble is the packing-case in which the goods are sent. It should be constructed of stout pine, and for this purpose the most resinous boards obtainable should be used, as they are more damp-proof than the dry, white variety, which readily absorb moisture. These cases should be well strengthened inside by means of battens, and these should be continued round the bottom and sides and across the top. It must be remembered that to the average dockyard hand all sides of a case are alike, and any package is liable to be stowed or slung up and craned with that side uppermost which first comes to hand.

A further point to remember is that the type of labour employed always prefers to put the crane claws on to a case rather than go to the trouble of fixing the slings in position. Claws bring an undue strain on certain parts, and so may cause the whole case to collapse. To prevent clawing it is just as well to make the outside of the case perfectly smooth, so that no projections actually invite this kind of treatment. It is, however, advisable to fix runners across the bottom of the case, as these are likely to be of assistance in many ways, in addition to being an extra source of strength.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Steam Cultivating Tackles for India.

The Conservator of Forests of the United Provinces, India, has recently asked the Department of Overseas Trade to be placed in communication with British firms manufacturing agricultural steam engines for cable ploughing and cultivation, together with the necessary implements. It is intended to break up considerable areas of heavy grass land in the United Provinces preparatory to afforestation. At present, it appears, only one set of tackle is required, but if the experiment prove successful the work will be greatly extended and more plant purchased. Manufacturers who are interested are asked to avail themselves of this opportunity. The fact that it should be necessary to apply to the authorities here for the names of firms suggests the inadequate system of advertising British goods, especially machinery, in the East. Obviously, if an official cannot find the manufacturers he requires, how can private buyers be expected to do so? It is admitted that American and Japanese manufacturers, whose recent efforts to gain the markets in the East are well known, owe their success to a great extent to their system of publicity and to the mediums they use in advertising, which enable all buyers in the East to find them.

Commercial Aviation.

Much has been heard of the wide scope open to the aeroplane in business activities. But until now little beyond the practicability of certain prescribed air routes has been demonstrated by actual flight. Such tours as have been made were on a comparatively small scale and were not undertaken to cope with special commercial conditions. The Government having offered no practical support or encouragement, it is left to private enterprise to prove the industrial value of the aeroplane by actual use under pressing circumstances.

On May 10 Mr. W. J. McCormack, head of the sales organisation for Dunlop solid tyres, started on a return business tour

(*Continued on page 699.*)

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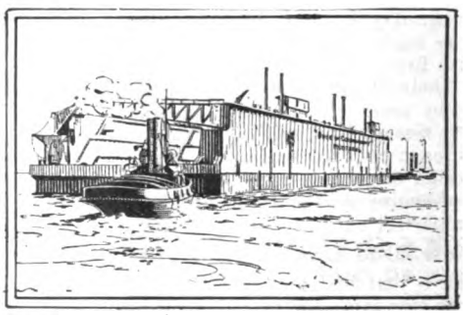

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from Birmingham to Dublin in an Airco 9 machine, piloted by Mr. Harry Shaw. This will be the first of a series of similar flights which have been made necessary by the enormously increasing sales organisation of the Dunlop Rubber Company. It is anticipated that considerable interest will be aroused in all localities along the route.

Trials of Tractors in India.

Mention was made recently of the trials of agricultural tractors which were organised by the Indian Government at Nagpur. These trials were carried out under exceptionally difficult conditions, the ground being hard-baked after five rainless months, and it was considered doubtful even whether the tractors would be able to perform their allotted tasks. Five machines competed—the Austin, Cletrac, Fiat, Fordson and Lauson—the last-named being a particularly powerful American machine. The Cletrac machine was withdrawn. In the four hours' test the Austin and the Fiat ran each other rather close, the British tractor having the advantage of paraffin consumption, the quantity consumed being 37½ pints for ploughing 1¾ acres to a depth of 7.07 inches. On the final results a gold medal and Rs.500 was awarded to the Fiat tractor, and a silver medal and Rs.500 to the Lauson, while a special reward and Rs.1,000 was made to the Austin, which was adjudicated the best in the light tractor class.

Agricultural Machinery for Adrianople.

It is believed that there will be great industrial and agricultural enterprises in Thrace in the near future. That region is naturally rich, and has important outlets in the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmora, and the Ægean Sea. This happened after the Russo-Turkish war in 1878, and after the recent Balkan war, when enterprising business men hurried to Macedonia, Bulgaria, Thessaly, and other districts, buying large estates and unexplored lands and mines at extremely low prices, and establishing industries which are now flourishing concerns. The manufacturing engineer should have a great opening for business there, and it is to be hoped that British manufacturers will be on the alert, as it is reported that Continental and American competitors are already making their preparations. The district of Adrianople is one of the most important in Thrace for industrial and agricultural enterprises, and a few remarks regarding pre-war conditions as regards the use of agricultural machinery should be of interest to manufacturers. In recent years there has been a marked movement amongst the Adrianople agriculturists in favour of up-to-date implements and machinery. The richer landowners started first, but later even smallholders began to adopt modern implements, especially ploughs, which were imported for the most part from Germany. Seed classifiers and cleaners were supplied principally by French manufacturers, sawing machines and harvesters mostly by America; whilst a number of sets of steam-threshing machines that were in great use were supplied by British engineering firms. For these threshing sets there will be a great demand.

Portable Threshers for India.

The trade with India in agricultural machinery is reported to be developing greatly. Ploughs for bullock haulage are in big demand, as are mowing machines of a light pattern, but the most improved line is said to be that for small-size portable threshers. It is said that a substantial trade has been done in this direction, because it has been found that the small machines are far more easily transported than the heavier and bulkier types—an important point to consider when the state of the Indian roads and bridges is borne in mind. Machines for India have to be made of special wood to withstand the onslaughts of insects, and it is asserted that certain developments which have taken place in this respect quite recently have made British threshing machines very much in favour with Eastern users.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 24 amounted to £8,509.

A Ministerial order has been issued fixing the maximum prices for sugar throughout Egypt. Loaf sugar will work out at 7½d. per lb.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Trade and the Exchanges.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, May 10.

The feature of interest in the market during the past week has been the amicable settlement of the wages dispute. Although the negotiations have been protracted the advance secured by the operatives is about equal to what was expected. It is satisfactory to know that wage rates are now stabilised for twelve months. Business in the market has continued very quiet. There have been no signs of increased enterprise on the part of our customers. Trade is being held back by the unfavourable state of Eastern exchanges, the recent fall in the price of silver and the value of the rupee being pronounced. The Egyptian cotton crop is reported to be making rather better progress, but prices keep fairly steady. Egyptian yarns have again been purchased sparingly and rates have tended to favour buyers, especially in the ordinary qualities of carded descriptions Demand in piece goods for the Near Eastern outlets has been poor. For Egypt and the Levant only odd lots have been sold. Fresh buying is not likely to be undertaken until improved reports are received from the other side. Operations for India in cloth have been within a small compass, well-known grey staples being neglected. Very little has been done for China. Printed and dyed cloths have attracted some attention for South America. Manufacturers are still not selling the output of the machinery, and there is a tendency for ground to be lost. American yarns for home use have been dull of sale, and, compared with a week ago, wefts are easier. Some offers have been mentioned in bundles for India, but yarns bought for China have been offered for re-sale. There is nothing doing at the moment in descriptions suitable for the Levant.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to February 29, 1920 (New Style January 14 to March 13, 1920).

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper & Naxos Emery	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmae.	Drachmae.
Gross receipts, February, 1920	4,416,250	4,890,161
Do. do. 1919.....	2,935,626	2,675,058
Estimated receipts for 2 months (Law of Control)	4,816,666	1,783,333
Actual do. do. 1920	9,187,335	9,828,421
Do. do. do. 1919	7,284,485	5,351,010
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 2 months 1920	+ 4,370,669	+ 4,938,259
1919	+ 2,467,818	+ 3,567,677

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamped paper, stamps and Naxos Emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos Emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmae at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Forty-second Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Offices, Alexandria, on Tuesday, the 1st June, 1920, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant to Act of Parliament and also to pass the two following resolutions: INCREASE OF THE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY: Resolution 1.—To increase the Capital of the Company by the creation of 20,000 Shares of £5 each nominal, to be offered to the Shareholders at par. Resolution 2.—To authorise the Board of Directors to issue these Shares, either in part or all, at such period as it may consider favourable in the interests of the Company.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer desiring to attend or to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their Share Warrants in London before the 20th May, 1920, or in Alexandria before the 28th May, 1920, until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

By order of the Board,
J. E. CORNISH,
Secretary-General.

Alexandria, 20th April, 1920.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.

Some quantities of currants and figs were offered at auction last week. The quality of the fruit was generally poor, and the prices realised were consequently moderate. The currants were disposed of at from 18s. to 32s. per cwt., and the figs at from 30s. to 43s. per cwt. Apparently, the stocks of currants on hand are for the most part of moderate type, and the lower prices resulting have had the effect of bringing about an increased demand. There is little fresh to report with regard to sultanas.

Sugar.

The market for free sugar has been steady but quiet, manufacturers showing a tendency at the moment to hold their hands. There has been a steady demand for home refined at the official rates.

Coffee.

A quiet tone has characterised the market, Indian and Uganda qualities being in chief request. Indian has been done at from 145s. to 170s., Mocha at 175s. to 190s., and Uganda at 145s. Stocks in London amount to 90,226 bags of Brazilian, 97,600 packages of Central American, and 100,600 packages of other kinds. The futures market has been firm with an inactive tendency.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended May 6:—A slight improvement in the more distant positions of futures in our market is noticed this week. September has changed hands at 106s., and the nett balance in the interval is an advance of 6d. to 3s. On the spot, conditions continue depressed, and the moderate supplies brought forward during the week failed to excite much interest. Home trade buyers have been able to pick and choose parcels which particularly appealed to them at what they considered satisfactory prices, whilst the remainder of the offerings had to be withdrawn. Cost and freight offers continue more or less nominal, but a further re-offer from France of Government coffee on a very low basis has been reported. Brazil has been firmer, and prices on the spot have shown an improving tendency, although receipts at Rio have continued on the large side.

New York futures have presented a very steady front with a slight advance registered each day, the net gain on balance for the week being 55 to 62 points. In the early part of the week under review there was a noticeable liquidation of May with replacing lines in September and December. Nothwithstanding the large account that must for some time have been in process of adjustment in May, there has at no time been any marked decline of price in this month, which we think confirms the strong undertone of the market and the support given to these deliveries by the trade. Anything unwieldy would quickly have manifested itself in a sharp break in prices with correspondingly sympathetic declines in all other positions. During the week an inclination by Brazil to accept bids for July/September shipment had a chilling effect upon New York futures and rather kept in check the little advancing tendency. Since then sentiment has improved with firmer Brazilian advices, more inquiry in New York from interior points for the article, and forecasts from the trade of an increased demand. Deliveries from warehouse in America for the first 19 days of April gave evidence of the serious effect of the strike, as these were 426,297 bags, compared with 659,160 bags last year. Although the strike is over, great delays must result for some time, harrassing and hampering the coffee trade and making business very difficult to conclude. The demand exists for increasing quantities of the commodity, helped, they say, by the Prohibition Law, and with an unimpeded receipt and delivery of the goods, greater quantities could, doubtless, be absorbed in U.S. than is practicable at the moment through traffic disorganisation. In regard to the immediate future, we have no further estimates than those already given, of the coming Brazilian crop, nor whether it is an early or late one. If an early one, with this congestion in New York and no free disposition in quantity at present feasible to European countries, heavy receipts in Brazil might temporarily keep prices fairly stationary at about to-day's level with fluctuations within a cent. either way. But sooner or later we think the strength of the position will assert itself in supply and demand, so that we still favour the "Bull" side and incline to purchase upon any decline.

Oilseeds.

Seeds close rather flat. Indian linseed has been done at 41s. 3d., and La Plata afloat at 36s. 6d. Rapeseed has been in fair demand during the week round about 42s. for Toria, and 39s. for Cawnpore. Indian cottonseed has come to business at 15s. 3d.

Oilcakes and Seedoils.

Linseed cake has been done at 22s., while there has been a fair demand for coconut cake at 11s., rapeseed cake at 12s., and soya bean cake at 22s.

Oils have been quiet. Linseed oil is quoted 97s. spot. Rape oil is 110s. refined and 100s. crude. Turpentine is considerably lower at 190s. spot, and 165s. May-August.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended April 24:—The sales this week on our market amount to 19 cases; 16 cases extra Carahissar at piastres 1,200 per oke = 19s. per lb. c.i.f.; 2 cases lower grades at piastres 1,160 to 1,125 per oke = 17s. 3d. to 17s. 8d. per lb. c.i.f.; 1 case Islamkeuy (soft) at piastres 1,300 per oke = 21s. 9d. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange for cheque on London to-day is piastres 470 per £ sterling and 0.83 dols. per one Turkish paper £. The arrivals are 1,565 cases, against 375 at same date last year. Our market closed with buyers at 6d. per lb. lower than above prices, but this price has not tempted any sellers.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

It is announced by the Ministry of Munitions that the sale of surplus warcraft in Mesopotamia has now produced over a million and a-half sterling. The disposal of the craft was entrusted to Lord Inchcape, who gave his services free, and stipulated that no company in which he was interested should receive preferential treatment. He offered 1,194 vessels for sale by sealed tender. Offers for 362 vessels were accepted at a total price of £1,540,612, and in every case the highest offer was accepted. Other vessels, offered to the provincial Governments and railway companies of India, are expected to realise £250,000. The remaining vessels will be sold as opportunity offers.

A buoy has been placed alongside the large jetty at Casablanca for the use of mail boats from Marseilles and Bordeaux. Another buoy is in course of being installed. Twelve other posts will be set up in the roads when the equipment, which is on requisition, has reached its destination.

Shipping at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, April 15.

The latest arrivals at this port have been the s.s. Marental from Liverpool and the s.s. Kokoma. H.M.S. Espiegle, from Gibraltar, and the s.s. Antagone, from Constantinople, have touched here, en route to Port Said and Valenza respectively. The s.s. Benbow has left for sea, the Kursk for England, and the s.s. Alexandra Woermann for Gibraltar.

H.M.S. Kildonan Castle is held up here owing to severe engine trouble.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

BRITISH and Foreign Manufacturers, Importers, and Exporters should consult the Commercial and Intelligence Department of the Anglo-Latin-American Press Co., Ltd., 4/5, Copthall Court, London, E.C.2, if they desire to develop their business in foreign countries. Full particulars will be given free of charge.

CLEMENT D. SETI, 5, Rue Serafieh, P.O. Box 1099 Cairo, desires to represent Manufacturers or Exporters of Tinplate, Blue for washing, Soap, Textiles, Oils, Paper, Silk, Drapery, etc. Accepts all propositions "delcredere"; advances on consignment goods; accepts all usual commercial arrangements; good references.

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CASTALIA ABOUT JULY 7.

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COAL PRODUCTION IN YUGOSLAVIA.

According to a recent report, the total production of coal in Yugoslavia during 1919 was 2,494,058 tons, as against 3,587,432 tons in 1913. It is stated that the prospects for the production in 1920 are very favourable. The production during the month of January was 259,025 tons, as compared with 210,232 tons in January, 1919. The principal difficulty now encountered in the production of coal is that of transport. Several mines in Serbia have large depots of coal, which, owing to the lack of trucks, cannot be transported, and they have been obliged to stop working.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE IN CRETE.

With the exception of certain foodstuffs it may be said that every kind of goods produced in the United Kingdom are required in Crete, especially textiles, ironmongery, tin-plate, galvanised sheets, sodas (carbonate and caustic), empty bags, nickel-plated goods, earthenware, china (ironstone) for dinner and tea sets, oil engines, and stationery, says H.M. Consul at Canea in a recent report. Certain United States interests have a strong hold upon the trade in cotton goods, though Barcelona firms now compete in textiles in general ,and Milan firms in drills, twills, and other cotton goods, while Japan supplies whites and greys (cabots), transhipped at Port Said or Suez. France sends silks and velvets, and also pharmaceutical drugs and medicines.

The representation of British firms is often affected by the appointment of an agent at Athens for the whole of Greece, including Crete. These agents appoint sub-agents in the provinces from whom they usually levy commission. It would be far better for British firms, desirous of doing business with Crete, to appoint a separate agent for Crete, or, better still, an agent in each of the three important towns of Canea, Candia, and Rethymo, which might still further promote their interests. A competent commercial traveller, conversant with the language and acquainted with Greek customs and business methods, would reap an immediate harvest for any British firm if commissioned to travel through Crete with appropriate samples and price lists, and to grant such terms of credit or payment as he judged, on mature enquiry and consideration, to be both expedient and safe for his employers.

Some of the Greek steamships engaged in the coasting trade, and plying between Piræus and Cretan ports, after touching at Cretan ports, proceed to Alexandria and Port Said, and return to Cretan waters. Apart from Greek steamers, there is a fortnightly service of former Austrian-Lloyd steamers now belonging to the Lloyd Triestino Company, and flying the inter-Allied flag, from Trieste to Constantinople, touching at Venice, Corfu, Canea, Alexandria, Smyrna, etc., and also a fortnightly service of the same company's steamers sailing from Trieste and Venice for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, Smyrna, Syrian ports, Port Said, Alexandria, and Canea. These vessels vary in size from 1,500 to 1,800 tons.

A British steamer of a well-known line called at Candia during November, 1919, taking considerable cargo there, but goods from the United Kingdom destined for Crete almost invariably undergo transhipment at the Piræus, which, however, entails considerable disadvantage and delay.

Local shipbuilding is confined to the construction of lighters and small sailing vessels.

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

ALEXANDRETTA, April 6.

The political situation continued to grow worse during March. There were no transactions between Aleppo and Alexandretta, and goods from Europe for the interior have been diverted viâ Beyrout.

The railway line between Topra-Kalé and Aleppo is continually destroyed by bands of pillagers, and even the military communications are cut.

The trade of this port is at a standstill, and the situation does not appear likely to improve very soon

PANDERMA.

The following particulars are taken from the report for March:—

The abundant rains that fell during the month have damaged such crops as wheat, barley, and oats, on which in particular great hopes were based.

Except for some exports of merchandise, business has been almost nil. The commercial community waits impatiently for the signing of the peace, and for the end of a position which is becoming unbearable.

STAMBOUL, April 17.

The stagnation of business continues. Prices are a little firmer owing to the high level of prices for manufactures in centres of production and the strength of the English exchange, but the lack of demand still prevails. Financial embarrassment dominates our market, and the sharp fluctuations in the exchange only make the position worse. Some merchants have re-exported their goods to England. New arrivals are decreasing.

According to indirect news from Anatolia, there is going to be a very brisk demand for manufactured goods in the interior, so the outlook for the future is encouraging; but the resumption of business depends on the restoration of communications and the re-establishment of order.

NEW COMPANIES.

Black Sea Shipping.

The British Black Sea Shipping and Oil Company has been registered with a capital of £30,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on business as indicated in the title.

Yugo-Slavia Syndicate.

The Yugo-Slavia Syndicate, Limited, has been registered as a private company with a nominal capital of £10,000 in 9,800 ordinary shares of £1 each and 4,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. Objects: To carry on promotion, financial, commercial, industrial, mining, exploration, manufacturing and other businesses. Solicitor: C. H. Gurney, 1, Fredericks Place, Old Jewry, E.C. Registered office: 65, London Wall, E.C.

Asiatic Fisheries.

The Asiatic Fisheries, Limited, was registered as a private company on April 17 with a capital of £300 in £1 shares. Objects: To search and explore all seas, rivers, etc., adjacent to the Persian Gulf or elsewhere supposed to contain pearls and other precious stones, shells, sponges, tortoise shell, and other products of the sea.

Burmese Minerals.

The Burmese Minerals Exploration, Limited, was registered on April 16 with a capital of £25,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on business as indicated in the title. Registered office: 4, London Wall Buildings, E.C.

ON CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Monday.

We have had a very irregular market this week for Egyptian securities, but there has been a much-improved tone to-day, and a pretty large business has been done in Government stocks. Egyptian Unified, after being down to 68¾, close about 70¼, a rise of ⅝ since last week; but Egypt 3½ per cent. Pref. are closing ½ down at 57½, after having been lower. City of Alexandria Bonds have dropped half a point to 64½. Turkish 4 per cent. 1891 are 3½ points down at 61½, but Turkish 4 per cent. Unified have improved a point to 34, and there are only buyers round the current level.

In Bank shares Nationals, after dipping to 19¾, close only 1-16th off at 20 3-16. Agriculturals are about unchanged at 4¾ x.d. Bank of Abyssinia are 2s. 6d. higher at 32s. 6d., and Land Bank of Egypt have advanced ⅛ to 5⅝.

In Land shares Aboukirs are fractionally firmer at 36s. 3d., Egyptian Consolidated Lands, after rising to 3s. 6d., close 4½d. up at 3s. 4½d Delta Lands, on the other hand, are 6d. down at 15s., and Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have shed a like fraction at 15s. 3d. Gharbieh Land have put on ⅛ at 3⅝, and Sudan Plantations, after having dropped to 4, finish ⅜ up at 4½. A feature has been the sustained demand for New Egyptian shares, which, on persistent buying, advanced at one time to 38s. 9d., finishing 2s. 3d. up at 38s.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Water have dropped ⅜ to 10, while Salt and Sodas are 1-32 firmer at 2 25-32.

Amongst Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B are 5-16 higher at 3 15-16, and Roumanians have advanced 6d. to 19s. 6d.

In Greek securities the Government stocks are all unchanged with the exception of the 1902 Loan, which is half a point down at 43½, the 1910 Loan, which is also half a point down at 39, and Currant Bonds, which have dropped one point to 91. Bank of Athens shares are ⅛ higher at 3⅜.

MACMANUS BROTHERS, LTD.

A reconstruction has been made of this company. The board of directors consists of Mr. W. B. Fletcher, managing director of the Fletcher Hardware Company, Birmingham (chairman); Captain E. B. MacManus, director and secretary; M. Michel Agelasto, foreign director; and Mr. Stanley Morton, managing director. The capital of the company has been increased by £25,000. The shares are all held by the directors.

The Yugoslav Minister of Finance has taken steps to prohibit the export of the new "crown-dinar" notes.

A Reuter's message states that the Roumanian Cabinet has approved the denunciation of the commercial treaties with foreign countries. These conventions having been concluded in 1907 for a period of ten years expired in 1917. The Government will draw up a new series of commercial treaties.

According to the Indian Press, the proposed India Exhibition at Calcutta, which was to take place during the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, has been abandoned as a consequence of housing and transportation difficulties. H.M. Trade Commissioner at Calcutta states that it is difficult to estimate to what extent, if any, these difficulties are likely to interfere with the exhibition of British manufactures which it is proposed to hold in November-December, 1921.

An order for the early delivery of fifty heavy locomotives for Roumania has been placed (states *Modern Transport*) with the Baldwin Locomotive Works, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., whilst Messrs. William Beardmore and Sons, Limited, of Dalmuir, Glasgow, are negotiating for the delivery of no fewer than 500 locomotives, also for Roumania. It is understood that Messrs. Vickers, Limited, are associated with Messrs. Beardmore in this contract, and that arrangements are being made for the locomotives to be paid for, either in part or in entirety, by deliveries of grain and oil from Roumania.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price May 4.	Price May 10.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	34	34
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	27	27
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	65	64½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	69½xd	70½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	58	57½
Greek 5%, 1881	55	55
Do. 5%, 1884	55	55
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	41	41
Do. 5% 1890	55	55
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	53	53
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	44	43½
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	39½	39
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	50	50
Do. 5% Currant	92	91
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	70½
Persia 5% 1911	68½	68
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	30	30
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	65	61½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	53	53
Do. 4% Unified	33	34
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅜	4⅞xd
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	5¼	5¼
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	66	66
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	68	68
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	18½	18½
Bank of Abyssinia	30/-	32/6
Bank of Athens	65/-	67/6
Bank of British West Africa	6⅜	6
Bank of Roumania	5⅞	5⅞
British Trade Corporation	9⅛	8⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	8¼	8¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	9	8⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
London County and Westminster	14⅛	14⅛
National Bank of Egypt	20¼	20⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	5⅞	5⅞
Do. 5% Debs.	68½	68½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	14	14
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	35	35
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	31⅜	31⅜
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50½	50¾
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	36/-	36/3
Do. 6% Debs	140½	140½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	16/6	16/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	75/-	75/-
Béhéra Co.	18½	18½
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	30/-	30/-
Egyptian Consol 5/-	3/-	3/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	15/6	15/-
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	15/3	15/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	29/-	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	84½	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	35/9	38/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2½	2½
Sudan Plantations	4¼xd	4½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp.	13/9	13/9
Alexandria Water Co.	10⅜	10
Associated Cotton Ginners	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	55/-	56/3
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	96⅜	96⅜
Khediv al Mail Ord.	5⅞	5⅞
Do. Do. Prefs.	3½	3½
Levant Co. (fully paid)	17/6	18/-
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	18/6	18/6
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	98	98⅜
Chinese 4½% 1898	59⅛	62⅛
Do. 5% 1896	78	78⅜
Argentine 5% 1890	72	74½
Do. 5% 1907	83	83
OIL.		
Algerian	3/7½	3/6
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	72/6	80/-
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/6	22/10½
Do. 5% Debs.	82½	82½
Anglo-Roumanian	8/-	8/1½
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/9⅜	4/4½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	14/-	14/-
Roumanian	19/-	19/9
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	7/-	7/3
Traian (Roumanian)	8/-	8/4½

Brig.-General Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Adviser on Mechanical Transport Services in India, 1915-19, will read a paper before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on May 20, on "Roads and Transport in India." The chair will be taken at 4.30 p.m. by Lieut.-General Sir Herbert V. Cox, Military Secretary, India Office.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

(continued.)

BRUSSELS BOURSE.	Price May 1.	Price May 8.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs.	400	400
Do. do. Priv.	518·75	537·50
Do. do. Cap.	467·50	450
Do. do. Div.	413·75	408·15
Anglo-Belgian Co.	41	39·25
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	275	276·50
Do. do. Div.	351	365
Caisse Hypothécaire Act	507·50	487·50
Do. do. (10 eme p.b.)	82·25	75
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs.	345·30	350
Do. do. Priv.	510	518·75
Do. do. Div.	190	181
Compagnie Immobiliére Deb.	400	400
Do. do. Cap.	199·50	199·75
Do. do. Fond.	315	305
Enterprise and Development Cap.	285	272·50
Do. do. Div.	172·50	155
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv.	—	—
Do. do. Ord.	497·50	497·50
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	250	212·50
Do. do. Div.	175	195
Salonika-Constantinople Railway	280	280
Salonika-Monastir Railway	200	200
Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894	290	290
Do. do. 4%, 1895	190	190
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv.	135	130
Do. do. Div.	185	185
Tramways du Caire Priv.	450	450
Do. do. Jouiss	738·75	705
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	282	282·50
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div.	55	55·50

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Mar. 26. Rs.	April 10. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	59	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	303	303
Bank of Bengal	1840	1750
Bank of Bombay	2260	2260
Bank of Madras	1700	1537
Bank of India	135ex	135ex
Tata Industrial Bank	52½	52½
COAL.		
Baraboni	15	14½
Bengal	750	807½
Burrakur	50	46½ex
East Indian	37½	38½
Equitable	44	42½
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	68½	67½
Standard	67½	68½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	595	732
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	3875	4250
Bowreah	1286½	1590
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	750	750
Cawnpore	195ex	195ex
Century	1275	1420
Central India	4630	5600
	2315	2800
Elgin	130	130
Gold Mohur	400	400
	200	200
Khatau Makanji	725	800
Muir	300	450
New Ring	1050	1397
Phœnix	1202½	1230
Svadeshi	4600	5360
JUTE.		
Alliance	685ex	693½
Barnagore	168	162
Budge Budge	619	618½
Clive	340	365
Dalhousie	540	580
Delta	675	630
Fort Gloster	1036	1066
Gourepore	1340	1407
Howrah	47¼	50½
Kamarhatty	895	928
Kanknarrah	727	764
Khardah	616	620
Kinnison	1164	1175
National	412½	400
Standard	730	772
Union	940	965
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	80½	85
Bengal Timber Trading	704	700
Burn and Co.	300	300
Carew and Co.	81	90
Cawnpore Sugar	320	320
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	335	335
Howrah Oil Mills	138	36
India General Steam	140	138
Indian Iron and Steel	—	140
	43½	99½
Marshall Sons and Co.	13	12½
Titaghur Paper	382	383

The report of the Vellikellie Tea Company of Ceylon for 1919 states that the balance at credit of profit and loss account amounted to £7,952.

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	May 4.	May 11.
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	58⅜	59
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	63⅜	60⅜
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		83½	83½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		67	67
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		67½	67½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		72½xd	72xd
Eastern		7⅜	7⅜
Mercantile of India A.		34⅛	34⅛
National of India		54½	54
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		8/4½	9/4½
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/1½	12/9
Burma Corp.		10⅜	10⅜
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		9/9½	8/4½
Champion Reef Gold		3/7½	3/4½
Mysore Gold Mining		15/-	17/6
Nundydroog		12/9	14/4½
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		15/6	16/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		24/4½	24/4½
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		34/9	36/3
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		35/-	36/3
Brit. Burmah		4⅛	4⅛
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		17	17½
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		18/9	18/9
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅛	9⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		50	54
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		129	131
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		50	50
Bengal-Nagpur		113½	113½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		100	99
Burma Railways		104	105½
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		12½	12½
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		12½	11⅝
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		11⅝	11½
Madras and S. Mahratta		112	112
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		123	121
Nizam's Guaranteed State		70½	72⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		54/4½	61/3
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	10
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		77	76
Do. Deferred		494	472
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		62½	61½
Bengal United Tea Ord.		16	15⅝
British Indian Tea Ord.		7⅛	7⅛
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15	15
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		10/3	10/3
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		61/3	61/3
Consolidated Estates		41/3	41/10½
Darjeeling Co.		19/6	18/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		61/3	61/3
Dooars Tea Ord.		51/-	51/6
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		20/9	20/6
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		67/6	67/6
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		29/6	28/6
Hewagam Rubber Co.		21/3	21/3
Jhanzie Tea Association		10⅝	10⅝
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		19⅜	20
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		14/4½	14/9
Lanka Plantations Ord.		21/3	22/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		22/6	22/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		37/9	38/6
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		12⅛	12⅛
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		28/9	31/10½

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Cairo Electric Railway and Heliopolis Oases Company will be held at Cairo on May 18.

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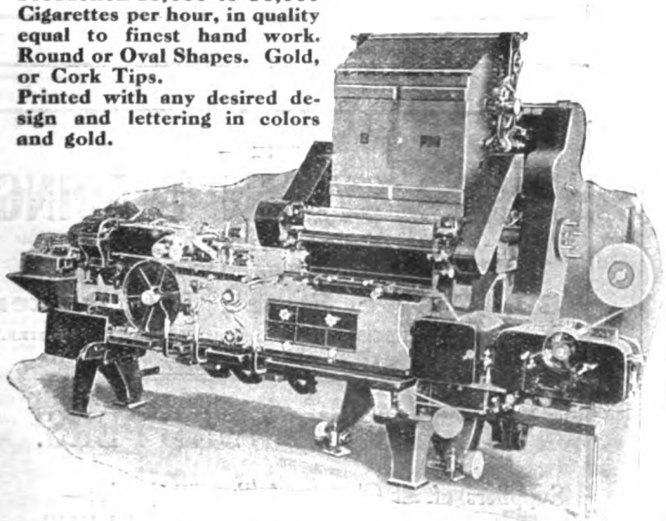

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 472.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The peace terms put forward by the Allies for Turkey's acceptance or rejection were duly handed to the Turkish Delegates on May 11, and the following day an official summary of them was issued. The principal conditions, as set out in this summary, are given on another page, and the territorial adjustments are dealt with in our leading article. The ceremony of handing the terms to Tewfik Pasha and his colleagues was very short, and the Turkish Delegates are described as visibly depressed. The arrival in Constantinople of the terms is reported to have caused great despondency at the Porte and the Palace, while the Turkish Press is unanimous in condemning them as unjust and in describing them as unacceptable.

These things were, of course, inevitable. Inevitable, too, was the defiance of the Nationalists, who, having been allowed so long to attitudinise and represent themselves as the only genuine patriots left in Turkey, appear now to have developed strength enough to make them a serious problem for the Allies to tackle. Unfortunately, moreover, some of the Allies have since the Armistice by no means "played the game" in regard to Mustapha Kemal and his followers. In this connection the letter which we publish this week from our Constantinople Correspondent may be studied with profit, and will be found to emphasize most strongly the point on which we have already insisted, that the Allies must work loyally together, and that if strong action be called for in regard to any dealings with Turkey, all of them must take their share in it.

It is officially announced that Mustapha Kemal and some other Nationalist leaders—including the notorious "Ahmed Rustem," formerly Alfred Rustem Bilianski, ex-Ambassador at Washington—have been condemned to death by default for high treason and rebellion; but the arm of Turkish justice is just now neither long nor strong, and it is to be feared that the majority of the condemned, being out of reach of the Porte, will take their sentence very calmly. Meanwhile the operations against the Nationalists by the Volunteers appear to be losing most of the driving power that they had behind them a short time ago, because, it is suggested in some quarters, the two sides are wondering whether they will not shortly be joining hands to resist the application of the peace terms. Finally, it has to be placed on record that the Grand Vizier has been the object of an attempted assassination by a policeman, who fortunately did not achieve his purpose, and was arrested. Right-minded people will be glad that the cowardly attempt failed, and will regret that Damad Ferid Pasha should have had to pass through such an experience at a time when he has so many troubles to contend with.

On May 13 M. Venizelos announced in the Greek Chamber the terms of the Turkish Peace Treaty, and with the aid of a large-scale map, showed his audience what territorial gains Greece is to receive as a result of entering the war on the side of the Allies. He was also able to inform them that, with the exception of Rhodes, the islands of the Dodecanese surrendered by Turkey to Italy will be transferred by the latter to Greece when the Treaty is signed. The demonstration and the announcement naturally called forth intense enthusiasm. M. Venizelos took the opportunity to declare that Greece is not at all jealous either of Yugoslavia or of Roumania, though both those countries have become larger than Greece; and that once the question of Northern Epirus is settled, as it will be in the near future, Greece will have no further aspirations in the north. This is as it should be. Greece will have quite enough to occupy her in organising her new territories and putting the administration in old and new territory alike upon a thoroughly sound basis; and if she does that, she need envy none of her neighbours, for she may surely look forward to a most brilliant future.

M. Vesnitch, formerly Yugoslav Minister in Paris, recently returned to Belgrade to make yet another attempt to form a Coalition Cabinet; and a telegram dated May 16 makes the welcome announcement that his efforts have been successful, and that he submitted his list of Ministers to the Prince Regent on that date. The happy result is doubtless partly due to M. Vesnitch's tact and his experience acquired in diplomacy, but it is probably due in part to the growing fear of the Communist danger which has made itself felt among men belonging to all the moderate parties in Yugoslavia of late. M. Vesnitch's new Cabinet contains nine members of the former Union group of parties and eight of the Democratic group. M. Davidovitch, leader of the Democrats, is Minister of the Interior; M. Protitch, the Old Radical leader, is also in the Cabinet, apparently without portfolio, and Dr. Trumbitch remains Minister for Foreign Affairs. Upon the whole the combination appears to be a strong one, and the Constituent Assembly looks nearer to realisation than it has for many months past.

Last week, in Westminster Abbey, a tablet to the memory of the late Earl of Cromer was unveiled by Earl

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Curzon of Kedleston. In the course of an eloquent address which he delivered subsequently Earl Curzon said very truly that Lord Cromer had built his pyramid on the base of a happy people, and that he was Egypt's regenerator and saviour. It is sad to be forced to realise that the happiness of the fellaheen, who form the bulk of Egypt's people, is in danger of being destroyed by that comparatively small and really far less important class known as the effendis, who, if they had their way, would certainly undo much of the work that Lord Cromer did. Happily, there are signs that moderate Egyptian opinion is becoming more than a little tired of the extremists and their tactics, and intelligent Egyptians are beginning to recognise that violent methods, far from serving any good purpose, will only discredit their country in the eyes of the world. In this connection it is satisfactory to note that the rector of Al Azhar has forbidden political speeches in the mosque.

A depressing picture of Persia to-day, is drawn by a special correspondent of *The Times* in a message despatched from Teheran on May 11. A small Bolshevist force, he says, is at Astara, just across the frontier; and it is clear from his message that Bolshevist propagandists have been busy on both sides of the border, and have found ready listeners in Persia. Bolshevist Russia, these gentlemen explain, objects to the presence of British troops in Persia; so Persia must either get rid of them or take the consequences. In view of the present undeveloped state of Persia's own forces, this sounds rather like the wolf urging the flock to get rid of the sheep-dog; but the appeal—or command—has not, apparently, fallen upon deaf ears. A semi-official journal has been so impressed that it argues that "the doctrines of Bolshevism closely resemble the pure gospel of Islam," and that "the Bolshevists are the spiritual friends of Persia." Whatever the doctrines of Bolshevism may be, its practices are not such that any friend of Persia would wish to see it gaining ground in that country; and it is deplorable to find that the attempt to turn the present dissatisfaction in the Moslem world to its own account is meeting with some success.

The remedy for this kind of thing, so far as Persia is concerned, would seem to be active and intelligent counter-propaganda, combined with greater expedition in the introduction of reforms. The Persian Cabinet has not yet reached any decision in regard to the report of the Anglo-Persian Military Commission; its failure to summon the Mejliss to its assistance is resented by the majority of politically-minded Persians; and its attitude towards Bolshevist Russia is, to say the least, disappointing. As to the last point, it is easy to find excuses for Teheran and to give explanations of its conduct; and as to the second, *The Times* correspondent declares that "the Persian public perseveres in the belief that Great Britain prefers to see Persia without a Parliament." That belief is a mistaken one, of course; but it is to be hoped that Persia's Parliaments in future will work more and talk less than those of the past. The latest news available at the time of writing is that the Bolshevists have crossed the frontier near Astara, and formally demand the withdrawal of all the British forces from Persia.

We have so often had occasion to complain of inordinate delays in the receipt of news from India that it would be ungraceful not to recognise the improvement manifested in the last few weeks, during which the Press cables have come through with almost "pre-war" regularity. The next change to be desired is in the substance of the news, which continues rather depressing: strikes and political agitation, Amritsar and Mr. Gandhi, these topics recur with wearisome iteration, and we seem to discern that exacerbation of comment which Anglo-Indians associate with the seasonal rise of temperature. At the same time, it must be admitted that the Khalifate affair and the Hunter Report involve really serious menaces, and until these obstacles have been negotiated we can scarcely expect to hear that the country has settled down to the serious business of making the new constitution a practical success. Mr. Gandhi will go on for some time yet, and we fear that the Labour question is likely to be worse before it is better, but Amritsar at least ought to be got out of the way as soon as possible.

We do not, of course, anticipate that the publication of the Hunter Report will be the end of the Amritsar question. There is, unfortunately, abundant evidence that the minds of partisans are made up in advance; the abscess has festered, and the immediate results of lancing it are bound to be unpleasant, but the operation is necessary, and the sooner it is performed the better. We regret the tendency to make heroes, just as we condemn the attempt to make criminals, of the officials whose conduct has been the subject of the investigation, but we are bound to recognise that it is the inevitable result of delay. We do not doubt that adequate explanations for the delay which has occurred can be brought forward, but explanations will certainly do no good; the mischief increases day by day, and there is no remedy except publication of the report, and announcement of the decisions reached on it by Government.

The anniversary meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, the first held in its new house in Grosvenor Street, was marked by the presentation of the prizes offered to the public schools for essays on some subject chosen from the history of India. We sometimes wonder how far such competitions serve their purpose of disseminating sound knowledge among the coming generation. A school library is rarely up to date, schoolboys have not usually independent access to the most recent literature, and knowledge of Indian history grows so quickly that a study based on Mill and Macaulay, or Elphinstone and Hunter, may result merely in the impression of obsolete errors on young and plastic minds. Perhaps this view is shared by the present authorities, for the subject announced for next year is the part taken by India in the war, a topic on which the competitors will have no chances of reproducing the mistakes of their predecessors.

We are indebted to the Head of the Moslem foundation at Woking for a copy of a pamphlet published at Lahore, which sets out the religious argument on the question of the Khalifate, and draws the conclusion that the maintenance of a strong Turkish Empire with complete supremacy over Arabia is essential to the integrity of that institution. The arguments are of a kind tolerably familiar to all who have studied the subject, and we confess that this type of theological special pleading leaves us cold; you start with an ambiguous text, gradually transformed into a doctrine by a succession of more or less intelligent commentators, you slip unconsciously from one meaning to another of each important word, you take narrow but deep ditches in your stride, and at last find yourself at the destination for which you started. We have always recognised the strength of the sentiment prevailing among Indian Moslems on this particular subject, but we cannot honestly say that our views regarding the basis of that sentiment have been materially influenced by the arguments contained in this pamphlet.

It is, however, worth noting that the school represented by the writer does not regard the location of the Khalifate as being immutable. In the first place, we are told that Moslems can change it by a vote of the majority, and the proposition is in itself reasonable, though we can recall no direct authority for it in the Koran. In the second place, two Moslem nations can fight the question out, and the prize goes to the victors, provided they have not enjoyed infidel support. As matters stand just now we fancy an election would count for little without an army on the spot; but we are glad to be able to agree with our author in the contention that the title of Khalif is one to be conferred by Moslems and Moslems alone, and we are not less glad to observe that this view is gaining ground even among Hindu politicians, whose support of the Sultan of Turkey must have given great offence to the orthodox.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

Lympne and Westminster.

The week has been a dull one politically. The meeting of the French Prime Minister with Mr. Lloyd George at Lympne, a quiet spot near Folkestone, has been welcomed as of good augury for the postponed Spa Conference, but little has been published as to the matters discussed, and the publicists have been reduced to making bricks without straw in their speculations. The Turkish treaty has been quietly left to specialists; and more domestic interest has been taken in the report of the Parliamentary Committee which was appointed to inquire whether a levy on war fortunes was possible.

They report that it is possible, but carefully refrain from saying that it is advisable—an omission that is being made the most of in the City, which remains utterly hostile to any such levy. Indeed, business men seem almost unanimous that they would prefer the excess profits duty to any conceivable capital levy. The general public, on the whole, remains sceptical as to the prospects of such a levy; and they cannot understand the difficulty, which both the Treasury and the Parliamentary Committee seem to find insuperable, of distinguishing between war profiteering and the ordinary increment of fortune through thrift. They believe that "where there's a will there's a way," and they blame the Treasury for discovering neither the will nor the way.

In purely House of Commons matters, the only noticeable episode has been an all-night sitting forced upon the House over an unimportant or at least generally agreed medical Bill. The Coalition wanted the Bill, Labour had nothing against it, and confined its criticism to constructive improvements and matters of detail; but the Independent Liberals were determined to assert themselves, and kept the House up all night with pure obstruction. Dr. Addison, the Minister in charge, bore with his opponents with exemplary courtesy and good temper, and got his measure through at the cost of a night's rest; the Coalition smiled, and Labour the next day made an angry protest, as it was fully entitled to, against these tactics.

The Pope and Peace.

An interesting and apparently authentic account is published in one of the French papers of the activities of the Vatican at the outbreak of the war. It appears that the late Pope, whom nobody ever accused of being a politician, had the plain man's faculty of seeing the real point, and he drafted a letter in August, 1914, utterly condemning those who were responsible for the war. The letter, which was in such terms that it could only be interpreted as a condemnation of Germany, was quietly suppressed when he died a few days later, and it has never seen the light, owing to strong German influence at the Vatican. It will be remembered that the late Pope's last words, when asked for a blessing, were said to be: "I bless peace." No manifesto of protest came from his successor.

Bishop Moule.

The mortality on the episcopal bench since Mr. Lloyd George came into power has been perfectly extraordinary; if the present Government remains in office a year or two longer, as it shows every likelihood of doing, the present Prime Minister will have appointed most of the heads of the Church. Dr. Handley Moule, the Bishop of Durham, has quickly followed the Bishops of Carlisle and St. Albans to the tomb; his picturesque figure will be much missed by the Evangelicals, of which party he was an ornament. (Incidentally he was the original of Cuthbert St. Clair, the learned young cleric, in "Tess of the Durbervilles.")

The see of Durham, which is now vacant, is one of the few great prizes of the Church; and its Bishop, with Durham and Winchester and the two Primates, are the five prelates who sit *ex officio* among the Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords; the remainder go by right of seniority. It is anticipated that Durham will again be given to an Evangelical, according to the tradition of the diocese; but the High Churchmen are grumbling that they have less than their fair share of patronage in these days. I have not followed ecclesiastical politics of late sufficiently closely to discover how far their complaint is justified, but from the choler of the clerics of that persuasion I imagine there may be some foundation for their wrath.

Depressed Issues.

Apparently those industries which appealed for new capital early in the year were wise in their generation, for the appetite of the public, and of the underwriters, too, has evidently been sated for the present. New companies certainly come out, but one does not find a dozen prospectuses on one's breakfast table as of yore—it is true that their absence seems to be made good by the seductive bucket-shop keeper, who assures me by every post that a fortune awaits me if I will only "speculate on margin." The pace of the new issues was too hot to last, and the general fall of stocks this last few weeks has had a sobering effect. Meanwhile, the Government's Housing Bond campaign does not seem to be going very well. If houses were automatically attached to the Housing Bond it would make a difference, but unhappily that is beyond the power of Dr. Addison.

Prices and Wages.

Prices of food and other commodities have been very jumpy recently, with the natural result that the nerves of the public have become rather jumpy, too. The optimist emphasises the fact that mutton is down, the pessimist retorts that sugar is going up; but this week, as usual, the pessimists have emphatically had the best of it. The increase of 14s. 2d. per ton on domestic coal, necessitated by the further increase of wages demanded by the miners, has made the public very angry, since it again raises the cost of living all round; and already most of the trade unions, to protect their members, have put in a further demand for additional wages. The only consolation in our lot is that things appear to be still worse in America and on the Continent. On the lines of Antonio's definition of content—"happy, in that I am not unhappy"—we may therefore profess ourselves contented, because others are more discontented. But it is not a very satisfactory consolation.

Marriage Statistics.

A curious fact emerges from the rather arid columns of statistics issued annually by the Registrar-General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths. That excellent official, in the course of his duties, remarks that when a man postpones marriage until he is forty he usually marries a girl in the twenties, whereas a woman who only marries when she is forty generally takes a man of her own age. The compiler of statistics suggests, not very gallantly, that the distinction has probably something to do with the respective fields of choice open to the two sexes; *The Times* more rudely hints that men marry on sentimental, and women on practical grounds. Both

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mentors have, curiously enough, forgotten their Aristotle, who advises men not to marry until they are thirty-eight, and then to choose a woman of twenty-two. Probably not one bridegroom of the hundreds who have unconsciously followed the advice has ever heard of Aristotle, but one might have expected the Registrar-General to have a nodding acquaintance with the classics. But perhaps he confined his Greek to Aristophanes.

Whose Husband?

Truth, as some ancient sage remarked who foresaw the modern stunt newspaper, is stranger than fiction. A case is now being tried in the West of England which no novelist would dare to put before a sceptical public. Two brothers were so exactly alike that their own mother, it is declared, could not tell them apart. So far the story is familiar, but it diverges from the beaten track when Brother A got engaged to a young lady, and Brother B married her, the lady being ignorant and apparently remaining ignorant of the substitution. The lady appears to have been happy.

The Week's Books.

The Einstein theory will probably never rank as light literature, but it is explained in as simple language as possible in a small book published by the Cambridge University Press, called "The Foundations of Einstein's Theory of Gravitation," by Mr. Edwin Freundlich. It contains a preface by Professor Einstein himself, and with the exception of a few rather staggering mathematical formulæ, it should present no real difficulty to any reader with some elementary knowledge of physics.

An interesting *exposé* of the way in which the American Prohibitionists worked their campaign is given in "Fetters on Freedom" (Mills and Boon), by Mr. Cecil Shirley, with a preface by the veteran Lord Halsbury. It is a very curious and sinister story of well-paid propagandists working in the interests of soft drinks and candy manufacturers; and these agitators, casting about for a new means of making a living now that alcohol is illegal, are embarking on a campaign against tobacco, tea, and coffee. The net result of their work appears to have been to put up the price of living in the United States and to encourage hypocrisy. Since anybody can purchase alcohol so long as the pretence is maintained that whisky-and-soda is ginger-ale, their activities do not appear to have been of much benefit to the cause of temperance.

I have been reading "Beauty and Bands" (Constable), by that practised novelist, Mrs. Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler. The dialogues are witty and the characters are alive; but the plot of the novel strikes me as a little more than improbable. It assumes that after a railway accident, in which the heroine is badly injured, her husband does not recognise her, and she does not recognise him. A good many husbands and wives might be glad of an excuse not to recognise each other, but that is not Mrs. Fowler's meaning. Eventually the wife's memory comes back, and they live happily ever after. But I wish she had not strained my belief quite so far; even alienists, who are used to strange lapses, will shrug their shoulders over the theme.

Another work, which needs little description, apart from its contents, is "Food Supplies in Peace and War" (Longmans), by Sir R. Henry Reid. The author gives an engrossing account of our home agricultural front during the war, and it is of interest to note that he does not echo the dolorous predictions of famine in Europe, in which too many newspapers have indulged of late; the recovery is largely due to the rapidity with which agriculture has been begun again in France and Belgium. It is regrettable that things should have gone backward in England since the Armistice, and incidentally it is curious that the withdrawal of women from the land and their replacement by men should have coincided with a falling-off in production. Reduction of the hours of labour is expected to show a further diminution; but—I speak as one of the ignorant—one would have thought that a great deal could have been done to offset this by the increased use of machinery.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 3.

The Egyptian Victims of Pontebba.

The event of the week has undoubtedly been the funeral of the twelve unfortunate students who met their death in the railway accident at Pontebba. The High Commissioner has interested himself very much in the matter, and it was through his intervention that early information was obtained by the relatives and that facilities were afforded by the Italian authorities for the return of the bodies to Egypt. The boat carrying the twelve coffins, which was the one by which the students had originally gone to Trieste, arrived at Alexandria last Tuesday, and a funeral procession took place through the city. All the flags were at half-mast, and the shops and principal business houses shut for the day. The cortège was an exceedingly long one, and took over two hours to pass a given point, so great was the concourse of mourners, at whose head walked Prince Omar Toussoun and a representative of the High Commissioner. The next day four of the bodies—the remainder having been directed to burial places in Alexandria and the provinces, where the young men belonged—were brought up to Cairo, where a similar procession was organised. Here, again, all flags were at half-mast, and the shops along the route were closed; while, as during the Alexandria procession, the flag at the Residency was lowered as a mark of sympathy. The funeral cortège was a very long one, being headed by Egyptian Boy Scouts, and included the members of the Egyptian Delegation in Cairo, and delegates from all the schools, Government Departments, and the various syndicates. The principal mourners, in addition to the relatives, included Prince Omar Toussoun and representatives of the Sultan, Lord Allenby, and of the Emir Abdullah.

The Emir Abdullah.

The Emir Abdullah, whose arrival I reported last week, was the guest at dinner on Wednesday of the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, and during the evening was invested by His Excellency with the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire. His Highness has had several conferences with the High Commissioner during the week, and expects to leave again for Jeddah early next week.

The Nile Projects.

The Nile Projects Commission have now returned to Cairo, after a very successful and interesting visit to the upper reaches of the Nile, in which, accompanied by Lieut.-Col. J. K. Watson, Military Attaché at the Residency, they journeyed as far south as Rejaf.. The Commission intends to commence public sittings on the 16th instant, for the purpose of taking the evidence of those who have any criticism or remarks to make on the subject of the Nile projects and of the apportionment of water between Egypt and the Sudan, and for this purpose Mr. G. A. W. Booth, Judge of the Mixed Courts, has been appointed as legal member.

This week the Ministry of Public Works has issued a very interesting publication, entitled "Nile Control," which constitutes a statement of the necessity for further control of the Nile to complete the development of Egypt and develop a certain area in the Sudan, with particulars of the physical conditions to be considered, and a programme of the engineering work involved. This publication, which is by Sir Murdoch MacDonald, the Adviser to the Ministry, recapitulates all the data available on the subject of the Nile control, and constitutes a technical complement to the note which was recently published, and a review of which appeared a few weeks ago in your columns.

Judicial Reforms.

I gather that considerable progress has been made with the study and elaboration of the draft juridicature laws in connection with the reorganisation of the Mixed Courts. Conversations have continued between Mr. Sheldon Amos, who in this matter is acting for the Foreign Office, and certain members of the Mixed Bar and Bench; and it is highly probable that within a very short time the scheme will have reached a point where it will be possible for the various Powers interested in the subject to be approached.

The Civil Service Cadre.

For some time now there has been considerable dissatisfaction with the classification of permanent posts in the Government—the "Cadre" as it is called—owing to the great diversity in the treatment and pay allotted to analogous posts in different departments and the limitation of the scope for promotion in the various grades fixed by the present cadre. As a result of this "special cases" have continually to be put up, and a good deal of the time of the Ministry of Finance, which has to deal with all such matters, has been taken up in deciding hundreds of questions of promotion, etc., which should by right automatically decide themselves, and thus it has been prevented from giving as much attention as it would have liked to the consideration of the infinitely more important financial and economic problems which from time to time—and especially at present—confront the country. The existing "Cadre" was drawn up quite twenty years ago, and this state of affairs has arisen purely as a result of the enormous development of the divers administrations and, more recently, of the increased cost of living and the difficulty of obtaining qualified candidates for many of the technical posts at the rates of pay provided.

The all-round increase of 20 per cent. granted last August by the Council of Ministers brought matters to a head, and it was decided to set up a special commission under the presidency of his Excellency Mohammed Shefik Pasha, Minister of Agriculture, for the purpose of exhaustively examining the whole question of classes throughout the Government. The Commission has been sitting for some little time, and is making steady progress. It is understood that it will endeavour to assimilate as far as possible the various posts in different departments, and that for these as well as for the lower grades of employees it will establish adequate starting pays and scales of increase, which will permit of every employee and every official receiving regular increases of pay until he reaches the maximum of his post, which will be fixed at such a figure as to offer him reasonable prospects of advancement and pension.

The collection of vexatious regulations which at present unduly penalise some and favour others through no fault of the holders of the posts, of their chief, or of the Ministry of Finance, will thus disappear, and each official and employee will have ample scope for advancement in his own particular post, questions of promotion or of alteration in grade being reduced to cases only where entirely new work has been taken over or where the duties have developed beyond those for which the existing classification has been set up. The work, as can be seen, is very important, and will entail examining an enormous amount of data; but the members of the Commission will have the satisfaction of knowing that if they are being called upon to increase the already heavy load of work which rests upon their shoulders, they are carrying out a task which will conduce not only to the contentment of their comrades and subordinates, but also to the general efficiency of the Egyptian Government service as a whole.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, May 5.

End of the Strikes.

The railway strike is over, to the great content of the public; mails are coming in again, but old mails have not yet arrived; the Orient Express came in three days running with no mail-van, which looks as though the authorities in Paris are ill-advised on affairs

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in this part of the world, and thought the strike still on.

The strike began as a purely economic one, and it seems to have arisen from a misunderstanding, for the men were convinced that their grants were to be reduced, which the Government denied; indeed, the Ministry of Communications stated at the outset that it was prepared to satisfy the men's economic demands. Some difficulties arose on the question of overtime, as extra pay for this was a definite inducement to the men to be late and to delay services. The workers on the river steamers struck at the same time, but their demands were promptly settled by the Syndicate, with the Government's approval, and the service was resumed after a delay of a couple of days.

The railway strike, however, began to assume a political aspect. The so-called Communists across the rivers tried to make capital out of it; cases of sabotage were reported from Bosnia and from Croatia, and finally, as I have already reported, the Hungarians at Subotitsa seized the opportunity to provoke a rising. This was quickly quelled by the arrival of a battalion of Serbian infantry, but not before three police officials had been murdered; there were over a hundred casualties, and an enquiry found that the Hungarians had concealed arms, including machine-guns, rifles, and an 18-pounder. It was, in fact, a Hungarian national rising under the guise of Bolshevism. To mask the national character, the Magyars proclaimed a Soviet Republic. There has not been the slightest suggestion of disorder in Belgrade. The strike collapsed, the men returned to work, and May 1 passed off peacefully, without so much as a procession through the streets.

Political Matters.

The political world is occupied with the reconstruction of the Cabinet and formation of the much-talked-of Coalition Government. M. Pashitch has returned to France, but owing to ill-health has stopped at Erivan-les-Bains, and Dr. Trumbitch has come back to Belgrade, so Yugoslavia is without its official mouthpiece at the Congress. Even M. Vesnitch, Minister at Paris, has come to Belgrade, and it is stated that he is to be the President of the new Government; presumably his suave diplomatic manner will smooth over the rugged character of M. Protitch and M. Pribitchevitch. Everybody sincerely hopes that the Coalition Cabinet will soon be formed, and a Provisional Government that will summon the Constituent Assembly, which will give us some form of stable Government. It does not much matter which party is returned, provided that it comes to stay, as these changes every few months are disconcerting to everybody concerned and shake confidence in the country.

Serbia and Great Britain.

A firm Government will perhaps succeed in dissipating some of the distrust of Serbia which obtains unfortunately in Great Britain, where the disgraceful propaganda of Austria did its work only too well before the war. It is a fact that an Englishman at present stopping here was obliged to pay an extra heavy premium on his life policy because he was travelling in Serbia, though no such doubtful compliment was paid to South Russia, Turkey in Asia, and the Caucasus. Such troubles as we have in Yogoslavia to-day arise not in Serbia, which was reputed to be a country of brigands, but in the so-called "cultured" districts that were formerly Austria. We read in the papers of cases of highway robbery, train robberies, and so on, in Croatia and Slovenia, but all is quiet in Serbia (where the chief danger comes from the village dogs), except in the still unsettled districts in the south and south-east, where the wild Albanian tribesmen have not ceased from troubling.

Prospects of Communism.

There is a good deal of talk of "Communists" in the local press, and anti-Communist associations are being formed all over the country. The Labour newspaper calls itself the "organ of the Socialist Party" (Communists); it is to be noted that in this sub-title there are one Serbian word and five foreign words, which very few except educated Serbs can understand; the simple labourers of Belgrade are told by their leaders that they are to be Communists, and do not distinguish between Communists and Socialists; but they are Serbs first, and resent the anti-Serbian action of the Hungarians across the river under the name of Communism and Bolshevism. The spirit of proprietorship is so profoundly ingrained in the Serbian peasant, who forms about nine-tenths of the population, that any idea of real Bolshevism in Serbia itself is unthinkable.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, April 25.

Communists and the Oath.

Last Monday the Chamber was a great source of attraction to the public, and all the galleries and accommodation for sightseers were full to overflowing. The sitting was opened at four o'clock by the President (M. Boteff), who invited all deputies who had not taken the oath at the last sitting, as prescribed, to do so forthwith. Thereon the deputies in question, including thirty-two Communists, rose, and a priest, carrying the Gospels and a cross, entered. The Communists shouted that they would prefer a bishop, but the President sternly called them to order. The priest pronounced the oath in a loud, clear voice, and it was repeated after him by all the deputies affected. The Communists were then compelled to repeat it aloud, even to the passage referring to loyalty to the King, and afterwards they signed their names to the text of the complete oath as prescribed by the Constitution.

The Chamber then proceeded to the election of the various Parliamentary committees, which included members of all the party groups represented in the Assembly, the nominations by the President being accepted; and then the adjournment until Wednesday afternoon took place.

King and Prime Minister.

As mentioned in an earlier letter, on the resignation of M. Madjaroff from the Foreign Ministry, M. Stambolisky took over the duties of that Ministry, in addition to those of Prime Minister and Minister for War. King Boris has visited him very frequently of late, and has conferred with him constantly on the policy to be followed. Fortunately for the country, the most harmonious relations exist between King and Minister, who have perfect confidence in one another.

Improved Bulgaro-Roumanian Relations.

With the taking over of the Foreign Ministry by M. Stambolisky the relations between Bulgaria and Roumania have entered upon a new phase; points of contact and direct connections have been established which will serve, it is to be hoped, for the inauguration of a political, economic and cultural understanding. The Bulgarian Government, with the approval of the Roumanian Government, will very shortly send Dr. Nedkoff, formerly its Consul-General there, to Bucharest as its representative. Roumania has consented to all the Bulgarian refugees from the Dobruja returning to their homes, and in many "Bulgarian" towns and villages in the Dobruja Bulgarians have been appointed as mayors. Postal, telegraphic, and telephonic communications between the two countries have been resumed via Rustchuk-Giurgevo, and the question about the dual authorities' estates along the Bulgaro-Roumanian frontier has been settled to the satisfaction of both countries. It is to be hoped that these things may serve as a stimulus to the growth or re-creation of neighbourly relations with Serbia and Greece.

Bulgarians in Ægean Thrace.

According to the latest reports from the portion of Bulgaria that has been cut off in Ægean Thrace, the conditions of the Bulgarians remaining under French administration at Gumuldjina, Soflou, Ortakeui, etc., are quite satisfactory, for they are allowed to maintain their churches and schools, and all necessary protection is afforded them by the French authorities. With regard to Xanthi and other towns and villages placed entirely under Greek rule the reports are of a diametrically opposite character. There, it is stated, the Bulgarian element

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is most severely persecuted, and recently many Bulgarians have been expelled by the Greeks. Those unfortunate folk are, naturally, coming here, and, deprived of everything they possessed, are becoming a burden on exhausted Bulgaria.

The Aim of the Government.

The spirit that animates the Government and most Bulgarians to-day is expressed in an article in the *Zemledeltchesko Znamе*, the official organ of the Prime Minister and the mouthpiece of the Agrarian League. It says:—"As the largest parliamentary group, we are called on to govern and to safeguard the national interests. We sincerely desire to alleviate the country's sufferings and to pass through the Chamber the necessary reforms which the new conditions of life impose. We wish to raise Bulgaria up again, to set her on her feet. Shall we obtain the support of other parliamentary groups in this matter?"

The "First of May."

The Ministry of the Interior promises to allow the Socialists and Communists to celebrate the "Day of Labour" freely, and to have demonstrations in the streets, provided that their leaders will guarantee the preservation of order. The participation of State and municipal officials in these demonstrations will not, however, be permitted.

Gipsies and the Vote.

The gipsies of Bulgaria have sent a delegation here to present a petition at the Ministry of Justice asking for the restoration of their constitutional electoral rights. These rights were taken from them many years ago by the Chamber, on the proposal of the Democrat leader, Petcho Karaveloff, in consequence of abuses of their privileges.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 22.

The Campaign Against the Nationalists.

Once again the opponents of the Unionists are losing the battle through their want of energy and decision. Anzavur Pasha, confident in the promises of support which he had received from the Government, launched an offensive in three directions from Panderma, westward towards Bigha, southward towards Balikesr, and eastward towards Brusa. The promised munitions did not arrive, and the Nationalists, reinforced by regular troops and other forces from the Smyrna front, made a heavy counter-attack from Brusa, with the result that Panderma itself was taken, and the army which had advanced against Balikesr, finding its communications threatened, was obliged to retreat to Manias after three days' heavy and not unsuccessful fighting. The blame rests entirely with the central Government, for it is common knowledge that the entire administration, especially that of the War Ministry, is saturated with Nationalist sympathisers. Yet the Grand Vizier left the despatch of the all-important supplies to the very officials who have sworn allegiance to Mustapha Kemal. The result was to be foreseen. The first cargo, after having been held up for several days, sailed from Constantinople, but never reached its destination, or at least it never reached Ahmed Anzavur, and there is probably some truth in the Nationalists' statement that the supplies are in their hands. After waiting in vain, Ahmed Anzavur Pasha came himself to Constantinople in order to make sure of getting what he wanted. During his absence things seem to have gone from bad to worse, for he is reported to have returned here to-day after having sailed with a large cargo of munitions on Saturday night. There can hardly be any other reason for this than that the anti-Nationalists have lost command of the coastal region to the west of Panderma; and if this surmise be correct it is difficult to see how help can be sent to Anzavur's gallant Circassians.

Lack of Allied Unity.

This unfortunate turn of events is all the more disheartening since the opening of the campaign against the Nationalists had given rise to several quite healthy anti-Nationalist movements in other parts of Asia Minor, notably in the Ada Pazar district. The failure of the Government to support Ahmed Anzavur will inevitably increase Nationalist prestige to such an extent that these movements will be very short-lived. Further, the defeat of Anzavur will also be regarded by the population of Anatolia as a defeat for the British, who are believed to be supporting the Central Government in the campaign against the Nationalists. I say, "British," advisedly, for it is useless to disguise the fact that our Allies, for reasons best known to themselves, have practically dissociated themselves from recent action in regard to Turkey. Thus, the occupation of the capital was carried out almost entirely by British troops; the arrest of persons guilty of offences against the Armistice Convention were effected without exception by the British authorities; British statesmen alone have made clear and pointed speeches with regard to the coming settlement with Turkey. On more than one occasion our Allies have coquetted with Mustapha Kemal, and there is very little doubt that the Italians have proceeded to dangerous lengths in this direction. This is exceedingly regrettable, for unless the Allies are united there is very little chance of the Peace Treaty ever being carried out in its entirety.

So far as the campaign against the Nationalists is concerned, it is doubtful now whether the Central Government will make much progress. A strong hand was needed, together with decisive energy, but there is no room for doubt that practically all the youth and energy in the Empire is in the opposite camp to Damad Ferid Pasha. The veteran statesman is probably animated by the best of intentions, but it is too unequal a fight. Anzavur has been beaten in Stambul, and it looks as if nothing but the intervention of the British—French intervention is most improbable, and Italian action is more likely to be on the other side—can prevent the complete triumph of the Nationalists.

The Nationalists.

Although very little news is available with regard to the proceedings of the Central Nationalist Council at Angora, the capital of revolutionary Anatolia, it has been possible to piece together the events which followed the nomination of Damad Ferid Pasha as Grand Vizier. It is now clear that in prevision of this event, careful arrangements had been made by Mustapha Kemal, with the assistance of Nationalist agents both in the capital itself and in the villages along the roads between the capital and Ada Pazar, for a regular service of couriers, and for the escape of Nationalist partisans from Constantinople. A so-called "Constituent Assembly" composed of delegates from all parts of Anatolia has been convoked at Angora, and the gauntlet which had been thrown down by Damad Ferid Pasha was taken up with the greatest energy and decision. In reply to the *fetvas* promulgated by the Sheikh ul Islam, counter *fetvas* were published, of which the following is a summary taken from the text published on April 20 by the Nationalist newspaper *Millet Yolu* ("The Way of the Nation") published at Brusa:

1. Is it not the duty of all Moslems to take up arms in defence of the Khalif when the seat of the Khalifat is occupied by the enemy, when all means of defence are taken from the Sultan so that he can no longer defend the true interests of the nation, and when courts-martial are established in the capital under British laws?—Reply: Yes.

2. Can those who thus take part in the fight against the enemy be stigmatised as enemies of their country and their religion?—Reply: No.

3. Are not those who die in such fighting "martyrs" (Shehid), and are not those who survive "victors" (Ghazi)?—Reply: Yes.

4. Are not all Moslems bound by the Holy Law under such circumstances to assist in the struggle against the enemy?—Reply: Yes.

5. Are *fetvas* issued by a Government which is under the influence of the enemy binding under the Holy Law upon Moslems?—Reply: No.

The announcement itself is much longer, and is interspersed with quotations from the Koran in support of the replies given to the questions, but the above conveys the general sense of the "Holy Fetva," as it is entitled. It was published on the authority of Mehmed Rifaat Effendi, the chief Kadi of Angora, and a separate announcement stated that it was endorsed by the principal Ulema of all Anatolia.

While there is no doubt that the Nationalist victory against the Government forces will make a much deeper

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impression than the counter *fetvas*, it must be admitted that the decree has been very skilfully composed, and it is worthy of note that the British have again been singled out for condemnation. This is typical of the whole Nationalist Press, which is bitterly and almost exclusively anti-British. It is also noteworthy that Angora seems to have an excellently organised news bureau. Not only is there a service of telegraphic news from the capital, but European papers are quoted only ten days after the date of their appearance. Yet the Constantinople telegraph service is in the hands of the Allies!

The Peace Delegation.

By the time this is in print the Turkish Peace Delegation will be on its way to Paris. Damad Ferid Pasha himself is remaining in Constantinople on this occasion, and the principal members of the delegation will be Reshid Bey, Minister of the Interior; Mahmud Mukhtar Pasha, and Fahreddin Bey, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, under the presidency of Tewfik Pasha, formerly Ottoman Ambassador in London. Unless there is complete change in the present state of affairs, the Turkish representatives will certainly not be able to claim any other mandate than that of a Government of which the authority is confined to the capital, itself under Allied occupation. It is rumoured that the Nationalists intend to send delegates to Paris, who will be charged with the mission of placing before the Peace Conference the "National" point of view. Although the details of the forthcoming treaty are unknown, its broad lines are no longer a secret, and it is quite certain that it will be utterly irreconcilable with Nationalist demands. It is equally certain that the Nationalists are fully determined to maintain their present attitude. The official Turkish delegation may sign the Treaty, which may be subsequently ratified by the Sultan and a specially convened assembly of notabilities, but how is the Treaty going to be fulfilled? The central Government, unless a miracle occurs, will be helpless. Moreover, when certain questions, such as the cession of territory to Armenia and perhaps Greece, are settled to the detriment of the Ottoman Empire, what will be the attitude of those who to-day are the opponents of the Nationalists? A Turkish friend of mine, who *during the war* was fervently pro-British, remarked to me recently: "We are all Nationalists to-day." So far as the influential classes are concerned, this is generally true, but it would not have mattered any more than it mattered that the Germans were all secretly devoted to the Kaiser *if the Allies were united*. Is it too late yet to hope for strong and united action?

Cilicia.

Fighting continues in Cilicia, and it is apparent that the Nationalists are resolved that there shall be no question of a non-Moslem element in that part of the country. The French forces there are utterly inadequate, and have perhaps made matters worse, for their presence has given the Armenians confidence enough to declare their sentiments, with the result that they have been massacred. Had there been no French forces there at all, the Armenians would not have roused the ire of the Turks by welcoming the invaders, and the result might have been different.

Thrace.

It has not been easy to understand exactly what has been happening in Thrace. After the Adrianople branch of the National Organisation had published a proclamation on April 13, on much the same lines as the counter *fetvas* mentioned above, Jafar Tayar Bey, the military commander of Adrianople, who first proclaimed the independence of Thrace when Constantinople was occupied, suddenly reversed his attitude and submitted to Ferid Pasha's Government. It now appears that Jafar Tayar Bey had relied upon Bulgarian assistance, upon what grounds it is unknown; but when this was not forthcoming, and when his attempt to mobilise the population of Thrace failed, he realised that he had made a grave mistake. In order to avoid a court martial, he accepted the kindly assistance of the French authorities, who brought him to Constantinople under their protection. Whether this assistance went any further or not may be deduced from the fact that although Jafar Tayar has undoubtedly been guilty of mutiny and treason, he has been received by the Grand Vizier, and has never even been placed under arrest. It may be added that when he visited the Grand Vizier he was accompanied by French officers.

ALBANIA.

ALBANIA, May 7.

Essad Pasha.

Two days ago a Mission departed for Paris, consisting of four members—Monseigneur Koleci, a Catholic bishop and a member of the Legislative Assembly; Baïram Fevzi, Prefect of Scutari; Fuat Toptani, Prefect of Tirana; and Omer Shiaku, member of the Legislative Assembly. The object of this Mission is to discover the intentions of the well-known Essad Pasha Toptani, who has been living at Paris for the last eighteen months. All the four members are taking a holiday, and are not representing their Government in any official capacity. The reasons for this Mission are as follow:—

It is notorious that Essad Pasha has, since 1914, claimed to be head of the Albanian Government, and he has been recognised as such by the Serbs and by certain of the Allied Powers. But for two years England and France refused to acknowledge his official claims, and Italy has recently begun to see in him an enemy to her policy, seeing that he has become a partisan of the Serbs. During the war he lived for the most part at Salonika, where he held his so-called Government; but for the past year and a-half he has been living alone in Paris, and the Albanians do not now recognise the existence of his official status.

In spite of all this, however, he has partisans in the region of Dibra, and his supporters are paid by the Serbian authorities (for almost all are in the villages occupied by the Serbs) as gendarmes. Chief among these is a certain Halit Lleshi. Moreover, it must be admitted that he has some faithful acolytes in the neighbourhood of Tirana—followers who obey the secret orders of Osman Bali.

Up to the present these people have been kept quiet, but the overthrow of the Government of Durazzo by the Congress of Lushnia (January, 1920) and the formation of the new Government gave some hope to the followers of Essad Pasha. The Italians, who see in the new Government a factor of opposition to their imperialistic policy, have not failed (with the sole intention of undermining the Albanian Government) to encourage these hopes; it is even rumoured that pourparlers have been put forward for a *rapprochement* between Essad Pasha and the Italians.

Thus it is that towards the middle of April the pro-Essadists attempted to spread their influence in the neighbourhood of Tirana, taking advantage of the absence of Ahmed Bey Mati, who had departed for the Serbian frontier with all the available forces against the people of Halit Lleshi. The Government immediately took steps to smoke out the nest of the Essadists, and it would have succeeded had not the National Assembly intervened and proposed, in order to prevent the shedding of blood, to send a deputation to Essad Pasha to learn his intentions and to make him render an account of his actions. There was therefore neither a conflict nor an overthrow of the Government, which for the moment retains its power, and for the time being at least does not seem to be threatened. (The messages sent out by the various telegraphic agencies were consequently full of serious mistakes.)

The Italian Commissioner.

Lieutenant-Colonel Castoldi, who was attached as military adviser to the Italian delegation at the Peace Conference, has just arrived in Albania as "Commissioner." This designation is not pleasing to the Albanian Government, which would have preferred that of "Minister"—which would signify a recognition by Italy of the Albanian Government.

Foreigners.

Followers of King Nicholas of Montenegro are trying to find refuge in Albanian territory, and are seeking to organise their bands there. Passage across the frontier has been forbidden them on the land side, but about 300 Montenegrins have found refuge at San Giovanni di Medua (Shin Ghin), near the Italian garrison. A month ago these Montenegrins attacked a French boat which was ascending the Boyana. The authorities are taking steps to prevent a re-occurrence of such acts.

The commandant of the Italian garrison at Scutari has endeavoured to substitute his own administration for the international one by which the town has been governed since 1913, but which came to an end after the departure of the French contingent and of General Phillips last March. The Albanian authorities, who have taken possession of Scutari, refuse to recognise any of the com-

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mandant's claims. The arrival of the Italian garrison at Scutari and the attitude of its commandant are not liked by the Yugoslavs, and as a counter-measure a small Yugoslav garrison has been posted at Shiroka, which is west of the Boyana, in Albanian territory.

The Albanian Question at San Remo.

The Albanian delegation could not be present at San Remo, but it sent a message urging the Conference to respect the independence and integrity of Albania.

A thing that has produced a good impression is the patriotic activity displayed by those Albanians who have lived for five centuries in Italy, and who are strongly against the imperialist Italian policy.

Following is the text of the despatch sent from Naples by the Italo-Albanian Committee to M. Nitti, President of the Conference of San Remo:—

"The Italo-Albanian Committee, in the name of 250,000 Italo-Albanians residing in Italy, expressing the sentiments of their unfortunate Albanian brothers, hereby protest once more against the compromise whose object is the further dismemberment of Albanian territory, and again confirm the sure wish for the independence of the country of their origin, in conformity with the decisions of the London Conference of 1913."

PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, April 25.

In Jerusalem quiet has reigned since the Nebi Mousa trouble. Holy Week has brought its usual scenes; and American sailors from a vessel at Jaffa have been amongst the motley crowds of visitors. Sir Louis Bols is held in high esteem as Chief Administrator, being eminently fitted for the post. He is ably supported by his military governors of districts, especially those who have had experience of the peoples and languages of these and neighbouring regions.

Colonel C. H. F. Cox, D.S.O., R.F.A., has taken over Samaria, and is at Nablus. Colonel Bentwich, Senior Judicial Officer, is returning from leave in England. The work of the Courts shows that crimes and offences maintain their level, but are certainly not on the increase.

MALTA.

VALETTA, May 5.

An Early Summer.

The title of "military hothouse" is being justified here earlier than usual this year, and the past few days have been August-like, giving the winter visitors, who are on the point of leaving, a taste of what the usual Maltese summer is like. Social events are on the wane; the last race meeting on the Marsa has taken place to-day, and the Grand Opera is closing down. Those who are compelled to stay behind and face the torrid months are busy preparing for good times in boating and swimming. The ladies' bathing club, with its headquarters off Fort Tigne, is a scene of much sociability and entertainment during the summer season.

Suggested Legislative Reform.

There is a wide gulf fixed between English and Maltese law, as everyone who has dabbled in this subject in Malta will readily admit. For years past there have been attempts to amplify and bring up to date the commercial law of the Island, but practically nothing has been done. The latest suggestion is that classes dealing with the differences between English and Italian law be established at the University. The idea sounds very reasonable, and is practicable. It should help the British litigants.

Dockyard Inquiry.

Lord Lytton, First Civil Lord of the Admiralty, is making a thorough inquiry into dockyard matters all round, and it is to be hoped that good will ensue from this; for it has been patent for a long time past that things in "the Yard" are not what they ought to be. The question of emigration is intimately bound up with this matter of dockyard reform, as a great many of the most highly skilled workmen are leaving the Island. Many of these emigrants have learnt to become proficient at the expense of the British Government, and now America chiefly is to have the benefit of their training.

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"Shortage" Grumblings.

Last week it was no matches, now it is a scarcity of sugar, but the Government has 550 tons *en route*, and delivery is expected in about a fortnight. The price of sugar at the present moment is 1s. 11d. per *rotolo* (28 ozs.). Further discontent is expressed also against the inferior quality of the bread which is being supplied, but, despite the drought, the potato crop is turning out well, although even in this case dissatisfaction is being expressed as regards restriction of export. Malta is not without its profiteers.

Personal.

Death has claimed two distinguished victims during the past few days. Mr. G. Caruana (late of the Eastern Telegraph Company and well-known in the Near East) passed away on the 30th ult., as did George Borda, Esq., of the widely-known firm of G. Borda and Co., shipping merchants. Both will be greatly missed, and the Island could ill spare them.

Judge S. Micallef, of the Superior Courts, has had to take sick leave, and the Governor has appointed Judge Parnis to act officially in his stead.

General.

The anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King George V. will be celebrated to-morrow. The large union jacks are to be flown at all flag stations, and a salute of twenty-one guns is to be fired by the Royal Artillery from the Saluting Battery. This is to be followed immediately by the salute of the Royal Navy.

It comes as good news that the *Daily Malta Chronicle* is to re-appear soon. It will be remembered that the office was gutted and the plant destroyed in June of last year.

INAUGURATION MEETING OF CZECH SOCIETY.

The inaugural meeting of the Czech Society of Great Britain was held on May 11 at the Society of Arts, John Street, W.C., among the speakers being Lieut.-Col. Sir Samuel Hoare, Bt., who presided, the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, M.P., President of the Board of Education, and Professor Sir C. W. C. Oman, M.P. In the course of a brief address opening the proceedings, the Chairman said that one of the finest things that had emerged from the war was the liberation of ancient nationalities that had been for centuries under foreign domination. Of all foolish attempts at the present time, the most foolish appeared to be that being made by some people to set up again the Dual Monarchy. This society had been founded by people who had been associated with Czecho-Slovakia during the war and who wished to continue that association. It was not associated with any political party either here or in Czecho-Slovakia. Its object was to maintain a close intercourse of trade and culture between the two races. He believed it would be found they had much in common.

Mr. Fisher followed with an interesting speech dealing with the history of Bohemia, which State, he said, had played a great, noble and enlightened part in the history of the Middle Ages. From the Hussite movement in Bohemia had flowed many of the spiritual streams of the Reformation, and this progressive spirit had survived until the Thirty Years War. But after the battle of the White Mountain in 1620 the Czech civilisation had been submerged and its language and literature proscribed as the vehicles of heretical thought. A revival had begun in the last decades of the Eighteenth Century. The present Bohemian State contained within its borders a powerful German minority and the less highly developed Slovak population that had for so long lain under the iron despotism of the Magyars. The two problems presented were entirely distinct in character, but each was capable of taxing to the utmost the powers of those who would have to deal with it. These were approaching the problems in a spirit of moderation and tolerance, and with a true desire to effect a statesmanlike solution.

Sir Charles Oman, who also spoke on the historical side of the question, said that of all the States that had been created as the result of the going to pieces of the three great despotic empires, Czecho-Slovakia showed the most promise for the future. Her spirit of nationality was strong but sane and intensely practical. It was not too proud a boast for Englishmen to say that Huss had been the spiritual child of Wycliffe; there had even been preserved in Bohemia translations of treatises by Wycliffe of which the original had been lost. President Masaryk was far too big a man for anybody here to claim him as a spiritual child; yet we might hope to be the spiritual advisers of Bohemia once again in the way of constitutional teaching.

Other speakers followed.

Reuter's Berlin correspondent states:—According to reports from Warsaw to the newspapers here, the Polish Foreign Minister, M. Patek, has been recalled by telegraph from Rome, as M. Take Jonescu, the Roumanian statesman, has arrived in Warsaw on behalf of the Roumanian Government to open negotiations with regard to an alliance. It is reported in Polish quarters that the Roumanians will form an army of 160,000 men in support of the Polish offensive against Soviet Russia.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ALBANIAN QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We, the undersigned, desire to present the case of Albania especially to the League of Nations, as it differs essentially from that of any other nation whose status has been changed by the recent war. Other peoples, among them some who fought against the Allies, have had their claims to nationhood recognised. But Albania, who fought for freedom and had won her acknowledged place among the nations before the war, has now been threatened with political extinction.

We would point out: (1) That it is expressly laid down in the Covenant of the League of Nations that: "The wishes of the communities must be the principal consideration in the selection of the mandatory." Not only have the Albanians not been consulted, but they have now been so placed that they cannot communicate with the outer world save through the medium of Italy, Greece, or Yugoslavia, all of which countries in the past have been interested in the partition of Albania and may be so to-day. The Albanians have asked that they may not be put under the mandate of any interested party. They ask only for the recognition of their independence by the League of Nations and permission to manage their own internal affairs under a guarantee of the League of Nations.

(2) We would point out that a very large number of Albanians (a million, at least) have been handed over to the Yugoslavs and Greeks. We would strongly urge the claim of these people to the right to have their own churches, where their creed may be freely preached; and their own schools, where their children may be educated in a knowledge of their own language. We believe that at present no Albanian schools have been permitted in the Albanian districts assigned to Greece and Serbia. We are encouraged to hope, by the resolution of the Foreign Committee of the House of Commons, under the presidency of Lord Robert Cecil, and reported on May 4, that justice will not be refused to Albania. That resolution was as follows:—"That the Committee would deeply regret any departure from the policy laid down with regard to Albania by the Ambassadors' Conference in London, 1913, and urges the Prime Minister to press for its unity and independence under such mandate or guarantee as might be approved by the Council of the League of Nations."

(Signed)

H. B. Betterton, M.P.	Mark H. Judge.
A. Boyd Carpenter, M.P.	P. Lloyd Greame, M.P.
D. C. Brown, M.P.	Godfrey Locker-Sampson,
Stuart Coats, M.P.	M.P.
M. E. Durham.	J. A. Murray Macdonald,
M. F. Eden.	M.P.
W. E. Elliot, M.P.	W. Ormesby-Gore, M.P.
Bertram Falle, M.P.	George Paget.
J. Fredk. Green, M.P.	J. C. Paget.
Walter Guinness, M.P.	Charles E. Tate, M.P.
Aubrey Herbert, M.P.	John Ward, M.P.
Samuel Hoare, M.P.	W. Whitla, M.P.
Cuthbert James, M.P.	Wolmer, M.P.
Edward Wood, M.P.	

"SOME WAR-TIME REMINISCENCES OF PERSIA."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In his interesting article, entitled "Some War-time Reminiscences of Persia," and published in your issue of April 8, Mr. Bernard Sotham mentions that a soup-kitchen, under British management, was opened in Teheran in February, 1918. It is not, I think, generally known that Lady Marling, the wife of the British Minister, took the initiative in this matter, and for upwards of three months devoted nearly her whole time personally to superintending the management, thereby saving the lives of many hundreds of the poorest of the poor of Teheran. The number of those who daily received relief reached a total of some 1,800-2,000. I feel sure that all those who were in Teheran at the time and cognisant of the facts will agree with me in saying that almost the entire credit for the salvation of the lives of those people rests with Lady Marling.

I enclose my card and trust you will kindly find space for this letter.—I am, etc.,

Cairo, April 26, 1920. Traveller.

PRO DODECANESUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The last Egyptian mail brought me full particulars with reference to the present situation in Rhodes and the other Ægean Islands occupied by Italy. These particulars are now laid before the Dodecanesian Delegation in Paris, and may be of interest to your readers.

In May last year, soon after the Red Easter riots, an epidemic of small-pox ravaged Rhodes, and the Greek schools had to be closed, by order of the Italian authorities. The first schools to be closed were those of Afanto, Archangelos, and Malone. A whole year has passed since, and the epidemic exists no more; but the schools are still closed, and the Italians refuse to allow their re-opening. The Greeks support in Rhodes the Venetocleon Grammar School, founded by Minos Venetoclés, the late Rhodian patriot, and forty-five schools, with 3,297 pupils of each sex. The funds required for maintaining these national educational institutions amount to 80,000 francs per annum.

I understand that great consternation reigns in Rhodes, owing to the systematic closing of the schools. The Metropolitan wrote twice (January 14 and 15 last) to the Governor, asking for the re-opening, but the Italians remained inexorable to the supplications of the Metropolitan, who is the official superintendent of the schools of his diocese. The celebration of the school feast in January (the Holy Hierarchs) was not allowed by the Italians.

The headmaster of the Venetocleon, a venerable old man, was brought to the police-station under escort after the closing of his school. The teaching staff of the Amaranteon school were expelled by force, and zealous Carabinieri gave chase to small school children, who were frightened to death.

In the Island of Symi the same tactics have been adopted against the Greek educational system, and the Grammar School is closed. This school has been now transformed into a hospital for V.D.

This news has astonished my countrymen who live in this country. We are sure that the Italian Government, which recalled last year General Delia and General Brinzi after the Easter riots, will now see their way to bring to their senses these excited officials who try by their acts to sever the good relations established with such great difficulty by M. Venizelos between Greece and Italy.—I am, etc., Theodore D. Mosconas.

Dodecanesian Delegation, 32, Oxford Street,
Manchester, May 12, 1920.

CHRISTIAN CROSSES AT JERUSALEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I deeply regret that Archdeacon Potter, on the authority of certain unnamed persons, should declare that "the Zionists in Jerusalem are objecting to the crosses on our soldiers' graves . . . because they are seen as you approach the site fixed for the new Zionist College." Since the British occupation of Jerusalem I have paid repeated and lengthy visits to Palestine, and in my capacity as President of the Zionist Commission, a Zionist leader, and a founder of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem, I am fully and directly informed as to Zionist thought and sentiment and action in and outside Palestine. There is no word of truth in the charge to which Archdeacon Potter has given currency. In the Military Cemetery on the Mount of Olives Jewish soldiers lie with their Christian comrades, and the Mogen David rises above their graves as the Cross above Christian graves. This association is a source of pride to all Jews, for whom the whole is holy ground. Zionists are second to none in honouring the British dead whose lives were given for the freeing of Palestine, and they repudiate with indignation any suggestion of ingratitude or sectarian intolerance in respect of them. I cannot but express my astonishment that Archdeacon Potter should, without personal investigation, have lent the weight of his office to so dishonouring a calumny.—I am, etc., Ch. Weizman.

Zionist Organisation, Central Office,
77, Great Russell Street,
May 13, 1920.

CHESS.

The Edinburgh Congress of the British Chess Federation will open on August 9, and will continue until August 23. It will be notable for the revival of the British Amateur Championship, dormant since 1914, for which Sir G. A. Thomas will be a strong favourite if he decides to enter.

M. Kostitch is giving two simultaneous exhibitions this week in London, and will then, I understand, leave for Yugoslavia to take part in the international tournament which is to be held at Veles (Uskub) next month. I have no further news yet regarding the entries, but I shall be surprised if they are as strong as seems to be anticipated.

The heats for the Murton Cup at the City of London Chess Club are now all but concluded. As expected, Mr. Saunders won the first heat, Mr. Acton the second and Mr. Gilchrist the fourth. Some half-dozen games are outstanding in the third heat, which seems to be rather open, at least four players having a chance of being first. As I mentioned before, the first two in each heat go into the final.

The end game given last week should be drawn as follows:—1. . . . P—Kt4 (ch); 2. P x P, P x P (ch); 3. K x P, K—K4; 4. K—R6, K x P; 5. K—Kt5, K—K4; 6. K—R6, K—B5; 7. K—R5, etc.

Caro-Kann.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Peace with Turkey.

The *Morning Post* of May 12, in dealing with the Turkish Peace Terms, thinks on the whole that it is a just Treaty. It is glad, however, that the Sultan is to remain in Constantinople. It sees, moreover, that until a Russian settlement is made, no permanent settlement can be made in regard to Turkey. And it has its doubts concerning some of the details.

Though we regard the Treaty as a just settlement, yet many of its clauses are bound to raise misgivings. We have now had a brief experience of the settlements laid down in the Treaties of Versailles and Saint-Germain, and are daily becoming better acquainted with their defects. We confess we do not like divided sovereignty, the tutelage of the League of Nations, the creation of new States, fathered by sentimentalists and innocent of proper economic and geographical safeguards, indeterminate boundaries, provisional guarantees, and so on. In a word, having witnessed the Balkanisation of Central Europe, we do not wish to see that disintegrating process extended to Asia. Are the new States which were raised out of the dead ashes of the Hapsburg Monarchy solidly fixed? Has the League of Nations been a success at Dantzig? Will other States have to follow Poland's example and have recourse to war in order to fix their boundaries? We ask these questions when we read the clauses of the Turkish Treaty and notice its provisional indeterminate character. For example, there is nothing satisfactory about the allocation of Smyrna; it will remain a source of bitter trouble between Turkey and Greece. The Turks will never consent to the relinquishing of the port through which all their trade must pass, and it is doubtful, in view of the fact that, unhappily, M. Venizelos is not immortal, whether Greece will be able to administer and hold the tremendous accession of power and territory which the Treaty has brought her. Syria and Mesopotamia are provisionally recognised as independent States, and will be assisted each by a mandatory. Will the Emir Feisul and his Arab subjects accept this solution? Minorities are to be protected, and military control is to be instituted. Will Mustapha Kemal Pasha signal his cordial acquiescence? Palestine is to be established as a National Home for the Jewish people. Will even Mr. Herbert Samuel succeed in making such a Home a pleasant place to live in? Armenia is to be independent, and Turkey agrees to accept the arbitration of the President of the United States upon the question of the frontier between Turkey and Armenia in the vilayets of Erzerum, Trebizond, Van, and Bitlis, and upon Armenia's access to the sea. But even if Turkey accepts, will Armenia? That disillusioned community is now looking not towards Mr. Lloyd George's Supreme Council, nor towards Lord Robert Cecil's League of Nations, but towards Lenin and the Bolshevist hordes who have their eyes fixed on the Caucasus.

We sincerely hope that the Allies will be able to surmount these difficulties, but it is no good ignoring them. It is useless to talk about mandates if the writ of the mandatory does not run in the country concerned. The plain fact is that there can be no settlement with Turkey until there has first of all been a settlement with Russia. It is the failure to recognise that fact which explains the indeterminate character of the new Treaty. As long as the Bolsheviks remain in Moscow, there will be wars in the Caucasus, and feuds in Anatolia, where the British Fleet will be powerless for influence. For a durable peace in the East, Britain requires the co-operation of a sane and restored Russia.

The *Westminster Gazette* of May 13 has the following comment upon the Turkish Treaty:—

The question which troubles us is not so much whether the penalty inflicted on the Turks is a just one as whether we are making the right and proper use of this opportunity. We look at the Turkish Treaty and wonder how much of it accords with reality and can be enforced, and how much a mere writing of formulas to cover problems which the Allies have failed to solve. In the first category we hope it is possible to put the control of the Straits and the European part of the settlement, which gives to Greece all that was hitherto Turkish up to the Chataldja Lines, excepting only the Derkos area, which supplies Constantinople with water. That city remains the seat of the Sultanate and the Khalifate, but for all secular purposes under the supervision of the Powers, who take guarantees that it shall not again become the centre of political or financial intrigues We congratulate M. Venizelos on the brilliant victory he has won for the Greek people, and we have every confidence that he will use it moderately. He knows from long experience that no peace or lasting settlement is to be had in this region, except by mutual forbearance and give-and-take between the Balkan peoples, and, as holder of the coast territory, Greece now assumes a special obligation to see that the interests and convenience of her neighbours are consulted. Outlets to the sea will, we hope, freely be given to the Bulgarians at Salonika and other Greek ports, as well as Dedeagatch, where they have special rights.

The *Daily Telegraph* of May 13, while congratulating M. Venizelos upon his triumphant diplomacy, shows clearly that Greece's salvation now rests upon her own efforts. It says:—

Bulgarian and Turkish resentment will not be easily appeased, and the comments of the Italian Press upon the Turkish Treaty show how wrathful is Italian opinion at the poor success of Italy as compared with Greece in securing valuable prizes. The fall of Signor Nitti emphasises this feeling. The course of events, therefore, may possibly show that Greece has been rather too successful in securing the favours of the Supreme Council. We sincerely hope not. Her renewal of youth, her true and vigorous renascence, her rise to the position of a considerable Power in the East of Europe, would be heartily welcome to most Englishmen. But while the Western Powers have deliberately created by this Treaty a Greater Hellas, it is the Greek nation itself which will have to maintain Greater Hellas, and we hope that it will rise above its besetting national faults to a true appreciation of the privileges with which it has been loaded and of the corresponding duties which are also included in the provisions of this Treaty. It is by showing magnanimity and fair play, especially to her secular enemies, the Bulgarians and the Turks, that Greece can best justify her aggrandisement by the Powers.

M. Venizelos and Greece.

In the *New Statesman* of May 1 appears an article upon "The Triumph of M. Venizelos." It does not underrate the difficulties that lie ahead of Greece. It says:—

But, after all, which, if any, of these brilliant ideas influenced the mind of the Supreme Council is now of little consequence. The Greeks have got their Empire, and the important question is what they will make of it. We do not find it possible to be optimistic. We are not prejudiced against the Greeks. In the Peace, if not in the war, they have been out for all they could get; but unhappily neither we, nor any European people, have any right to preach to them on that account. Their past record of persecution and "propaganda" in the Balkans is not a very nice one; but neither are those of their neighbours. But the Greeks to-day are universally unpopular in the Near East. In all that region, where national hatreds and suspicions grow to a rankness unknown in Northern Europe, the most hated and the most suspected nation is Greece. Her new Empire will be ringed round with enemies—Bulgarians, Jugo-Slavs, Albanians, Turks. She may, if she walks warily, escape serious conflicts. She may, if she evolves a new spirit and a new policy of conciliation, even turn old enemies into friends. M. Venizelos has declared that Greece is to become the "great, stable, peaceful element" in the Balkans, and that what he hopes to establish, in the areas where population is mixed, is a tradition not of toleration—"that," he said, "is too weak a word"—but of absolute equality between race and race. That is a fine ideal, which, realised in the Balkans, might be of incalculable benefit to the peace of the world; and if M. Venizelos can translate it into practice the concessions which he has won from the Supreme Council will have been justified.

But M. Venizelos is taking a heavy risk. Against M. Venizelos himself we have nothing to say; on the contrary, we believe him to be not only a great statesman, but a man of high principle. But it is there that the danger lies. M. Venizelos is not Greece. He is better than Greece. He stands far above the normal level of the Greek people—even, we venture to say, as far above the best in Greece, as Mr. Lloyd George or M. Millerand stand below the best in England or France. M. Venizelos will have to carry the burden of his empire with very little assistance. If he were endowed with immortality and a perpetual dictatorship, we should have high hopes. But he is a man, and an old man, and democracies (and not least the Greek democracy) are fickle. While his leadership lasts, there should be peace. If, however, the Greeks are to be encouraged by us to regard themselves as the gaolers of an "incapable Bulgaria," if their chauvinism is to be worked up against the Turks (they are boasting already of the 100,000 men whom they will contribute to Foch's 27 divisions for enforcing the Turkish Treaty), then their new Greece will come down like a house of cards.

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MEDITERRANEAN AND NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO PATRAS PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE ROUMANIAN PORTS GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT AND BLACK SEA PORTS

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO HAVRE ST. MALO AND DIEPPE.

LIVERPOOL: Cunard Building, Pier Head
LONDON E.C.2: 51, Bishopsgate
OFFICES AND AGENCIES EVERYWHERE
67

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

A Cairo message states that "workmen engaged in excavating at Jerusalem" have "struck a gold reef," and adds with a reckless blow-the-expense air as to length of the message: "Great excitement reigns in the city." Knowing from personal experience how easy it is for excavating experiences to be wildly magnified I am not surprised by the latter item. But I understand that many people wonder whether the whole thing may not be a dodge to attract the *Yahudis* back to their own land.

***

When I was in Constantinople I made friends with several of the pariah dogs that roved the streets; and, though they had their drawbacks, it always seemed to me that they were likable beasts, and not so great a nuisance as one would suppose they must be. I was, therefore, genuinely sorry when I learned that the Remorseless March of Progress had led to the determination to get rid of them; and the way in which effect was given to the determination filled me with indignation. You will remember that the poor dogs were shipped off to various islands and there left to die, because the Turk would not transgress against his religion by killing them outright. That was five or six years ago, and apparently the unhappy dogs all met their inevitable fate, after sufferings that one does not care to think about. Their bones littered the islands; and now those very bones are to be made of service to Man—who surely might feel shame at turning his victims to account in such fashion! For to-day numbers of Russian refugees are housed on the islands which were formerly the dogs' prison; and the American Red Cross authorities, who are caring for these particular refugees, have set their *protégées* to work at making buttons from the dogs' bones. I am not altogether surprised to learn that the Turks will not buy the buttons.

***

The Arabs of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf coasts have always had something of a reputation as wreckers. Indeed, they could apparently have given our own Cornish folk "points and a licking" in this field, even when Cornishmen were famous by reason of their—skill at salvage work, let us say. Recently, I am told, an incident occurred which showed that the Arabs of the Jaffa region also would gladly do what they could in this line, if only they were given a free hand. A vessel went ashore near Jaffa, and the coast for a distance of about five miles on either side of the wreck was soon thickly strewn with what had been her cargo. Needless to say, the local Arabs gave thanks to Allah, and lost no time in gathering in the harvest thus sent their way. Unfortunately for them, however, an energetic British official happened to take views on the subject which did not coincide with those of the harvesters. In an unsympathetic way he ordered that all the treasure-trove should be given up; and so capably did he and his assistants act that practically all of it actually was recovered. But not quite all. Like the solitary rat and the lame boy in "The Pied Piper," one case was left behind. And in due course the British official received a notification from the shipping agent that whereas 293 pairs of socks had gone astray, only 292 pairs had been recovered; and what steps did he (the official) propose to take in the matter—or words to that effect.

CORSAIR.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

It is always instructive to hear our own music played by foreign artists, especially when those artists belong to nationalities not spiritually akin to ours. For, quite apart from little habits of expression or methods of interpretation, it is possible for them to give British compositions an aspect utterly different from that presented by native artists. An example of this difference was very fully shown by the Bohemian Czech String Quartet in Elgar's Quartet, which they included with Arnold Bax's Pianoforte Quintet and Smetana's Quartet in their Anglo-Czech programme at the Wigmore Hall on May 12. Elgar's Quartet is a most beautiful piece of work, and every string quartet has at some time or other played it. But I have never heard it given as it was on Wednesday afternoon. The lovely "reflective" mood of the first two movements was not reflected, and the exquisite counter melodies were not insisted upon. Instead we had, as indeed we might have expected, a very fine presentation of the rhythms and of the architectural firmness of the quartet; and in the last movement (Allegro Molto), the Bohemians' vivid idiosyncrasies compelled a superb performance. Bax's Pianoforte Quintet (with Miss Fanny Davies her usual reliable self at the pianoforte) was given its first performance by the Quartet. It is extraordinarily original and imaginative, though too long in its present form. The subtle rhythms of the Celtic mind (and this Quintet abounds in them) seemed peculiarly fascinating in the hands of the Bohemians, and there is no doubt that Mr. Bax is a composer of definite, if rather undefinable, genius. The Smetana, which was left to the last, was a thing of pure joy; for in it the Bohemian Czech string quartet played as if inspired. No other Quartet can go half as far as they in Czech music.

In all old music there are a hundred fascinations, but, more, probably, in old English music than in any other. If the present passion for Elizabethan culture be examined, much cast would no doubt be discovered, but, both in the literature and in the music of this period, there are an eternal freshness, joyousness, and imaginativeness that make and always will make a fundamental appeal. At the Æolian Hall on May 12, where Mr. Gerald Cooper, together with Mrs. Woodhouse at the harpsichord, and the English Singers gave a programme that was devoted wholly to Elizabethan music, there was no affectation in the delight and surprised joy of the audience. In order of merit the English Singers, who sang madrigals of three or of six parts, came first: their diction, phrasing, and *ensemble* were very nearly perfect. A better performance of these madrigals, which were written by such composers as King Henry VIII., Cornyshe, Morley, and Weelkes, is difficult to imagine; I, at any rate, have not heard anything half so charming. The fame of Mrs. Woodhouse in harpsichord playing is well-known, and deservedly so, for it comes to this, that she is such an authority in this style of music that one can say that whatever she chooses to do is right. She played all sorts of things by Bull, Byrd, Tisdall, and some wholly delightful corrantos and muscadins by a very prolific composer, whom those who have not been able to identify him have called "Anon." (It is, by the way, an index of the general excellence of music in Elizabethan times, that such anonymous compositions should not have brought immediate fame to their author.) Of Mr. Cooper's singing not very much is to be said; his taste and judgment are equally refined, but he is not yet a singer. However, his art is so unaffected that one can but hope that the lesser attribute of vocal means will be granted to him.

On Miss Olga Haley's surpassing excellence as a *lieder* singer I have commented before, but a further demonstration of it in her recital of foreign songs at the Steinway Hall on May 13 cannot go unnoticed. In her selection of songs she relied chiefly on Modern French and Romantic German composers, but she also included four beautiful songs of Russian origin, and some freakish efforts—"Three Songs in the German Manner" and "Three Songs in the French Manner"—by Lord Berners, in which this wayward composer makes the first notable attempt at concentrated parody in music. (They proved to be very difficult to sing, but on the whole were a waste of a good singer's time.) Where Miss Haley showed best the consummate art that is in her was in songs like Schubert's "Whither" or in Brahms' "There 'Mong the Willows." These she sang with most perfect grace. But it is not only in pure *lieder* that she is supreme; her versatility was delightfully proved in the pastoral simplicity of Da Parma's "I Pastori," in the shifting colours of Ropartz's "Si tu disais," and in the exquisite word-painting of Arensky's "Autumn." In music like this, where colour and atmosphere are nearly everything, she was, but for reproachable diction, as good as is humanly possible. If Miss Haley's diction were as faultless as her phrasing and her tone, she would be one of the singers of the world.

ANDANTE.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"WEST AND EAST." By Edward Caldwell Moore, Professor of Christian Morals, Harvard University. (London: Duckworth. 12s. 6d. net.)
II.—"NATIONAL EDUCATION IN INDIA." By Lajpat Rai. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 6s. net.)
III.—"THE FRINGE OF THE DESERT." By R. S. Macnamara. (London: Herbert Jenkins. 2s. net.)

I.—THE EXPANSION OF EUROPE.

In the autumn of 1913 Professor E. Caldwell Moore, of Harvard University, was invited to deliver a course of lectures at Oxford on the "Expansion of Christendom and the Naturalisation of Christianity in the Orient." The entire series has now appeared in book form, and although the world war has disappointed his hopes for the future, it has not impaired the value of the research upon which they were built. His aim it was to trace the influence of Western ideals on the life of Asia. The process of interaction began with an era of conquest, followed by one of commerce, and it culminates in a world-wide assimilation. This movement had two characteristic features—the spread of material civilisation and the propagation of Christianity. Generally speaking, it was the impact of secular forces that paved the way for religious endeavour, but the converse was often seen to a surprising degree. The human agents at work are described with sympathy and knowledge. They fall under two categories; on the one side a long succession of soldiers, administrators, teachers and traders; on the other, emissaries of the Faith, whose province was things of the Spirit.

As one would expect in the president of the American Board for Foreign Missions, Professor Moore is eager to defend the propaganda of Christian doctrine from its enemies' attacks. He triumphantly refutes the time-worn objection to missionary effort, that people who wish to convert the heathen should begin at home. It had some force a century ago, when, owing to imperfect means of communication, the inhabited world was divided into water-tight compartments. In our day steam-power, electricity, and the internal-combustion engine have welded it into a highly sensitive organism. Political moves in Washington are promptly imitated by China, and labour troubles in the Manchester districts affect the welfare of Bombay and Osaka. So the existence of dense masses of barbarism is a source of danger for advanced communities. Moreover, the twentieth century missionary has broader views and a deeper knowledge of alien religions than any of his predecessors. The Careys, Marshmans, and Wards of old time were filled with reprobation by the rites of Hinduism and Islam; their eyes were turned to a life beyond the grave, and they did not realise the possibility of giving people a foretaste of heavenly joys by improving their environment. Their successors' policy has undergone a radical change, its trend is towards education and social betterment; it endeavours to trace the evolution of religions from their common source; and no longer lays undue stress on the shibboleth of dogma.

In the socio-political sphere Professor Moore remarks that:

The East has produced many enlightened individuals. It has never at any time or in any place shown the widespread enlightenment of a whole people. There is nothing in its past to indicate that, without the stimulus and help of the West, the East would ever have made such an achievement.

That stimulus is not invariably wholesome or inspiring. Of its latest manifestation the Professor writes:—

No one can witness the triumph of democracy in the West without seeing how much has been sacrificed to that triumph. He must be blind indeed who does not perceive that democracy has exercised, as fully as tyranny, a blighting influence on the individual. It levels men; it tends to level them downwards. No one can fail to realise that certain virtues which aristocracy produced have disappeared; that we of the West are at this point victims of the theory that democracy is a panacea. Men imagine that civil rights and economic equalities will bring in a golden age; in reality, they often usher in an era of triumphant brazenness. Yet neither in East nor West do men imagine that the true course is retreat. China has become nominally Republican, and Turkey supposedly constitutionalist. Japan has indefinitely more of agitation in the interest of larger liberty for its masses than in the old days, when for the vast majority of its population there was no liberty at all. India, under a generous and enlightened rule, is seething with unrest. It has agitatory and revolutionary movements without number, whereas the ancestors of these troubled British subjects of Indian race suffered the tyranny of Marathi conquerors and Mughal Emperors without protest and without hope.

It is refreshing to find an American thinker who admits that democracy is not an ideal régime, and Britons owe a debt of gratitude to Professor Moore for his appreciation of our fellow-countrymen's achievement in India.

F. H. S.

II.—"LABOUR AND LIVE."

When Sir Alfred Lyall wished to point the contrast between East and West as it presented itself to him, he made the West proclaim its mission in the words we have quoted above: "The Faith we bring you is Labour and Live." Here we have substantially the same gospel preached by Mr. Lajpat Rai, an experienced educationist who is known more widely as an advanced politician, and the collocation of the two names may give some measure of the changes wrought in India during the last few decades. Mr. Lajpat Rai takes as his text the view, so often heard nowadays in India, that the national system of education must be founded on Indian ideals and methods; in opposition to this view he contends that the ideals are outworn and the methods fundamentally bad, and he puts forward instead the pure theory of Western education as expounded by the American writers whose names bulk so largely in his bibliography. He would have his people think less about the next world, and concentrate on this; life is the thing that matters; desire is to be trained, not killed; the world has moved since the *shashtras* were composed, and it would be folly not to profit by the experience of the nations which have led the way. Having demonstrated this theory to his own satisfaction, he goes into some details regarding the kind of education to be provided in India. The dominant note must be Progress (with the largest possible P). Destiny can be controlled if you tackle it in the right way. Pessimism must be banished; and if you want to know how little race counts for, you need only look at Washington (D.C.). India is, however, linked to England, and for India Mr. Fisher is a safe guide. The amount of money to be spent will be large, but education pays, a proposition easily proved out of the mouths of eminent bankers and other American citizens, while the immediate problem of ways and means is not handled in detail.

The book is rather crude, loosely put together, and marred by superfluity of quotations; the writer's knowledge of history is in some respects defective, and he tends to give too little weight to prejudices which he has outgrown or does not share. Notwithstanding these defects, it is a vigorous and timely piece of work. The tendency in recent years has been to base the new India on a gospel of exclusiveness and hate: Mr. Lajpat Rai quite justifiably puts India first, but his scheme rests on love of India, not on hatred of other nations, and in that respect at least it marks a definite step forward. How it will be received by that elusive entity, the real India, is a question on which we are not disposed to prophesy. Will she decide to "live by knowledge, and peace, and love"? Or does the old answer still hold good—"Let me rest nor be troubled, if all is dream"?

III.—IN ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

This is a new cheap edition of an interesting and charming novel. The parents of Hildred Ivors have been separated since she was a baby, and she has been brought up by some elderly cousins. She does not remember her mother, and has had only fleeting glimpses of her father, a famous painter. At the age of twenty she is suddenly told that she is to spend six months with her mother in the country in England, and six months with her father in Egypt, and is then to decide with which of them she will live, or whether she will prefer to take up a profession and make a home for herself. It is an excellent opening, and the authoress makes very good use of her opportunities, both in the subtle portrayal of character and in the description of scenery. Her feeling for beauty is very deep, and expressed with a certain restraint which is most effective. She writes with the same sensitiveness of a May morning in England, of the colouring of the temples on the Nile, and of the loveliness of Hesper Marlowe, the woman by whose deep love the last days of Hildred's erratic, selfish father are made happy.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Fetters on Freedom." By Cecil Shirley. With a Preface by Lord Halsbury. (London: Mills and Boon. 1s. net.)

"The Star of Destiny." B. H. M. F. Campbell. (London: Odhams, Ltd. 7s. net.)

"Studies in Jewish Nationalism." By Leon Simon. With an Introduction by Alfred E. Zimmern. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 6s. net.)

"The Great Hereafter and the Road to Perfection." By Arthur J. Loseby. (London: A. H. Stockwell. 1s. net.)

"L'Affaire de Roupel." (Geneva: Albert Kundig. 3 fr.)

"Marvellous Mesopotamia: The World's Wonderland." By Canon Joseph T. Parfit, M.A. (London: S. W. Partridge and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1920. May 20	1920. May. 7	Thursday	1338. Ramadan. 2	5680. Sivan. 3
21	8	Friday	3	4
22	9	Saturday.....	4	5
23	10	Sunday	5	6
24	11	Monday	6	7
25	12	Tuesday	7	8
26	13	Wednesday	8	9

Lord Allenby left Cairo for Palestine on May 14.

Lord Oranmore and Browne has returned to 12, Cavendish Place from Ireland.

Lord and Lady Willingdon have left Madras on a tour to Bangalore, Mysore and Mercara.

Sir Aurel Stein has arrived home from India, and expects to be in England until October.

M. Pashitch and Dr. Trumbitch, the Yugoslav delegates, left Pallanza for Paris on May 14.

The Maharajah of Cooch Behar landed at Plymouth on May 11 from Bombay and proceeded to London.

Sir Daniel Twomey, Chief Judge, Rangoon, has been granted leave till the end of the vacation in November.

Sir Francis and Lady Elliot have arrived from the South of France at the Stanhope Hotel, Stanhope Gardens, South Kensington.

Viscount and Viscountess Goschen and the Hon. Phyllis and Cicely Goschen have returned to England from India and Mesopotamia.

The Archbishop of Cyprus, Mgr. Kyrillos, President of the Cyprus Mission, has arrived in London. M. Theodoton, another member of the Mission, is also here.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, at 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1., Mr. E. H. Freshfield yesterday gave a lecture on "Old Fortifications of Constantinople."

The Calcutta Victory dinner will be held at the Criterion on Tuesday, June 1. Applications for tickets, price £1 each, exclusive of wines, should reach the hon. treasurer, Mr. Walter Davies, Downhurst, Ealing, W.5, by to-day, after which date seats cannot be reserved.

Representatives of the Eastern Church are expected to visit England in July, at the time of the Lambeth Conference, on the invitation of the Eastern Church Relations Committee, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is chairman, in order to familiarise themselves with the life and leading personalities of the Anglican Churches.

M. Theodore D. Mosconas, of the Dodecanesian Delegation in Manchester (late Secretary at the Greek Consulate), has been elected as member of the Greek Sub-Committee, League of Nations Union. H.E. M. I. Gennadius, G.C.V.O., G.C.O.G., D.D., L.L.D., is the chairman of this sub-committee and Mr. J. Mavrogordato, the hon. secretary.

The Royal Society formally admitted to its Fellowship on May 12 Sir Jagadis C. Bose, the first Indian to attain this distinction for scientific, as distinct from mathematical, work. The previous Indian admission was made in 1917, when the Fellowship was conferred on Mr. Srinivasa Ramanujam, the holder of the Cambridge mathematical research degree.

The fortieth annual Burma dinner will be held at Prince's Galleries, Piccadilly, on June 17, at 7 for 7.30 p.m. Mr. Arthur W. Bibby will preside. Those proposing to attend are requested to send their names and addresses immediately to the hon. secretary, Mr. George O. Stiven, 6, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C.3, from whom tickets (price £1 each, exclusive of wines) can be obtained.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mr. Beza, of the Roumanian Legation, has been appointed Consul for Roumania.

M. Hadji Mischeff, Bulgarian Minister at The Hague (formerly Minister in London), has been appointed Bulgarian delegate to the Peace Conference in Paris.

Mr. H. F. Howard, C.S.I., C.I.E. (lately Financial Secretary to the Government of India), has been appointed to act temporarily as Controller of Finance at the India Office.

M. Barendrecht, Dutch Consul at Calcutta, has been appointed temporarily as Dutch Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Buenos Aires.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on May 14 of Dr. Ronald Montagu Burrows, Principal of King's College, London. Dr. Burrows from early youth was a firm Philhellene, and both as a scholar and as an archæologist in classical Greek he did some brilliant work. His book on "Recent Discoveries in Crete," which he published in 1907, is the authority upon the subject. In 1913 he was appointed Principal of King's College, and he greatly increased the interest taken there in Greek and in Slavonic culture. As a Hellenist he was strongly on the side of M. Venizelos during the war, and did much both in this country and in France to secure popular appreciation of the cause of Greece. He was one of the founders of the Anglo-Hellenic League in 1913, and by his absolutely genuine sympathy with the Hellenic cause he gained the confidence of Greeks generally.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE LORD CROMER.

A memorial tablet to the late Lord Cromer on the west wall of St. Margaret's Chapel, in Westminster Abbey, was unveiled last week by Lord Curzon of Kedleston. The tablet, which is the work of Sir W. Goscombe John, R.A., is of marble, and bears the inscription:—"To the glory of God and in memory of Evelyn Baring, First Earl of Cromer, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., 1841-1916. Regenerator of Egypt." The lower part of the tablet contains a medallion portrait of Lord Cromer.

Among those present at the service were Lord and Lady Cromer, the Dowager Lady Cromer, the Hon. Evelyn Baring, General and Mrs. Baring, Lord Bessborough, the Dowager Lady Hillingdon, Lady Curzon of Kedleston, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Crawford, Lord Sanderson, Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Lord Revelstoke, Lord Bath, Lord Donoughmore, Lord Lincolnshire, Lord Coventry, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Lord Milner, Lord Emmott, Lord Midleton, Sir G. Murray, Sir W. Garstin, Mr. H. T. Anstruther (representing the Council of the Suez Canal Company), Sir R. Wingate, and Sir W. Goscombe John, R.A.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It has been decided to enforce the regulations against plague on all arrivals from Piræus in Egypt.

Great demonstrations were held in Sofia on May 6 last to protest against the transfer of Thrace to Greece.

An organisation for transporting starving Austrian children, especially from Vienna, has been formed in Roumania.

There is reason to believe that two or three delegates representing Mustapha Kemal Pasha's Government, and including Ahmed Rustem, have managed to reach Western Europe.

According to the *Orient*, Smyrna station has sent a cordial invitation to the World's Student Christian Federation to hold its next conference there in the spring of 1921.

An Indian Army Order allows officers in possession of blue jumpers and overalls to wear them at mess, pending the issue of orders regarding mess dress, says the *Times of India*.

Sir George Barnes, member of the Viceroy's Council for Railways, met representatives of the Bombay railway strikers on May 13, and urged the immediate resumption of work.

Both battalions of the King's Own Malta Regiment, which were disembodied on January 1 after being mobilised for the full period of the war, are to be maintained after complete reorganisation, involving better pay.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

INDIA.—Two Gentlewomen, five years' nursing experience, desire Post as Children's Nurses or Companions.—Box 167, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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DEATH OF THE ASSYRIAN PATRIARCH.

Paulus Mar Shimun, patriarch of the Assyrian Church, died in the refugee camp of his nation at Bakubah on May 10.

The late Patriarch was consecrated in succession to his brother, Benyamin Mar Shimun (according to the strange semi-hereditary custom of this Church and nation), when that brother was murdered by the Kurdish Agha Simko in the latter stages of the great war.

By ancient custom, the office of Patriarch descends in one family, which is supposed locally to be descended from Simon Peter, the Apostle of Christ. This accounts for the official title by which the patriarch is always known (Mar Shimun, Lord Simon).

A hereditary episcopate is, of course, a strange thing to English minds, but when we remember that there was an instance of the same thing in Europe till the nineteenth century was more than half over (the Vladikas of Montenegro), it is at least comprehensible that the custom should have lingered a little longer in an even more remote and wild land. The late Patriarch died of tuberculosis; he was discovered to be suffering from this disease while in the camp, as a result of hardships incurred during the war. By the advice of his doctor, he was removed from the camp and lodged in the mountain monastery of Sheikh Mattai, near Mosul, in the hope that the purer air might arrest the progress of the disease. This, however, proved fruitless, and the patriarch returned to his own people to die.

He was about thirty years of age, which, of course, seems young for a prelate. His late brother, however, was consecrated patriarch when hardly more than fifteen years old, and there is at least one Bishop now in the camp at Baqubah (Mar Sergius), who received consecration when less than ten! There are, however, good mediæval precedents for such a practice, even in Europe. There is, for instance, a record of a certain Jean de Lorraine, of the great house of Guise, who became Bishop of Metz at the age of seven, and Cardinal at the age of twenty. This was in the year 1518. There has also been at least one pope (John XII.) who received that office when less than nineteen years old.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

PEACE TREATIES: Montenegro. ALBANIA (CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES). MESOPOTAMIA. INDIA: Re-employed Army Officers (Pensions). EGYPT: Budget. ANGLO-PERSIAN MILITARY COMMISSION. MESOPOTAMIA (TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT).—(May 10).

INDIA: Auxiliary Forces Bill.—British Officer's Wife (Peshawar).—Medical Service. EGYPT (LORD MILNER'S REPORT). RUSSIA (BAKU OILFIELDS). INDIA: Public Works Department, India (Rates of Pay). CROWN COLONIES AND PROTECTORATES (INDIAN COMMUNITIES). (May 12).

EGYPT: Government Ex-Employees, Pensions. PALESTINE: Anti-Jewish Riots (Jerusalem). RUSSIA: Caucasus (British Troops). MESOPOTAMIA. MONTENEGRO. INDIA (DEPARTMENTAL WARRANT OFFICERS).

PALESTINE: British Mandate. CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES (MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA). RUSSIA: British Mission (Caspian and Caucasus). EGYPT (LORD MILNER'S REPORT). CEYLON (STRIKES). BRITISH ARMY: Troops in Egypt. (Hospital Transport). DARDANELLES. INDIA: Defence of India Act (Punjab).—Punjab (Newspapers).—Martial Law. (May 13).

ARMY CHAPLAINS, INDIA (ALLOWANCES). (May 14).

The Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Lieutenant Jabotinsky, who was recently sentenced in Jerusalem by a British Military Court, is being regarded as a hero. A sum of £300 has already been collected for him in Jerusalem, and his name, together with the names of fifteen others recently sentenced, are to be recorded by the National Jewish Fund.

PROPERTY FOR SALE.

IN COUNTY OF KENT.—FREEHOLD, £12,000.—A gentleman's well-planned MODERN RESIDENCE, containing 6 bedrooms, with excellent offices and outbuildings, including garage, stabling, and three cottages, all in good repair; tennis lawn, rock garden, etc., and 22 acres of young fruit plantations, highly cultivated and in profitable bearing condition. The house is so arranged as to admit of its being added to at comparatively small expense. Situation—300 feet above sea level, on a slope facing due South. Perfect natural drainage, the soil being of a loamy character overlying the ragstone formation; 2½-3 miles from two railway stations, 3 from golf links, and 30 from London. Close to Church, Post Office, and Auto-Car Service. The district is particularly favourable for fruit growing, and opportunities but seldom occur for acquiring a property of such exceptional character.—Write Box "Z," THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

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THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1920.

THE TURKISH TREATY.

Save that the Sultan is allowed to remain—*magni nominis umbra*—in Constantinople, the Peace terms presented last week by the Allied Powers to Turkey could hardly have been more stern. Like the Dual Monarchy, of which she reproduced in an immeasurably worse form all the vices and anomalies, she ceases to exist as a Great Power. Ten years ago her frontiers in Europe still stretched to the Danube. Now they are confined within the small strip behind the lines of Chatalja. What remained to her of Thrace after the Balkan wars goes to Greece, and even the sovereignty still to be exercised by the Sultan at Constantinople will be more nominal than real. In Asia only the "homelands" of the Turkish race in Asia Minor are left under direct Turkish rule—and even then subject to manifold restrictions. The exact frontiers of the new and independent Armenian State and of a new, and autonomous, and, in the future, possibly even also independent Kurdish State to the south of it, have still to be settled, as to the former, by the President of the United States as arbitrator, and as to the latter by an Allied Commission; but in both cases Turkey must bind herself beforehand to accept them. Smyrna and an important territory with a sea-frontage of over 100 miles, and in some places stretching almost as far into the interior, are committed to Greek administration, though Turkish sovereignty will be formally preserved until such time as the local Parliament may, not less than five years hence, demand through the League of Nations, and subject possibly to a plebiscite, definite incorporation with the Hellenic Kingdom. Starting from the Gulf of Edremid on the Ægean Sea to the north of the above territory, another long strip of territory, extending in Asia to the Black Sea, and including in Europe the Gallipoli peninsula and the southern shores of the Sea of Marmora, so as to cover the Straits and their approaches, is reserved for special administration under an international "Commission of the Straits" to which the Turkish and Greek Governments shall delegate, as far as each of them is concerned—the former in Asia Minor, the latter in Thrace—all the powers necessary to ensure perpetual freedom of navigation for the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmora, and the Bosphorus in peace and in war. Turkey is to surrender the whole of her Arab-speaking provinces, of which the northern boundary is to be drawn from the mouth of the Sihun River on the Mediterranean, eastward between Marash and Aintab and along, but some thirty miles to the north of, the Baghdad Railway. Turkey is to recognise specifically the independence of the Hejaz, the British Protectorate over Egypt, the French Protectorate in Tunis and Morocco, and Italian sovereignty in Libya, and to renounce all rights and titles she may hitherto have possessed or claimed in those regions. She is to surrender also all her insular possessions in the Mediterranean, the Dodecanese and Castellorizzo to Italy, who now occupies them, Cyprus to Great Britain, who annexed the island in 1914, and the rest to Greece. She is to have in future no Navy and no Air Force, and her Army—which is not to exceed 50,000 men—is to be reduced to the status and functions of a gendarmerie. With the conditions that place her under a drastic financial and economic tutelage we shall deal on another occasion.

The Turkish Government has been given a month to consider these terms, and in the meantime we must give the Allies credit for having carefully contemplated the measures by which they intend to enforce them, should the Turkish Nationalists continue their career of violence and seek to terrorise Constantinople into resistance. We cannot believe that the Sultan and his present advisers will be so ill-advised as to reject them, though they will doubtless try to bargain for mitigation. Severe as the terms undoubtedly are, few will deem them too severe. Turkey's wanton entry into the war at Germany's bidding added enormously to its duration and to its appalling cost, especially to ourselves, in blood and treasure. They are not, however, vindictive terms. They are not inspired by any spirit of religious differentiation. They are terms which the rulers of Turkey have themselves demonstrated *ad nauseam* before the war and during the war, and even since the war, to be absolutely necessary if an end is to be put at last to the invariable misrule, accentuated by periodical massacres, which has reduced some of the fairest regions of the old world to anarchy and misery. Our sympathies have naturally gone out to the Christian populations, which have suffered so unspeakably at the hands of their Turkish rulers, but the Mohammedan populations have often suffered only in a lesser degree than their Christian fellow-subjects. To borrow the language of the Prime Minister's admirable reply to an Indian-Mohammedan deputation, "it is not a question of race; it is not a question of Christian; it is not a question of Moslem." Turkey has not been treated on different principles from those which the Allies sought to apply in dealing with their Christian foes. We have imposed very stern and severe terms upon Germany, but she is a Christian country. So is Austria-Hungary, but she has none the less been dismembered, even more completely than Turkey. For to Turkey there remains in Asia Minor a compact territory with a fairly homogeneous Turkish Mohammedan population and great natural resources, which under a reformed Turkish Government and reasonable supervision may still develop into a respectable and useful State.

That the Sultan's flag will still fly over Constantinople is undoubtedly a signal proof of the anxiety of the Allies to meet the wishes of large numbers of Mohammedans who, though not his subjects, revere his authority as Khalif. So long as Mohammedans choose to recognise his spiritual authority and are content to recognise it as something apart from his temporal authority, Great Britain will certainly be the last Power to treat it disrespectfully. It is difficult to understand how the question of the Khalifate has come to be mixed up in Mohammedan minds with the possession of Constantinople. But it is a question that concerns Mohammedans alone. For our own part we would only submit this one point, and with all due deference, to the consideration of thoughtful Mohammedans. It was under Selim I., the conqueror of Egypt, who first assumed the title of Khalif, surrendered to him by a weakly descendant of the Abbaside Khalifs in Cairo, that the Ottoman Empire reached its apogee some four centuries ago. Even during the brilliant reign of his successor, Soliman the Magnificent, it began to know defeat under the walls of Vienna and at Malta. Since then twenty degenerescent Sultans who have borne the title of Khalif have brought down to final ruin the mighty fabric reared by their predecessors before they claimed to be Khalifs. Can it be seriously maintained that the Khalifate has been a source of material strength to the Sultanate, or that the Sultanate has enhanced the spiritual authority of the Khalifate? A terrible Nemesis has overtaken Turkey, but it has been of her own seeking. Let us hope that she will bow to it with the fine resignation which is one of the loftiest teachings of her own faith. Then, when she has mended her ways will be the time for her to apply through the League of Nations, of which she will have become a member, for a remission of many restraints no longer necessary.

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PEACE TERMS FOR TURKEY.

Principal Conditions.

The Draft Treaty of Peace was handed to the Turkish Delegates in Paris on May 11. We give below some of the principal clauses, bearing chiefly on territorial readjustments; while other clauses, dealing with financial and economic arrangements, will be found on another page. The Covenant of the League of Nations is included in the Treaty, of which it forms Part I., as is the Labour Convention, which is contained in Part XII. The following particulars are based upon the official summary of the Treaty:—

PART II.

The Boundaries of Turkey.

The boundaries of Turkey are described in two articles, one dealing with Turkey in Europe and the other with Turkey in Asia. The frontier of Turkey in Europe is approximately that of the Chatalja lines, the northern half of these lines being, however, advanced in a north-westerly direction so as to include within the boundaries of Turkey the whole area of Lake Derkos, which is a reservoir for the supply of water to Constantinople.

The boundaries of Turkey in Asia remain much the same, but the southern frontier is altered; south of the Sea of Marmora a strip of land is taken into the "Zone of the Straits" (see below), and around Smyrna a Greek administrative zone is created (see section dealing with Smyrna). The boundaries are described in detail in the Treaty in so far as they are not left to be settled by Boundary Commissions on the spot. Provision is also made in the Treaty for a possible modification of the present frontier between Turkey and the independent State of Armenia—viz., the former Russo-Turkish frontier in this region, by reference to the arbitration of the President of the United States regarding a new boundary for Armenia in the vilayets of Trebizond, Erzerum, Van, and Bitlis.

PART III.—POLITICAL CLAUSES.

Constantinople.

Subject to the provisions of the Treaty, the parties agree to the maintenance of Turkish sovereignty over Constantinople, but a reservation is made that, if Turkey fails to observe the provisions of the Treaty or of supplementary Treaties or Conventions, particularly as regards the protection of minorities, the Allied Powers may modify the above provisions, and Turkey agrees to accept any dispositions which may be made in this connection.

The Straits.

The navigation of the Straits, including the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmora, and the Bosphorus, is to be open in future both in peace and war to every vessel of commerce or of war, and to military and commercial aircraft, without distinction of flag. These waters are not to be subject to blockade, and no belligerent right is to be exercised, nor any act of hostility committed within them unless in pursuance of a decision of the Council of the League of Nations.

A "Commission of the Straits" is established with control over these waters, to which both the Turkish and Greek Governments delegate the necessary powers. The Commission is composed of representatives appointed respectively by the United States of America (if and when that Government is willing to participate), the British Empire, France, Italy, Japan, Russia (if and when Russia becomes a member of the League of Nations), Greece, Roumania, and Bulgaria (if and when Bulgaria becomes a member of the League of Nations). Each Power is to appoint one representative, but the representative of the United States, the British Empire, France, Italy, Japan, and Russia have two votes each, and the representatives of the other three Powers one vote each.

The Commission exercises its authority in complete independence of the local authority, with its own flag, budget, and separate organisation. The Commission is charged with the execution of any works necessary for the improvement of the channels or the approaches to harbours, lighting and buoying, the control of pilotage and towage, the control of anchorages, the control necessary to assure the execution in the ports of Constantinople and Haidar Pasha of the régime laid down in that part of the Treaty relating to ports, waterways, and railways, and the control of all matters relating to wrecks and salvage and lighterage.

In the case of threats to the freedom of passage of the Straits, special provision is made for appeal by the Commission to the representatives at Constantinople of Great Britain, France, and Italy, which Powers, under the military provisions of the Treaty, provide forces for the occupation of the zone of the Straits. These representatives will concert with the naval and military commanders of the Allied forces the necessary measures, whether the threat comes from within or without the zone of the Straits.

Provision is also made for the acquisition of property or permanent works by the Commission, the raising of loans, the levying of dues on shipping in the Straits, the transfer to the Commission of the functions exercised within the waters of the Straits by the Constantinople Superior Council of Health, the Turkish Sanitary Administration, and the National Life Boat Service of the Bosphorus, and the relations of the Commission with persons or companies now holding concessions relating to lighthouses, docks, quays, or similar matters are laid down.

The Commission is empowered to raise a special police force, and provision is made for dealing with infringements of the regulations and by-laws of the Commission by the appropriate local Courts, whether Consular, Turkish, or Greek.

A special article lays down that all dues and charges imposed by the Commission shall be levied without any discrimination and on a footing of absolute equality between all vessels, whatever their port of origin or destination or departure, their flag or ownership, or the nationality or the ownership of their cargoes.

Articles analogous to the relevant provisions of the Suez Canal Convention of 1888 deal with the transit of warships, prizes, the passage of belligerent warships, and their stay within the waters under the control of the Commission as well as their repair or replenishment with supplies or the completion of their crews, but the freedom of action of belligerents acting in pursuance of a decision of the Council of the League of Nations is specially reserved. Further regulations are to be laid down by the League of Nations regarding the passage of war material and contraband destined for the enemies of Turkey and other kindred matters.

Kurdistan.

Turkey accepts in advance a scheme of local autonomy for the predominantly Kurdish areas, east of the Euphrates, south of the southern frontier of Armenia, as eventually fixed, and north of the southern frontier of Turkey, to be drafted by a Commission composed of British, French, and Italian representatives sitting at Constantinople. This scheme is to protect the rights of Assyro-Chaldeans and other racial or religious minorities within the above area, and with this object provision is also made for a possible rectification of the Turkish frontier, where that frontier coincides with that of Persia.

Secondly, the Treaty provides for an appeal for complete independence, within a stated time to the Council of the League of Nations by the Kurdish peoples within the above area, and for the grant of such independence by Turkey, if recommended by the Council. In that event the Kurds inhabiting that part of Kurdistan which has hitherto been included in the Mosul vilayet are to be allowed, if they so desire, to adhere to the independent Kurdish State.

Smyrna.

The Turkish Government agrees to transfer to the Greek Government the exercise of her rights of sovereignty over a special area round the city of Smyrna. In witness of Turkish sovereignty the Turkish flag is to be flown on one of the forts outside Smyrna. The Greek Government is to be responsible for the administration of the area, may keep troops there to maintain order, may include the area in the Greek Customs system, and is to establish a local Parliament on the basis of a scheme of proportional representation of minorities which is to be submitted to the Council of the League of Nations, and only to come into force after approval by a majority of the Council. The elections may be postponed for a limited period to allow the return of inhabitants banished or deported by the Turkish authorities.

Special provisions are included regarding the protection of minorities, the nationality of the inhabitants in the area and their protection abroad, the suspension of compulsory military service, freedom of commerce and transit, the use of the port of Smyrna by Turkey, the currency of the area, financial obligations, and the salt mines of Phocoea.

Finally, after five years, the local Parliament may ask the Council of the League of Nations for the incorporation of the area in the kingdom of Greece, and the Council may impose a plebiscite, but, if such incorporation is granted, Turkey agrees in advance to renounce all her rights to the territory in favour of Greece.

Greece.

Turkey renounces in favour of Greece her rights and titles over Turkish territory in Europe outside the frontier shown on the attached map, as well as over Imbros, Tenedos, Lemnos, Samothrace, Mytilene, Samos, Nikaria, and Chios, and certain other islands in the Ægean. In the zone of the Straits the Greek Government accepts practically the same obligations as are imposed on Turkey. Provision is made for a separate Treaty to be signed by Greece, protecting racial, linguistic and religious minorities in her new territories, particularly at Adrianople, and safeguarding freedom of transit and equitable treatment of the commerce of other nations. Greece also assumes certain financial obligations.

Armenia.

Turkey recognises Armenia as a free and independent State, and agrees to accept the arbitration of the President of the United States of America upon the question of the frontier between Turkey and Armenia in the vilayets of Erzerum, Trebizond, Van, and Bitlis, and upon Armenia's access to the sea.

Provision is made for the obligations and rights, which may pass to Armenia as the result of the award of the President giving former Turkish territory to her, for the eventual delimitation of the Armenian frontiers in Turkey as a result of the arbitration and of the Armenian frontiers with Georgia and Azerbaijan, failing direct agreement on the subject by the three States, and for a separate Treaty to be signed by Armenia protecting racial, linguistic, and religious minorities, and safeguarding freedom of transit and equitable treatment for the commerce of other nations.

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Syria and Mesopotamia.

Syria and Mesopotamia are provisionally recognised by the High Contracting Parties as independent States in accordance with Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, subject to the tendering of administrative advice and assistance by a mandatory until they are able to stand alone. The boundaries of the States and the selection of mandatories will be fixed by the principal Allied Powers.

Palestine.

By the application of the provisions of Article 22 of the Covenant, the administration of Palestine is also entrusted to a mandatory. The selection of the mandatory and the determination of the frontiers of Palestine will be made by the Principal Allied Powers. The declaration originally made on November 2, 1917, by the British Government, and adopted by the other Allied Governments, in favour of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine is reaffirmed, and its terms cited in the Treaty. Provision is also made for a special Commission, with a chairman appointed by the League of Nations, to study and regulate all questions and claims relating to the different religious communities in Palestine.

The terms of the mandates will be drafted by the Principal Allied Powers and submitted to the Council of the League of Nations for approval.

The Hejaz.

Turkey, in accordance with the action already taken by the Allied Powers, recognises the Hejaz as a free and independent State, and transfers to the Hejaz her sovereign rights over territory outside the boundaries of the former Turkish Empire and within the boundaries of the Hejaz as shall ultimately be fixed.

In view of the sacred character of the cities and Holy Places of Mecca and Medina in the eyes of all Moslems, the King of the Hejaz undertakes to ensure free and easy access thereto of Moslems of every country, desiring to go there on pilgrimages and for other religious objects, and respect for pious foundations. Provision is also made for complete commercial equality in the territory of the Hejaz as regards the new States in Turkey and all States, members of the League of Nations.

Egypt, Sudan and Cyprus.

Turkey renounces all rights and titles over Egypt as from November 5, 1914, and recognises the Protectorate proclaimed by Great Britain over Egypt on December 18, 1914. Special clauses provide for the acquisition of Egyptian nationality by Turkish subjects, and their right to opt for Turkish nationality, for the treatment of Egypt and Egyptian nationals, their goods and vessels, on the same footing as the Allied Powers and their nationals, for the protection of Egyptian nationals abroad by Great Britain, for the renunciation in favour of Great Britain of the powers conferred upon the Sultan of Turkey by the Convention signed at Constantinople on October 29, 1888, regarding the Suez Canal, for the treatment of property belonging to the Turkish Government and Turkish nationals in Egypt, for the renunciation by Turkey of all claim to the tribute formerly paid by Egypt, and for the acceptance by Great Britain of Turkey's liability for Turkish loans secured on the Egyptian tribute.

The High Contracting Parties take note of the convention between the British and Egyptian Governments of January 19, 1899, and the supplementary convention of July 10, 1899, regarding the status and administration of the Sudan.

The High Contracting Parties also recognise the annexation of Cyprus proclaimed by the British Government on November 5, 1914. Turkey renounces all rights over the island, including the right to tribute formerly paid by that island to the Sultan, and provision is made for the acquisition of British nationality by Turkish nationals born or habitually resident in Cyprus.

Morocco: Tunis.

Turkey recognises the French Protectorate in Morocco as from March 30, 1912, and the French Protectorate over Tunis as from May 12, 1881. Moroccan and Tunisian goods entering Turkey shall be subject to the same treatment as French goods.

Libya, Ægean Islands.

Turkey renounces all rights and privileges left to the Sultan in Libya under the Treaty of Lausanne of October 12, 1912. Turkey also renounces in favour of Italy all rights and titles over the Dodecanese, now in the occupation of Italy, and also over the island of Castellorizzo.

Nationality.

Detailed provisions are inserted in the Treaty for regulating the status of Turkish subjects habitually resident in territory detached by the Treaty from Turkey. These follow generally the lines of analogous provisions inserted in the Treaty with Austria.

General Provision.

Under this heading Turkey recognises and accepts all other Treaties and supplementary Conventions with other enemy States, and with States now existing or coming into existence in future in the whole or part of the former Russian Empire, as well as the abrogation of the Brest-Litovsk Treaties, and of all Treaties, Conventions, and Agreements made by Turkey with the Bolshevist Government in Russia. Special provision is made for Turkey's acceptance of a scheme of judicial reform (on the lines either of a mixed or unified system) to be drafted by the Principal Allied Powers with the assistance of technical experts of the other capitulatory Powers, Allied or neutral. This scheme shall replace the present capitulatory system in judicial matters in Turkey. Clauses also provide for an amnesty by Turkey to Turkish subjects assisting the Allies during the war, and for the renunciation by Turkey of all rights of suzerainty or jurisdiction over Moslems who are subject to the sovereignty or protectorate of any other State.

PART IV.—PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

Turkey is to assure full and complete protection of life and liberty to all inhabitants of Turkey without distinction of birth, nationality, language, race, or religion. Special provision is made for the annulment of forcible conversions to Islam during the war and for the search and delivery, under the ægis of Mixed Commissions appointed by the League of Nations, of all persons in Turkey of whatever race or religion, carried off, interned, or placed in captivity during the war, and for future agreements with Turkey and other States regarding reciprocal or voluntary emigration of persons belonging to racial minorities.

The law of abandoned properties, 1915, is to be repealed, and Turkey agrees to certain measures of restitution and reparation, controlled by Mixed Arbitral Commissions appointed by the League of Nations, in favour of subjects of non-Turkish race who have suffered during the war. These Commissions will have power generally to arrange for carrying out works of reconstruction, the removal of undesirable persons from different localities, the disposal of property belonging to members of a community who have died or disappeared during the war without leaving heirs, and for the cancellation of forced sales of property during the war.

This chapter further safeguards by special provisions the civil and political rights of minorities, the free use of their language, their right to establish without interference by the Turkish authorities, educational, religious, and charitable institutions, and their ecclesiastical and scholastic autonomy. The measures necessary to guarantee the execution of this chapter of the Treaty are to be decided upon by the principal Allied Powers in consultation with the Council of the League of Nations, and Turkey accepts in advance any decisions that may be taken on the subject.

PARTS V., VI. and VII.

The fifth part contains the military, naval, and air clauses of the Treaty. The Turkish armies are to be demobilised within three months of the signing of the Treaty and her armed forces are to be limited to: (1) A force of gendarmerie of 35,000 men to be distributed over Turkish territory; (2) special elements intended for the reinforcement of the gendarmerie in case of serious trouble, 15,000 men; and (3) the Sultan's Bodyguard, 700 men. Compulsory recruiting is to be abolished, and very strict limitations are imposed as to armament, munitions, and material of war, their manufacture and importation.

For the purpose of guaranteeing the freedom of the Straits all works, fortifications, and batteries are to be demolished within a zone extending 20 kilometres inland from the coasts of the Sea of Marmora and of the Straits, and comprising the islands of the Sea of Marmora, also the islands of Lemnos, Imbros, Samothrace, Tenedos, and Mitlyene.

The construction of similar works or of roads or railways suitable for the rapid transport of mobile batteries is forbidden; France, Great Britain, and Italy have the right to prepare for demolition any existing roads and railways which might be utilised to this end, and to maintain such military forces within the zone as they may consider necessary; otherwise the zone is not to be used for military purposes. This provision does not exclude the employment of forces of Greek and Turkish gendarmerie, which will be under the Inter-Allied command of the forces of occupation, nor the presence of the Sultan's Bodyguard.

The Turkish navy is to be abolished, except for certain vessels retained for peace and fishery duties. The *personnel* for these services is to be recruited on a voluntary and long service basis.

The Turkish air force is to be suppressed.

Part VI. regulates the return of prisoners of war, and imposes obligations on the signatory Powers for the maintenance of the graves of soldiers and sailors buried in their territory. There is to be reciprocal exchange of information as to dead prisoners and their graves.

Part VII. deals with penalties for those who have committed acts in violation of the laws and customs of war and those who were responsible for the massacres in Turkey during the war. The Turkish Government undertakes to surrender such persons to the Allies for trial by a tribunal of the League of Nations, if such tribunal has been created by the League in time.

[Part XIII., containing miscellaneous provisions, is unavoidably held over until next week.]

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The most important provision in the financial clauses of the Turkish Treaty is that which arranges for the establishment of a Financial Commission composed of representatives of France, Great Britain, and Italy, with the addition of a Turkish representative in a consultative capacity, with a view to the introduction of such measures as the Commission may judge most suitable for restoring Turkish finances. Whether this was the best way of meeting what was admittedly a most difficult position, must be a matter of opinion. The functions of the Commission as proposed are very comprehensive, and will include the preliminary examination of Turkish Budgets, which may not be applied without its approval, the supervision of the execution of the budgets and financial laws and regulations of Turkey, and the termination of the measures to be taken with a view to improving the Turkish currency. In addition, it is provided that the Turkish Government may not establish any new form of taxation, modify its customs system, or contract any internal or external loan without the Commission's consent, which will be equally required for the grant of new concessions in Turkey.

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Apart from the establishment of the Financial Commission, special interest attaches to the economic clauses, and to those dealing with railway questions. As was to be expected, provision is made for enabling the Allies to eliminate German economic penetration in Turkey, and special provisions are included to enable the acquisition of the property of railway companies under German control. As regards railway administration, when a new railway convention has replaced the Berne Convention, it will be binding on Turkey, and in the meantime the latter regulations remain in force. Turkey is to co-operate in the establishment of passenger and luggage services with direct booking between Allied States over her territory under favourable conditions, as well as emigrant train services. Provision is also made for the handing over of the installations of lines in transferred territory, and of an equitable proportion of rolling stock for use on these lines.

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In the course of a notable speech at the meeting of the Ionian Bank, Sir John Stavridi, the chairman, said that the business of the bank during the past year had reflected the general commercial and financial conditions prevailing in Greece and Egypt. He pointed out that the expansion in the volume of the transactions had continued, but particularly in the case of the bank's operations in Greece this expansion had been accompanied by an element of risk which had been absent from these transactions in the preceding three or four years. It is satisfactory to note his excellent report with regard to the bank's progress in Egypt. Conditions there during the period were somewhat difficult, while the bank had to meet keener competition there than ever before. Despite this, the bank's operations increased in volume, and were uniformly successful; and during the year three new sub-agencies were opened, one of which was subsequently converted into a full agency.

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The incidence of double income-tax was one of the important questions raised by Sir John Stavridi. The Ionian Bank is a British institution, but it naturally has large numbers of Greek shareholders. In Greece, where the bulk of its business is done, it is treated as a national undertaking by the Government, and is subject to the usual taxes, so that Greek shareholders are in the unfortunate position of having to pay twice on what they receive. This double income-tax is a very old problem here, though Sir John has raised it in a new form. Clearly when anything is done in regard to relieving those on whom this practice presses, this is one of the cases that should receive attention.

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I am glad to see that special emphasis was laid by Sir John on the great opening for the development of British trade with Greece. It is a point on which too much stress cannot be laid, for British manufacturers are unhappily only too conservative in their outlook, and having left the Near Eastern markets more or less alone before the war it is literally necessary to din into their ears the reasons why it is essential that they should enter them now. As Sir John aptly pointed out, the outstanding success of the Athens Exhibition showed what could be done, and it is now "up to" British traders in general to see that the Greek market is not neglected. Given proper steps to cater for its requirements, it is Sir John's view that most of the trade will fall to this country. Will British manufacturers please note?

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Among the measures suggested for the promotion of British trade with Greece, Sir John suggests the provision of improved shipping facilities. It would be advisable, he thinks, to establish a line between Greece and England. This should not be a difficult matter to arrange, for whatever may be said of some of our manufacturers our shipping companies have never been lacking in enterprise, and the lines already serving the Near East afford ample proof that it will be no fault of theirs if British traders are not as successful as they might be in that region.

***

Improved results were achieved by the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., during the past year, despite the effect of the disturbances in the spring. There was an increase of £7,823 in the gross receipts from the cattle market, while the gross receipts from the general markets amounted to £24,172, as against £23,188. There was also a slight increase in the net receipts from the slaughter houses, but the net profit from the trading showed a decrease of £4,736, which was largely due to the termination of war contracts for the supply of fodder. The total net revenue amounted to £34,911, an increase of £3,202. From this total £7,621 is deducted to meet payment of the Government share of profits, leaving £27,290, to which has to be added £10,483 brought forward, making the disposable balance £37,774. After deducting the fixed charges for amortisation and the debenture interest, and allocating £1,000 to the reserve, there remains £30,145, which it is proposed to utilise to pay a final dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £10,780.

***

If the efforts now being made to develop agriculture in Egypt are to be successful, it follows that a much greater use will have to be made in the future of chemical manures. Egypt has hitherto been dependent on foreign countries for artificial manures, her imports amounting to something like 70,000 tons a year. Before the war a project was on foot for utilising the water of the Assuan Dam for the production of nitrates. It is understood that this scheme is again receiving attention in view of the increased need for manures in the future, and it is regarded as probable that steps will be taken to carry it out.

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The development of agriculture in Cyprus has been retarded by the contentment of the rural population with established conditions. From information which reaches me, it would appear that that phase is passing in the Island, and that agriculturists are opening their eyes to the need for improvements in their industry.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE TURKISH PEACE TERMS.

Financial and Economic Clauses.

According to the official summary, the following are the principal financial and economic provisions of the draft Treaty of Peace handed to the Turkish delegates:—

Financial Clauses.

This part of the Treaty begins by a declaration reproduced from the Treaties already signed by Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria. Turkey thereby recognises that in associating in the war of aggression waged against the Allied Powers she has caused them losses for which she ought to make complete reparation; nevertheless, in view of her loss of territory the Powers will be satisfied with obtaining payment of the claims enumerated later in the chapter. All the resources of Turkey, except revenues ceded or hypothecated to the service of the Ottoman Public Debt, are to be employed as need arises for effecting the following payments set forth in order of priority.

1. Ordinary expenses of the Allied Forces of Occupation after the entry into force of the Treaty.

2. Expenses of the Allied Forces of Occupation since October 30 in the territories remaining Turkish, and expenses of occupation in the territories detached from Turkey to the advantage of a Power other than that which has supported such expenses of occupation.

The expenses covered by the preceding paragraph will be discharged by annuities calculated in a manner to enable Turkey to meet any deficiency that may arise in the sums required to pay that part of the interest on the Ottoman Public Debt for which Turkey remains responsible.

3. Indemnities due on account of claims of the Allied Powers for reparation for damages suffered by their nationals.

The Turkish Government agrees to the financial indemnification of all the losses or damages suffered by the civilian nationals of the Allied Powers during the war and up to the entry into force of the Treaty.

The Powers, in favour of whom territories are detached from Turkey, acquire without payment all properties and possessions situated therein and registered in the name of the Turkish Empire or the Sultan's civil list. The Powers in favour of whom territories are detached from the Turkish Empire shall participate in the annual charge for the service of the Ottoman Public Debt.

The Governments of the States of the Balkan Peninsula and the newly created States in Asia shall give adequate guarantees for the payment of the share which falls to them. The distribution of these annual charges is to be made in proportion to the average revenue of the transferred territory in relation to the total revenues of Turkey during the three years preceding the Balkan war. The same methods are to be applied for the calculation of the charges affected to the service of the Ottoman Public Debt, allotted to the Powers who have acquired Turkish territory as a result of the Balkan wars.

Financial Control.

A Financial Commission composed of a representative of each of the interested Allied Powers, France, Great Britain, and Italy, to whom is added a Turkish representative in a consultative capacity, is created in Turkey with a view to take such measures as the Commission may judge most suitable for restoring Turkish finances Its principal functions are the following:—

Preliminary examination of Turkish budgets, which may not be applied without its approval; supervision over the execution of the budgets and financial laws and regulations of Turkey; the termination of the measures to be taken with a view to improving the Turkish currency.

Further, the Turkish Government may not establish any new form of taxation, modify its customs system, or contract any internal or external loan without the consent of the Financial Commission. The consent of the Commission is equally required for the grant of new concessions in Turkey by the Turkish Government.

A clause provides that ultimately the Financial Commission may be substituted for the Council of the Debt as regards the administration of the conceded revenues. This substitution shall be decided by the Governments of France, Great Britain, and Italy, by a majority and after consulting the bond-holders, and this decision shall be taken at least six months before expiration of the powers of the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt.

In particular, as regards the execution of the present Treaty, it shall be the duty of the Financial Commission to fix the annuities to be paid by the Turkish Government for the reimbursement of the expenses of occupation and the settlement of the claims for reparation due to the nationals of the Allied Powers, to determine the amount of the annuities for the service of the Ottoman Public Debt to be placed to the charge of those Powers in whose favour territories are detached from Turkey, and to arrange for the disposal of the sums in gold transferred by Germany and Austria in execution of Article 259 (1), (2), (4), (7) of the Treaty of Peace with Germany and of Article 210 (1) of the Treaty of Peace with Austria.

Economic Clauses.

Commercial relations between the Allies and Turkey will be regulated, generally speaking, by the Capitulatory Régime, which is re-established in favour of the Allies who enjoyed it before the war and extended to the other Allies. The rate of Customs duty is to be that fixed in 1907, i.e., 11 per cent. ad valorem. Wide powers are, however, given to the Financial Commission set up under the Treaty to authorise modifications of import duties, the imposition of consumption duties, the application to Allied subjects and their property of taxes imposed on Turkish subjects and their property, and the imposition of prohibitions on importation and exportation. Such action can only be taken after six months' notice in each case to all the Allies.

The provisions with regard to the recognition of shipping documents and of the flags of new States, with regard to unfair trade competition, and with regard to pre-war multilateral and bilateral treaties, and with regard to the protection of industrial, literary, and artistic property follow the general lines of the corresponding articles in former Treaties of Peace.

As in the case of previous Treaties of Peace, the Allies reserve the right to liquidate Turkish property in their territories and to hold the proceeds as a pledge for the payment by Turkey of compensation for damage to Allied property in Turkey during the war and the settlement of pre-war private debts. So far as the claims against the Turkish Government are not satisfied from this source they are to be met in accordance with the financial clauses from any surplus available of Turkish revenues from time to time. It should be mentioned that in the case of territory detached from Turkey by the Treaty the right to liquidate is limited to the property of Turkish companies, and does not extend to the property of Turkish individuals.

The Treaty contains provisions for enabling the Allies, if they think fit, to eliminate German, Austrian, Hungarian, or Bulgarian economic penetration in Turkey, by requiring the Turkish Government to liquidate the property of the nationals of those countries in Turkish territory and by themselves liquidating it in territory detached from Turkey. In both cases the general principle is that the proceeds of the liquidation shall be paid to the owners, except where the property was Government property, in which case they will be paid to the Reparation Commissions set up under former Treaties of Peace.

Special provisions are included in order to enable the acquisition of the property of railway companies under German control. In detached territories the disposal of such property will rest with the Government controlling such territories. In Turkey itself the Financial Commission will have the disposal of it, the price being fixed by arbitration. In both cases the proceeds of sale will be distributed by the Financial Commission to such neutrals as are entitled to a share thereof, the share of Germans, Austrians, etc., being paid over to the respective Reparation Commissions.

The complicated provisions of former Treaties for the settlement of pre-war debts through clearing houses have not been repeated, the only provision with regard to the settlement of such debts being one which fixes the pre-war rate of exchange for the purpose of the settlement of all debts between Turkish subjects in Turkey and Allies not resident or carrying on business in Turkey.

As regards pre-war contracts between Allies and Turks the general principle is to maintain or dissolve them and to decide any question relative thereto according to the law of the particular Allied country concerned in each case. The detailed provisions relative to particular descriptions of contracts follow those in the preceding treaties.

Provisions are included in the Treaty for safeguarding the interests in Turkey of Allies who hold pre-war concessions from the Turkish Government. Concessions granted by the Turkish Government during the war need not be recognised by the Allies in detached territories, whilst other provisions enable new States placed under a mandate to put an end to pre-war concessions if thought desirable in the public interest on payment of equitable compensation to be fixed by arbitration. For this purpose, and for the purpose of all other economic clauses, Turkish companies which were actually under Allied control before the war are treated as Allied nationals.

Aerial Navigation.

Turkey agrees to accord the aircraft of the Allied Powers full liberty of passage and landing over and in the territory and territorial waters of Turkey, freedom of transit, the use of all aerodromes in Turkey open to national public traffic, and equal treatment generally in these matters with Turkish aircraft and most favoured nation treatment as regards internal commercial air traffic. Turkey also undertakes to establish aerodromes in localities designated by the Allied Powers, and the Allies reserve the right in certain eventualities to take measures to ensure international aerial navigation over the territory and territorial waters of Turkey.

States who fought on Turkey's side in the late war are debarred from these privileges and from the grant, without Allied consent, of concessions for civil aerial navigation, unless and until they become members of the League of Nations or are permitted to adhere to the Convention of October 13, 1919, regarding aerial navigation. Turkey agrees to enforce the compliance by Turkish aircraft with the rules and regulations resulting from the latter Convention. The obligations imposed by this chapter remain in force until Turkey is admitted to the League of Nations or permitted to adhere to the above-mentioned Convention.

Ports, Waterways, and Railways.

Turkey is required to grant freedom of transit and national treatment to persons, goods, vessels, rolling stock, etc., coming from or going to any Allied State and passing in transit through Turkish territories. Goods in transit are to be free of all Customs or other similar duties. Rates of transport are to be reasonable, and no charges or facilities are to depend directly

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or indirectly on the ownership or nationality of the vessel or other means of transport. Provision is made against discrimination by control of transmigrant traffic and indirect discrimination of any kind is prohibited.

International transport is to be expedited, particularly for perishable traffic. Discrimination in transport charges or facilities against Allied ports is prohibited. The following Eastern ports are declared to be of international interest, but, subject to any provisions to the contrary, the régime laid down does not prejudice the territorial sovereignty:—Constantinople, from St. Stefano to Dolma Bagtchi, Haida-Pasha, Smyrna, Alexandretta, Haifa, Basreh, Trebizond, and Batum. The nationals, goods, and flags of all States members of the League of Nations are to enjoy complete freedom in the use of these ports, and they are to be accorded absolute equality of treatment, particularly as regards all charges and facilities.

Provision is made for "free" zones in the above-mentioned ports, and adequate facilities are to be provided for trade requirements without distinction of nationality. With the exception of a small statistical duty, no Customs duties or analogous charges are to be levied in the "free" zones.

In order to ensure to Turkey free access to the Mediterranean and Ægean Seas, she is accorded freedom of transit over the territories and in the ports severed from the former Ottoman Empire. Turkey is also granted a lease in perpetuity subject to determination by the League of Nations, of an area in the port of Smyrna, which is to be placed under the general régime of "free" zones.

Free access to the Black Sea by the port of Batum is accorded to Georgia, Azerbaijan, Persia, and Armenia; and Armenia is granted similar facilities in respect of the port of Trebizond, in which port she obtains a lease of an area on similar conditions to those which apply to Turkey in the case of Smyrna.

Railways.

The railway clauses provide that, subject to the rights of concessionaire companies, goods consigned from or to Allied States to or from Turkey, or in transit through Turkey, are entitled generally to the most favourable conditions available. Certain railway tariff questions are dealt with. When a new Railway Convention has replaced the Berne Convention, it will be binding on Turkey; in the meantime, she is to follow the Berne Convention. Turkey is to co-operate in the establishment of passenger and luggage services, with direct booking between Allied States over her territory, under favourable conditions, as well as emigrant train services. Turkey is required to fit her rolling stock with apparatus allowing of its being incorporated in Allied goods trains, and vice versâ, without interfering with the brake system. Provision is made for the handing over of the installations of lines in transferred territory, and of an equitable proportion of rolling stock for use therein. As regards lines, the administration of which will, in virtue of the present Treaty, be divided, allocation of the rolling stock is to be made by agreement between the administrations taking over the several parts thereof. Failing agreement, the points in dispute are to be settled by an arbitrator designated by the League of Nations.

A standing conference of technical representatives nominated by the Governments concerned is to be constituted to agree upon the necessary joint arrangements for through traffic working, wagon exchange, through rates and tariffs, and other similar matters affecting railways situated on territory forming part of the Turkish Empire on August 1, 1914. As a temporary arrangement, Turkey is to execute instructions given in the name of the Allies as to transport of troops, material, munitions, etc., transport for revictualling of certain regions, and re-establishment of normal transport. Turkey is required to subscribe to any General Convention regarding the international régime of transit, waterways, ports, or railways, which may be concluded with the approval of the League of Nations within five years.

Telegraph and Telephone Lines.

Turkey is to grant facilities for the erection and maintenance of trunk telegraph and telephone lines across her territories, and is to accord freedom of transit for telegraphic correspondence and telephonic communications coming from or going to any one of the Allied Powers. This correspondence and these communications are to enjoy national treatment in every respect. Turkey is to transfer the landing rights at Constantinople for the Constantinople-Constanza cable to any administration or company designed by the Allies, and renounces in favour of the Principal Allied Powers all her rights over the Jeddah-Suakin and Cyprus-Latakia cables.

General.

Differences are to be settled by the League of Nations. Certain specified articles—*e.g.*, those providing for equal treatment in matters of transit and transport—are subject to revision by the League of Nations after three years. Failing revision, they will only continue in force in relation to any Allied State which grants reciprocal treatment. It is provided that, unless otherwise expressly laid down in the Treaty, nothing shall prejudice more extensive rights conferred on the nationals of the Allied States by the Capitulations, or by any arrangements which may be substituted therefor.

Egypt's exports for the week ended May 7 included 2,295 bales of cotton, 46,049 ardebs of cotton seed, 47,106 packages of oilcake, 37 bales of wool, 285 bags of gum, and 60,239 bags of onions.

NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

(Affiliated to The British Trade Corporation).

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

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Paid-up Capital, Drs. 3,000,000.

Head Office - ATHENS.

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

COMMERCIAL AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT:
Purchase and sale of goods on account of clients. Warehousing, Advertising and placing foreign products on the market. Agents for foreign companies and large commercial and industrial firms abroad. General Shipping Agents.

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Correspondents throughout Greece.

Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

CAPITAL - Drs. 1,500,000.
RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
Deposits and Credit Accounts, Drs. 100,000,000.

The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

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The Bank of Athens extends special facilities for business with the Near **East** to manufacturers, exporters and importers.

The Bank has offices in all the principal towns in **Greece,** also in **Egypt,** Cairo and Alexandria, in **Cyprus,** Limassol and Nicosia, in **Constantinople,** and in **Smyrna.**

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £1,920,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

London Office: 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.
RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 2,845,010.45.

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Branches:—Piræus, Salonika, Patras, Volo, Syra, Calamata, Corfu, Cephalonia, Candia, Chios, Argos, Pyrgos, Vostizza (Ægion), Nauplia, Larissa.

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT, AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking, Commercial and Stock Exchange business and extends special facilities to traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT:
The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,745,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachma, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 33·85 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·62 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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Branches:

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For COMMERCE, INDUSTRY and SHIPPING.

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The Bank has been established for the encouragement and development of Industry and Commerce, and undertakes every description of banking business.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, April 25.

The Centrale de Devises.

The Cabinet Council has decided that henceforward the Centrale de Devises may only retain one-third of foreign exchange remitted against exports.

All the agencies of the Bulgarian State Agricultural Bank have been raised into branches.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, April 27.

Development of Tripoli.

Speaking at Tripoli in the course of his recent tour in Lebanon, General Gouraud dealt with the development of the town, and said that foremost among the questions of the day was that of the harbour. He had received protests against the project of a small harbour, on the ground that it would prejudicially affect the prospects of the larger harbour scheme which was hoped for. "I would point out," he added, "that the project of a large harbour, which involves the expenditure of several millions, cannot be considered except in a more or less remote future. On the other hand, the small harbour, which does not preclude the eventual construction of the larger harbour, can be realised immediately, and will serve to shelter the small craft, and to facilitate and expedite loading and discharging operations through the installation of suitable and well-equipped quays. Besides the stimulus which the trade of Tripoli will derive from the small harbour, there is little reason to doubt that it would prove the first step towards the creation at a later date of the larger harbour."

Turning to the question of roads, General Gouraud said:—"You know that we have devoted important sums for the development of the road system in this country. Your town is already linked to Beyrout. It will shortly be connected with Latakia, and later on with Alexandretta. From Tripoli to Homs we have in view not only the carriage road, but also the restoring of the railway, not to speak of the project of a coastal railway between Tripoli and Beyrout.

In conclusion, he referred to the development of the rich plain of Tripoli by means of irrigation works, and said that agricultural machinery of high efficiency, which would contribute so richly to the development of that fertile plain, was already ordered.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS (undated).

The Mail Service.

The return to a weekly mail service is not yet contemplated. At present it is only thrice monthly, and in winter this is liable to interruption, just as telegraphic communication sometimes is. Tenders are now invited for this tri-monthly service by steamers of not less than 2,000 tons, which will carry 30 first and 20 second-class passengers, the speed not to be less than 12 knots.

Flour Shortage.

The peasantry still suffer considerably from lack of flour. The Government has recently sold to the needy classes at 52s. per sack; but has raised the price to 72s. Merchants sell their diminishing stocks at 75s. and upwards. At Nicosia large numbers of villagers have presented themselves, clamouring for relief. Some hundreds proceeded to Government House, which is situated a short distance from Nicosia, accompanied by the Hon. L. C. Sevéris, M.C.L. In the absence of the Governor, they laid their complaints before the Chief Secretary. Large numbers betook themselves to the office of the Commissioner, who was not in a position to give supplies. Mr. Sevéris, who urged the pressing need of the applicants, succeeded in obtaining for them an issue of 600 sacks. It is hoped that fresh Australian importations may be made by the Government.

Experimental Plantings.

The good to be derived from the development of village gardens is already being recognised. As an example, reference may be made to an open letter addressed to the Director of Agriculture, which is published by the *Phone tes Kypron* ("Voice of Cyprus"). The writer, Mr. Socrates Michailides, who is President of the School Committee of Evrykhou, the western terminus of the Central Railway, states that the director of the Government garden at Morphou has been directed to plant a number of vines, including sultanas, in the Evrykhou school garden. He points out that this locality (and the whole Solea district) has from early times been found a suitable field for cotton growing, and is not suited for vines. The price of cotton, like that of vine products, has—fortunately for the people—risen, and the commodity is more needed. Would it not therefore be better that the vines (some 1,500) referred to should be planted in the higher villages, where the people devote their energies to wine and raisin manufacture, and that experiments in cotton growing should be tried in the region of Solea? This is only one of many indications of the awakening in villages to more intelligent husbandry in Cyprus, and of the immense good that can be done by the Agricultural Department, if properly backed up, in the expansion of the industry in almost all directions. Several other good letters have lately appeared from villagers.

A FRUIT PEST IN GREECE.

During the last few years the Mediterranean fly (Karatitit Capitata) has caused enormous damage to almost all kinds of fruit and vegetables in Greece. Those most affected are oranges, apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums and tomatoes. In the early autumn the female fly punctures the fruit at the time of its attaining maturity and lays the eggs in the pulp. The eggs develop, causing the fruit to rot and drop. No remedy against this pest has as yet been discovered, states H.M. Consul at Patras. The destruction of the fallen fruit to prevent the spread of the fly, or the more drastic measure of trying to eradicate it by sacrificing one year's yield for the good of coming years, does not appeal to the thrifty class of peasant and land owner.

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„ SALONICA: Cauchi Brothers.
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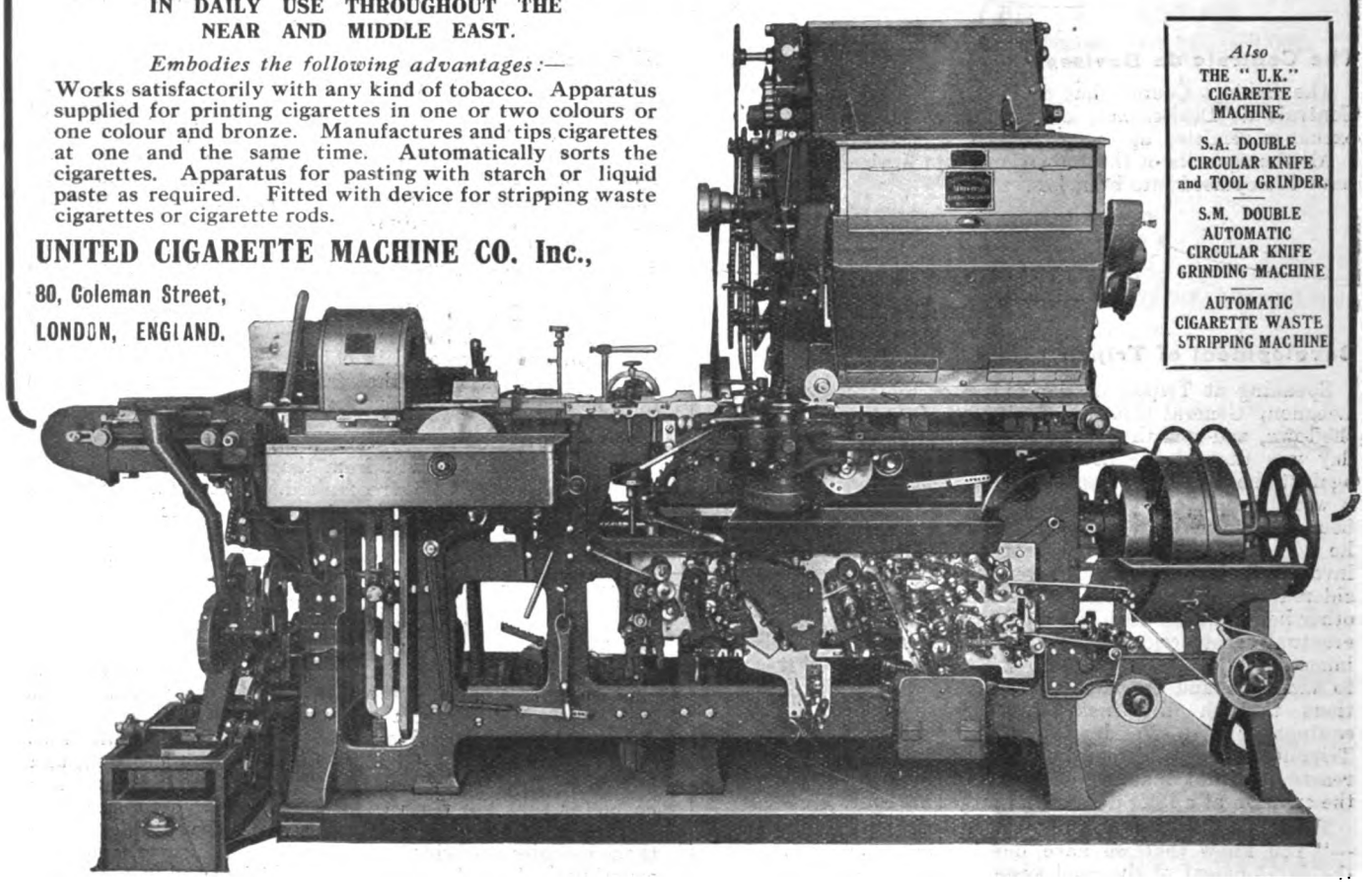

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ENGINEERING.

The New Steel.

A good deal has appeared in the Press recently in connection with the reported discovery of a new steel which was claimed to be not only highly efficient, but to present a number of advantages over steel of the ordinary kinds. It appears that a business arrangement has now been entered into for the purpose of placing the new product on the market. The steel is of the well-known high-speed type, from which the heavy duty cutting tools used in big lathes, milling machines, shapers, and planers are made, and it is known that molybdenum enters into its composition in place of the more generally used tungsten. It is said that an indirect result of the discovery is that the United States has promptly made an attempt to secure control of the known supplies of molybdenite, the ore from which molybdenum is obtained. This may or may not be the case, but the fact that American steel makers are keenly interested in the new process has been clearly demonstrated. It may be mentioned that there are ample supplies of both molybdenum and vanadium ores in the Empire to render this country entirely independent of American sources, provided they are immediately and efficiently worked.

Aluminium Pistons.

An increasingly large number of engineers are now advocating the use of aluminium for pistons in internal combustion engine construction. Aluminium cylinders, with steel liners, have also been suggested, and, as a matter of fact, both aluminium pistons and aluminium cylinders have been used with a large amount of success. It has been found, however, with the larger sizes of cylinders, that the steel liners used are likely to work loose, owing to the different co-efficients of expansion of the steel and the aluminium. As regards the use of the latter metal for piston work, few objections have been raised, and in answer to a point recently raised I may say that the following has been given me as being an alloy particularly suitable for the manufacture of aluminium pistons: Aluminium, 88.50 per cent.; copper, 11.50 per cent. To produce the alloy a hardening alloy of 50 per cent. copper and 50 per cent. aluminium should be made, after which 22.50 per cent. of this should be melted with 77.50 per cent. of pure ingot aluminium.

Light Castings.

I understand that a Light Castings Sectional Committee has been appointed under the Profiteering Act to ascertain to what extent supplies, prices, and costs of light castings in this country are affected by trade combinations. A further object is to ascertain to what extent any trade combinations which may exist affect the manufacturer of light castings. This is a matter which, having a direct bearing on the export engineering trade, is of considerable importance to the well-being of the country, and should any person or firm be in a position to throw any light on matters which have hitherto been somewhat obscure, I am sure the Sectional Committee will be pleased to hear their evidence. Offers of evidence should be sent to the Secretary of the Committee, at 54, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Reinforced Concrete Chimneys.

One of the chief points in connection with reinforced concrete chimneys is their inherent strength. They are monolithic in effect, and there are therefore no joints, which are always a source of trouble unless they are made a special case. From an engineering point of view this strength is their chief recommendation; from a commercial standpoint they possess the advantage of economy, as they cost about 25 per cent. less to build. An interesting and informative paper on the subject was recently read by Professor Matthews, in the course of which he outlined modern practice, and stated that the shell of a reinforced concrete chimney is usually made in two or more thicknesses, the maximum being about 12 or 14 and the minimum about 5 ins. in the cross-section of the walls. It is the general custom to make the base square, but some engineers prefer an octagonal base, which is believed to give greater rigidity. A shaft constructed of this material should be protected against the heat and chemical action of the flue gases by being lined for about one-third or more of the height with fire-brick, the thickness of the lining being about 9 ins. A cavity of at least 4 ins. should be left between this lining and the actual stack itself. As the shaft has comparatively little weight, the vertical reinforcing bars should be carried well down through the concrete foundation and be hooked on to horizontal bars at the base. Temperature cracks should be guarded against by adding at least 50 per cent. more reinforcement than is actually required to ensure stability. In the majority of chimneys the temperature at the base does not exceed 1,000 degrees Fahr., falling to below 600 degrees Fahr. at the top. It is interesting to note that exhaustive tests have shown that the higher the percentage of steel used in construction the lower is the unit stress in the steel and the higher that in the concrete, whilst increasing the thickness of the shell decreases to a comparatively small extent—about 10 per cent. or thereabouts—the unit stresses in both the concrete and the steel.

Tar Paving.

The surface in the yards of many engineering concerns could be greatly improved at a low cost by laying down a tar flooring. Sheds and outhouses could also have their floors improved in this way at comparatively little expense, and when the materials necessary are of good quality, are well mixed and well beaten or rolled in place, the flooring will last far longer than ordinary macadam, beaten earth, or even boards. The basic material is stone, broken so that it will pass through a 2-in. mesh. It may be mentioned here that when stone is specified, a material at least as hard and durable as the average stone is meant. Broken earthenware or tiling may be added to the stone; broken slate is also quite good, but it is fatal to success to mix in any material such as ashes, clinker, soft brick or refuse which is soft and likely to crumble. None of the aggregate used should be small enough to pass through a ¾ inch sieve, and in order to ensure that it is thoroughly dry it should be spread out in the sun and turned several times before it is used.

When absolutely dry it should be warmed if possible, although, unless industrial conditions are suitable, as in some places where heat is generated cheaply in large quantities, this can seldom be done. The tar, however, must be boiling, and in order to secure the best results, at least one pound of pitch should be added to each gallon of tar in the boiler. The tar should then be poured in small quantities on to the mass of stone, and the whole well mixed by turning with shovels as in concrete mixing. The tar should be added slowly, and no more should be used than is sufficient to cover each fragment of stone. The flooring should then be laid in a hollow already prepared, or on top of an existing earth floor, to a depth of from six to eight inches, or less if but little wear is likely to occur. It should be spread as evenly as possible, and after being left for a few hours or a day or so, should be rolled or beaten

(Continued on page 733.)

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until it is as compact as possible. Over this a layer of tarred gravel should be spread, the mixture being made in the same manner as the tar macadam, and the whole rolled or beaten down with "dollies" until a hard, smooth surface is obtained.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

The Reconstruction Committee in its interim report on electric power supply in Great Britain estimated that no fewer than 55,000,000 tons of coal could be saved annually by thorough and extended use of electricity in this country.

The total production of malleable iron in America in 1918 was 1,117,914 tons. By the end of 1919 it had decreased to 1,009,049 tons, and the returns so far published for 1920 show a proportionate decrease. In regard to this, it is worthy of note that in the United States the production of malleable iron has always been closely parallel with the growth or decrease of the total iron output of the country.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 5:—Rain nearly general in Burma and Assam. Local in Bengal, Orissa, Southern India, Bombay Deccan, Central Provinces, Rajputana, and North-West Frontier. All India final (supplementary) estimate sesamum crop, 4,465,000, acres 494,000 tons. (Corresponding supplementary forecast for last year, 3,501,000 acres, 258,000 tons.) General crop conditions good. Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good Broach, May, Rs.463; July-August, Rs.443. Piece-goods market lifeless, with very weak demand. Jute market quiet but steady. Hessians quiet, with prices tending upwards. Heavy goods quiet, with easier rates. No change in Bank rates.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at February 29, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500
Special Reserve	487,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	19,685,563
Mixed Tribunals	2,645,633
Egyptian Government	9,375,372
Sudan Government	357,874
Bankers' Accounts	1,492,359
Cheques and Bills payable	941,918
Sundry other Accounts	1,071,428
	£E40,445,147

	£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	15,562,841
Sundry Securities	283,642
Advances on Merchandise	2,926,362
Advances on Securities	1,571,613
Advances otherwise Secured	938,299
Sundry other Advances	445,333
Bills of Exchange	12,083,951
Local Bills Discounted	83,793
Buildings and Furniture	225,918
Money at call and at short notice	2,301,000
Bankers' Accounts	1,084,530
Sundry other Accounts	208,025
Cash:—	
Notes £E2,290,962	
Gold 22,897	
Silver, Nickel, etc. 415,981	
	2,729,840
	£E40,445,147

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes Issued	61,000,000
	£E61,000,000

		£E.
Gold	£E3,333,190	
*British Treasury Bills	27,166,810	
		30,500,000
Securities:—		
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	436,809	
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	30,063,191	
		30,500,000
		£E61,000,000

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See *Journal Officiel*, 30th October, 1916).

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

CIVIL ENGINEER wishes to invest £2,000 in a commercial concern engaged in structural, railway or similar work in the Near East, with a view to taking an active interest at a later date. English, public school, A.M.I.C.E. Fourteen years' experience England and the East.—Box 166, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Inactivity Continues.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The market during the past week has not shown increased activity. Many producers have met with a quieter demand than for a very long time back. Numerous buyers have not been prepared to operate on any terms whatever. The feeling is growing that we are about to experience a lower level of values, and in the circumstances orders are being held back. Sentiment with regard to Egyptian cotton has been rather bearish. More telegrams have been received reporting an improved outlook for the crop, and there is a possibility of an increase in the acreage of 10 per cent. Lancashire spinners have again purchased very sparingly. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton the turnover has been poor, and producers are steadily losing ground. Now and again low offers have been taken. In piece goods for Egypt demand remains disappointing, but local merchants have been advised that the position is gradually improving in Cairo. Better reports have also come to hand from Constantinople, and goods which have been held back are now being shipped. In cloth for India the demand has been very disappointing. Comparatively few offers have been received by cable. Buying for China has been almost at a standstill, and, owing to the possibility of contracts being cancelled, makers are very anxious to keep up to time with deliveries. The South American outlets have not given very much support. Cloth prices have tended to weaken. Some Blackburn manufacturers have decided to extend the usual Whitsuntide holidays, as profitable orders cannot be obtained. Fancies have been in fair request for the home trade. American yarns have been dull of sale, and prices have favoured buyers. Very little business has been about in yarns suitable for the Levant.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard Line s.s. Brescia, for Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Manchester on May 25 and at Liverpool on June 5.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. City of Oxford, for Malta and Alexandria, will leave Liverpool on May 29.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Douro, for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo on June 10.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines) s.s. Malatian, for Algiers, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on May 26.

The Moss Line s.s. Aberlour, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, transhipping to Moroccan ports and Cyprus will leave Liverpool on May 22.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Oran, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Beyrout, will leave Liverpool on May 29.

Olivier's Levant Line s.s. City of Smyrna, for Tangier, Oran, Algiers, Tunis, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, Odessa, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will load at Middlesborough at the end of May or beginning of June.

The Bibby Line s.s. Leicestershire, for Rangoon, will leave London on June 8.

The Anchor Line s.s. Scindia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on May 24, and at Liverpool on June 5.

The Harrison Line s.s. Explorer, for Calcutta, will leave Liverpool on June 1.

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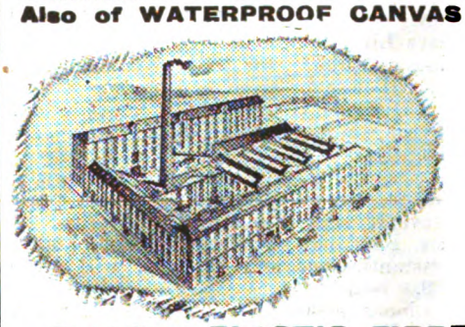
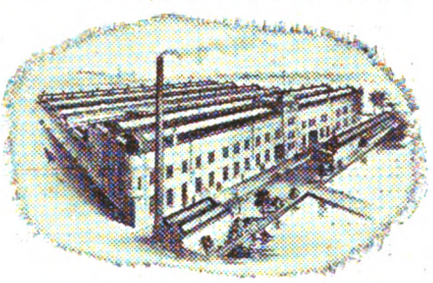
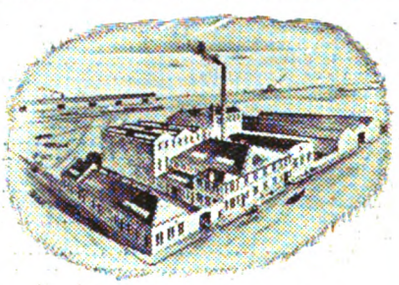

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Subscribed Capital - - £650,000
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Chairman: The Hon. EVELYN HUBBARD.
ALBERT I. BELISHA, Esq., T. G. C. BROWNE, Esq., S. J. COHEN, Esq., P. LYTTELTON GELL, Esq., Sir EDWARD R. HENRY, Bart., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.S.I., Col. Sir HERBERT M. JESSEL, Bart., C.B., C.M.G., NATHAN LASKI, Esq., Sir CHRISTOPHER T. NEEDHAM, GEO. W. REYNOLDS, Esq.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

IONIAN BANK.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ionian Bank, Limited, was held on May 11 at the offices, Basildon House, Moorgate Street, Sir John Stavridi presiding.

The Acting-Secretary (Mr. Reginald H. Fry) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that Mr. Falconer Larkworthy had found it necessary, owing to failing health, to tender his resignation as chairman of the company, and this had been accepted by his colleagues with deep regret. They were, however, glad that Mr. Larkworthy's services were not lost to the bank, as he had accepted the appointment of adviser to the Board. The business of the bank during the past twelve months had been a reflex of the general commercial and financial conditions prevailing in Greece and Egypt. The really important factor for Greek commerce and finance during the past year had been the necessity of restocking and re-victualling the country, and in Greece this operation had resulted in the same disproportionate excess of imports over exports and the same straining of the exchanges which had been witnessed in every belligerent country of Europe. Only, in the case of Greece, as in the case of Great Britain, this result had been accentuated and intensified by the amount of entrepôt trade which had centred in Greece as a distributer for the Balkan States As a result the drachma had had to bear the strain of the depreciation of the Balkan and Turkish currencies and exchanges just as sterling had had to bear the strain of the depreciation of the franc and the lira exchanges.

It spoke volumes for the inherent soundness of the country that, notwithstanding such a crippling necessity, the National Debt of Greece to-day was only double what it was before the war, and, further, that the ordinary revenue was proving elastic and productive beyond all expectation, to such an extent that the Internal Financial Control was this year able to make payment in full of last year's coupons of the old loans. It was, however, not surprising that the drachma had been no more able to bear the strain of such a double set of adverse conditions than sterling had been able to bear the strain of the adverse conditions of British financial and commercial indebtedness to the United States. Indeed, of the two, during the greater part of 1919 the drachma was to all appearances holding out longer and making the better fight. By means of the Exchange Control mechanism the Greek Government strove to restrict the entrepôt trade, and to maintain intact the G.X.M.B. system, and the consequent exchange parity. And on the face of it, for the greater part of the year the Government might claim to have succeeded. But it was only on the face of it. In spite of all the efforts of the Government, there were two bad breaks in the Greek exchange, one in July-August, the other in October-November, and these breaks were largely accountable for the reduction in the bank's profits for the year. Furthermore, these two breaks synchronised with a sharp stringency in the Money Market conditions at Athens, and with a widespread strike movement among the staffs of the various banks throughout Greece, and in its turn this strike movement made it extremely difficult to transfer the bank's surplus funds from the branches to Athens, in order to relieve the stringency there. It was primarily to these two causes that the greatly diminished net profits of the bank were due. Moreover a substantial sum had been applied in writing down all investments of the bank to market values. The other causes which appeared to be in the nature of permanencies, and to which every other institution was liable, were the increases in salaries due to the greatly increased cost of living, and the increase of taxation.

Notwithstanding, however, this conjunction of adverse circumstances, the shareholders were to be congratulated on the expansion of the bank's business throughout the year and on the perfectly sound and healthy condition of the institution at the close of a distinctly trying twelve months.

A question that had much exercised the directors during the past year was that of double taxes. Although by its constitution the bank was a purely British institution, in reality it was an Anglo-Greek bank by the fact that a large portion of the capital was held by Greeks, that they were authorised to carry on business in Greece by various Acts of the Greek Parliament, and that in actual fact the greater part of their business was carried on in Greece. In the eyes of the Greek Government they were considered a national institution, and subjected to all the taxes of the country. They had hoped that in the Budget they would have found some relief for a company such as theirs, whose profits were earned abroad, mainly with foreign money, and which were distributed abroad. Such relief would have helped them to satisfy their Greek shareholders, who, though proud of the British constitution of the bank, considered that every effort should be made to avoid double taxation.

The Chairman went on to deal with the position in Egypt, and said that there had been once more an unprecedentedly prosperous year for the bank. New sub-agencies had been opened during the year at Zagazig, Kafr-el-Zayat, and Kafr-el-Sheikh, all of which had proved successful, especially the first-named, which had now been converted into a full agency. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. C. S. S. Guthrie, and was carried unanimously.

Mr. Larkworthy then gave an address on various financial questions affecting the bank.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Lord Ritchie, a vote of thanks was accorded to the advisory committee at Athens, the members of the local board at Corfu, and the staff at home and abroad.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

EGYPTIAN ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT.

The following is a translation of the report of the directors submitted to the annual general meeting held in Cairo on March 31 last :—

Gentlemen,—We beg to submit to you the balance-sheet for our fifteenth year ended December 31, 1919.

Agricultural Lands.

This year we have had again several offers to purchase areas of from 10 to 100 feddans, but, as in 1918, we have declined them, preferring not to enter into partial realisations without knowing definitely what is going to happen to that region from the point of view of irrigation. We have reason to believe that the conversion of that part of the Guizeh Basin is only postponed, and that its realisation will not be very long delayed.

Even in their present condition our properties of Bercache and Mansurieh have benefited to an appreciable extent by the general increase in values, resulting to a great extent from the high prices of cotton and other agricultural products, which in 1919 reached levels absolutely unknown hitherto.

Building Lands.

There have been numerous transactions in building lands in 1919, and it may be hoped that the movement will be accentuated as the means of import improve, and as it becomes possible to procure more easily and at less heavy cost the materials for construction which are at present lacking, notably iron and wood.

Business in Syria and Turkey.

We have been able to resume touch with our business in Syria, and our information permits us to base considerable hopes on this part of the company's assets. It is not possible yet to arrange definitely the programme for the future, but it is not to be doubted that the properties that the company possesses in Syria represent a value considerably higher than that at which they appear in the balance-sheet.

We have not yet been able to investigate for ourselves the condition of our lands in Constantinople. We have every reason to believe that those lands will greatly benefit from the prospective change in régime, and we shall appoint one of us, as soon as circumstances permit, to examine on the spot the means of meeting the situation in the best possible way.

Portfolio.

Egyptian shares, and more especially land shares, have been very firm in 1919. The shares of the Gharbieh Land Company have benefited by the notable increase in values, and the actual price of the shares are, in our opinion, well below their real value. The shares of the Société Agricole de Kafr-el-Dawar and the other shares of our Portfolio, have all benefited to a certain extent from the general improvement. But as they are not quoted on the Bourse, and as we do not possess sufficiently precise information to determine their worth, we have maintained them in our books at the same figure as in 1918.

(*Continued on page* 737.)

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Land Purchased.

This account decreased by £E7,725.513, of which £E760.560 is from the recovery of annuities in arrears.

Various Debtors.

In this account are included rent in arrears, advances to cultivators, interest not collected, and various other debts of which a part is guaranteed by shares.

Gharbieh Land Company.

One can gain some idea of the prosperous state of this company by the importance of the repayments which were made in 1919. Its debt, which at the end of 1913 amounted to £E54,920.993, was no more than £E14.017.271 at December 31 last; it has diminished still more since that date, and it is to be foreseen that it will not reappear in our next balance-sheet.

Bank Credits.

This account, which figured at £E28,078.682 in the 1918 balance-sheet, has totally disappeared from our books. The account "divers creditors" has decreased by £E864.669

Profit and Loss Account.

The net profit of the year amounted to £E30,581.613, of which £E24,964.750 represents the increased value acquired by a portion of the portfolio of the company. After the deduction of these profits, the profit and loss account shows a debit balance of £E89,611.867 to carry forward to the next account. This decrease of the debit balance of the profit and loss account is in itself satisfactory; but an incomplete idea of the improvement in the condition of our company would be obtained if the survey were limited to the above reduction, and some additional observations seem to us necessary.

At the end of the year 1915 the profit and loss account showed a debit balance of £E156.584, arising almost entirely from a depreciation of our portfolio, notably on the Koubbeh Garden shares (about £E91,000), the Gharbieh shares (about £E27,000), and the Kafr-Dawar shares (about £E17,000).

From 1917 the rise which took place in the Gharbieh shares enabled us to mark off on our balance-sheet a notable increase. As we have said above, the other shares in our portfolio not being quoted on the Bourse, we have not been able to do the same in their case, but their real value has not been less markedly increased.

In addition, the greater part of the other items of our assets have actually a real value much above that at which they figure in the balance sheet, and if an official estimate by an expert were made, it would certainly establish that the loss of £E89,611.867, shown in the balance sheet, is not a real loss, and that our capital is intact. We trust that the early realisations will confirm this view. If these realisations are not effected in the near future, it will be necessary to have recourse either to an outside valuation, as above mentioned, or to the step which was mentioned in earlier reports—that is to say, a reduction of our capital.

In reducing the capital to £E320,000, which would establish at £E8 the nominal value of our shares, which have varied on the Bourse latterly, from £E5 to £E7, the debit balance of the profit and loss account would be amortised except for £12,000 already discounted by the increased value of the Gharbieh land shares since December 31, and we should be able to undertake the distribution of profits in proportion to realisations. We shall probably call a meeting in the course of the year to consult you on these matters.

M. Léon Rolin's term of office will expire and he is eligible for re-election in accordance with the terms of the statutes.

Mr. F. H. Russell's term of office as auditor will expire, and he is eligible for re-election under the terms of the statutes.

We propose to re-elect M. Guido Levi as deputy auditor for the year 1920.

Report of the Auditors.

Gentlemen,—We have the honour to inform you that we have compared the balance-sheet with the books and documents, and certify that we have found them in order. We have not yet seen a certificate showing that the properties at Constantinople and Beyrout were free from all charges at the date of the balance-sheet. In the absence of our colleague, M. Jules Rolin, M. Levi, deputy auditor, has taken his place as auditor and signed the present report. With the above reservation, we certify that the balance-sheet is in accordance with the accounts and statutes of the company.

(Signed)
F. H. Russell,
G. Levi.

Resolutions.

The meeting unanimously passed the following resolutions:—1. Approves the balance-sheet and the accounts for the fifteenth year ended December 31, 1919, and gives discharge to the directors.

2. Resolved to carry forward the debit balance of the profit and loss account, £E89,611.867, to the current year's account.

3. Re-elects M. Rolin, director.

4. Re-elects Mr. F. H. Russell as auditor.

5. Re-elects M. Guido Levi as deputy auditor for 1920.

6. Fixed the fees of the auditors at £E175.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY, CAIRO.

THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the above Company will be held in CAIRO on the 10th June next. Shareholders wishing to be represented at the meeting should lodge their Share Warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., not later than the 25th May.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Egyptian Markets.

The report of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, states that the gross receipts from the cattle markets, exclusive of slaughter houses, show an increase of £7,823 as compared with the year 1918, the total being £38,881 against £31,058. This improvement, it is satisfactory to note, has been made notwithstanding the compulsory closing of markets in consequence of the disturbances above referred to. The gross receipts from the general markets for the year under review were £24,172, as compared with £23,188 for the year 1918, an increase of £984. This is considered satisfactory. The net receipts from the slaughter-houses worked during the year were £1,334 against £1,256 during 1918, an increase of £78. The number of slaughter-houses worked during the year was 45. The expenses in the trading account show an increase of £5,527, which is attributable to increased cost of maintenance and repairs and payment of higher salaries and wages necessitated by a further advance in cost of living in Egypt and of travelling. The net profit derived from this source is £5,861, as compared with £10,597 for the previous year, a decrease of £4,736. This decrease is largely due to the termination of the war contracts with the Egyptian Government for the supply of fodder (Dreiss and Tibbin). The net revenue from all sources for the year 1919 amounted to £34,911 18s. 3d., as compared with £31,709 13s. 6d. during the previous year, an increase of £3,202 4s. 9d. After deduction of the amount of £7,621 10s. 1d., which it is estimated will be required to meet payment of the Government share of profits for 1919, a balance of £27,290 8s. 2d. remains, which, with the amount of £10,483 16s. 9d. brought forward from 1918, makes a total of £37,774 4s. 11d. to be dealt with. After meeting the fixed charges of the annual premia for the amortisation of the share capital and debentures, amounting to £3,789 1s. 6d., debenture interest £2,840, and carrying the sum of £1,000 to reserve, a balance of £30,145 3s. 5d. remains available for distribution. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend (No. 31) on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31, 1919, of 6 per cent., making, with the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid in December, 1919, a total of 10 per cent. for the year, absorbing in all £17,470, and in accordance with the terms of the memorandum of association of the company, and subject to the settlement of the proportion of profits due to the Government and to such excess profits duty, if any, as may be payable, the payment of a dividend (No. 10) on the deferred shares at the rate of £6 6s. 4d. 9/100 per share for the year 1919, which will absorb £1,895 2s. 3d. and leave a balance of £10,780 1s. 2d. to be carried forward, which balance is also subject to the settlement above referred to. In conformity with the company's articles of association, Lt.-Col. A. St. John Cooke, D.S.O., and W. Home, Esq., C.I.E., will retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. To meet the depreciation in currency value occasioned by the war, a resolution will be submitted to the proprietors, at the meeting, to pay the directors' remuneration, free of income tax. The proprietors will be asked to elect auditors for the ensuing year. Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co. offer themselves for re-election. The directors desire to record their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. C. E. Duffield, the general manager, and by other members of the company's staff in Egypt. Meeting, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., May 26, 12 noon.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended April 30:—The sales this week on our market amount to 30 cases at piastres 1,150 per oke for extra druggists' manufacturing, piastres 1,250 for selected soft yerli, and from piastres 700 to 1,100 for current talequale qualities; these prices are equivalent to 15s. to 22s. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange to-day is piastres 475 per £ sterling for cheque, and 0.85 dols. for 1 Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,575 cases, against 375 at same date last year.

Banque Franco-Serbe.

Capital Frs. 20,000,000.

Offices:

PARIS	MONASTIR (BITOLJ)
LONDON	USKUB (SKOPLYE)
BELGRADE	ZAGREB (AGRAM)

LONDON OFFICE: 27, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.

Every possible facility is offered to British Travellers and Merchants at the Bank's Offices in Serbia (*i.e.*, the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes). British parties travelling to these parts should see that their letters of credit are made payable at the Bank's Branches, where every assistance will be rendered to them.

Drafts issued. Bills negotiated. Advances made upon Documentary Bills. Telegraphic Address: "Francoserb, Stock, London." Telephone Number: 1110 London Wall.

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MACEDONIA'S TOBACCO CROP

The 1919 crop in the Salonika district is estimated at 3,360,000 lb., or 50 per cent. of that of the previous year, while the 1919 crop in Eastern Macedonia, comprising the Kavalla, Serres, and Drama districts, is estimated at approximately 16,800,000 lbs., as compared with 7,000,000 lbs. produced in 1918, says the American Vice-Consul, Mr. N. E. Anderson, in a recent report. The 1919 yield for Macedonia is placed at 20,000,000 lbs., which is about 50 per cent. under normal pre-war years. At the same time, the 1918 crop, it will be remembered, was produced under great difficulties and with a depleted population. Despite the fact, however, that a number of the planters who were interned by the Bulgarians have returned to their farms, there is still a marked shortage of labour and farm animals.

Favourable weather throughout the summer months is responsible for the exceptionally good quality of the 1919 crop, according to prominent buyers for American firms. Heavy spring rains caused a certain amount of destruction to the seedlings, but subsequently favourable growing weather for the plants resulted in a superiority of quality which has made the crop just harvested the best in many years.

The greater part of the 1918 crop has been disposed of by the planters at an average of 10 drachmæ per oke (2.82 lbs.) for the better qualities. So far only 20 per cent. of the 1919 crop has been purchased from the planters at 12 to 13 drachmæ per oke. The best qualities brought 15 drachmæ per oke in the first transactions on the Macedonian market last November, which is about 33⅓ per cent. less than was paid for tobacco of a rather inferior quality in the Salonika district in the last year of the war. This price, however, is from three to four times higher than was paid in the same district for the 1915 crop, which was purchased before the Bulgarian occupation.

Considerable activity has developed in the last month, due in a large measure to increased buying by new tobacco companies, and prices have been quoted as high as 25 drachmæ per oke.

Very little of the best qualities remains in the hands of the planters, but there are probably 2,820,000 lbs. of the Bashibaghli variety still unsold. The general estimate of 16,800,000 lbs. for Eastern Macedonia included approximately 7,000,000 lbs. of this variety of tobacco. It is estimated that perhaps 7,000,000 lbs. of the 1918 crop and previous crops are now in the hands of merchants, although more than 50 per cent. of this old tobacco is of an inferior quality.

The demand for petrol in Egypt is reported to have largely increased owing to the growing popularity of motor-cars.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended May 5, were:—Cattle markets, £829; general markets, £595; total, £1,425; total for year, £35,464. For the corresponding period of 1919 there were no receipts owing to local disturbances.

It is reported that a Czecho-Slovak Chamber of Commerce is to be established shortly in Alexandria and Cairo for the promotion of trade relations between Czecho-Slovakia and Egypt.

Roumania's imports for the first half of 1919 amounted to 231,259 tons of the value of 1,114,549,722 lei, while the exports amounted to 6,756 tons, of the value of 5,983,371 lei.

It is reported that insurgents under Mustapha Kemal have called upon the branches of the Ottoman Bank at Balak-Hissar and Panderma to hand over all the cash in their possession.

According to *L'Economista d'Italia*, it is stated on good authority that deposits of coal have been found in the vicinity of Adis-Abeba.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY.
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-45, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa.
Beyrout. Damascus.
Hamah. Homs.
Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. TUNIS, Africa ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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NEW COMPANIES.

Mid-Eastern Transport.

The British Mid-Eastern Transport Co., Ltd., was registered on May 4 as a private company with a capital of £150,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on business of shipowners, carriers of mails, passengers, goods and cattle, either by its own vessels, railways or conveyances, or otherwise, to construct or acquire railways, tramways, wharves, piers, docks and warehouses, etc. Subscribers (each with one share): B. F. Race, 72, Stratford Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, law stationer's manager; F. Renton, 6, Great Winchester Street, E.C., law stationer; and five solicitors' clerks. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors.

Egyptian and Eastern Land.

The Egyptian and Eastern Land Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £30,000 in 116,000 5s. preferred ordinary and 20,000 1s. deferred ordinary shares. Objects: To take over estates in Egypt, the Sudan and other parts of Africa, the Middle East, and elsewhere on which wheat and other cereals, cotton, tobacco, maize, coffee, sugar, dates, oranges, and other fruits and products are grown. Agreement between R. E. W. Conant, of the one part, and R. R. Hornby, C. H. Potter and A. F. Howe, general partners in Hornby, Potter, Mills and Co., of the other part.

Inter-European Trading.

The Inter-European Trading Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £5,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of purchasers, importers, and sellers of machinery, tools, goods, particularly those obtainable in the various European countries, exporters of British and other goods to such countries and elsewhere, etc. First directors: W. B. H. Corser, Mill Meads, Horsham (director Ryner Wilson, Ltd.); J. F. Fielding, Chylton House, Langley Road, Surbiton (director of said company and F. J. Allen and Co., Ltd.). Registered office: Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.

Anglo-Egyptian Breweries.

The Anglo-Egyptian Breweries, Ltd., was registered on May 8 as a private company with a capital of £120,000, in £1 shares (119,000 preferred and 1,000 deferred). Objects: To carry on the business of brewers, maltsters, hop merchants, and growers, malt factors, wine and spirit merchants, importers, and distillers, etc., and to adopt an agreement with the Vlei Syndicate, Ltd. The first directors are:—H. E. M. Bourke, Feltimores, Harlow, Essex; G. R. Blake, North Lea, Shaw, Melksham, Wilts; Rene de la Porte, 28, Conduit Street, W.; and G. C. Dudgeon, 1, Zetland House, Cheniston Gardens, W.8. Registered office: 21, Great Winchester Street, E.C.

North Persian Oils.

The North Persian Oils, Ltd., was registered on May 8, with a capital of £3,000,000, in £1 shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, to acquire and work any oil shale, natural gas, petroleum, bitumen, naphtha, asphalte, ozokerite, or other properties, to import, export, distil, refine and distribute the products thereof, to own ships, wharves, and barges, etc.

The subscribers (each with one share) are: R. V. Grimaldi, 61, Fairbridge Road, N.19; J. A. Fuller, 65, Hewitt Avenue, N.22; and five other clerks. Minimum cash subscription, seven shares. The Treasury may have two representatives on the board, and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company may be represented on the board by directors, not being less than two nor more than one-fourth of the number of directors for the time being. The ordinary directors are to be appointed by the subscribers. The number of directors is not to be less than eight nor more than twelve. Qualification (except Treasury directors), £1,000. Remuneration of chairman as fixed by the board; of other directors as fixed by the company.

If the company shall, pursuant to the agreement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, decide not to continue exploration or development work on the concessions therein mentioned, and in consequence thereof shall re-transfer the said concessions in accordance with such agreement, and resolve to go into liquidation, the shares numbered 1,500,001 to 3,000,000, inclusive, to be issued by the company credited as fully paid, pursuant to the said agreement, shall not in such liquidation confer on the holders thereof the right to participate in any distribution of surplus assets. The liquidator (on any liquidation, whether voluntary, compulsory, or under supervision) may, with the authority of a special resolution, divide among the contributories in kind the whole or any part of the company's assets (whether or not the assets shall consist of property of one kind or different kinds), and for such purpose may set such value as he deems fair upon any class or classes of property and may determine how such division shall be carried out as between members or classes of members. The power of the liquidator shall include a power to sell, wholly or partly, for the debentures, debenture stock or other obligations of another company, either then existing or about to be formed for the purpose of carrying out the sale. Solicitors: Ashurst, Morris, Crisp and Co., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C.

ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

A very fair amount of business has again been done this week, but the tendency of prices continues downwards.

In Government stocks, Egyptian Unified close about 4 points down at 66¼, and the 3½ per cent. pref. have lost 2¼ points at 55¼. City of Alexandria are a further half a point down at 64. Turkish Four per Cents of 1891 have dropped a point to 60½, but the Three and a-half per Cents of 1894 have been an exceptionally firm spot, and are closing a point up at 53½. Turkish Unified are also wanted, closing 1 point higher at 35, with sellers very scarce.

In bank shares National of Egypt at one time dropped nearly £1 to 19¼, but had a sharp recovery late to-night, closing only half a point down at 19 11-16. Agriculturals have been down to 4 9-16, and finish ⅛ lower at 4⅜. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are no longer quoted, having been absorbed by Barclay's. Land Bank of Egypt are ¼ easier at 5½.

In Land shares, Aboukir are slightly easier at 36s., Anglo-Belgians have dropped about 4s. to 12s. 6d., and Béhéras are 1½ down at 17. Consolidated Lands are about 3d. lower at 3s. 1½d., and Delta Lands have dropped about 9d. to 13s. 9d. x.d. Foreign Trusts have shared in the general weakness, and are quoted 6d. lower at 14s. 9d. There has been a decline of ¼ in Gharbieh Land to 3⅜; a similar fraction has been lost by Sidi Salem at 2¼, and Union Foncière at 5⅛. Sudan Plantations are only 1-16th down at 4 7-16, whilst New Egyptians, which have been very firm recently, have receded 1s. to 37s. The annual report of the latter company is expected shortly, and is likely to prove a very satisfactory document.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions, Salt and Sodas have dropped 3s. 9d. to 52s. 6d.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptian B are 10s. down at 3½, Roumanians have dropped 3s. 3d. to 16s. 6d., and Traians are fractionally lower at 8s.

In Greek securities the 1881 and 1884 loans are 1 point down at 54, the 1889 and Funding Loans are 2 points lower at 39 and 51 respectively, the 1902 Loan has dropped 1½ points to 42, and the 1910 Loan is 1 point down at 38. The 1914 Loan has been a firm spot all the week at 50, at which price there are unsatisfied buyers. Bank of Athens shares are ⅛ lower at 3¼.

The South Indian Railway Co., Limited, have removed to 91, York Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

South Indian Railway.—With the desire to distribute the dividends more evenly between the two half-years, the directors have decided to pay on July 1 an interim dividend from surplus profits of 2 per cent., less income-tax (compared with 1¼ per cent. paid on July 1, 1919), making with the interest guaranteed for the half-year ending June 30—namely, 1¾ per cent., less income-tax—a total distribution for the half-year of 3¾ per cent., or at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, as against 7¾ per cent. paid for 1919.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams "TRABANQUE, LONDON." (INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.) 13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2. Telephones: LONDON WALL, 2947-2948

CAPITAL.

Authorised, £10,000,000. | Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.

Governor, THE LORD FARINGDON. *Deputy Governor*, SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON.

London Manager, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

Branches: BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

Affiliated Companies: THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY, Constantinople and Branches.

THE TRADE INDEMNITY CO., LTD. *(Established for the assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts.)*

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price May 10.	Price May 17.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	34	36
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	27	27
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	64½	64
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	70¼	66½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	57½	55½
Greek 5%, 1881	55	54
Do. 5%, 1884	55	54
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	41	39
Do. 5% 1890	55	55
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	53	51
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	43½	42
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	39	38
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	50	50
Do. 5% Currant	91	91
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	68	68½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	30	30
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	61½	60½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	53	53½
Do. 4% Unified	34	35
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅞xd	4⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	5⅜	5¾
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	66	66
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	68	68
Bank of Abyssinia	32/6	32/6
Bank of Athens	67/6	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	6	6
Bank of Roumania	5⅞	5⅝
British Trade Corporation	8⅛	9⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	8⅛	8⅛
Imperial Bank of Persia	8⅞	8⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅝	6⅝
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
London County and Westminster	14⅛	14⅜
National Bank of Egypt	20/16	19/16
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	5⅞	5⅞
Do. 5% Debs.	68⅜	68⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	14	14
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	35	34
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	31⅜	29⅞
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	65	65
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	36/3	36/-
Do. 6% Debs	140½	140½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	16/6	12/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	75/-	75/-
Béhéra Co.	18½	17
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	30/-	30/-
Egyptian Consol 5/-	3/4½	3/1½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	15/-	13/9xd
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	15/3	14/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	29/-	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	84½	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	38/-	37/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2½	2½
Sudan Plantations	4⅛	4⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp.	13/9	13/9
Alexandria Water Co.	10	10
Associated Cotton Ginners	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86¼	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	56/3	52/6
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	96⅜	96⅜
Khediv al Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3½	3½
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/-	17/7½
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	18/6	18/6
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	98⅜	99½
Chinese 4½% 1898	62½	58⅞
Do. 5% 1896	78⅝	74⅜
Argentine 5% 1890	74½	74
Do. 5% 1907	83	81⅛
OIL.		
Algerian	3/6	3/3½
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	80/-	71/3
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/10½	22/7½
Do. 5% Debs.	82½	82
Anglo-Roumanian	8/1½	8/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/4½	5/-
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	14/-	14/-
Roumanian	19/9	17/7½
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	7/3	7/-
Trajan (Roumanian)	8/4½	9/-

The Bank of Bombay has reduced its rate of discount from 9 to 8 per cent.

From November, 1919, to the end of February Yugoslavia exported 13,000 wagons of corn, 7,000 wagons of flour, 600 wagons of maize, 240 wagons of beans, 25 wagons of eggs, 20 wagons of beef, 10,000 wagons of sheep, 20,000 hogs, and 20 wagons of lard.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

(continued.)

BRUSSELS BOURSE.	Price May 1.	Price May 8.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs.	400	400
Do. do. Priv.	518·75	537·50
Do. do. Cap.	467·50	450
Do. do. Div.	413·75	408·15
Anglo-Belgian Co.	41	39·25
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	275	276·50
Do. do. Div.	351	365
Caisse Hypothécaire Act	507·50	487·50
Do. do. (10 eme p.b.)	82·25	75
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs.	345·30	350
Do. do. Priv.	510	518·75
Do. do. Div.	190	181
Compagnie Immobiliére Deb.	400	400
Do. do. Cap.	199·50	199·75
Do. do. Fond.	315	305
Enterprise and Development Cap.	285	272·50
Do. do. Div.	172·50	155
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv.	—	—
Do. do. Ord.	497·50	497·50
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	250	212·50
Do. do. Div.	175	195
Salonika-Constantinople Railway	280	280
Salonika-Monastir Railway	200	200
Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894	290	290
Do. do. 4%, 1895	190	190
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv.	135	130
Do. do. Div.	185	185
Tramways du Caire Priv.	450	450
Do. do. Jouiss	738·75	705
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv	282	282 50
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div.	55	55·50

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	May 11.	May 18.
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	59	60¼
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	60⅜	60
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		83½	83½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		67	70
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		67½	67½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		72xd	73
Eastern		7⅛	7½
Mercantile of India A.		34⅜	34⅛
National of India		54	53½
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		9/4½	9/0½
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		12/9	13/4½
Burma Corp.		10⅞	9⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		8/4½	8/4½
Champion Reef Gold		3/4½	3/4½
Mysore Gold Mining		17/6	17/9
Nundydroog		14/4½	13/9
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		16/-	15/9
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		24/4½	21/10½
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		36/3	31/10½
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		36/3	36/3
Brit. Burmah		4⅜	4⅜
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		17⅛	16⅞
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		18/9	18/9
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9⅛	9⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		54	54
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		131	131
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		50	50
Bengal-Nagpur		113½	114½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		99	102
Burma Railways		105½	106½
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		12½	12
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		11⅜	11⅜
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		11¼	11⅜
Madras and S. Mahratta		112	112⅜
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		121	121
Nizam's Guaranteed State		72½	72
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		61/3	56/3
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		10	20/6
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		76	76
Do. Deferred		472	495
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		61½	62
Bengal United Tea Ord.		15⅝	15⅞
British Indian Tea Ord.		7⅜	7⅜
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15	15
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		10/3	10/3
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		61/3	57/6
Consolidated Estates		41/10½	40/-
Darjeeling Co.		18/6	18/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		61/3	60/-
Dooars Tea Ord.		51/6	52/3
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		20/6	21/6
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		67/6	63/1½
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		28/6	30/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.		21/3	21/3
Jhanzie Tea Association		10⅝	9⅞
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		20	19½
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		14/9	14/6
Lanka Plantations Ord.		22/-	22/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		22/6	22/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		38/6	39/3
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		12⅛	12⅛
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		31/1⅞	31/10½

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

GOVERNMENT LOANS.	April 10. Rs.	April 17. Rs.
3½% Government Paper	59	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	303	303
Bank of Bengal	1750	1740
Bank of Bombay	2260	2200
Bank of Madras	1537	1550
Bank of India	135ex	135
Tata Industrial Bank	52½	62½
COAL.		
Baraboni	14½	14ex
Bengal	807½	805
Burrakur	46½ex	48½
East Indian	38½	38½
Equitable	4½	42½
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	67½	67
Standard	68⅛	68½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	732	720
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	4250	4290
Bowreah	1590	1550
Buckingham	1425	1600
Carnatic	750	750
Cawnpore	195ex	195ex
Century	1420	1505
Central India	5600	5885
	2800	2942½
Elgin	130	175
Gold Mohur	400	400
	200	200
Khatau Makanji	800	850ex
Muir	450	450
New Ring	1397	1400
Phœnix	1230	1390
Svadeshi	5360	5950
JUTE.		
Alliance	693½	749
Barnagore	162	180
Budge Budge	648½	652
Clive	365	367
Dalhousie	580	600
Delta	630	672
Fort Gloster	1066	1150
Gourepore	1407	1292
Howrah	50½	50½
Kamarhatty	928	963
Kanknarrah	761	774
Khardah	620	650
Kinnison	1175	1295
National	400	410
Standard	772	785
Union	965	989
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	85	86
Bengal Timber Trading	700	700
Burn and Co.	300	300
Carew and Co.	90	90
Cawnpore Sugar	320	320
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	335	335
Howrah Oil Mills	36	36
India General Steam	138	139
Indian Iron and Steel	140	140
	99½	98⅜
Marshall Sons and Co.	12⅜	12⅜
Titaghur Paper	380	380

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Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£10½
Anglo-American Nile Steam	£4½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£1⅛
Banque d'Orient	Fr. 95
Béhéra Ord.	L.E. 18⅜
" Priv.	£3⅜
Bonded Stores	£21
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Fr. 275
Building Lands of Egypt	£1⅜
Cairo Heliopolis Railway	£12½
Cassa di Sconto	Fr. 95
" " Priv.	Fr. 117
Ciments d'Égypte Priv.	Fr. 70
" " Div.	Fr. 32
Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte	£1⅛
Consolidated Land	P.T. 13
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 631
" Fondateur	8400
" 1886 Oblig.	375
" 1903 "	273
" 1911 "	265
Crown Brewery Priv.	Fr. 420
" Div.	Fr. 400
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fr. 85
" Jouissance	Fr. 129
Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord.	34/3
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£6
Filature Nationale d'Egypte	£22
Frig. orifique d'Egypte	L.E. 2⅜
Gabbari Lands	L.E. ⅜
Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des.	£7
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	108/-
" " Ord.	£3⅜
Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi	£8⅝
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" " Fondateur	£8½
Land Bank of Egypt Actions	£5⅜
" " Parts de Fond.	£4⅝
Lots Turcs	Fr. 68½
Mensaleh Canal Navigation	P.T. 347
Nungovich Hotels	£10½
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Tram d'Alexandrie Priv.	Fr. 66
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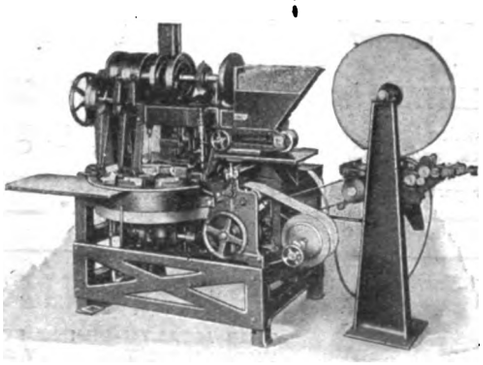

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 473.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Turks find the Peace Terms no more acceptable now than they were a week ago. The Nationalists are obtaining many more recruits, and opinion in Constantinople is distinctly less favourable towards signing. The two great stumbling blocks remain, as they were, Smyrna and Thrace, and the Government is reported to have allowed it to become known that it will not consent to sign them away. When the full terms are received, a Crown Council is to be summoned to discuss them; but with feeling throughout the country what it is, it looks as if there can be only one end to such a discussion. It is unfortunate that time is so strongly on the side of the opposition; but clearly Turkey must have a period allowed her to weigh the terms carefully, and equally clearly it would be expecting too much of her to ask her to take any very active steps against the Nationalists in that period.

The announcement regarding the handing over by Italy to Greece of the islands of the Dodacanese has created a good impression on all sides, but the exclusion of Rhodes from the operation is much regretted. Maintaining, as we always have done, that the Italian occupation of Rhodes and our own occupation of Cyprus are very far from being on the same footing, we find it difficult to understand why the question of the latter island's future should be introduced into the matter at all; and it would be interesting to have the true inwardness of this singular provision made clear. But whatever the explanation may be, Italy's retention of the island is quite obviously likely to give rise to serious trouble in the long run, and it is a great pity that, having brought herself—or allowed herself to be brought—to give up the eleven islands, she could not be induced to give up the twelfth also, and at the same time. In any case, it is to be hoped that neither her refusal to do so nor her pretext for that refusal will be allowed to influence Great Britain's final decision regarding Cyprus. The latest pronouncement on the subject was by Mr. Bonar Law in the House of Commons on May 20, when, in answer to a question by Mr. Ormsby-Gore, he stated that nothing whatever had been done in this matter by the British Government.

Rumours that had been current in Cairo for a few days proved to be at least founded on fact when Wahba Pasha, who had been Prime Minister of Egypt since last November, resigned on May 19. His resignation has been received with real regret in official circles; and his courage in taking office at a time of great difficulty, when there was certainly no competition for the post, and in holding it in face of much violent opposition, and in spite of an attempt upon his life, is very widely recognized. Unfortunately, the actual resignation is reported to have been brought about by a breakdown in health. His successor is Tewfik Nessim Pasha, who has formed a Cabinet consisting mostly of members who served in the outgoing Cabinet. There are, however, three new members: Mahmoud Fakhri Pasha, Minister of Finance; Tewfik Rifaat Pasha, Education; and Yussuf Suleiman Bey, Agriculture. The new Prime Minister is a young man, and in that respect better suited to stand the strain that the holder of office in Egypt must inevitably experience under present conditions; he is a lawyer, with a brilliant record, and his service as Cabinet Minister, though short, has been very successful; and, finally, he is described as *persona grata* with the Sultan, who seems likely to play a rather more active part in the future than he has in the past.

Apart from the change of Cabinet, the most important thing that has happened in Egypt during the past week is the trial of the two men accused of attempting to assassinate Mohammed Shafik Pasha in February. They were both found guilty of throwing a bomb or bombs at the Minister, but sentence was deferred. It is to be hoped that there will be no erring on the side of leniency in this instance. The story of the cowardly attempt, as told at the time by our Cairo Correspondent, showed what contemptible stuff the would-be assassins were made of; and it seems to be clear that the only way to put an end to these frequent attempts on the lives of Egyptian Ministers by their own countrymen—usually "students," be it noted—is to mete out condign punishment to the offenders in every case in which it is possible to trace the crime home.

Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General of the Sudan, has been able to report to Lord Allenby the successful termination of punitive operations against the tribes responsible for the deaths, last December, of Major Stigand, Governor of Mongalla Province, and Major White. Those two officers, it may be recalled, were killed in the course of a reconnaissance in Dinka territory, undertaken in consequence of an attack by the Dinkas on an outlying police post. It was not practicable to take the necessary steps to avenge them at once, owing to the denseness of the jungle and the quantity of water in the wadis; but about two months ago a punitive force—led, it is interesting to note, by an officer of the ubiquitous Royal Marines, Colonel Darwell—took the field, and on May 4 it completely surprised the main body of the enemy. The latter offered no resistance, and the chief offender surrendered unconditionally two days later. The country is said to have

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been thoroughly patrolled, and large captures were made; while, save for a night attack and a few skirmishes, there was no serious opposition. The early reverse, which, as we observed at the time, was practically unavoidable, has thus been wiped out; and the Sudan Government and those to whom it entrusted the operations have well upheld British prestige.

A semi-official statement issued last Friday announces that arrangements for a provisional boundary between the British and Arab areas of jurisdiction on the Euphrates were completed on May 5. These arrangements resulted from a meeting of British representatives and an emissary from the Arab Governor of Deir ez-Zor, and in accordance with them Salahiyah and Abu Kemal were handed over to the Arabs, and our troops retired to Anah, leaving a rearguard at El Kaim (or El Ghayyim). In view of the scantiness of the information that is given to the world regarding the situation in this region of the Euphrates, it is impossible to decide whether the announcement made should be regarded as satisfactory or the reverse. We might hope that the provisional arrangement would save further bloodshed; but from the same source come reports of fighting with Arab raiding parties—presumably in the neighbourhood referred to—and British casualties to the number of 47. Whether this fighting took place before or after the arrangement of the boundary, and where, is not stated.

Public interest in this country has been turned anew to Mesopotamia and Persia in connection with what look uncommonly like very determined attempts by two great foreign oil "combines" to obtain virtual control of the Mesopotamian and Persian oilfields. The subject is too intricate to go into in any detail, and as far as the various financial interests are concerned they are probably able to look after themselves. We believe, however, that the British Government will do well in this matter to put the interests of the British Empire before all others, and to see to it that the heavy loss of British lives in Mesopotamia was not incurred for the benefit either of an Ally who took no part in those operations or of a neutral nation that stood discreetly aside throughout the war. If they fail to do that, the public is likely to insist upon an explanation. A very active propaganda has been carried on on behalf of foreign interests, and a persistent attempt is being made to represent that Great Britain has gone to Mesopotamia on behalf of a British company. That is, of course, an utterly false view; but even if it were correct, it would surely be natural that Britons should prefer to support a British company rather than a foreign one.

A situation full of unpleasant possibilities has been created in Persia by the seizure of Enzeli, the most important port on the Caspian Sea, by Bolshevists. On May 18 a Bolshevist fleet of thirteen warships appeared off the town, and presently bombarded it; while simultaneously forces advanced from Astara on Enzeli and Ardebil. When communications were opened up with the shore the Bolshevist Admiral announced that his object was to secure the vessels of General Denikin's force, interned at Enzeli, and that he intended temporarily to occupy the town. The British troops on the spot being utterly inadequate to prevent the carrying out of this programme, and no other force being for the purpose, the occupation took place. The British evacuated the town that night, and have apparently withdrawn safely to Resht. The Russian commander is reported to have guaranteed the safety of British troops and civilians, and to have declared that he had "at present" no designs against either Persia or the British in Persia. The value of his assurances can hardly be known just yet.

It would be idle to pretend that the effect of these events upon British prestige in Persia, and indeed throughout the East, can be otherwise than disastrous; but it is hard to see what action can be taken immediately to counter the effect. Our garrison in Mesopotamia is understood to be too small to allow of the detachment of any considerable force for service across the border; and it is not yet entirely certain that it would be wise to send such a force even if it were available. That we are not at present under any obligation to protect Persia is quite sure: Mr. Bonar Law said so in the House of Commons a few days ago; and though the Persian Foreign Minister is understood to have asked Great Britain for support, he bases his request on the ground that such support should be given in our own interests. Nevertheless, in view of our friendly and extraordinary relations with Persia, we cannot sit idly by and watch her becoming a prey to the Bolshevists, as she would almost certainly do if she were left without help, in the not unlikely event of the Bolshevists breaking their word once more.

In his interesting lecture on roads and motor transport in India, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu had little difficulty in showing that, judged by western standards, India is lamentably short of metalled roads, but the mischief of it is that roads are not the only defect in the equipment of the country. More railways are also wanted, and more sea ports; more irrigation canals; more universities and technical schools; more hospitals and institutes of medical research; more centres for the study of animal and vegetable pathology; in a word, more of everything, except, perhaps, law courts, with which Western progress has endowed the East. It is all to the good that every expert should voice the claims with which he is specially concerned, but it will be well for the public to remember that a larger question than the efficiency of a particular department is involved. India is getting richer, but she is still poor; the national credit is rising, but it is still relatively low; no set of experts could be satisfied all at once without incurring the risk of bankruptcy; and the allocation of limited funds between competing claims must be the business of the Government as a whole.

Lord Montagu is a statesman, and we gather that he recognises the financial difficulties much better than experts in some other departments are wont to do, but it is, perhaps, worth while to point out that the cumulative effect of expert clamour may be to produce an entirely false impression of the value of the British administration. British India did not start on the level of the West, and the true test of the administration is a comparison with countries like Persia or Arabia, which 200 years ago were as well, or as badly, equipped with the material needs of civilisation. In the interval India has gone so far ahead that the comparison has become ludicrous; she has not yet caught up the West, and there should be no relaxation of effort until that goal is reached, but at the same time it is only fair to bear in mind that the very existence of these unsatisfied demands is the measure of British achievement, as well as one more testimony to the incurable idealism of our race.

If we have said nothing recently in these columns on the burning question of homeward passages, our silence has not been due to any want of sympathy with the difficulties experienced by the English community in India, but rather to the impossibility of obtaining authoritative information regarding the position on this side. The facts which Colonel Yate has now succeeded in extracting from the Secretary of State show that the clamour in India has, on the whole, been justified. The Ministry of Shipping did much, but it did not do enough, and, when the season of pressure came, it was found that the supply of passages was short by roughly two large ships, which Whitehall asked for, but the late dweller of St James's Park refused. Lord Inchcape is indeed coming to the rescue with an extra liner, but berths at the end of July are a poor consolation for invalids ordered home in April, and the view taken by Anglo-Indian circles in this country is probably represented with substantial accuracy by the remark we heard last week, that if autocracy is inevitable, the autocracy of the P. and O. would be a less grievous yoke than that under which Anglo-India now groans.

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At the same time there is a certain amount of force in the demand for fuller information regarding the principles on which passages have been allotted during the present season. Last year there was State control, and consequently an attempt, even though it may not have been entirely successful, to take needs into consideration. This year, if we may believe indignant correspondents in India, premiums have been widely offered, "stags" have been making money, and titled globe-trotters have got home at short notice, while invalid officers have been left behind. We have searched the columns of our Indian contemporaries for any definite contradiction of the more specific charges, but apparently the shipping agencies are willing that judgment should go against them by default, for we have found nothing in the way of a reply beyond attempts to blame the Ministry of Shipping, which has nothing to do with the allocation of passages to individuals, though it is doubtless responsible for the shortage in the aggregate. However that may be, there are obviously much heartburning and suspicion abroad in India, the only cure for which is a liberal antiseptic dressing of publicity.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Poland and Parliament.

The House of Commons is only indulging in a short Whitsun recess, the Government still hoping to avoid an autumn session by crowding the legislative work through between June and August. Already, in fact, the first hint of the inevitable "massacre of the innocents" has been given, Mr. Bonar Law having regretted that he could not give facilities for the Plumage Bill, an admirable measure designed to protect rare birds, which are rapidly being exterminated by the drapery trade. Unfortunately birds have no votes and drapers have, with the result that the Bill is introduced session after session, blocked, and finally murdered.

The Home Rule debates of the week have been of academic interest and no more, in the absence of real opposition and effective criticism. The only discussion which possessed actuality was that on the Polish situation, raised by the Independent Liberals on the motion for the adjournment. Their criticism was not particularly effective, but Mr. Bonar Law's answer, though incomplete, added a good deal to the rather scanty information hitherto available.

It is very curious that the Liberals, who used to lament the lost nationality of Poland, do nothing but criticise Poland now that she is restored to her old independence; indeed, in some recent speeches Mr. Asquith has almost suggested a feeling of personal regret at the passing of that hoary imposture, the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Poles are putting up a gallant fight against the Bolshevists, much to the distress of the noisy sympathisers with the Soviet Republic in this country, who wish the League of Nations to intervene. But intervention would be useless unless it were effectual, and as the League has no force available the idea is absurd. It is very doubtful whether Poland would recognise its moral authority, even when enforced by the menaces of Lord Robert Cecil; Soviet Russia has openly refused to have anything to do with the League.

There seems, however, to be justice in the complaint that the British Government's policy in the Baltic and in this matter of Poland and Russia has been unduly secretive. The cynical suggest that it is merely a consequence of the Government not having a policy at all, but that is not true. The real explanation is the lamentable weakness of criticism of foreign affairs in the House of Commons. Mr. Bonar Law had really very little to answer after his opponents had stated their case; and since Governments, like everything else in this world, work on the lines of least resistance, it is not likely that the Foreign Office will divulge more than it is compelled to.

The New Speaker.

It is understood that Mr. Speaker Lowther will retire from the Chair at the end of this session. He has for some time been anxious to do so, but first the war and then the necessity of setting a House mainly composed of new members firmly on its feet, persuaded him to stay on. The time has now come when he will no longer delay his well-earned rest. Mr. Lowther has well maintained the traditions of dignity and courtesy of the Chair; he has ruled by persuasion rather than force, and has preferred to dissolve anger by a jest—he has a happy vein of humour—rather than by a rebuke. He could be stern when occasion demanded, but it must be confessed that he has seldom been faced with the stormy scenes of the eighties, when Irish obstruction was at its height.

The question of his successor is an open one. Sir A. Pollock, one of the legal officers of the Government, has his supporters among the Unionists; Mr. Whitley, who has long been Chairman of Committee, is rather preferred by the Liberals—his merits are the only matter on which Coalition and Independent Liberals are understood to agree; and it is suggested that a third claimant may be found in Sir Robert Horne.

This gentleman's career is one of the most astounding things in modern politics. Nobody had ever heard of him—at least, at Westminster, where nobody has ever heard of anybody except politicians—two years ago; but he has a way with him which has quite captured the House. His speeches are lucidity itself; he is both frank and tactful, and one feels when listening to him that he is the very embodiment of "the whole truth and nothing but the truth"—an emotion which does not always overcome one when the Front Benches are talking. No doubt he would make an admirable Speaker, or Archbishop of Canterbury, or even Astronomer-Royal, if he wanted to; but a man who has attained high Cabinet rank in two years, and has the prospect of rising still higher in the Government is hardly the tppe that one looks upon as a Speaker *in posse*.

On the whole, Mr Whitley would probably be the best choice. He is generally respected, studiously fair, and he has trained for the part by officiating as Deputy-Speaker. Mr. Pollock's merits and abilities are undoubtedly great, but they jump less readily to the eye, and he has had no previous experience of the part like Mr. Whitley—not that that is necessarily a disqualification, for excellent Speakers have jumped straight from the obscurity of the back-benchers into the authority of the Chair.

Devonshire House.

Sic transit gloria mundi! Devonshire House is sold, and the mansion which has entertained Kings and Emperors may be turned into a cinema, according to an announcement in the newspapers this week. One may still hope a better fate for one of the finest sites in London. A club, or an hotel, or even a block of flats

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would be in keeping with the frontage to Piccadilly and the immediate neighbour of Devonshire House, Lord Lansdowne's great establishment; but a cinema!

The day of the great London houses seems over. The future historian will perhaps date the fall of the great town house from the demolition, forty years ago, of Northumberland House to make way for the Constitutional Club and the caravanserai of Northumberland Avenue, but the remainder of the great ducal houses seemed likely to survive. But there have been hints that more than one peer is thinking of giving up his town mansion now that the Duke of Devonshire has set the fashion, and the closing of Devonshire House will certainly make a difference to the Berkeley Square district. It may be that the nobility will follow the Bishops, who have long given up the custom, which flourished in the eighteenth century, of residing mainly in London and putting in only an occasional appearance in their dioceses; the Bishops are now rather inclined to grumble at the necessity of putting in an occasional appearance at the House of Lords, and hardly any of them keep up a town house. The Bishop of London has even suggested that the day will come when Fulham Palace may have to be closed.

The Birth-Rate.

The report, with documents and appendices, of the National Birth Rate Commission is a bulky tome which it is quite impossible to summarise, and which, frankly, seems no longer necessary. The population is increasing at a prodigious rate, and if anybody still talks about national suicide, I can only advise him to motor through the suburbs and villages of England in holiday time, as I did not long ago, and he will be astounded at the number of children and their evident lustiness and vigour. Mr. Harold Cox, who gave evidence before the Commission, thinks that England is already over-populated, and although I disagree with him, I am bound to say that whenever I go into one of the London Tubes I am inclined to think he is right. Although congestion is not so bad as it was, it is still impossible to travel in comfort at any of the rush hours.

There is no really conclusive evidence of degeneration of physique. Some very interesting tables are given, but the fact is that in some places the population is less healthy owing to occupation than it was, and in other places it is more healthy. On the other hand, the evidence that the race is getting taller is conclusive, and there is some indication that it is getting lighter in pounds avoirdupois. A doctor tells me that the average English baby is a good inch longer at birth than it was fifty or a hundred years ago, and that the increased height is generally maintained through life. It is due, in his opinion, to the more active habits and sports of women increasing the size and height of the female sex; my own suggestion that it came partly from strap-hanging becoming a permanent biological trait he rejected with contumely.

Welwyn Garden City.

The plans for a considerable garden city have now been formed, and the prospectus is before the public. It is to be at Welwyn, a pretty spot on the Great Northern line between Hatfield and Hitchin, not a vast way from the original garden city at Letchworth, a mile or so the Cambridge side of Hitchin. It used to be said that none but cranks and faddists lived at Letchworth, and much the same slander was floated about Golder's Green; but when I went to that delectable suburb the only extraordinary thing I saw was the quantity of perambulators, which said much for the energy and faith of the inhabitants.

Welwyn is to be developed into a town of the size of Bedford, and to have its own local industries, so that it will not add another to the long list of "dormitory" suburbs, most of which are losing whatever distinction of identity they ever had under the new post office scheme of numbering. Even Wimbledon, which used to think itself distinctly better than its neighbour Wandsworth, now hides its diminished head under "S.W.19." It is rumoured that bureaucratic sticklers for uniformity would like the system extended to the whole country—so that Southend-on-Sea, for instance, would be S.X.25, and so on—but such a scheme would materially increase the population of the asylums.

Another New Suburb.

The London County Council have published details of another new housing scheme which is to be put in hand immediately. At Dagenham, in Essex, accommodation is to be provided for 120,000 people, with fire stations, free libraries, schools, cinemas; the cost is estimated at thirty millions sterling. Dagenham at present is a small place in the unattractive South Essex flats, but it will soon be a suburban extension of the East End, like Ilford. Other schemes for garden cities or less pretentious suburbs are pending along what used to be known as the Tilbury line, but is now part of the Midland system; within another decade there will probably be a continuous line of houses practically all the way from London to Southend.

The Week's Books.

"Bygone Beliefs" (Rider), by Mr. H. Stanley Redgrove, discusses many quaint old superstitions and by-ways of thought, the faith in magic and talismans and the old cabalistic medicine. It leaves one with a curious sense of the follies of the wise, for those who originated these blunders were in many ways the leaders of their time.

I opened "A Lord Mayor's Diary" (Murray), by Sir William Treloar, with the feeling that the mysterious civic secrets of the Mansion House were at last to be disclosed; I closed it with a feeling of profound thankfulness that no possible combination of circumstances could ever make me Lord Mayor. The chief magistrate of the City of London has to lunch or dine, or be lunched or dined (by a Worshipful Company or a Potentate or an August Personage) every day of his official life; probably the reason that the tenure of office is limited to a year is that no human being could survive the gastronomic ordeal longer. Sir William confesses that he only got through by always refusing meat and confining himself to one kind of wine; but even with that austere temperance, there is a tell-tale entry in his diary that he was "not well" after about six months in office, and soon afterwards he went to Harrogate, where the doctors prescribed massage of the stomach. After these and other details, only the heroic can aspire to the Mansion House, and it is with a sense of shock that I discover that only about two Lord Mayors have died in office; perhaps only the physically robust proffer themselves for election. Incidentally, among these records of pomp and circumstance, Sir William tells the story of his cripples' fund, a work which will recall his name to thousands when the details of his mayoralty are forgotten.

A very interesting biography is that of Mr. Jesse Collings, whose "Life" (Longmans) was begun by himself and completed by Sir John Green, of the Rural League. Mr. Collings, who is happily still with us, will always live in political history as the father of "three acres and a cow"; he is a self-made man, who rose from service in an ironmonger's shop to be Mayor of Birmingham, and eventually one of Mr. Chamberlain's most trusted lieutenants.

The week's novels include new books by Lucas Malet and Compton Mackenzie, representatives of the old and new school of English fiction. The critics have fallen foul of both with extraordinary unanimity. As I have not yet found time to read either of them, I cannot judge how far the reviewers are justified; but I mention this as an apparent indication of a more drastic method of criticism. A hundred, or even fifty, years ago, the mental standpoint of the reviewer was that an author was an exceptionally foolish person, who practically asked to be sacrificed; then the fashion went to the other extreme, and immediately before the war every new book was automatically proclaimed a masterpiece. How strange it is now to look over the critical reviews of ten years back, and to see the number of immortal authors whom the world has contentedly forgotten. Perhaps the war made us all more brutal in our judgments; anyway, I notice that the critics now often condemn a book as utterly trivial or meaningless which, to my untutored judgment, seems powerful and well-written.

OCELLUS.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 10.

Another Attempt on a Minister

On Saturday last an attempt was made on the life of his Excellency Hussein Darwish Pasha, Minister of Wakfs. As the Minister was returning from the funeral of one of the native Court counsellers a bomb was thrown at his car, slightly wounding the chauffeur and damaging the carriage, but without doing any injury to the intended victim. A little boy and a carpenter who were standing on the opposite side of the road were, however, hit, the former somewhat badly. No one suspicious was found on the spot, but later in the evening the police received a report that a young student was lying injured at his house. They immediately went there, and found that he was suffering from wounds at the back of his head, down the right side of his face, and on his right forearm. His explanation was that he had happened to be passing when the bomb was thrown. Unfortunately, before any further information could be obtained from him, he died.

An inquiry was at once opened, and the evidence so far available seems clearly to indicate that the dead student actually threw the bomb. The latter is practically identical with those used in the previous attempts on Ministers, and is slightly larger than that thrown at Mohammed Shafik Pasha. There seems little doubt that those implicated in this outrage belonged to the same organisation as that responsible for the four attempts which have been made on the lives of Ministers, starting with the bomb thrown at the car of Mohammed Said Pasha on September 2 last year.

The more instructed Egyptians are exceedingly perturbed at this outrage. Leaving aside the question whether acts of violence really advance the national cause, they realise that any attempt to put Ministers out of the way and intimidate others from succeeding them cannot in the circumstances serve any useful purpose, since the government of the country would be carried on just the same. Moreover, during the past week there have been attempts on the lives of members of the British Army, and one officer has died as the result of wounds inflicted on him whilst walking through the Bulaq district after dusk; and instructed Egyptians recognise that these cowardly attacks followed by another attempt on the life of a Minister cannot commend the Egyptian cause to the British public, especially at the present juncture, when they hope that their leaders will be able to find an opening for discussing with the British Government the future of Egypt and coming to some arrangement satisfactory to both parties before the Milner Mission delivers its report. Indeed, as they admit, no more inopportune moment than the present could have been chosen for a resumption of the series of acts of violence that have unfortunately marked the past year.

The Shah of Persia.

The Shah passed through Port Said on Thursday last on his way back to Persia. The High Commissioner, accompanied by Mr. Scott, Councillor to the Residency, and other members of his staff, went down to Port Said by special train to greet his Majesty, who was also welcomed there by his Excellency Said Zulfikar Pasha, representing his Highness the Sultan, and the Persian Agent. The Shah did not land, and continued his way into the Canal early next morning.

The Emir Abdullah.

The Emir Abdullah, who is still with us, has had a very busy and interesting week. Amongst the lighter events has been a review of the British garrison in his honour, at Abbassia on Tuesday. The parade was a very fine one, the troops marching past in great form, but unfortunately the cavalry did not come up to the scratch, and although the Artillery galloped past in dashing style, the 11th Hussars left much to be desired; in fact, their display, which was so keenly looked forward to, was very disappointing.

On Saturday the Emir attended an aerial display given by the Mid-East Air Force on the Heliopolis aerodrome. His Highness was very much impressed by the excellent and daring manner in which the planes carried out their programme, especially when the machines at the conclusion of their "stunts" came to earth, all in a straight line, a few yards in front of him. Two of his suite, as well as Colonel Vickery, the British Agent at Jeddah, who has accompanied him throughout his trip, subsequently went up for a flight, much to the delight of the Emir and the other members of his retinue.

Emir Abdullah was the guest of honour at a State luncheon given by the Sultan at Abdin Palace, and the same afternoon he took tea with Lord and Lady Allenby at the Residency. His Highness leaves again to-morrow for Jeddah, having spent just under three weeks in Cairo. During his visit he has had several conferences with Lord Allenby and the other authorities, and there is every reason to believe that a satisfactory agreement has been arrived at in connection with the various matters discussed. Cairo is not new to the Emir, who visited it during the latter years of the ex-Khedive's reign, and who passed through this country whenever he went to Constantinople, where he sat in the Ottoman Parliament as a Deputy for Mecca; but to most of his suite Egypt was unknown, and from remarks which they have let drop they are returning to the Hejaz with very changed ideas of the outside world and a very great impression of British prestige.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, May 8.

The Cabinet Problem.

M. Vesnitch, till recently Minister in Paris, has returned to Belgrade to make a second attempt to form a Coalition Cabinet; and he has greater chance of success this time, as the Democrats have signified their willingness to give assistance, and the Prime Minister has submitted a memorandum to the Crown, in which he stated that he could no longer carry on the Government owing to the obstructionist tactics of the Opposition. Consequently, now that both parties have had a few months' experience of attempting to govern, both with and without Parliament, they may be willing to give a coalition a trial. M. Vesnitch, as a trained diplomatist, has more qualifications that M. Protitch or M. Pribichevitch, neither of whom overdoes the *suaviter in modo*. Everybody hopes that M. Vesnitch will succeed, and that quickly, for everybody is sick and tired of the uncertainty and constant changes. The duties of the new Government will be to remain adamant upon the vital national interests in the Adriatic question, and to carry through the general elections for the Constituent Assembly, which, it is hoped, will give the country a Government that will stay in power for a good term of years.

Strike Ended.

The railway strike has ended in a collapse, which is generally interpreted as a great win for the Government. Ordinary traffic is resumed, but the postal services have hardly recovered from the shock yet. Mails are coming in regularly now, but there is reason to believe that a number have been lost, or at least, not delivered.

May 1 was celebrated as Labour Day, and great preparations were made by the authorities to prevent any unruliness. The police directed the Labour Party where they might demonstrate, but the leaders replied that they would demonstrate only in their own homes. They were either sulky or cowed, for the railway strike came to an end only two days previously. The day passed perfectly peacefully, the only signs of anything unusual being the slightly stronger patrols of gendarmes that were on duty.

Good News for Smokers.

It is hoped that the tobacco shortage of last year is over for good; no longer shall we see queues of hungry

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smokers waiting for their morning dole outside the little window of the *Monopol* for the "English" and American cigarettes which the authorities had secured. The *Monopol* is reported to have bought up the entire crop, amounting to eight million kilogrammes, of which five millions are from the old kingdom of Serbia.

Before the war, Serbian cigarettes had a deservedly high reputation, as not only was the actual tobacco of the finest quality, but it was very skilfully seasoned and cured. It is stated that the Kaiser preferred them to any other, which, if it is true, is a rare instance of good taste on his part. Very high wages indeed are paid to smoke-dried old peasants of proved and delicate palate as tasters. But still, it will take a year or two for the Serbian tobacco industry to recover its prestige, if only for the time necessary for seasoning, and for replacing plant looted by the enemy.

The British Colony.

The British colony in Belgrade has been gay of late. Dances are frequent; the British hospital units, the Serbian Relief Fund, and other institutions have frequently given more or less informal dances; recently the bachelors of the colony gave a pleasant ball at the Oficirski Dom, which has the best floor in Belgrade, and shortly after that a private ball was given in the same building. It was attended by representatives of the British, American, French, and Russian colonies, as well as by many Serbs, whose younger generation, largely educated in England during the war, have taken very kindly to the mysteries of the fox-trot and the one-step. And the very excellent Guards' Band was able to provide music for the most fastidious.

A Slump in Communism.

One does not hear much more of Communism since the collapse of the railway strike, which interested parties tried to convert into a political move. So-called "Communist" leaders have been arrested at Osijok, and the so-called Soviet Republic, which had less than an ephemeral existence at Subotitsa, has been abundantly proved to have been a plot on the part of the Hungarian Nationalists. A searching investigation has revealed the ramifications of a widespread plot, which seems to have extended across the Roumanian frontier in the Banat; at Subotitsa, whole arsenals of concealed arms have been discovered. The wire-pullers are sitting in safety across the demarcation line, but a large number of arrests have been made, and sensational revelations are expected. One of the arrested succeeded in committing suicide.

Demobilisation Completed.

Demobilisation became complete on May 5; the military censorship of letters and telegrams was abolished, and the functions of the Serbian G.H.Q. terminated at five o'clock that evening. Voivoda Mishitch remains head of the army, as Chief of General Staff, but as that gallant soldier is unfortunately still resting in France in very poor health, after the terrible strain and responsibility of the past seven years, the duties of the Chief will be carried out by his assistant, General Peshitch.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 14.

The Political Situation.

There is no new development to report in the political situation. The Ministers and candidates for the parliamentary elections are busy addressing meetings in their respective constituencies, and in Bucharest itself a lively propaganda is being carried on. The streets are plastered with placards setting forth the aims and virtues of the various parties, and leaflets are being distributed broadcast. An excellent opportunity was afforded for such distribution on Monday, May 10, which is a national holiday in commemoration of the entry of Charles of Hohenzollern into Bucharest as sovereign Prince of Roumania, when he took the following oath:

"Je jure d'être fidèle aux lois du pays, de maintenir la religion de la Roumanie ainsi que l'intégrité de son territoire et de gouverner en Prince constitutionel."

A Review.

A commemoration service was held at the Cathedral at 11 o'clock, to which the King and Queen drove in state, accompanied by the Princesses Elizabeth and Ileana, and escorted by the Royal Regiment in their white-plumed helmets. The high dignitaries of State, foreign diplomatists, and some distinguished guests were present at the ceremony. The route was lined with soldiers, and great crowds watched the procession and gave their Majesties a most hearty welcome. There is no doubt that they are extremely popular.

After the service the King held a review of the troops in the Boulevard Academiei, which the Queen and Princesses also watched, from a kiosk erected for the purpose. A grand stand was prepared for State officials and the Diplomatic Corps, but for reasons of economy no provision was made for the general public. Every window and available point of vantage was, however, filled by the enthusiastic populace. The troops looked fine, strong men, and marched in splendid form, especially the mountaineers, one company of whom carried their *ski* and attracted a good deal of attention as well as sympathy, for the day was hot. But the greatest excitement was roused by a company of small tanks, which many people saw for the first time in this country. The King took the salute of the troops on horseback, and after their march past the various detachments returned to their barracks or lined the home route to the Palace. About 1 p.m. the Royal party returned home.

Roumania's Recent History.

On this historic occasion it may be interesting to review shortly the recent history of Roumania. It will be remembered that for over a hundred years (1711-1821) Roumania was ruled by the Phanariote Princes, of Greek origin, appointed by the Sultan of Turkey. As the result of a revolution in 1821 the government was restored to Roumanian Princes, one in Moldavia and one in Wallachia still under the suzerainty of Turkey. By the Congress of Paris, signed on March 30, 1857, the signatory powers, including France, England, Russia, and Austria, guaranteed to the Principalities of the Danube an independent national administration and freedom of religion and commerce. The chief aims of all Roumanian patriots at this time were to secure freedom from the Turkish yoke and the union of the two principalities. The latter object was achieved and confirmed by the Treaty of Paris in 1859, when Alexander Jean Couza was elected Prince of the United Principalities, but it was not until 1861 that the sanction of the Porte to the union of the two Governments of Jassy (Moldavia) and Bucharest (Wallachia) was obtained, largely through the instrumentality of France. In a very short time, however, jealousies among the Moldavian and Wallachian nobles led to an agitation for the nomination of a foreign ruler. A society was formed with the object of deposing Couza. Among its members were Lascar Catargi, Prince Dem. Ghika, C. A. Rosetti, Jean Ghika, Dem. Sturdza, P. Mavrogheni, G. Ghika, J. Cantacuzeno, and Jean Bratiano, all of whom played a conspicuous part in the later history of their country. In February Couza was arrested and obliged to abdicate. In the same year Prince Charles of Hohenzollern Sigmaringen accepted the throne as Prince of the Roumanians. In 1877, when Russia declared war upon Turkey, Prince Charles threw in his lot with the Russians, and as a result of their joint victory in 1878 Roumania was able to free herself finally from the Turkish yoke. By the Treaty of St. Stephen (March 3, 1878) Turkey recognised her independence and granted to Roumanian subjects in Turkey the same rights as were enjoyed by the subjects of other European countries. By the same Treaty, in spite of the valuable support she had lent to Russia against their common enemy, Roumania was obliged to cede to her ally a large part of the rich Province of Bessarabia, which bears the name of the Roumanian family of Bassarab, who reigned both in Moldavia and Wallachia from the beginning of the thirteenth till the

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middle of the seventeteenth century. The Roumanians have never been able to forgive Russia for the loss of their cherished province, and its recovery since the recent war has given rise to great popular rejoicing.

In 1881, with the sanction of the Great Powers, Roumania was constituted an independent kingdom, and in that year Prince Carol was crowned King of Roumania. Under his wise and energetic rule the country rapidly developed in all directions, till at the beginning of the twentieth century she was a rich and flourishing state, had an excellent railway system, one of the most comfortable in Europe, and a first-class service of passenger steamers running from the port of Constantza to Constantinople, the Piræus, and Alexandria. It is sad to see how the depredations of the war have set her fortunes back again at least fifty years, but the natural wealth of her soil gives her every chance of recovery under a good administration.

The King and Queen leave Bucharest on May 15 for a tour of the Bukovina and Bessarabia. They will attend a mass for the soul of St. Stephen (Stephen the Great), at the monastery of Putna, where he is buried and will proceed thence to Czernovitz, Kisheneff, and the south of Bessarabia, returning in about twelve days.

Roumanian Derby Day.

The racing season began a few weeks ago, and the Roumanian Derby was run last Sunday (May 9). Although this is a very popular event, it is significant of the strange indifference of the general public to current topics that not one of the chief hotel porters could say on Saturday evening whether the Derby race was to be on Sunday or on Monday, the national holiday!

The racecourse lies at the far end of a long chaussée which, for the first mile, is lined with villas in pleasant gardens, and, further on, with woods. This is a modest imitation of the Champs Elysées, and is the fashionable promenade after five o'clock every afternoon. On Derby Day four continuous streams of traffic passed up and down it, the carriages keeping to the middle of the road, while the outside courses were left for the motors. It appeared to be a point of honour for no carriage to try to pass in front of another, as this would inevitably have led to confusion, but the Chaussée is certainly the only place in Bucharest where the rule of the road is observed so conscientiously. On the return journey, after the races, the crowd of carriages was so great that for a distance of about two kilometres it would have been impossible to cross the road between them, and policemen were stationed all along the route to take the number of any carriage that ventured out of its line; very few drivers seemed disposed to risk incurring the heavy fine imposed for such an infringement of the rule.

The races themselves were not very noteworthy, as only three to five horses were entered for most of them, and the betting was not on the horse but on the stable. Thus, for the Derby race, five horses were entered, of which three belonged to M. Marghiloman. The chances were, therefore, at least three to two that he would win, which, indeed, he did, two of his horses coming in neck and neck. However, the weather was fine, and the crowd very gay. The King and Queen and Princess Elizabeth were present. The Queen and the Princess wore mourning for the Crown Princess of Sweden. The King was in Admiral's uniform, and during the intervals between the events he walked up and down the promenade with a friend.

Bujor.

Sentence of penal servitude for life has been passed on the Bolshevik Bujor, a Roumanian who joined the Russian Bolshevists, and was a member of the committee at Odessa who were responsible for the detention of the important Roumanian prisoners who were later liberated through the intervention of Colonel Boyle. He unwisely returned to Roumania, thinking, perhaps, that the Socialists would be strong enough to protect him but was arrested about two months ago. He had been responsible for raising Roumanian Bolshevist battalions to fight against the Roumanian army when it entered Bessarabia.

PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, May 1.

A visitor to Jerusalem now may or may not expect great changes, according to his temperament or previous knowledge of the place and country. It was the writer's privilege to be in the Holy City when the long-expected news of the Mandate was made known. The first intimation to the general public of the fact was the publication of special editions of the Hebrew papers, and groups of Jews in the streets discussing in animated groups the great announcement. There seemed to be no public official intimation, and even two days later Englishmen employed in Government offices said they had heard nothing official. There had been a tense feeling in the place ever since the unfortunate troubles a month or two ago—everyone on the *qui vive*, and apprehensive looks even if a door banged, as no one knew whether it might be the first shot of another riot. However, everything was quiet and remained so, much to the relief of all. The recent rising has left a nasty feeling behind it, but people are beginning to realise that it was probably through the influence of certain foreign Jews of Anarcho-Bolshevist tendencies, and the best Jewish opinion in the country deplored the breach of the peace as much as anyone. The Jews living in the country have lived for generations with their Moslem neighbours, if not on terms of cordiality, at least with mutual tolerance. The stern warning given by the Military Governor of Palestine, which, put into unofficial language, was to the effect that he was going to stand no nonsense, and that anyone who broke the peace, whether he were Jew, Moslem, Christian, or infidel, would be severely dealt with, seems to have had a good effect. There is a Commission sitting now to sift the claims of the various people who say they lost goods or money in the recent riots. A curious fact disclosed is the amount of money which seems to be habitually carried on the person, some claiming as much as two hundred pounds, which they allege had been taken from them. In some cases this is no doubt exaggerated, but there is enough evidence to show that it was by no means unusual. Possibly with confidence restored, the inhabitants will begin to make more use of banking facilities than apparently they have done in the past.

The railways and posts in Palestine seem in a very parlous state. If anyone complained, it was stated that nothing could be done till the Mandate arrived, which word seemed to bring as much comfort to bureaucratic inertia as the blessed word Mesopotamia did to the old lady. This had a shadow of plausibility with regard to the railways, which need large sums spent on repairs and upkeep to rolling-stock, as well as extensive renewals, but the posts and telegraphs are in a different category. Telegrams take anything up to two days to get from Egypt to Palestine, and letters may not be delivered there for four or five days after posting in Egypt. Business people in Palestine seem to accept the inevitable with stoical indifference, having complained in vain; but it is obvious that if the country is to become prosperous this state of things must be altered.

Road repairing outside the city of Jerusalem is proceeding, and various steam and motor rollers are doing good work. Also main drains are being laid, and the deep trenches cut to receive the pipes form an interesting object-lesson as to the débris on which Jerusalem is built. Fortunately, the British School of Archæology has now secured quarters in the place, and will be able to watch should any important remains be found. There has also been appointed a Government Inspector of Antiquities, who may be able to do something towards preserving the historic remains in the country. Professor Garstang, who is in Jerusalem in connection with the work of the British School, has been appointed Honorary Adviser to the Antiquities Department.

A curious result of the extraordinary fall of snow last winter is the fact that there is hardly a single evergreen tree in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem that has not been maimed. The cypresses especially seem to have suffered, practically every one having the top or one of the main branches broken off, and some fir-trees in the Municipal Garden have been beaten down almost to the ground. Olive-trees also have suffered a good deal, though not enough materially to affect the olive crop, which bids fair to be a heavy one this year.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

JERUSALEM (Undated).

The Jewish Problem.

Anti-Zionist feeling is in no way diminished, as is easy to understand on the spot. That a better time is coming is the hope and expectation of all. Relief from indebtedness—the curse of ages—the establishment of agricultural banks, security and justice, and many other practical benefits are inseparably connected with the idea of British influence;

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and hence the mandate is hailed by almost all. But the newly awakened glimmerings of "self-determination" and of a patriotic sentiment repel the suggestion of a foreign invasion. Has not the Jew already looked with unfriendly eye upon Government loans to agriculturists, and even protested against them? The "Arab" element is still encouraged to fear that his race will be swamped by the threatened hordes, and the active propaganda of a "Moslem-Christian Committee" is thrown into the scale. Moslem and Christian have got on well together in the past, but when the thin edge of the Jewish wedge is inserted the "Zionist peril" will develop and become a worse than Ottoman tyranny. Why should an unpopular minority, not experienced in the arts of government, be foisted upon the people and disturb the prospect of an otherwise promising situation? The Jew desires to obtain a footing in every Government office, and that Hebrew should become the official language. "Palestine for the Jews" alone is the thinly veiled aim. The optimistic Zionist replies that there is no ground for hostility or clashing of interests. There is ample room for a union of races and for a million of newcomers. Jews will only form a part of the immigrant stream. There must be a large expansion of land cultivation, which means increased prosperity for all. An influx of Jews wisely controlled will help to bring this about. Wide areas of uncultivated, but cultivable, land should be placed under the plough and tree plantation. Much outlay will, of course, be necessary for this and for improved communications by road, rail, and harbour development, none of which had the slightest chance under Turkish rule. There will be no difficulty in raising funds. The Jews will see to that. The idea that the Jews are not good agriculturists is a fallacy. The Jewish element, again it is said, will be a "strength for Britain," whose mandate Jews so ardently desire. This Jewish wave of immigration will presumably not be from Western Europe, but from Russia and those countries which have not provided so enviable a home for the race.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, April 17.

The Legislative Council.

The session, adjourned from February 12, is to be resumed on April 19, and is not likely to be a long one.

New Laws.

The course of legislation is likely to run smoothly, and the absence of most of the elected Greek members should tend to facilitate discussion. Several of the draft laws, which are to occupy the attention of the Legislative Council, have now been published. The first is an Appropriation Law to provide a sum of £383,812 for the service of the current financial year. The sum to be spent on personal emoluments is not to exceed £187,483. The schedule allocating the sums proposed for the different departments includes the following: Police, £61,000; Forest, £40,000; Land Registry and Survey, £33,000; Public Works (annually recurrent), £31,000; Public Works (extraordinary), £32,000; Treasury, £21,000; Medical, £18,000; Customs, £16,000; Pensions, £15,000. A Surplus Balance Law provides £51,000 for certain expenses, not already provided for, including Public Works, £28,000; Forest, £8,000; Railway, £5,000; Malarial Campaign, £3,500; Agriculture, £3,000.

Another law aims at checking, by more severe penalties, a crime still far too prevalent—that of stabbing. Ten years after the Occupation a law was passed to prohibit the wearing or carrying of dagger knives; and this was amended in 1911, so as to increase the punishment of offences. It is now proposed to prohibit the import and sale, as well as the wearing or carrying, of dagger knives longer than 3 inches in the blade, excepting those designed for purely business or domestic purposes. Any person wearing such a knife at a marriage or a fair, or in a brothel, is liable to a fine of from £2 to £10, or to three months' imprisonment, or both, always with confiscation of the knife. Marriage festivities in Cyprus, during which a good deal of wine is drunk, are a frequent cause of quarrels, often leading to fatal results.

Bad News for the Dogs.

There is also a law for the prevention of corruption; and one to limit the number of ownerless dogs. These have been the cause of considerable trouble, not to say danger, not only in towns, but to some extent in villages. From next January any dog of over six months must wear a badge, obtainable at a charge not exceeding 6 piastres (8d.). Any dog not wearing such badge may be destroyed by such persons as the High Commissioner may by order direct, the owner having no claim to compensation.

Immigration.

Too many undesirables are endeavouring to seek a home in Cyprus, which has no need of any settlers but useful capitalists, when such can be found, and workers physically fit. A proclamation has been published which very wisely prohibits the landing of destitute persons. A District Commissioner may, by special permission, sanction a landing, should provision be made, to his satisfaction, which would guarantee the immigrant's support for five years, and the expenses necessary for deportation, should the High Commissioner consider this desirable. As early as 1882 it was found necessary to pass a "Vagrants Exclusion Law," which empowered the High Commissioner to prohibit the landing of criminal or vicious immigrants; and in 1884 Sir R. Biddulph prohibited absolutely that of destitute Jews from England, foreign countries, or other parts of the Ottoman Empire.

MALTA.

VALETTA, May 12.

Russian Refugees.

At the request of Admiral Sir John de Robeck, the Governor and Lady Plumer have formed a committee to attempt to obtain help for the 6,000 Russian refugees at Mudros. Articles of all kinds are asked for; and although every sympathy is expressed for the poor stranded people, there have been so many local calls on the island, and we have so much poverty in our midst, that we fear that the response to this call of charity cannot but be small.

PEACE TERMS FOR TURKEY.

PART XIII.

The following Part XIII. of the Turkish Treaty, taken from the official summary, was unavoidably held over last week:—

Miscellaneous Provisions

Turkey recognises Conventions made or to be made by the Allies as to the traffic in arms and in spirituous liquors, and as to other subjects dealt with in the General Acts of Berlin of February 26, 1885, and of Brussels of July 2, 1890, and the Conventions completing or modifying these.

The High Contracting Parties take note of the Treaty of July, 1918, between France and the Principality of Monaco.

In a barrier clause Turkey undertakes not to put forward any pecuniary claim against any Allied Power signing the present Treaty, based on events previous to the coming into force of the Treaty.

Turkey accepts all decrees, etc., as to Turkish ships by any Allied Prize Court, and the Allies reserve the right to examine all decisions of Turkish Prize Courts. Turkey agrees to supply the Allies with all necessary information regarding vessels sunk or damaged by Turkish forces during the war and to restore trophies, archives, historical souvenirs, and works of art taken from the Allied Governments and their nationals, including companies.

Special provisions are also inserted regarding a reform of the Turkish law of antiquities and the future treatment of archæological research in Turkey, the restoration of all objects of religious, archæological, historical or artistic interest removed by Turkey during the war from territories detached from her, the surrender by Turkey of all archives, plans, land registers, etc., belonging to the civil, military, financial, judicial, or other forms of administration in transferred territories, the grant of access by Turkey, subject to reciprocity, to documents, etc., relating to the administration of Wakfs in which the Governments of transferred territories are interested, the recognition by Turkey of Allied judicial decisions since the date of the Armistice, the acceptance of Turkey of special measures to be formulated later by the Allied Powers, acting, if necessary, with third Powers, regarding the sanitary régime in Turkey and in the territories detached from Turkey and the sanitary control of the Hejaz Pilgrimage, the enactment of the necessary legislation by Turkey to execute the Treaty, the obligation of Turkey to facilitate any investigation which the Council of the League of Nations may consider necessary in any matters relating directly or indirectly to the application of the Treaty and the accession of Russia to the Treaty on certain conditions after she has become a member of the League of Nations.

The Treaty, of which the French text is authentic except as regards Parts I. and XII., when the English and French texts are of equal force, shall be ratified and the deposit of ratifications made at Paris as soon as possible. Various diplomatic provisions as to ratification follow. The Treaty is to enter into force as soon as it has been ratfied by Turkey on the one hand and by three of the Principal Allied Powers on the other, so far as concerns these Powers who have then ratified it.

The opening of the new Indian Legislative Assembly at Delhi is expected to take place in February of next year.

Simla is making preliminary arrangements for the proper representation of Indian Labour and agricultural interests at the next International Labour Conference at Geneva.

A combined force of Turks and Kurds has passed through Naku, presumably with a view to concentrating on Nakhitchevan, and thus preparing an attack on Armenia.

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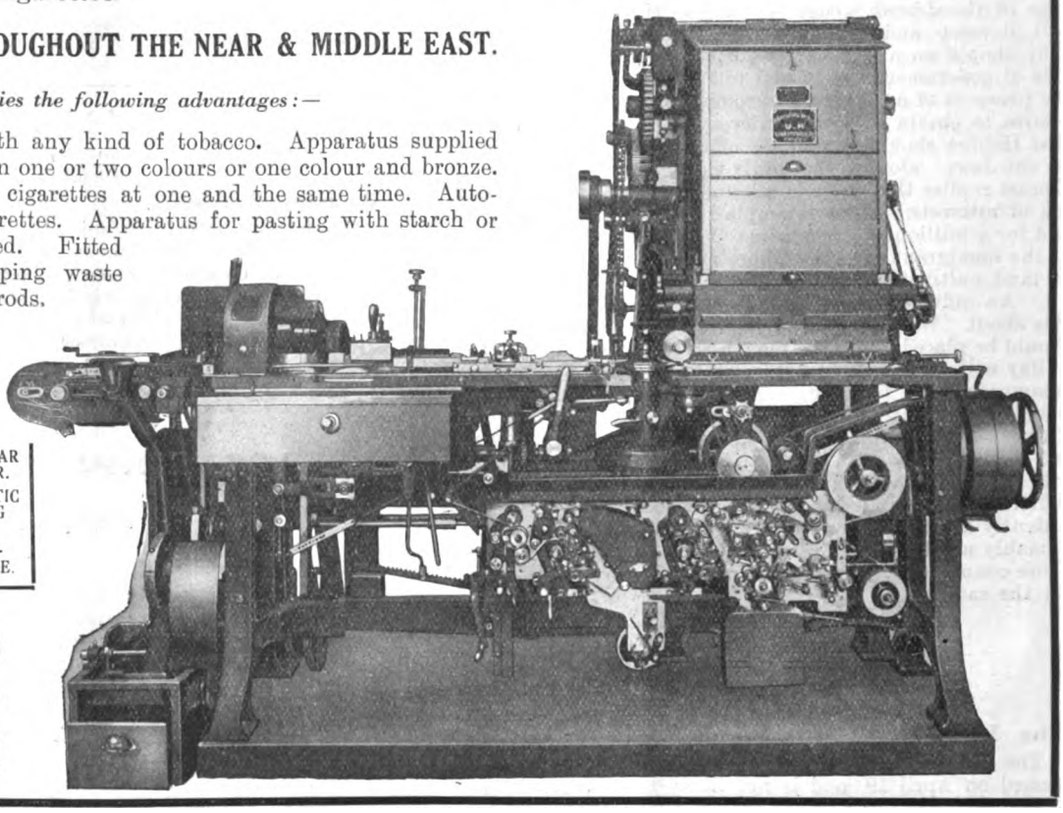

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CORRESPONDENCE.

ALBANIA: FALSE REPORTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Certain telegrams have recently emanated from Athens and Florina, and have appeared in the daily Press, stating that a revolution has been led in Albania by Essad Pasha, and that the Albanian gendarmerie has been trained by Serbians.

This statement is completely erroneous, as Essad Pasha was amusing himself in Paris at the time of his alleged revolutionary exploits. The Greek Press would appear to be ill-informed.

The Albanian gendarmerie has been trained by the Albanians themselves.—I am, etc.,

M. E. DURHAM (Anglo-Albanian Society).

NATIVE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE IN PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

An editorial paragraph in your last issue seems to me, Sir, a little unfair to some of my friends in Palestine. "Outside the Jewish colonies the country is in a backward state," and, later: "Jewish energy can be trusted to alter all that." I have not the advantage of knowing the Jewish colonies, nor am I an agricultural expert, but I have been greatly impressed by the energy and enterprise shown by the natives of the country in repairing the ravages of the war and in responding to the Government under which they know that they shall reap where they have sown by extending and perfecting their fruit and olive plantations. Hilltops of the most hopeless appearance are being planted, terraces are being built and repaired, and young trees planted by the thousand. Many gardens will compare well with any others in any part of the world. The ordinary fellah would be scandalised at the neglect quite common in English orchards.

The Jews get all the limelight upon what they accomplish in Palestine, and especially upon what they *are going to do there*, while one sees little appreciation of what the owners of the country are actually doing on their own account, as those who know—the British Administrators—are, of course, unable to give their knowledge to the public. One hears great schemes propounded for the improvement of agriculture, but my own impression, shared by others, more competent in such matters, is that a long series of experiments will be necessary before it can be proved that the long experience of the owners of the land can be much improved upon. The Jews have the enormous advantage that capital subscribed by the charitable is at their disposal. Should the natives by any means be given equal opportunities, I am confident that the results of their industry and intelligence would be all that could be expected from any alien race.—I am, etc.,

Cairo, May 8. C. C.

THE TOMB OF ST. DEMETRIUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—A copy of THE NEAR EAST of January 22, 1920, has been forwarded to me from Greece. Your correspondent A. R. G. writes therein regarding the statement in my book, "A Woman in the Balkans," that the body of St. Demetrius "lies in the cathedral at Bucharest in a glass case enshrined in silver"—

"In time of calamity or famine the sacred body is carried through the city, followed by a great procession headed by the Archimandrite, the priests and the people."

Your correspondent mentions that during his stay in Salonika he had been shown what he believed to be the actual tomb of St. Demetrius in the church of that name in the city, and asks for further information regarding this tomb and the body of the saint.

The American Consul at Salonika has kindly interested himself in the matter, and writes: "I have a written communication from the Archbishop of Salonika, in which he says the body of Dimitrius was originally preserved in the church of the same name at Salonika. This sacred relic disappeared, along with other valuables of the Byzantine Church, when the Turks converted the church of Saint Dimitri into a mosque, and no definite information is possessed by the Greek Church—according to the friendly Archbishop—as to the subsequent whereabouts of Dimitrius." Bucharest claims to possess this valuable relic in her cathedral.—I am, etc.,

WINIFRED GORDON
(Mrs. Will Gordon, F.R.G.S.).

Beau Vallon, Var. France,
May 11, 1920.

CHRISTIAN CROSSES AT JERUSALEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Dr. Weizman's vehement disclaimer of any desire on the part of the Zionists at Jerusalem to dishonour English soldiers' graves by the removal of the crosses that mark them is only what one would expect from a man of his known probity. To any right-minded Zionist having also a sense of gratitude to Christian soldiers for their sacrifice in liberating the Holy Land, the very idea of tampering with their graves must be obnoxious. But it must be remembered that all Zionists are not British. What is the percentage in Palestine of foreign Jews over British? The broad-minded Zionists must be aware of the religious fanaticism and intolerance of the lower order of foreign Jews, who have to be considered as a force and placated. To these the Cross is still "a stumbling-block."

The "objection" to the soldiers' crosses by Zionists at Jerusalem is, unhappily, no fiction. Travellers returned from Palestine *since* Archdeacon Potter's letter was written, and with no knowledge of it, report the matter independently in almost the same words. In fact, THE NEAR EAST seems to be the last to comment on the subject, which has already appeared in several other papers.

Dr. Weizman's disclaimer will be welcomed by Christians in Jerusalem and at home as an indication of right-minded Zionist feeling on a matter so vital; but it does not, alas! *dispose* of the danger. It is to be hoped that the rank and file of Zionists, whether British or foreign, will take their cue from him and let go of their "objection" to the symbol of the faith under which the mandate for Palestine is held over the graves of the men who won it.—I am, etc.,

RETURNED FROM JERUSALEM.

May 20, 1920.

THE ARMENIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As communication between England and Mesopotamia takes so long, it is too late to comment on recent events; but I propose to offer, by way of consolation to those who constantly read of sporadic massacres of Armenians by cruel Eastern races, a few frank words upon the subject.

As one of your correspondents says: "With the Georgians, the Azerbaijan Tatars, and the Turks all around them, the Armenians stand a poor chance of a free and peaceful existence." But allow me to suggest that the Armenians who have survived the horrible massacres organised by the heads of the German Staff and perpetrated by the bloodthirsty yataghan of the Turk will probably contrive also to pass through the present crisis. The 70,000 Armenians reported at first by Reuter to have been massacred by the Turks in Cilicia proved later to have been 7,000. This mistake will re-enlighten the hearts of all the Armenophils who thought that the end of the Armenian nation was at hand. The Armenian State has been proclaimed and recognised *de facto* by the Supreme Council. This materialisation of the hopes of thousands of Armenians will enkindle the traditional sentiments which are at the bottom of every Armenian's heart.

Much, both for and against, has been said in the Press regarding the Armenians. But the most interesting fact concerns the aspirations of the Administrators of the Armenian Republic at Erivan. These, fortunately, possess sufficient energy to govern and to satisfy the numerous needs of their country, and will by future historians be classed as the creators of Armenian independence.

"To serve Armenia is to serve Civilisation." Gladstone's dictum will never be forgotten by the wise men of the world. The Armenian nation is on the eve of putting into effect the prophecy of her English father.—I am, etc.,

G. MELCONIAN.

Baghdad, April 17.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Intrigue in Persia.

Under the heading "Persian Discord," *The Times* publishes (May 19) an important despatch from its special correspondent in the Middle East, written under date of May 16. The writer begins by remarking that the rapid deterioration of the situation following on the fall of Baku and the dangerous possibilities involved for the Anglo-Persian Agreement and for British interests generally, call urgently for plain speaking. He continues:—

Although it is an open secret that the conclusion of that instrument was never favoured by the Government of India, who feared the heavy commitments it might portend for them and were doubtful of its reception by the Persian public, yet it undoubtedly was conceived on broad and honest lines, which, apart from any unfavourable development of the general political situation, promised it a prosperous career. It arose in a spontaneous impulse on the part of the Persian Government, due to the confidence inspired by the British Minister, which made them realise that Persia, otherwise friendless and alone, had in Britain a powerful potential friend whose interest it was to sustain her. It was essentially an arrangement which could be claimed as an attempt at something new in the Middle East, for the spirit of which the best parallel is the old Anglo-Portuguese alliance, which no monarchical, Republican, Clerical, anti-Clerical politician has reversed because its aim was known to be the preservation of Portuguese independence.

But in Persia, unfortunately, the national confidence in Britain which exists in Portugal has not yet been established. Therefore to treat the agreement as a mechanical arrangement which, once concluded, will flourish untended is surely to destroy it or leave it no basis but our own material force.

With the advance of the flag of Bolshevism into the Middle East, which we are now witnessing, Russian influence, which had temporarily waned, is rapidly reviving under new auspices and with fresh force, because it now appeals to a considerable section of the community. Every true Russian element, whether Bolshevist or not, is naturally frankly opposed to the Anglo-Persian Agreement, is rejoiced to see Russia again in Baku, and is confident that this portends a resumption of Russian sway in Northern Persia.

A little later, after referring to the difficulties of the Persian Government, which, though willing, has not the strength to handle the situation as it should be handled, the correspondent goes on to say:—

The Tabriz Democrats once more have had their way and the opponents of British policy and the Anglo-Persian Agreement here are quick to take advantage of the situation. The Cabinet is the object of continual attack and its unpopularity reacts on the British Legation, which, after a temporary leap into the position of the palladium of Persia, seems likely to fall back into an abyss of unpopularity only comparable to that of Russia before the war.

This is partly due to difficulties not of its own making. The Legation is still saddled with a futile list of proscribed persons, whose Persian patriotism and hatred of Russia had put them in the opposite camp during the war, but without whose assistance and with whose hostility there can be no political peace in which to develop reforms in Persia.

Both in Persia and Europe there are Persians under the ban of Downing Street, who were formerly our best friends and could now do much to bring good fruit out of the Agreement.

It is, he says, "unfortunate that such a time should be chosen or happen for a change of British Ministers. It should be recognised that the new Minister now on his way, who is universally described as an able and sympathetic man, assumes charge at a difficult time. . . . Unfortunately, he cannot count on any enthusiastic well-wishing from his principal Allied colleagues in the prosecution of his task."

The Turkish Treaty.

The *Outlook* of May 15 deals refreshingly with the terms of the Turkish Treaty. Of the pact it says:—

The instrument, as it stands and as it will probably be executed, is manifestly a compromise between self-interest and general expediency. Those who hoped to see the Turk "bundled out of Europe bag and baggage," see the Turk gone but some of the baggage left behind; and the Sultan may now condole with the Pope on the curious coincidence that the rival potentates have each lost their temporal power while their spiritual authority survives. Conceivably the solution was the best in the extraordinarily difficult circumstances; but the addition of Constantinople to the *olla podrida* of Danzig, Fiume, and other unquiet spots which are devised to the League of Nations is frankly more a tacit confession of international bankruptcy than a profession of faith in the new Public Trustee of Europe. The League was originally devised as a kind of gateway to a better world, and a symbolic portal to a Palace of Peace. It is gradually being transformed into a dustbin.

Turkish Nationalism.

In a leading article entitled "Turkish Treaty Sequels," the *Glasgow Herald* of May 18 says:—

But a genuine Nationalist rising in Asia Minor headed by Enver and supported by Bolshevik gold is a somewhat disturbing contingency. Troublesome as this new development may prove to be, there is no need to regard it as in any way alarming, provided that advantage is duly taken of the facts which tell in favour of the Allies, and provided, too, that the Powers most closely concerned in the observance of the Treaty terms act with circumspection as well as with firmness. That there are plenty of actual or potential "Nationalists" among the Turks may be freely admitted, but, except in Asia Minor, and to a considerable extent even there, they are scattered, and combination is rendered difficult by the intervention of belts of territory inhabited or militarily occupied by anti-Nationalist elements. The Nationalists in Thrace are rendered practically of no account by the Allied occupation of Constantinople, the anti-Nationalist operations in Asia Minor must result before long in splitting up Mustapha Kemal's forces, and the Allied command of the Port of Batoum enables flanking pressure to be brought to bear upon Enver's projected incursion through Georgia. These factors will doubtless be turned to good use, but it is not equally certain that the attitude of all the Allied Powers towards non-Nationalist Turkey will be just what it ought to be, in order to secure not only the signing of the Treaty but also loyal acceptance of all its provisions. We ourselves are not likely to err in this respect. France is not very deeply interested in Turkey's future, and Italy has already shown great tact in dealing with the sphere of influence she has acquired in Adalia. But Greece will be well advised to modify the tone of triumphant self-assertiveness which she is already beginning to use in respect of her great territorial gains at the expense of Turkey, and to remember that, while it may be easy for her to maintain those gains in Thrace, her foothold in Asia Minor is not assured, and is dependent on her exhibition of qualities the possession of which she has yet to demonstrate.

Mulai Hafid.

In the May number of the *Strand Magazine*, Mr. W. B. Harris gives some more of his inimitable stories of Sultan Mulai Hafid. Here is an example of the Sultan's unorthodox manners at table:—

The Sultan dined in the great dining-room of the Hotel Majestic. His table, a very large one, for there were constant guests, was raised on a dais at one end of the room, which gave him an excellent view of all the diners—and the diners at the Hotel Majestic at Vichy in the height of the season are worth seeing. One night the Sultan appeared distraint at dinner, and his eye roved over the crowded room with an anxious and sympathetic expression. He spoke little, and it was difficult to get him to talk. At last he asked to see the manager, and that most amiable and deservedly popular gentleman, the proprietor of the hotel, appeared at once. "These people," said the Sultan, waving his hand towards the crowd at dinner, "are badly distributed. Many are not happy. Let us rearrange them. The old gentleman with the long grey beard has no right to be dining with the beautiful young lady in the big black hat, wearing a pearl necklace. There is a terrible disparity in their ages. She should be dining with the charming young officer over there"—he pointed to another table—"and the elderly lady no doubt, his mother, should be dining with old greybeard. You should have," and addressed the proprietor, "some thought for the happiness of your guests. Now, that lady there," and again he pointed in another direction, "is terribly bored. She has been tapping the edge of her plate with her fork for half an hour. She evidently dislikes extremely the gentleman with whom she is dining—probably her husband—but I have watched her, and she keeps looking at the young man, dining alone, with the waxed moustaches. Go and introduce them. Her husband hasn't spoken to her once this evening. He won't miss her—and you will make two people happy, and if the husband is dull, invite that strange lady with the red hair who is just coming in to sit down beside him. She will keep him occupied, I expect, to judge by her appearance."

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.
—OMAR KHAYYAM.

Friendly feeling towards the Turk is to-day unfashionable, and the Press seems to be undecided whether the Terrible Turk or the Bolshevist is the greater evil. In these circumstances I should like to point out, on the authority of a letter published by *The Times*, that "profiteering, which was rampant during the Bolshevist occupation [of Baku], practically ceased during the two and a-half months of the Turkish occupation." That surely shows that Turkish administration, with its occasionally drastic measures, is not *always* an unmixed evil. Indeed, in view of the statement put forward, some of us must feel tempted to wish that we could import a few Terrible Turks to deal with our own Pernicious Profiteers.

***

The idea of a Turkish administration here—with a view to the suppression of the profiteer, of course—opens up a quaint prospect. Mustapha Kemal as Governor would hardly be a popular appointment, but he would "get a move on," I fancy. And how would London like Bedry Bey, formerly of Constantinople, as its Commissioner of Police? Try to picture, too, Salih Pasha as Premier; Javid Bey supplanting Mr. Austen Chamberlain; Talaat at the Home Office; and Enver in office instead of our one and only Winston! But it would be in the outer circles, so to say, that the change would be most noticeable and most amusing. The sight of an ordinary provincial or suburban solicitor trying to persuade an imported Turkish magistrate (formerly a *mudir* or perhaps a *kaimakam*) that his client was merely overcome by grief when he was picked up in the gutter by X 31 would afford one, personally, great joy. But I expect that unless one has seen the original in Turkey the humour would hardly be understood. The solicitor at least would in all probability fail to find the experience an amusing one.

***

A little while ago a short paragraph appeared in the papers about "An Egyptian Bluebeard." It referred to some happenings at Tanta, a Delta town with an unsavoury reputation, where women had been "enticed into a certain house . . . . on the protext of meeting a wealthy admirer, and . . . . despoiled of their jewels and murdered." The remains of twenty victims were reported to have been discovered. Now I do not as a rule read accounts of such horrors—our evening newspapers have, therefore, little attraction for me!—but the word "Bluebeard" in the heading caught my eye in this case; and, of course, the likeness between the crime and a similar "mystery" in France was at once obvious. What I should like to know is whether the Tanta criminal is consciously copying Landru, or whether it is a case of pure coincidence. Having regard to the Egyptian character, I am inclined to favour the former view. It will be interesting to see whether future developments will shed light on this point.

***

The *Pioneer Mail* of April 2 contained a paragraph which has intrigued me not a little. Here it is:—

> Hajee, a wealthy Mussulman, alleged to be a lunatic, has been remanded to custody on a charge of grievously stabbing three magicians performing incantations to drive away the devil which the man was supposed to possess.

There is a puzzle for you! Having regard to the methods pursued by "magicians" in driving away devils, I was inclined, at first, to think that Hajee had given fairly good proof that he neither possessed a devil nor was possessed by one. But then came the thought that no sane man would care to kill three Eastern magicians, unless he felt pretty sure that he would not be found out. If he felt sure of that, of course, there is no knowing what he would do. I can only say that what I have heard of those gentry would lead me to sympathise with Hajee in any case. Yet, if the man really was *majnun*, the magicians were, obviously, engaged on a good work when they were stabbed. So I am left trying to decide whether I ought to feel sorry for them or for Hajee, and for the life of me I can't make up my mind on the point.

***

I referred recently to a class of advertisement inserted in the "agony columns" of the Press by persons who might be described in one word as "cadgers"—men, young and midde-aged, who desired to be "adopted" or otherwise enabled to live without honestly working. My attention is drawn by a friend to an advertisement in *The Times* a short time ago which, being a genuine wail from the heart, may be regarded as a legitimate case of "agony." It begins: "An Indian Servant (with consummate genius) has packed up a 4.50 D.B. Express Rifle . . . . for me to shoot snipe with in England and sent my gun to an auction!" It would take a decent shot to bring down snipe with an express rifle, I suppose—unless one potted them sitting. This advertiser has my sincere sympathy.

***

That an Indian carpet is a good thing of its kind will hardly be denied by anybody who knows what he is talking about. It may not have the beauty and charm of an old Persian carpet, and its design and colouring can seldom if ever be compared with either Turkish or Persian. But it is usually a wonder for wear and a fine draught-stopper. I bought one second-hand for a mere song in 1908, and though it has had extremely hard wear ever since, it is still quite presentable, and looks good for another ten years yet. And I am glad of it, for, as is the case with most other things in this world—except THE NEAR EAST!—the price of Indian floor-coverings "is riz." An Englishman in Bombay recently received a notification from the Yerroda Jail that a carpet, ordered in 1912, was now ready for delivery. Its size was 10 ft. by 8 ft., and he was informed that if he would pay the present price, Rs. 347, it should be forwarded to him. As the communication was actually intended for another Englishman of the same name, he simply sent the notification on to the right person. But he can hardly have been very strongly tempted to take advantage of the accident in delivery of the letter to secure the treasure for himself—at that price.

CORSAIR.

A JOURNEY ACROSS ARABIA.

On May 3, lecturing before the Royal Geographical Society at the Æolian Hall, New Bond Street, Mr. H. St. J. Philby described a journey made last winter by himself, two European companions, and a party of Bedouin across Arabia from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea. On November 14, he said, he left the island of Bahrein for the port on the Arabian coast opposite, whence he set out on his journey, passing through this small port and entering on the deep, rolling sea of sand which lay behind it. In this part of Arabia water can be found by digging in the sand, and, later, he passed through an extensive oasis and one or two small towns On November 27 the party struck off into the interior, taking with them all the water they wanted, and marching across a waterless and treeless desert. There was little to see. The eastern part of the desert was diversified by occasional hummocks or ridges; beyond that the country was undulating, but with the Wady Farch running through it. At one point they came across two acacia trees, perhaps twenty feet high, but giants among the desert scrub, and the Moslems in the expedition gladly availed themselves of the shade cast by these trees as a cool place in which to say their prayers. After marching for three days and a-half they passed through a low barrier of hills on to the eastern flank of the Dahana, the sand desert that holds the interior of Arabia in its desolating grip. That night they camped amongst the sand billows, but the Dahana proved not to be by any means so bad as Palgrave had represented it, and Mr. Philby said that although he subsequently crossed it twice he never succeeded in regaining his original respect for its terrors. On December 9 the party came to the Tuweik Plateau, which bisects Arabia for five hundred miles. This they crossed and, afterwards, another tract of mountainous country before reaching Taif, in the neighbourhood of Mecca. During the latter part of the journey the march was much disturbed by heavy falls of rain, which soaked everybody through and chilled them all to the bone; but the Arabs rejoiced, because it meant better pasture for the sheep and camels in the coming spring, and Mr. Philby made them envious when he told them that in his country it rained every other day. One or two adventurous incidents marked the journey. On one occasion riding ahead with a few companions, while the rest of the caravan struggled far behind, Mr. Philby found himself and his companions covered by the rifles of some people who had ambushed them. He was at a hopeless disadvantage. He and his companions held up their hands in token of surrender, and were immediately surrounded by a mob of howling Bedouin. An indescribable hubbub of argument followed, until it transpired, to everybody's relief, that there was no occasion for bloodspilling. The ambushers were a party of merchants bound on a peaceable enterprise from the Hejaz, and the two parties spent the night side by side peaceably encamped on the site of the encounter.

PERSIAN MSS.

M. Claude Anet, of Paris, the well-known traveller and bibliophil, is offering at Messrs. Sotheby's on June 4, a choice collection of Persian and Indo-Persian miniatures and manuscripts, seventy in all. The miniatures date back to the 15th century, and a number of them are from three different MSS. of "The Marvels of the World," by Kasvini. One of the most important of the MSS. is a finely decorated volume bound in chiselled leather, worked with gold, and is believed to be the only signed Persian binding known. The signature reads, "made by Mohammed Salih, of Tabriz." Another fine MS. is the Divan, by Hafiz, with 73 quatrains of the "Rubáyát" of Omar Khâyyám, and dates from about A.D. 1524.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

In Roumania musical culture reaches, I believe, a high standard, but this fact is little known by, and seldom demonstrated to, the English people. Roumanian artists visit this country but rarely, and the ordinary music critic here makes small distinction between artists of the various South-Eastern countries. Something was done to dispel this enforced ignorance by the appearance at the Steinway Hall on May 19 of Mme. Cella Delavrancea, a Roumanian pianist who is said to have been extraordinarily successful on the Continent. Her programme was made up of familiar pieces by Schumann, Chopin, and Liszt, so that by treading this well-known road she at once claimed to be judged by the highest standards. Unfortunately, it cannot be said that she is a great artist, though she certainly is a good pianist. Her unaffected, unemotional style of playing I liked immensely; but in music of such warmth, tenderness, and sentiment as is to be found in Schumann, Chopin, and Liszt it failed to express the charm and the depth which these works bear. In Schumann, however, she came very near the real thing; in the brusqueness, vigour, and incisiveness of "Carnaval" she was excellent, but the warm beauty of the slower movements she missed. The sluggish dreaminess of these movements she made into clear, unhurried contemplation. In the Chopin it was chiefly the lack of sufficient gradations in her *piano* tone that showed her rather as a pianist than as a poet; though in the first Ballade, where these qualities are not so necessary, her eloquence reached a fine height. Best of all I liked her playing of Liszt's "Funérailles," for to the very depths of its intense religious feeling she plumbed. But as she is to give a more varied and representative programme at the same hall on May 27, I will defer further remarks.

At the Queen's Hall on May 20 the Royal Philharmonic Society gave its seventh concert of its hundred-and-eighth season. This society has a very notable past (readers will remember that it was for it that Beethoven wrote his Ninth Symphony), and it has a great reputation up to which it has to live and by which it must be judged. At this concert there was nothing wrong with the music selected, which consisted mainly of Schubert's glorious Symphony in C, Scriabin's Pianoforte Concerto in F sharp minor, and Debussy's "Fêtes" (No. 2 of "Three Nocturnes"); but the performance, generally speaking, was lamentable. The Scriabin was spoiled by an excess of enterprise on the part of the pianist, Mr. William Murdoch (who played brilliantly otherwise), and a lack of it on the part of the orchestra, conducted by Mr. Landon Ronald. Mr. Ronald consoled us later with an exquisite version of Debussy's "Fêtes"—in this one could breathe freely without any dread of what was going to happen next; but no sooner was this done than he plunged us into an irritable consternation by an unwarrantable presentation of Schubert's Symphony. Not only was this symphony cut—it was bruised and nearly mangled. Much was rejected, and the rest, without being quite despised, lacked a proper reverence. Two other facts in connection with this concert should be mentioned: first, that Elgar's Funeral March (from "Grania and Diarmid") was played in memory of H.R.H. the Crown Princess of Sweden, and that it does not add to the few occasional pieces that really move one; and, secondly, that the novelty of the evening was a scena by Miss Katharine Eggar for voice, string quartet and pianoforte, written for some lines from Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound." It was sung pleasantly enough by Miss Carmen Hill, and seemed to achieve its sincere, if unpretentious, purpose.

The problem of how far poets' verse can, in recitation, be explained by a musical setting is not perhaps a very interesting one. Yet it is well to note that there is now a fashion for doing this sort of thing. At the Æolian Hall on May 4 Miss Esmé Church recited some poems by Browning, Newbolt, Kipling, de la Mare, and others not so good as these, the while Miss Kate Coates played explanatory music at the pianoforte. The experiment has never convinced me, and on this occasion it struck me as particularly artificial, probably owing to the forced and unnatural pitch of voice of the reciter. For this combination obvious music is necessary, but Miss Coates can certainly be congratulated that her music was no worse than that. A very pleasing diversion from this was the violin playing of Miss Marjorie Gunn, who played unaffectedly and very appreciatively. She did very creditably in Franck's Sonata in A minor, and her playing of Ravel's beautiful "Pavane" I thoroughly enjoyed. Miss Gunn has possibilities.

It was a similar entertainment, consisting of a recital of Modern Poetry and Song, that Miss Kathleen Rind, Miss Adelaide Rind, and Mr. Steuart Wilson, gave at the Wigmore Hall on May 21. Miss Kathleen Rind recited a good deal of so-called patriotic verse by such men as Newbolt, Noyes, Vernède, and Herbert Asquith, but she also included some excellent verse (which is fine when read but poor when declaimed), by Rupert Brooke, Edward Shanks, John Drinkwater, and W. B. Yeats. I daresay that Miss Rind does this kind of thing very well, but for me the beauty of verse is not enhanced by a set recital of it. To the ordinary patriotic verse, of which men like Newbolt and Noyes have turned out hundreds of lines, such recital may give point, but to such things as Brooke's "Grantchester" or Yeats's "The Fiddler of Dooney"—no. Miss Adelaide Rind sang some beautiful and well-known songs—the fact that they were well known being rather against her. Some folk-songs of the Zunis, however, which she sang with breadth, were interesting. Mr. Steuart Wilson's voice is going to be an extremely good one. Already he can sing with consummate ease and the necessary artlessness such difficult airs as those by Purcell. The things he seems to require now are those that generally come first to the singer—volume, breadth, and dramatic force. But these are only a question of time, and I have no kind of doubt that he will soon be one of the best tenors in this country.

Those who attended Mr. T. P. Fielden's pianoforte recital at the Wigmore Hall on May 21 had a rather trying experience at the beginning, when four Rhapsodies by Dohnanyi were inflicted upon them. These rhapsodies belong wholly to that class of immoral music which is written purely for technical display; and one of them should be sufficient for any concert programme. In a barcarolle, the Berceuse, a nocturne and a ballade by Chopin, Mr. Fielden showed some, but not very much, poetic sense; and he was rather heavy-handed for the frail beauties of Debussy's music. He was at his best in some preludes and studies of Scriabin—late works of this composer in which he has gone in form far beyond Chopin and Debussy. Mr. Fielden is a moderate player who does not often fail in what he sets himself to do.

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THE NEW TURKISH STAMPS.

A recent issue of *The Times* contained the following interesting story of the new Turkish issues:—

The first values of the much-heralded new Turkish postage stamps are to hand, and prove to be merely re-impressions in altered colours of the beautiful pictorial designs of 1914. These stamps have already had a somewhat romantic history. Originally prepared to the order of the Ottoman Government by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, and Co., of London, they were brought into use early in 1914, and were current in Turkey at the time when the Sublime Porte decided to throw in its lot with the Central Powers. Certain values had been overprinted with a Turkish inscription commemorating the abrogation of the European Capitulations in October, 1914, which preceded Turkey's entry into the war. No further supplies being obtainable from London, the Turkish Post Office had recourse to Vienna, whence emergency issues of lithographed postage stamps were supplied during 1916-18. In 1918, when stamps were required for use by the military administration of Mesopotamia, the British Government ascertained that the original dies and plates for the Turkish postage stamps of 1914 were still in the possession of the printers. It was decided to make use of these for the purpose of providing provisional stamps for the occupied area. A special printing was accordingly made by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, and Co., and the stamps over-printed, "Iraq in British Occupation," the values also being converted into Indian currency by means of a surcharge. Some of the original 1914 stamps had previously been seized on the capture of Bagdad and overprinted by the military authorities there. Now, the same types, illustrating scenes in and around Constantinople and the Bosporus, have again been brought into use by the Ottoman postal service, adding further varieties for the delectation of stamp collectors. The colours and values of the re-issue are:—5 paras, orange (Leander's Tower); 20 paras, rose (Mosque of Selim); 5 piastres, grey-green (the Candili), 10 piastres, slate (Sweet Waters of Europe); 25 piastres, mauve (Suliemani Mosque).

Brigadier-General Sir Charles Bruce, lecturing on Nepal before the Victoria League recently, paid a high tribute to the Gurkhas for their military spirit and their loyalty to British rule. Some tribes, he said, had sent upwards of 45 per cent. of their men to the war. He doubted very much whether any other part of the Empire had shown better results.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE POEMS OF 'AMR. SON OF QAMI'AH." Edited and Translated by Sir Charles Lyall, D.Litt., F.B.A. (Cambridge University Press. 21s. net.)

II.—"THE MEMOIRS OF NAIM BEY." Compiled by Aram Andonian. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 2s. net.)

III.—"SUNSHINE ON THE NILE." By May Crommelin. (London: Jarrolds. 7s. 6d. net.)

I.—AN OLD ARAB POET.

Amr b. Qami'ah was an Arab poet of the clan of Qais, son of Tha'labah, a branch of the renowned tribe of Bakr, son of Wā'il. As far as can be gathered, he flourished in the fifth century of this era, the tribe being settled in the mountainous tract of al-Yamāmah, looking towards the Persian Gulf along the shore of al-Bahrain. Little is known of his life, although he is said to have died in Asia Minor after his ninetieth year while on a journey to Constantinople. He enjoyed some reputation as a poet, and various poems and fragments of his continued to be quoted by later writers. He himself belonged to a family of poets, and he is often found using phrases identical with, or resembling, the verses of his kinsmen. A fuller collection of his poems was known to be contained in a manuscript at Constantinople, and Oriental students are now indebted to Sir Charles Lyall for an excellent volume, with text, Arabic comments, translation, exegetical and other notes. Especially valuable is the full introduction on the poet and the poetry which our great veteran Arabist has prefixed to the edition.

In the nature of the case the work will naturally appeal first to Orientalists. But the old Arab poetry has a wider appeal, and Sir Charles Lyall's knowledge of it is unrivalled. Many readers who are not professed Orientalists will have learnt from Dr. Nicholson's admirable chapter on "Pre-Islamic Poetry," in his "Literary History of the Arabs," the many interesting features which this poetry has to offer. They illuminate a haunting phase of Arab life, and reveal a passion—and also a pose!—which is singularly instructive for any deeper survey of pre-Mohammedan thought, of Oriental psychology, and of the fruits of human reflection. The poems of 'Amr certainly do not add very considerably to our knowledge of his age, but there is much in them that is well worth preserving, and we are indebted to the editor for what he has made accessible and luminous.

Among the special features of interest to which Sir Charles Lyall directs attention is the first piece in the series. Here, 'Amr, a handsome young poet, brought up by his uncle, Marthad, is beloved by the latter's beautiful young wife. An incident of the "Potiphar's wife" type forced him to flee from the vengeance of his uncle, and in this poem he magnanimously praises his deceived kinsman and exculpates himself. But about a century later a poem, more than similar, and associated with quite another incident altogether, is ascribed to one al-Husain. Evidently, as Sir Charles observes, we appear to have a case of "barefaced thieving." It is an interesting example of literary methods, and the numerous cases of "pseudepigraphical" writings in the East indicate the different literary habits of different ages. In the Old Testament itself critics have frequently suspected that poetical and prophetical writings have been taken and adapted to conditions and circumstances quite alien from their original purpose, and the evidence now published by Sir Charles Lyall once more shows that Eastern writings must not be judged by Western standards.

As illustrations of 'Amr's thought may be cited the following fragments (p. 63):—

"A man's life among mankind is like nothing so much as a kindled brand which thou holdest up to flame in a wind:

"At one time it blazes forth with a fair shining light, brilliant in colour—then it falls away into dust."

Another in the same strain complains:

"I have grown old, and all my near kin have left me and gone, and my soul has learnt truly the lesson that there is no abiding;

"Those I loved have departed and vanished from sight, and Time has left me not one of them from whom to seek support.

"O Time, enough hast thou done! be gentle with us; we are not rocks, we are not iron!"

A very characteristic poem, No. xii. (p. 47, *seq.*), on wine, is noteworthy for the concluding lines. After praising the wine-skin, "a kingdom to him who possesses it," whose morning draught makes him a lion, he concludes:—

"At the beginning of the night a glorious warrior, at the end of the night a male hyaena, unable to keep his legs.

"God curse thee for a drink! Would that the resolute man could keep himself away from thee!"

Sir Charles Lyall observes that the sentiment of the last verse seems to be unique. The curse ("God fight against thee") may be used for admiration as well as execration, although here it appears to be the latter sense.

In general, the poems of 'Amr exhibit the metrical and other usages of the age, and like all the old Arab poems are no new phase, but come at the end of a development the beginnings of which are lost.

S. A. C.

II.—ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

This is a small book made up of the war memoirs of one Naim Bey, who was the chief Turkish secretary of the Deportations Committee of Aleppo. Naim Bey has collected telegrams sent by high officials in the Turkish Government to the Government of Aleppo, and has added to them his own comments. Some of the telegrams, purporting to have been sent by Talaat Pasha, go to prove that the intention of the Turkish Government was the extermination of the Armenians. These official documents are introduced by Viscount Gladstone, and the book concludes with an open letter to President Wilson, written by Armin T. Wegner, a German eye-witness of the massacres of the Armenians to which the telegrams reproduced refer.

III.—AN UNEQUAL NOVEL.

We have sometimes imagined a shadowy country, floating somewhere in space, populated by those story-book people whose authors have not been able to win for them immortality or fame, and who have yet attained to some semblance of life and conveyed the idea of a definite personality to the minds of even a few readers. In such a community we can picture the characters of "Sunshine on the Nile" wandering to and fro with an air of puzzled grievance, wondering why, having created them, Miss Crommelin had been content to give so little consistency to their words and deeds.

The hero is rather charmingly introduced, in quite straightforward English, and it seems hard on him that, as soon as he has overcome some of his difficulties and won his lady, Miss Crommelin's style suddenly becomes so affected that the reader's only feeling is one of exasperation. And it simply struck us as an act of arbitrary cruelty on her part to bring both her hero and heroine so near to death in an utterly inconsequent chapter towards the end of the book. The most consistent person is Lord Ludworth, with his rather melodramatic villainies and his curious habit of having his old schoolfellows as servants and bullying them, but his creator gives the impression of casting him aside with cheerful unconcern, and we learn his fate only from a casual remark in the last chapter.

The most readable part of the book is that which gives it its title, when the chief characters are sight-seeing in Egypt—but it is a carelessly written novel, almost without construction and relying for movement entirely on coincidence.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Victory of Venizelos." By Vincent J. Seligman. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 5s. net.)

"Dalmatia and the Jugoslav Movement." By Count Louis Voinovitch. With a Preface by Sir Arthur Evans, LL.D., F.R.S., and an Ethnographical Map. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Day of the Crescent: Glimpses of Old Turkey." By G. E. Hubbard. (Cambridge: University Press. 15s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. May	1920. May.		1338. Ramadan.	5680. Sivan.
27	14	Thursday	9	10
28	15	Friday	10	11
29	16	Saturday	11	12
30	17	Sunday	12	13
31	18	Monday	13	14
June.				
1	19	Tuesday	14	15
2	20	Wednesday	15	16

The Shah arrived at Baghdad on May 23.

The Madras Dinner will be held on June 15.

The Indian Police Dinner will be held to-morrow.

Mrs. Gore has returned to 27, Lowndes Street, Knightsbridge, from Egypt.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs arrived in London on Tuesday.

Sir Edward and Lady Boyle have returned from Paris to 63, Queen's Gate, S.W.

Lady Miller, wife of Sir John Miller, K.C.S.I., will arrive in London from Bombay on June 2.

The annual Indian Cavalry Dinner will be held at the Savoy Hotel (Embankment entrance) on June 8.

The Indian Political Service Dinner will be held on June 16.

The annual dinner of the Punjab Frontier Force will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant on June 9.

M. Venizelos was entertained at luncheon by the Anglo-Hellenic League at Athens on May 16.

M. Pideresco, the Roumanian delegate to the Peace Conference, arrived in London on May 19.

Colonel R. Rosetti, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from the Continent.

The Count de Serionne has been appointed a member of the Institute of Egypt.

Prince Carol of Roumania left Calcutta for Japan on May 22.

Prince Alexander of Serbia has arrived at Brindisi on his way to Zurich.

Captain Panas, the newly-appointed Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation, has arrived in London and entered upon his duties.

The Maharaja and Maharanee of Kapurthala and suite are coming to London next month, and will stay at the Savoy Hotel for the season.

The annual dinner of the Indian Civil Service will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant on June 10. The garden party will be at the Botanical Gardens on June 9.

King Alexander of Greece is in Paris on a visit to his wife. It is now announced that he was married last November to Mlle. Manos, a member of one of the oldest families in Greece.

Sir William Meyer, formerly Finance Member of the Government of India, was present at the opening session of the Institute of Colonial and International Law at Brussels on May 24.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Leslie Stephenson, agent of Messrs. Maple and Company, Smyrna, to Miss Kathleen Jessie Pengelley, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Pengelley, of Boudjah, Smyrna.

The British High Commissioner at Constantinople on May 22 conferred the C.B.E. on Mgr. Dolci, the Apostolic delegate representing the Holy See in Turkey. Mgr. Dolci did much good work on behalf of British prisoners of war in Turkey.

Under the auspices of the Egypt Exploration Society, Professor B. P. Grenfell, D.Litt., F.B.A., will deliver a lecture to-morrow evening at 8.30 p.m. in the Lecture Room of the Royal Society, Burlington House, on "The Present Position of Papyrology."

Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan, the Moslem Member of the Secretary of State's Council, who went to India on sick leave in the autumn, has returned to his work in Whitehall completely restored to health. Mr. Basu has also returned, and the Indian membership is now complete.

Lieut.-Colonel Arnold Talbot Wilson, C.S.I., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., Indian Army, Acting Civil Commissioner of Mesopotamia, has been promoted to a Knight Commandership of the Order of the Indian Empire for valuable services rendered in Mesopotamia in connection with the war.

On April 24, at All Saints' Church, Boudjah, Smyrna, the marriage took place of Mr. Henry Abbott Walker, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Annie Winifred, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rowland A. Pengelley, of Boudjah, Smyrna.

Bishop MacInnes, whose diocese includes Egypt as well as Palestine and Syria, is to speak at the annual meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission on June 15 at Church House. He does not think that the Egyptians will be capable for generations to come of governing their own country without British advice.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieut.-Colonel Francis Campbell Balfour, C.I.E., M.C., Military Governor of Baghdad, eldest son of the late Colonel Eustace Balfour and of Lady Frances Balfour, and the Hon. Phyllis Goschen, elder daughter of Viscount and Viscountess Goschen.

Mr. Israel Cohen has been entrusted by the Executive of the Zionist Organisation with a mission to the Jewish communities in Australasia, India, and the Far East, and left England on May 16 for a few weeks' visit to Palestine, in order to obtain first-hand information of the country's developments and needs.

A marriage has been arranged, to take place at Gulmarg, Kashmir in September, between Major R. D. Alexander (late A.D.C. to the Viceroy in India, and now head of the Imperial Service Troops in Kashmir) and Hilda, daughter of the late John Frederic Wright and Mrs. Wright, of Frimley Hall, Surrey.

A Thé Musicale will be held in aid of the National Memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis, by permission of Lady (Ian) Hamilton, at 1, Hyde Park Gardens, W., on June 8, at 3.30 p.m., under the patronage of the Duchess of Atholl, Lady Arrol, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lady Bertha Dawkins, M. Dimitrievitch, Lady (Almeric) FitzRoy, Mrs. Gerald Moxon, and Miss Beatrice Osmond.

A Supplement to the *Gazette* of May 18 contains the names of officers and men who have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for services rendered in connection with the military operations on the North-West Frontier of India and in East and South Persia. The list includes the names of His Highness Beglar Begi Mir Sir Mahmud Khan, Wali of Kalat, and Lieutenant-General R. Wapshare (formerly Indian Army).

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Major C. Stefanescu-Draganesti has been appointed Aide-de-Camp to Prince Nicolas of Roumania and Assistant Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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NEW SERBIAN CABINET.

The following is a Reuter message from Belgrade, dated May 17th :—

The Serbian Prince Regent, having accepted the resignation of the Protitch Cabinet, a new Cabinet has been constituted as follows :

Prime Minister	M. VESNITCH
Minister for the Constituent Assembly	M. PROTITCH
Interior	M. DAVIDOVITCH
Communications	M. KOROSHETS
Justice	M. TRIFKOVITCH
Public Worship	M. MARINKOVITCH
Finance	M. COSTA STOYANOVITCH
Foreign Affairs	M. TRUMBITCH
Public Works	M. YOVANOVITCH
Public Instruction	M. PREBITCHEVITCH
Agriculture	M. VELIZAR YANKOVITCH
Commerce and Industry	M. YINTCHITCH
Agrarian Reform	M. KRIZMAN
War	General BRANKO YOVANOVITCH
Posts and Telegraphs	M. TRINKOVITCH
Mines and Forests	M. IVAN KOVATCHEVITCH
Public Health	M. RAPHAYLOVITCH
Social Policy	M. KOUKOVETS
Food	M. RISTAYOVITCH

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A Roumanian Commission will be sent to Budapest, under the leadership of M. Th. Mihalyi, with the task of settling the pending questions between Roumania and Hungary.

The report of the occupation of Tiflis by the Bolshevists is denied in Constantinople.

Ordinances have been issued by the Rector of the El Azhar University, Cairo, to the students, to refrain from political demonstrations during the fast of Ramadan.

A chair for Albanian has been established at Paris, and Professor Mario Roques is its first occupant.

A delegation of 70 well-known Montenegrins, representing the population of Montenegro, had an audience with the Prince Regent in the presence of M. Protitch, the Prime Minister, and obtained assurances that as far as possible no vital interest of the patriotic populations shall be neglected.

Lord Plumer has summoned all elected members (including the President) of the National Assembly and other influential citizens, warned them against a repetition of the disturbances of June last, and asked them to use their influence to calm the people on the occasion of the anniversary of the event.

Delegates to the International Commission of the Y.W.C.A., to be held at Champery, Switzerland, from June 3 to 10, are expected from every land where Y.W.C.A. organisations exist. For the first time Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, and Roumania will have delegates present.

President Wilson has asked Congress for authority for the United States to accept a mandate for Armenia.

The Egyptian delegation has decided, consequent upon the invitation made by the Milner Mission for them to go to London, to send Mohamud Pasha, Aziz Fahmi Bey, and Aly Maher Bey to ascertain the intentions of Great Britain in regard to Egyptian aspirations relative to complete independence.

French troops are reported to have captured a strong position to the South of Taza, in Morocco, after a violent fight with a force of the Beni Warain tribe.

It has been announced in Parliament that vacancies will occur this year in the Executive Council of the Viceroy, and that the number of Indian members of the Council will be raised to three, under the Act of last year.

The Nile Commission was to have opened its public sittings in Cairo on May 25.

Thirteen robbers who formed part of the band which carried out the *coup de main* on the French liner Souirah in the Black Sea on May 12, have been arrested by the Turkish authorities. They will be sent to Constantinople for trial.

The Greek Minister of Religion is laying before the Chamber a Bill officially recognising the Jewish community of Salonika as the chief Jewish authority in Greece.

Jerusalem messages report that the British authorities in Palestine have banned the convocation of the Jewish Executive Assembly arranged for May 26, and that the Arab Congress has been forbidden for military reasons.

The Bulgarians by whom the Sofia Government replaced the Greeks whom they deported from the regions of Sufli and Dedeagatch during the war, are now returning to their homes in Bulgaria.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

PEACE TREATIES : Palestine, Holy Places.—Turkey, AMRITSAR, HUNTER REPORT. ARABIA (EMIR OF HAIL). INDIA : Murder of Mr. De la Hey (Madras Government's Report). ASIA MINOR (DISTRESS). May 17.

PEACE TREATIES : Armenia.—Palestine. YUGOSLAVIA (FATHERLESS CHILDREN). DARDANELLES. INDIA : European Engineers (Hunter Committee).—Government of India Act (Legislative Business). May 18.

MESOPOTAMIA (REVENUE COLLECTION). ALBANIA (CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES). PALESTINE.—May 19.

PEACE TREATIES : Armenia.—Cyprus. INDIA : Housing, Bombay. PERSIA (RUSSIAN INVASION). BRITISH ARMY : Troops in Egypt (Family Allowance). (May 20.)

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1920.

THE TURKISH FINANCIAL TERMS.

The full details of the financial and economic terms which the Allies have imposed on Turkey are not yet available, but the official summary which has been issued sufficiently indicates their general trend. Politically the Ottoman Empire is drastically reduced; financially it loses its independence. All the resources of Turkey, except revenue ceded or hypothecated to the services of the Ottoman Public Debt, are to be employed to pay the expenses of the Allied forces of occupation, and indemnities on claims preferred by the Allies as reparation for damage suffered by their nationals; and in order to restore Turkish finances a Financial Commission is to be appointed. This Commission will examine Turkish Budgets, and its decisions as to their contents are to have absolute authority; it is to supervise the execution of the Budgets, and the Turkish Government is forbidden to establish any new form of taxation, or to modify its Customs systems, or to contract any loan, internal or external, without the express consent of the Commission. Further, no new concessions may be granted by the Turkish Government in Turkey without the prior authorisation of the Commission. It is clear, therefore, that this body will have, in effect, sovereign powers over what remains of the Turkish Empire, and its personnel is consequently a vital indication of the attitude of the Allies. It is to be composed of "a representative of each of the interested Allied Powers"—France, Great Britain, and Italy. It will be noted that Greece is not represented—an omission which may lead to some jealousy in Athens and some jubilation in Rome—and that the United States are not officially "interested" in Turkish finance—a decision which probably reflects the attitude of the general public of the United States, who would not endorse President Wilson's desire to protect Armenia, but which may nevertheless be regretted by the very considerable American commercial and philanthropic interests in the Ottoman Empire. To this triumvirate of France, Britain, and Italy is added a Turkish representative, but he will only be called upon to act in a consultative capacity.

The real power over the remnants of the Turkish Empire, therefore, passes from Turkey to France, Britain, and Italy; these financial clauses strip Turkey of even the shadow of authority with which the political clauses, which we discussed last week, still seemed to bedeck her shrunken and attenuated skeleton. The economic clauses of the Treaty only emphasise the completeness of the revolution. All the Turkish concessions, and arrangements, and loans from Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria, are cancelled; the fruit of the twenty years' laborious policy of Berlin and Vienna, which seemed at one time likely to turn the whole Near East into a profitable Germanic estate, is scattered to the winds. There is no definite discrimination against Germany or German enterprise in the future, and there could be none against Austria, for Austria has ceased to exist; the Allies seem to profess themselves generally in favour of equality of treatment for all foreign enterprise in Turkey. Nothing could have indicated more completely the magnitude of the disaster which has overtaken Germany and her plans of penetration and control. They have passed away so utterly from the earth that it is no longer necessary even to devise safeguards in advance against their revival. The whole plan of financial control from Berlin in return for commercial concessions from Constantinople is dead; the Baghdad Railway, which was to be the instrument of German policy that was to outwit by rail-power the British sea-power, has passed from German hands into those of the Allies without compensation. Never, perhaps, were the rewards of victory and the losses of defeat more clearly visible than they are in the financial and economic clauses of this Treaty.

The stipulations are stern, but few will contend that they are unjust. They follow with almost automatic precision on the lines of the political treaty; and in one sense, and that a very real sense, they may give a better hope for the future. The weak point of the Turkish Empire has always been its administration and finance. The former was hopelessly inadequate, the latter was steadily becoming impossible. The gradual emancipation of the Turkish provinces in the nineteenth century indeed reduced the task of administration, but it also aggravated the financial difficulty, and the practical bankruptcy of the Porte, however disguised, has been one of the main causes of political instability in the Near East for over half a century. Turkish participation in the war made it evident that rectification of that position could no longer be delayed. The burden of war added to the practical bankruptcy of her finances before the war rendered it certain that after the war the victor would be compelled, in his own interest if not in that of Turkey, to reform her whole financial administration. There is good reason to believe that the preliminary steps to that end had already been taken in Berlin in 1917 and 1918, in the certainty of ultimate victory; hints to that effect were given by the German banks, and, indeed, their general policy in the Near East was conclusive evidence in that direction. The task has now fallen on the Allies, and it is well for Turkey that it has. It is no more possible for the Allies than it would have been for Germany to leave Turkey her independence; the actual political and financial situation forbids it, even if the Allies desired to do so. But whereas Germany would undoubtedly have ruled Turkey from the point of view of German interests, we may express the certainty, rather than the hope, that the Allies will maintain the higher ethical standpoint of administering Turkey from the point of view of Turkish interests. The colonial record of France and Britain has shown them capable of the nobler conception of authority in Africa, and we have no doubt that they will rise to the extent of their responsibilities and opportunities in Asia Minor. The task will be a long and a difficult one, and it will call for courage and patience as well as knowledge; but if it is properly carried out with a singleness of aim, it will in the end resuscitate some of the fairest districts of the earth, and restore them to a prosperity they have not known for centuries.

THE NEAR EAST.

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A PICTURESQUE ALLY.

THE ASSYRIAN CONTINGENT, MESOPOTAMIA.

By the Rev. W. A. Wigram.

Many a strange force of Asiatics or of Africans has done good service under British officers since the days of the first Sepoys who served "John Company," and a power of handling the strangest material has been developed accordingly, till old soldiers say that if you give a young man of the right type a company of chimpanzees to train, in six weeks he will be declaring that there never was such fine military stuff as the chimpanzee.

Seldom, however, has material more picturesque come under the hands of British subaltern and N.C.O. than the contingent of "Assyrians" who have been raised from the crowd of tatterdemalions who flung themselves on our protection in the camp of Bakubah. Incidentally, we may say that it is a thing as gratifying as it is rare to find a set of "native Christians" from the Ottoman Empire who really can fight, and who are at least as good, man for man, as any stock among their Turkish rulers. The words are written with full knowledge of the fighting virtues of the "Arnaut."

Certainly, the modern Assyrian—or, at any rate, those mountain clansmen who furnish the better part of the force in question—comes of a fighting stock; he claims to be of the blood of the fierce warriors who first taught military discipline to the world, and who followed Tiglath Pileser to the Mediterranean, and Sargon and Sennacherib to Samaria and Jerusalem. If facial and linguistic evidence goes for anything, the claims would seem to be well founded, for many a highlander from Tiari or Tkhoma looks as if he had stepped from the carved slabs in the British Museum, and most of the commonest words in his vernacular Syriac* are genuine Assyrian. Even the magical spells that he uses and most devoutly believes in—though he does not talk about "kharashutha" to the ordinary Frank—are most of them identical with the ancient "magic of the Chaldees," and have probably a continuous history of some six thousand years behind them.

A plainsman in the days when Nineveh was his capital, he has only been a mountaineer for a few centuries, a mere trifle in that land. It was, according to his tradition, no less a person than Timur the Tartar (approximately the contemporary of our Edward I.) who drove him up into the hills. There he has lived since, in a wild semi-independence, without any law to trouble him, and has been well accustomed to fighting with his Kurdish neighbours at long odds, in country which good judges describe as a worse land to campaign in than anything on the north-west frontier of India.

When he was driven—after a fight that did him no discredit—from this stronghold in the Great War, the Assyrian migrated to Bakubah and Baghdad; thus it was that, by way of earning his keep in the long interval that was to elapse before the lot of Mesopotamia could be settled, he found himself, to his own great content, in British service, and fighting under British officers against his own ancient enemy, the Kurd.

Discipline was a new thing for Assyrians to learn, and the soldiers enlisted had to acquire the rudiments of drill from N.C.O.'s who knew no word of the language of their charges. However, "Sergeant What's-his-name" has overcome greater difficulties in his time than a mere trifle like the curse of Babel, and the "contingent of scally-wags" soon began to present a creditable appearance. At first they were handicapped by being equipped with nothing better than the old uniforms of Ottoman zaptiehs (which is rather like expecting a British battalion to respect itself when it is clad in the cast-off garments of a regiment of Huns). but when the Kurdish trouble of 1919 developed, they were allowed to go to battle in a uniform modelled on their own picturesque and convenient mountain dress. So, for the first time, they found themselves engaged in a regular campaign with artillery actually on their side, instead of, as had always been the case hitherto, in the hands of their enemies.

In all the work of a campaign, they won high praise from good judges. As fighters they were admittedly first-class; on the march they were a little slow (the mountaineer lifts his foot high and takes a short step, from the fact that he is accustomed to very rough and stony ground), but they could keep their pace all day, and never a man fell out. They had provided themselves with their regular mountain sandals ("rushikki") with a soft felt sole sewn together with string, and with this they were thoroughly at home on their own mountains.

The fact that these raw irregulars were brigaded with Gurkhas was in itself as high a compliment as could well be paid them, and the Gurkha verdict on their comrades was "If only the general had given us those mountain sandals instead of boots, we should have done as well as the Assyrians." It may be owned that when Gurkhas apologize for not having done as well as irregulars, there is not much the matter with the fighting qualities of the latter!

It is true that these warriors were (to quote the verdict of a Political Officer of some reputation in Mosul) "just a trifle indiscriminate; they killed Kurds in the only village of Kurdistan where I ever felt safe. Now *I* don't mind their wiping out old scores, but I had to go and apologise for the matter." It was felt, however, that the mountaineers had a good deal to wipe out, and that there was excuse for them. Naturally, it was desirable that they should be kept under discipline when in British service, and they had a good and chivalrous tradition of their own, from which they dared not depart. It was the custom in Kurdistan in old pre-war days, that any gentleman might go on the raid against a neighbour and take what he liked or what he could. Still, all that he did not take, he must leave uninjured, and in no case must he injure or insult the women. So thoroughly was this rule understood, that in pre-war days both sides, Christian and Moslem alike, would often leave the women unguarded, for it was well known that no gentleman would touch them. In days of *Jehad*, however, this excellent and salutary rule went by the board, with much else that was decent. When you go to war for the sake of religion, you may commit any atrocity that you fancy. So, as the recent war was notoriously a *Jehad*, it is not surprising that it left some grim memories behind, in a way that no inter-tribal feud would ever have done.

Hence it was that when the Assyrian contingent was ordered to destroy the fortress of a certain obnoxious and dangerous Kurd in the Berwar district, with whom there were many unsettled scores, they went about the business *con amore*, taking it as a special compliment and concession to themselves, and reported to their

*Syriac as a language seems to have begun as the patois or Lingua franca of the Mesopotamian lands, the speech of diplomatic intercourse. "Speak Syriac," said Hezekiah's servants to the Assyrian ambassador Rabshakeh, "not the Hebrew which the soldiers will understand." "Wouldn't you like it?" said the Assyrian, "I want them to understand me." (II. Kings, xviii. 26.) In later days Syriac became the ordinary vernacular of "Syria" and Palestine in the first Christian centuries, and so continued till it was displaced by Arabic. Then it became—what it is still—a literary and liturgical tongue. It is only a vernacular now in parts of Kurdistan. Hence, Assyrians claim that they are the only Christians "who speak the language of Christ."

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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friends: "Reshid's castle is down at last, and praise be to Heaven; now you would not say that there ever had been a house there."

One quaint and illuminating episode occurred in the course of the destruction. A joyous party of mountaineers came to their C.O. to report that they had discovered some really valuable loot! It was brought, and proved to be two enormous manuscript tomes, books of the appallingly lengthy services characteristic of this ancient Church. They had formed part of the plunder of some forgotten raid, and now had been won back. A special request was made to the effect that they might have one of the baggage mules to carry the sacred trophy; this was granted, and the fact that these two books, when slung one on each side of the animal, formed a fair load for him, may give some idea of the size of the volumes. For the rest of the little campaign this palladium accompanied the contingent, and every night a volunteer guard of honour took charge of it. Ultimately, the trophy was brought back to headquarters, and solemnly handed over to the Patriarch, for future use in their churches.

If slow on the march, the Assyrians proved quick in action, which they regarded as a most superior kind of sport. It is true that on one occasion as they advanced up a hill they opened fire somewhat prematurely, but eagerly, causing the General to observe: "My word, those Assyrians have got into it quick." "No, sir," said an A.D.C. who had some experience of the animal, "I'll bet it's only pig they have routed out." He did them an injustice, but not a very serious one. It was a bear that they had started, and when they had settled him, they went on to account for the Kurds!

The ordered movements of a campaign, however, were inexplicably and boringly slow to their thinking, and a party of about eight deserted in consequence. After about ten days' absence, however, they sent in a letter of excuse, surely the most original that ever C.O. had, in defence for so great a crime as desertion in the presence of the enemy.

"To the beloved and reverend Major Knight, our commander, peace and love be multiplied," was the preamble. "Know, O our father, that we did not run away because we did not want to kill Kurds, but because we wished to do so; and by the blessing of God, we have been doing that thing for eight days." Then, with a drop into language learnt in the orderly room, "We regret to report the following casualty: Soldier. Private. One. John, son of Jacob of Gundikta, killed. But be it known to you that we have killed many more Kurds. And now, O our dear father, if *you* will promise to punish us, we will come in, but we do greatly fear going to the prison in Mosul." As they were dealing with a C.O. who understood the handling of rough material, the promise was given, and the rascals duly came in, submitted to discipline—and became their Commanding Officer's orderlies as soon as the punishment was over!

It may be mentioned in passing that the fear of "the prison in Mosul" is rather a new growth among them. The writer was advised in pre-war days—when he was obliged to take steps to get a Kurd imprisoned, on account of a slight indiscretion in the matter of highway robbery—"get the man imprisoned up in Amadia, Rabbi. It is no punishment to be put in prison in Mosul; they serve you out bread there nearly every day!" In smaller centres of government it was indeed lawful to supply food to any friend that was in durance, but if that was not done, the captive did not eat at all. If the prison in Mosul seems so formidable under a régime which keeps it aggressively clean, and serves out food regularly, it would seem that British government has already instilled a little wholesome fear into the minds of malefactors! Possibly it is the moral effect of the "nice neat little gallows" which was proudly pointed out to the writer by the N.C.O. who was acting as gaoler in 1919.

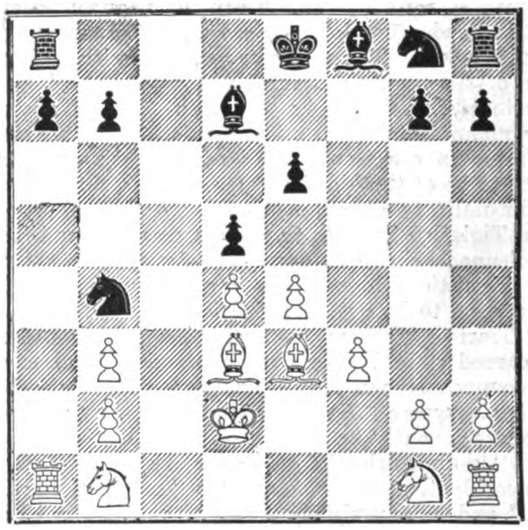
So the campaign ended, and the contingent, like the rest of the nation to which they belong, is now wondering what will be the fate of that part of Kurdistan to which they belong. There would seem to be some probability that if this Christian people goes back to lands outside British control, there may be some necessity for an expedition to protect the Kurds from them! Possibly, too, there is another matter that is worth the consideration of those in authority. Seeing that the British Government has undertaken considerable responsibilities in Mesopotamia, and is notoriously in doubt whether it can command bayonets enough to control what it has taken, does not this nation provide a military asset valuable enough to make us hesitate before discarding it?

CHESS.

The Hastings and St. Leonards Chess Club began their Whitsuntide tour on May 24, when they met Hampstead. The following day they played at Leicester, and yesterday at Sheffield. To-morrow they are due to meet Birmingham, and on Saturday Oxford City will be encountered.

It is understood that the eight-year-old Polish chess prodigy is to visit London shortly to give some simultaneous exhibitions. A friend who has seen him play tells me that his play is all it has been described to be. I must confess that I should rather like to see him perform, though I am not in favour of encouraging youthful prodigies at this or any other game.

Position after White's 10th move, P—B3.



The following game was played in Section C of the Murton Cup handicap, White receiving the odds of pawn and move:—

FRENCH DEFENCE.

(Remove Black's KBP.)

1	P—K4	P—K3	21	B—Kt5	KR—KB
2	P—Q4	P—Q4	22	K—Q3	Kt—R4
3	B—Q3	P—B4	23	R—B2	R x R (ch)
4	P—B3	P x P (1)	24	R x R	R—KB (8)
5	BP x P	Kt—QB3	25	K—K4	P—R3
6	B—K3 (2)	Q—Kt3 (3)	26	B—Q2	Kt—B3 (ch)
7	Q—Kt3	Q x Q	27	K—K3	P—R3
8	P x Q	Kt—Kt5	28	K—K2	B—K2
9	K—Q2 (4)	B—Q2 (5)	29	B—K	R—B
10	P—B3	Kt x B	30	K—Q	R—B3
11	K x Kt	B—Kt4 (ch)	31	Kt—Q2	Kt—Q4
12	K—Q2	B—B8!	32	R—Q3	B—B3
13	P—R4	P x P	33	R—B3	Kt—K2
14	P x P	B x P	34	Kt—B3	R—Q3
15	R—R2	B x P	35	B—B2	B x P
16	Kt—QB3 (6)	B—B3	36	K—B2	Kt—B4
17	R—K2	K—Q2	37	B—Kt3	R—B3
18	R—KB	Kt—B3	38	R—Q3	K—K2
19	Kt—B3	B x Kt (7)	39	B—K (9)	
20	R x B	B—Kt5			

(1) Playing this move before Kt—QB3 effectually prevents White from playing P—K5 at once.

(2) A wasted move. The QB should never be moved except with some definite objective in view.

(3) This places White in a difficult position, the option being doubled pawns or the loss of a pawn.

(4) The only move. If B—B5 (ch), B—Q2; 10 B x B, K x B; 11 K—Q2, P x P. If anything else is played White loses more than a pawn.

(5) Preparing a little trap into which White falls unhesitatingly.

(6) The issue now depends on whether White can obtain any decisive advantage from his development before Black is ready to begin an attack.

(7) The Kt at K5 threatened unpleasant complications.

(8) Black has now entirely overcome the disadvantage of a somewhat backward development.

(9) At this point White lost on the time limit. The result, however, was not in doubt, and would probably not have been long delayed.

CARO-KANN.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The difficult position that has arisen with regard to the Syrian market is occasioning grave anxiety to British traders. Syria was before the war a very important outlet for British goods, and since the Armistice very considerable consignments of goods have been despatched there. Now, owing to a combination of local circumstances, trade is stated to have practically come to a standstill, and large quantities of Lancashire and Yorkshire goods have been thrown back on the hands of the Manchester shippers by Syrian importers. The principal causes of this state of affairs are the imposition of a tariff duty of an extra 12 per cent., by the Arabs, and the introduction of new French (Syrian) notes. The French currency circulates within a very limited area—the Arabs will not accept it—and the result has been that business between different areas in Syria has become almost impossible. Obviously it is in the interests of both the French and the Arabs to encourage and not to prevent the free development of trade, and it is to be hoped that they will realise the necessity of arranging some *modus vivendi* which will enable commerce to pursue its even tenor.

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The Syrian *impasse* is one of a number of factors which have made the outlook for the Lancashire industry extremely uncertain. The fall in silver has, of course, affected the tael, which means a decreased purchasing power on the part of China, who is now anxious to reduce commitments in the way of contracts. Indian importers are also of the same way of mind, the root reason in both cases being the belief that lower prices are inevitable. Then we have the difficulties in respect of the Constantinople and Syrian markets, and altogether it cannot be said that the position is such as to inspire confidence. It is unlikely in the extreme that adequate outlets can be found elsewhere until the time when these markets develop their normal demand. Elsewhere, too, buyers are waiting for lower prices, for which, in view of the present cotton outlook in conjunction with the enormous increase of wages, there seems at the moment little justification. In the end prices must come down in the face of competition; and it does not need to be a prophet to foresee trouble unless the workers realise that there is a hard and fast limit to the amount that can be drawn from industry.

***

Roads and motor transport in India was the subject of a very interesting lecture by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu last week before the Royal Society of Arts, a report of which will be found on page 765. Lord Montagu urged the need for a road policy for India, and made out a strong case in support of his plea, showing how, with the advent of the railway era in 1853, roads had been neglected, with serious consequences. Until the possibilities of motor transport were realised, railways were naturally regarded as the only method of creating communications in vast expanses of territory. The case is entirely different to-day, and it is evident that there should be a great rôle in India for motor transport. No one would deny that India's railways are at present inadequate, and it is not less obvious that on the ground of expense alone it would be impossible to carry out extensions to serve every district of the country. But there is nothing to prevent the development of efficient motor services given the roads and the supply of motors capable of withstanding the climatic conditions.

***

Yugoslavia's most urgent requirements for reconstruction include railway material and rolling stock, especially locomotives, and I understand that negotiations by British manufacturers for their supply would be welcomed, and also for the construction of several bridges. It may be mentioned that there are also schemes for new railway lines, but these, it is understood, will not be entered upon until the existing lines are in good running order.

It would be foolish to attribute too much importance to the Bolshevist raids on the Persian coast, and to imagine that the capture of two small towns on the Caspian foreshadows a serious policy of aggression against Persia, with the consequent menace to British oil interests in the neighbourhood of the Gulf. On the face of it, this move of the Bolshevists would appear to be due to the desire to capture the remainder of General Denikin's fleet, and the insignificant forces engaged certainly do not give colour to any other view. But assuming for the sake of argument that there are ulterior motives in the background, it may be pointed out that the nature of the terrain in Persia constitutes the best possible guarantee against a successful invasion in force. And looking at it from another point of view, there are many hundreds of miles between the oilfields and the Caspian, land which everywhere offers admirable scope for defence by small numbers.

***

I learn that the grain harvest in the western part of Tripolitania has been excellent. The chief crop is barley, which is the principal food of the Arabs. In April 90 tons of barley was exported to Malta and 300 tons to Egypt, these amounts representing imports from Tunis last year, no longer needed in view of this year's excellent crop. Exception has, however, been taken to these exports, it appears, on the ground that all grain should be left in the country and the result has been a proclamation to the effect that the export of local produce will for the future not be permitted. What will happen when there is a considerable surplus remains to be seen. Possibly the awkward problem that would then arise will be avoided by the limitation of crops.

***

The Greek Budget provides for a revenue of 1,033,579,740 drachmæ, as against an expenditure of 1,298,759,754 drachmæ, the estimated deficit being, therefore, 265,180,014 drachmæ, as against a deficit for the past year of 172,701,176 drachmæ. An unsatisfactory feature from a financial standpoint is the large allocation for military requirements of 532,000,000 drachmæ, or, roughly, twice the estimated deficit. It is in this direction that economy will have to be made if Greece is to build up a strong financial position.

***

The Roumanian Budget outlook was dealt with at Craiova recently by the Minister of Finance, who stated that Roumania's war debt amounted to 30 milliards, of which ten milliards were actual war expenses, and the balance was spent on restoration, railways, roads, rolling stock, debts inherited from Austria-Hungary and Russia, and Budget deficits. He forecasted the introduction of two budgets, a war budget, to cover not only the actual expenses of the war but also the cost of reconstruction, which budget, he explained, would be covered by long-term loans; the second budget would merely deal with current expenditure, and would comprise an expenditure of from six to six and a-half milliards, and a revenue of 5 1-5 milliards.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 10.

The Question of Sugar.

As a result of the imports of wheat and flour made by the Government, the price of these two articles has appreciably diminished, but the desired effect has not manifested itself in regard to other cereals. On the other hand, it has now been found necessary to increase the price of sugar, which has been raised by about 30 per cent. In an explanatory note the Department of Supplies, which controls sugar prices, points out that when the excise was abolished the Sugar Company was allowed to maintain the tariff at the existing figures, which included the excise, because in order to meet local consumption about 9,500 tons of foreign sugar would have to be imported during the year at prices very much above the local price. Since then the sugar cane crop has been damaged by frost, and the production will be appreciably lower than was anticipated. Moreover, local consumption has increased very considerably, and it has been found necessary to import a further 11,500 tons to meet the deficit in the quantity available for local requirements. Naturally, the Sugar Company cannot be expected to sell this quantity at a dead loss, and so the prices have been increased all round so as to allow for the extra cost of these additional imports.

It is no doubt unfortunate that when an effort is being made to reduce the cost of living the price of one of the important necessaries of life should have to be increased. It is, however, a step that could not be avoided, and if, while local production, which had hitherto been sufficient, remains stationary and even falls off owing to climatic influences, the general public persists in increasing its consumption, as it has done since the second year of the war started the present wave of prosperity, it must expect to have to pay the higher prices which the supplementation of the local stocks by imports from outside renders necessary. As it is, local prices for sugar are still 50 per cent. lower than those on outside markets, and the local consumer, who has in this respect during the past five years enjoyed very preferential treatment, has after all not much to complain of.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, May 8.

Promising Crop Outlook.

The glorious spell of hot summer weather that had lasted for several weeks came to an end on Thursday, when there was steady rain all day. The peasants are delighted, although it spoilt many a rustic wedding-party; for it was St. George's Day, and the country folk believe that if rains fall on "Georgev Dan" there will be a bumper harvest. Everything points to a good year. The hot spring had hastened the growth of the crops, and just when the soil was getting too dry a good, steady, warm rain came as a blessing, and now the sun is shining again. The peasants certainly both need and deserve a good year, and all are full of hope and confidence.

The vine harvest is promising. Last year was a bad one, owing to the constant rains and absence of sunshine; the wine was thin and sour, and the scarcity of copper vitriol prevented the general spraying which is so necessary; there was also a great scarcity of the copper sprays. Now there seems to be plenty of "blue stone," as the vitriol is called, in the country, and the Union of Agricultural Associations has imported a large quantity of Vermorelle sprays from France.

MALTA.

VALETTA, May 12.

Bread Subsidy.

The question of the bread subsidy came under discussion at Saturday's meeting of the Council, and it was decided that the Government should be authorised to incur an expenditure of £1,630 per week during May in order to keep the price of bread down to 6½d. per rotolo (28 oz.).

Emigration Difficulties.

Unsatisfactory reports are reaching the island with regard to the emigrants who have left for America. Those who have arrived have not found the El Dorado they expected, and many of those who set out have not been able to proceed far towards the United States, but have been held up at Naples, Marseilles, Havre, Cherbourg, and Southampton. The local emigration committee is doing everything that is possible, but their difficulties are not decreased by the fact that the stream of emigration goes on, despite the experiences of those who have gone before.

Sugar Shortage.

Last week the difficulty was to procure matches; this week it is the sugar shortage which is engaging attention. Stocks in the island at present are negligible, and a Government consignment of 550 tons from England has been delayed.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS (undated).

Issue of Small Notes.

The Government has received and placed in circulation notes of one shilling to the value of £20,000, and will shortly receive two-shilling notes of the same amount.

Good Crop Forecast.

The outlook for all cereal crops is now regarded as very promising. Good rain has fallen in almost every part of the island; and prospects of summer crops are good. On April 28 torrential rain fell in Nicosia and the east of the island, flooding streets and invading some houses in the capital. Hailstorms in the Larnaca and Famagusta districts have damaged vegetation in some areas, and also flocks. Last winter there were serious losses in the west of the island in horses, cattle, and flocks, through severe cold aggravating a lack of forage. The carob crop is likely to be below the average. It is still too early to hazard any forecast regarding the vine lands.

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BULGARIA'S ECONOMIC NEEDS.

II.—COMMERCE AND SHIPPING.*

(From a Bulgarian Correspondent.)

The capital employed in the weaving and other industries is solely Bulgarian. Much greater progress could be looked for if business men had at their disposal larger capital. Apart from the weaving industry there are some factories for food products and beer, chemical products, skins, metals, etc. The motive power employed in most of these factories is water. Electricity is, however, coming more and more into use; water power is abundant, and can be utilised for industry and especially for the production of electricity for lighting the large towns. There is no doubt that if foreign capitalists would interest themselves in industrial developments they could count upon excellent results.

It is only comparatively recently that the mines of Bulgaria, which apparently played an important rôle in ancient times, have been exploited. The Government, apart from the coal mines which are worked by the State, has granted concessions for some dozens of coal and copper mines. Concessions have been granted also for manganese, iron, zinc, etc. Deposits of these minerals have been found to a considerable extent, but they remain unexploited for lack of capital and foreign engineers. The mines in use often cannot give the desired yield because they are in inexperienced hands. For greater development it would be absolutely necessary to have recourse to foreign capital, and to apply modern technical methods.

The forests cover 30 per cent. of the total area of the country. They belong either to the State, to communes, or to private proprietors. The forest industry has hitherto been of little importance. If capital and personnel having the requisite technical knowledge were available there would be a great future for the industry. At the present time the forests are only utilised to obtain supplies of timber for building purposes, a great part of which is exported, especially to Turkey, wood for fuel and for charcoal making.

Trade Before the War.

Before 1907, and especially during the period from 1900 to that year, exports exceeded imports. After 1907 up to the Balkan War the converse was the case. The figures for 1912, for instance, were: Imports, 213,000,000 levas; exports, 156,000,000 levas. From the facts already given it is easy to understand that since the Armistice imports have greatly exceeded exports.

In 1912 Austria occupied the first place among countries sending merchandise to Bulgaria with 24 per cent. of the above mentioned figures, followed by Germany with 20 per cent. Great Britain occupied the third place with 14 per cent., while France's share was only 6½ per cent., and America's 2 per cent. As regards exports, Belgium was first with 28 per cent, then came Germany with 17 per cent., Turkey and Great Britain with 11 per cent., each, and Austria-Hungary with 10 per cent. The remainder of the exports was divided among other countries. As will be seen, Great Britain was third in both cases.

Since the European war Bulgaria has imported articles of the first necessity, such as all kinds of cloth, linen, flannels, cotton and woollen thread, hats, food products of all kinds—chiefly oils, sugar, olives, sardines, etc., chemical products—caustic soda, sulphate of copper, etc.—ironmongery, tanned skins, and shoes. The countries from which these commodities have been obtained have been Italy, Great Britain, Greece, Turkey and Asia Minor, and America.

On the other hand, attar of roses, opium, tobacco, and timber have been exported to Italy, Greece, and America, and very little has gone to other countries. The export trade would have developed greatly after the war if it had not been handicapped by the question of exchange. With a view to improving the exchange, a new State institution, the "Centrale des Devises," was established soon after the Armistice. The long war having prevented exports, Bulgarian merchants, on endeavouring to resume business transactions abroad, lacked foreign exchange, and could only pay for goods in levas. Italian traders were the first to accept payment in levas and to send their goods on consignment. Little by little, with the sale of produce, merchants obtained foreign exchange, and, aided by the Centrale des Devises, were in a position to make purchases abroad.

Trade in cereals promises to recover. The crop of last year is not yet sold. If the amount required for local consumption is deducted, there remains a considerable quantity for export. There was established lately a new institution, called the Consortium, for the export of cereals and their products, which has charge of the sale of cereals abroad.

The cargoes of merchandise imported and exported are carried solely by the merchant services belonging to the different foreign shipping agencies. According to the statistics for 1912 the ports on the Black Sea were visited during that year by 2,223 steamers and 3,080 sailing vessels, which brought about 304,000 tons of merchandise and 52,000 passengers. The same vessels left with 432 tons of merchandise and 56,000 passengers. It will be seen that sailing vessels played an important part in the carrying trade. That is explained by the fact that they are found more convenient for small shipments in the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmora and the Aegean.

Navigation on the Danube has considerably increased. During 1912 the ports of that river in Bulgaria were visited by 8,900 steamers, 368 sailing vessels, and 3,700 barges, which brought 270,000 tons of merchandise and 230,000 passengers. The same vessels left with 342,000 tons and 211,000 passengers. The rivers in Bulgaria are not navigable. The Bulgarian merchant service is absolutely insignificant. Its total tonnage scarcely amounts to 15,000 tons. The shipping lines serving Bulgarian ports are:—The Johnston Line, the Westcott Line, the Deutsche Levant Line, the Holland-America Line, Fraissinet, the Messageries Maritimes, and the Lloyd-Triestino.

The Exchange Problem.

When the Armistice was signed Bulgaria found itself in a deplorable position. Its economic life had been completely paralysed during the last few years, and the export of its produce developed very slowly after the Armistice; while the import of essential commodities, of which there was a great need, increased day by day and has far surpassed exports. Hence the depreciation of the leva. The efforts of the Government to improve the exchange have met with every possible support on the part of the business community. Thus, in response to an appeal from the State, exporters of attar of roses, opium and other commodities, placed their entire production at the Government's disposal. Exporters of tobacco, skins, and other products have made sales in Italy, America, and of late in Holland.

The only means of improving the exchange is by increasing exports, and the country is fortunate in having at its disposal large stocks of tobacco, cereals, and attar of roses. It is believed and expected that very soon the exports of cereals will be commenced to Great Britain. The profit that Bulgarian commerce will derive from exports to England will contribute greatly to the improvement of the exchange. It may be anticipated that henceforward Bulgarian produce should have a larger market in England, and similarly that English merchandise will find an excellent opening in Bulgaria. From every point of view the development of close commercial relations between the two countries is earnestly to be desired. It has to be admitted that before the war other European powers, notably Germany and Austria-Hungary (faithful to their motto of "Drang Nach Osten"), employed every means to obtain the monopoly—so to speak—of certain imports into Bulgaria and of Bulgarian products for export. Thus they established in Bulgaria banks, companies, exhibitions of commerce and industry, schools, libraries, etc., and spared no effort to gain the market.

Is it not surprising that up to the present not a single English bank is to be found in Bulgaria, while the Central Powers have some dozens of financial institutions there? For the establishment of permanent relations between Bulgaria and Great Britain in the future it will be necessary for English bankers to interest themselves in the country, as the Italians and Americans have been doing in recent months, and to found, in association with Bulgarian capital, banks, houses for import and export, etc.—briefly, to make popular by these institutions the creation of closer relations between Bulgaria and Great Britain.

* The first article appeared in "The Near East" on April 29.

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Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

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TRANSPORT IN INDIA.

COMPREHENSIVE ROAD POLICY NEEDED.

Brig.-Gen. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, who was Adviser on Mechanical Transport Services in India from 1915 to 1919, read a paper on "Roads and Motor Transport in India" before the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts on May 20.

In India, as in many other countries, he said, the chief roads were originally made for military operations. He could trace no records of any definite road system previous to the occupation of certain parts of India by the East India Company. The most ancient of all permanent roads in India were to be found on the northern frontiers, where, in more than one place, there were traces of Buddist roads. These mountain paths were not blasted out of the rock, as would have been the case to-day, but burnt out by a peculiar process. Such a road was clearly seen over the Malakand Pass, below the present military road on the western slope, and it was interesting to recall the methods which the Buddists adopted in order to make those roads. They lit wood fires upon the rock, mostly of a limestone character, and having made it very hot, suddenly poured water upon it, causing the stone to crack, and in this way laboriously achieved a more or less flat path on the mountain side. It was noticeable from an engineering point of view how well those old roads were made, showing that the constructors of those days had among them engineers of practical if not of theoretical experience. The first attempt at a national road system began with the construction of the Grand Trunk Road in 1839.

Madras, as was well known, was the oldest province in India, and it was interesting to note that to-day, as formerly, the road systems of Madras and Southern India were more highly developed, and there were more roads per square mile of country and per head of population than in any other part of India. What the road systems of India might have become had not the railway era in 1853-60 supervened it was not easy to say. Probably there would have been thousands of miles of first-class main roads all over India. To-day, however, compared with the area of the country, the number of its inhabitants, and the importance of its commerce, India had probably fewer miles of good road than almost any other civilised country in the world. A comprehensive road policy for India had become an urgent need, in regard not only to the present but the future development of India.

Present Road Difficulties.

Till lately the importance of roads had in many parts, he was afraid, been lost sight of by successive administrations in India. Besides abandoned roads and broken bridges to be seen all over India, on what were once much-used main roads, the spectacle had lately been seen of irrigation colonies growing heavy crops having been laid out in the most approved style, but with no allowance in the original plan for roads along which the produce could easily be transported to the local market, the railway, canal or pukka road. Very primitive and expensive methods of transportation, therefore, had been used, and disputes constantly arose as to pack animals treading down crops on lands of people other than their owners, and the canal banks, notwithstanding the efforts of the canal officers, were almost invariably used as highways instead of roads for a large portion of the traffic of the district. Wherever irrigation colonies or settlements were instituted in future it should be laid down by the Government of India that adequate roads must be made providing for proper communication between every part of the area irrigated or settled, as a *sine qua non* of the scheme. In some cases it might be well to combine the land reserved for roads with a provision for light railways as well. Over rivers and canals where there was no question of military importance, combined road and railway bridges should be adopted.

It was interesting in this connection to record that one of the greatest difficulties in India which were met with when country districts were affected by famine had hitherto been the lack of facilities for moving food even when the food was available near by. It was probably no exaggeration to say that millions of human beings had died in India during the last fifty years, not so much because there was a lack of food within reasonable distance, as because of the difficulties of transporting that food into the districts affected. With a better system of roads and transport this difficulty would be largely removed. With the present railway system aided by an extension of roads, the alleviation of famine conditions in future should be possible with much greater certainty, economy, and ease, especially as it was very rare that shortage of food existed all over India at the same time.

It might be asked what should be the policy of the Government of India with regard to the future administration of the roads. He would respectfully suggest that what was wanted in India first of all was a classification of existing roads in order of importance. They should be divided into first and second-class pukka roads, and third-class or kutcha roads. All roads of national and military importance should be placed in the first class, and should be maintained by the Government of India irrespective of provincial governments, but possibly with a contribution from them for the local use made of them. Such typical roads would be the main line of the Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta to Peshawar and from Bombay towards Delhi. Class 2 should be pukka roads of provincial but not necessarily of national or military importance. These should be under the control of and be repaired by the provincial Governments of Madras, Bombay, and Bengal. The third classification would consist of roads of comparatively little national or provincial importance, but necessary for local use. Some of these might be made pukka, but the majority would probably remain kutcha.

Since April, 1915, when the Government of India first decided to possess its own mechanical transport, the number of personnel and vehicles had increased with every year, till at the end of 1919 there was something like 5,000 personnel and about 4,000 mechanical transport vehicles under its administration, including the Ford vans and cars especially obtained for the Afghan war, and now in use on the frontier. The use of mechanical vehicles among the commercial community was also largely increasing, and in Bombay, Calcutta, and other commercial centres, a large amount of goods were being conveyed by mechanical transport, which till a few years ago were moved solely by animal power. There had also been a great increase in the number of motor-cars used by both the British and Indian community, and the demand seemed still unsatisfied. He might remark that purely European types, both of lorries and or ordinary motor-cars, were unsuitable for use in India during a considerable portion of the year owing to their having insufficiently large radiators. It was true that some European types continued to run, but they were operated at a disadvantage compared with those that had been specially designed to suit tropical conditions. It had to be remembered that when the water in the radiator was constantly boiling, not only was there a serious decrease in power produced by the engine, but mechanical troubles tended to develop as the direct result of overheating. In his opinion there was a great future before any firm who cared to specialise in a tropical model for the private owner's car. As regarded lorries, the Indian Standard 2½-ton vehicle specially designed for tropical use had already proved its worth, and was probably the best lorry for work in hot climates that had yet been designed.

Tarred Roads Needed.

There was one factor about the roads in India about which one could not help remarking: that was the absolute lack so far of any effort to make them—some of the most dusty roads in the world—dustless. This was the case even in the neighbourhood of cantonments. Not only was dust a nuisance, but it was distinctly prejudicial to health, and in the case of many cantonments there was much expense incurred annually for watering, which was in itself destructive of the surface of the road. There was, for instance, no reason why the main roads of Delhi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, and other military camps and important centres should not be made entirely dustless, and he was convinced that the extra expense in tar-spraying or the use of tarred stone would be amply repaid by the increase in the life of the road. Then there were also cases on the frontier where dust in the summer and mud in the winter were great drawbacks to military operations. Here, again, a dustless road with a bituminous surface would be of immense benefit to both troops and animals. In regard to the supply of tar, he had been unable to obtain any reliable statistics, but there should be enough tar made in various gas works all over India to provide a good many gallons for making roads dustless every year. If there were not existing plants for the distillation of tar from coal in the Bengal coalfields some could well be set up.

The latest returns in 1901-2, now nearly twenty years ago, showed that about 37,000 miles of metalled road, and 136,000 miles of unmetalled or kutcha roads, existed. The population of India was now about 320 millions, and the miles of road per head of population was therefore ridiculously few. From a military point of view the Government of India had lately begun to realise the growing importance of roads, the expenditure having been: 1917-18, Rs. 49.72,797; 1918-19, Rs. 77,21,588; and as estimated for 1919-20, Rs. 2,50,00,000.

The Imperial civil roads in 1917-18 cost Rs. 6,00,463, while the provincial civil roads cost Rs. 51,89,223, making a total of about 58 lakhs. This year more would doubtless be spent, but even if 100 lakhs were found for civil roads, the military expenditure would then still be two and a half times the civil expenditure, a difference neither easy to explain nor apparently justifiable, when one remembered the large excess of civil over military traffic on the Grand Trunk and other main roads in India. A large part of the military expenditure on roads benefited the civil population, and he ventured to suggest that the proportion of civil compared with military expenditure needed further consideration by the Government of India.

The Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture has decided to found at Varna a Water Department for (1) altering the course of the Provadia River and reclaiming the marshy regions near the lakes Guebedge, Soultanlar and Karagatch; and (2) altering the course of the Kamtchia by the construction of a barrage-reservoir in the defile between Novo-Delo and Kailar, which will safeguard against floods fourteen villages situated between Novo-Selo and the Black Sea Coast.

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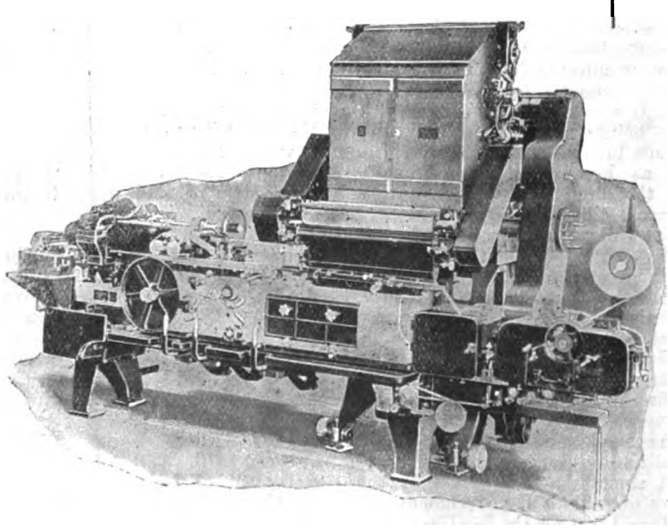

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ENGINEERING.

Welding Structural Steel.

It has been the general custom hitherto when erecting steel buildings or steel frameworks for reinforced concrete structures to bolt or rivet the members together, and in comparatively few instances has any other method of jointing been tried. The new factory which is being erected for a large London engineering works is, therefore, of special interest to engineers generally, in that not a single rivet, bolt, or pin is being used in the construction of the steel roof.

The roof is of the multiple span, obtuse and acute-angle type, giving ample north light to the premises, and it is being built of steel trusses of an over-all span of 14 ft., these being supported on H-section stanchions and joists. In the construction of this roof every part requiring to be jointed is being electrically welded on the A.W.P. system, and it is said that perfect satisfaction is being given, both as regards quality and quickness of execution. Even the cap and base plates are being electrically welded to the stanchions, as well as the joists to the cap plates. The completed trusses are, of course, welded to the joists, whilst the cleats are also welded to the top sides of the trusses to carry the timber purlines for the attachment of the roofing and glazing.

It appears, from a description of the method of carrying out the work, that the procedure followed is to cut the stanchions to length and weld on the cap and base plates. The joists are hoisted upon the stanchion cap plates and welded whilst being held in place with suitable clamps. In this connection it is worthy of notice that in the first joists erected the method adopted was to hold the parts in place by means of a temporary bolt, but it was found very much quicker to make up jigs and special clamps to hold everything just as it was wanted than to go through the routine work of marking out and drilling for every joist.

The steel bars and angles composing the trusses are cut to the correct lengths on the site and dropped into a simple jig constructed of angle and light H-section steel in which the joints are welded up and the gussets welded in place. It is mentioned also that the cleats forming the junction between the truss and the joists are welded, one to the truss and the other to the joist, before erection, the final welding being done after the truss has been hoisted into position. It has been found, as a result of carefully kept records, that one welder and one labourer, having the material already cut to the requisite length, can assemble together and weld one truss in the average time of one and a-half hours, and on more than one occasion the work has been done in slightly under the hour.

As regards construction costs, it is interesting to note that, at the first-mentioned rate of working, the total labour outlay for one truss amounts to 9s. 4d., being 1½ hours for welder at 2s. 6d., 1½ hours for labourer at 1s. 8d., a total of 6s. 3d.; 2s. 10d. for 22 inches of electrode and 1½ unit of electrical energy at 2d. per unit. As each of the trusses weighs approximately 3 cwt., it will be seen that the total cost for assembling and welding one ton of parts is £3 2s. 3d., a figure which will be generally regarded as extremely moderate.

As far as the welding of the cap and base plates to the stanchions is concerned, it is found that a welder of ordinary skill, with a labourer, can complete each stanchion in about 30 minutes, at a total cost of 2s. 9d.; and as the total weight of a stanchion is 3 cwt., the cost works out at the very low figure of 18s. 4d. per ton. It must be mentioned, however, that the cost of cutting and delivering the material is not included in the above figures; but this, of course, would be the same were the ordinary methods of construction employed, and so need not be taken into account in this comparison. It is worthy of note, however, that the elimination of the costs of marking out and drilling by hand or by electrically operated drill reduces the comparative cost still further, and the simple jigs used are standard for all the jointing work that has to be carried out.

A New British Record.

It is interesting to note that another British record has just been put up by an aeroplane fitted with Napier engines made at the Acton works. This performance was put up by a Handley-Page machine of the commercial type, provided with two engines, and it attained a height of 13,999 ft., carrying a useful load of 3,690 lbs. Altogether the machine was in the air for one hour and twenty minutes, and the Royal Aero Club has given its certificate to the effect that this constitutes a British record for height, duration, and useful load carried. The machine, which was piloted by Capt. G. T. R. Hill, went up from the big aerodrome at Cricklewood. Following, as it does, the twenty-three other British records held by the Napier engine for speed, my friend Mr. H. T. Vane may well be proud of this latest performance, which emphasises the reliability and speed of these British-built engines. Whether in connection with car work or aeroplane engines, in all my fairly lengthy experience I have never heard of Napier's turning out an engine which did not give the utmost satisfaction.

B.M.T. Oils.

The introduction of B.M.T. motor oils is a further indication of the extent to which the British Motor Trading Corporation are catering for the needs of road users. The big output of cars assured by the Harper Bean organisation has rendered it necessary for a regular and uniform supply of motor lubricants to be obtainable, as the life of an engine depends to a large extent on the suitability of the oil used. Good oil means more than sweet running—it means an all-round reduction in running costs, increased power output, and a marked diminution in wear and tear. At the moment I am not in a position to say a great deal regarding the B.M.T. oil, but as I am just about to start a 400 odd miles run through Wales and the Midland counties, and shall be using exclusively B.M.T. oils, I hope to be able shortly to speak of them exactly as I have found them.

Coal Tar Products.

A new method of producing tartaric acid from coal tar has recently been patented, and it is said that the process is already being worked on a commercial scale; and in connection with it one of the most interesting points, from the view of the chemical engineer, is that a number of other and equally important substances can be obtained in a similar manner according to the inventors.

It appears that the basis of the process is a method of building up various substances from what is known as maleic acid secured from benzol. The benzol is agitated and allowed to mix with a required volume of oxygen and nitrogen, and the vapour is passed over a catalyser. When maleic acid is used as a base it is not only possible to obtain tartaric acid, but other products as well, and the success of the commercial manufacture of citric acid by this method and with these compounds seems assured. Experiments show that it is equally simple to obtain ample supplies of lactic acid, and although there is comparatively little demand for this, succinic acid can also be produced.

(*Continued on page 769.*)

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The question at once arises whether the inventors have stumbled on the gateway leading to a new development of synthetic organic chemistry. It would seem certain that in this way maleic acid synthesised from benzol could be employed as the basis of new dyes and pigments, fine and heavy and photographic chemicals and drugs, whilst it would seem that an unlimited field for the manufacture of synthetic flavourings is also about to be opened up. I am under the impression that the British Dyestuffs Corporation, at their Huddersfield works, have been carrying out some research work in connection with maleic acid and benzol, but I do not know what stage has been reached by them. Anyway, it would seem that American manufacturers are already alive to the possibility of manufacturing on a large scale from this new source of supply, and have welcomed the discovery, inasmuch as it will relieve them of the necessity for importing a good many of the materials they have hitherto been unable to produce.

Exports to Roumania.

There are two points to which the majority of the buyers in the East take exception when buying goods from European centres, and especially machinery from the United Kingdom—the charges for packing, which, they think, ought not to be made (although if they were included in the price of the goods, they would probably not be noticed), and the unsatisfactory way of packing goods. The latter point has been the subject of reference by the British Commercial Secretary at Bucharest, who says that British shippers of goods to Roumania should pay more attention to the question of packing. In several recent instances the baling or packing of goods has not been sufficiently strong to withstand the rough usage received, with the result that loss has been sustained through both damage and pilfering. Shippers are also urged to detail their invoices carefully in order to facilitate entries through the Customs, and invoices, it is remarked, should, if possible, relate only to the bales in each parcel shipped, and not to several parcels shipped on different steamers.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

The Vickers Internal Combustion Engine.

During recent years engineers, financiers and journalists have all been sounding the eulogies of heavy crude oil as the propulsive fuel for the ordinary marine engine of the future. As is always the case, however, in these matters of conjecture, nothing can be done in the way of advancement until the theories are put to the practical test. Sir James McKechnie, K.B.E., the managing director of the Vickers Naval Construction Works at Barrow-in-Furness, has always been an ardent exponent of the future of the internal combustion engine for marine propulsion, and the works at Barrow-in-Furness have produced some of the most reliable types of these engines which have ever been installed in any ship. Hitherto, the ships fitted with the Vickers internal combustion engines have been to the order of the British Admiralty, and the secrecy necessary in such contracts has prevented the general public from acquiring that wider knowledge of the Vickers' internal combustion engine which its achievements merited. Now that the war is over Vickers, Ltd., have been free to devote their energies to the development and construction of internal combustion engines for mercantile marine requirements. During the war, oil tankers built for the Navy (which have since been acquired by the larger oil-carrying companies) were fitted with the Vickers' internal combustion engine, and the special experience which was then gained, and the results achieved, completed the data required for the design and construction of their first mercantile ship to be fitted with this type of engine.

Shortly after the cessation of the war, the Vickers works contracted with the Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., to build an oil tanker for them, and to meet the stipulated requirements of the shipowners the following were the dimensions which the Vickers designers selected: length, B.P., 425 ft.; breadth mld., 56 ft. 8 ins.; total d.w. capacity, 10,050 tons; bunker capacity (oil), 733 tons. The vessel had to carry a cargo of 9,420 tons of oil in addition to 510 tons of fuel with allowance of stores, fresh water, etc., on a draft not exceeding 26 ft., and the propulsion was to be derived from Vickers' internal combustion engines of the heavy oil mercantile type. The ship was launched at Barrow on November 27, 1919, and on May 5 she left under her own power for docking and sea trials.

These trials have now been successfully carried out, and the Narragansett—as the ship was named—has fully justified all the hopes and confidence of the owners and of the designers and builders. From the special experience of these engines which the Vickers' firm have had little if any anxiety was felt by them as to the stringent contract requirements being met, but even the expectations of the Vickers Company's officials were surpassed in the results which the Narragansett gave on her official trials. These proved in every sense a success, and a speed was obtained of nearly one knot in excess of the contract requirements. Besides a sister ship for the oil company Vickers have under construction at present several large oil tank vessels to be propelled with internal combustion engines for Tankers, Ltd.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned:—

Greece: Ministry of Communications.—Supply of telegraphic materials. (Particulars may be seen at Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) June 20.

Roumania.—The Frontier Guards of Roumania desire offers, preferably in the French language, from British houses for the following medical supplies, instruments, etc.:—Boric acid, pure carbolic acid, antipirene, aspirin, quinine sulphate, dermatol, iodine, iodide of potash, permanganate of potash, protargol, sulphate of soda, bismuth salts, and vaseline; graduated syringes and needles, platinum needles, surgeons' knives with straight metal handles, probes, and general surgical instruments; cotton wool, gauze, rubber sheeting and bandages. As the amount of money at the disposal of the medical staff is limited, the quantities to be purchased are not mentioned, as these will depend upon the prices quoted. Offers should be addressed to: Monsieur le Commandant I Cerna, Corpul Greniceri, Boulevard Bratiann (Colt cu Batiste), Bucharest.

Greece.—The President of the Rice Cultivation Association of Messinia invites inclusive offers from British firms for the supply of rice-threshing, peeling, and polishing machinery, and motor-lorries for the conveyance of the rice. Tenders made out to the President of the Rice Cultivation Association of Messinia should be made on the basis of delivery c.i.f. Piraeus or Kalamata (Morea), and accompanied by designs, terms of payment, and any other relevant information, and addressed to The Commercial Secretary, H.B.M. Legation, Athens, Greece.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended May 8 amounted to £7,308.

Interest on the 6 per cent. debentures of the Aboukir Company, due June 1, will be paid on that date on presentation of Coupon No. 3 at 134, Palmerston House, E.C.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended May 12 were:—Cattle markets, £849; general markets, £609; total, £1,458; total for year, £36,922.

Official statistics which have been issued recently, give the quantity and value of Roumania's foreign trade in the first half of 1919 as follows:—Imports, 231,259 tons, value 1,114,549,722 lei; exports, 6,756 tons, value 5,983,371 lei.

Pending the opening of H.M. Trade Commissioner's office at Bombay, communications should be addressed to him at the office of H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner at Calcutta, P.O. Box 683, Allahabad Bank Buildings, 6, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta.

The directors of the South Indian Railway have decided, in order to equalise the dividends of the two half-years, to pay on July 1 next an interim dividend from surplus profits of 2 per cent. (compared with 1½ per cent. July 1, 1919), making, with the guaranteed interest, 3½ per cent. for the half-year to June 30.

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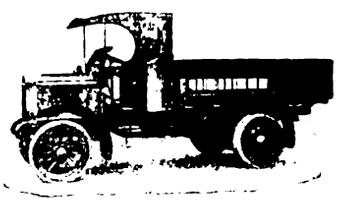

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

STAMBOUL, April 24.

The commercial outlook has not improved during the week. The stagnation continues, communications with Anatolia are still interrupted, and financial difficulties continue.

Not only have arrivals notably decreased, but merchants are re-exporting considerable consignments to Manchester in order to realise at the best price. Prices here are a little firmer for certain commodities.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.

The position is much the same as at the time of our last report. There is a brisk demand for all kinds of dried fruit, and there is no doubt that, given favourable conditions, it will increase.

Coffee.

Certain qualities have been in firm demand, notably Costa Rica and various Indian grades. Brazilian has come to business round about 116s., while the prices for Costa Rica have ranged from 145s. to 175s. Indian has been done at 145s. to 170s., and Columbian at from 125s. to 160s. The futures market has been inactive, but what movement has taken place has been in an upward direction.

Oilseeds.

The market has been quiet. Indian rapeseed has been done round about 40s., while linseed has come to business at from 38s. to 42s. Sesame is about 55s.

Oilcakes, etc.

Linseed cake at 400s. to 410s., and soya bean cake round about 430s., have been in fair demand. Other prices have included rapeseed cake at 245s. to 250s. and coconut cake at 230s.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in April:—

Cotton.—The weather, though somewhat changeable, was on the whole favourable. General complaints of the scarcity of water, especially during the first half of April, have been reported from Lower and Middle Egypt. Districts lying at the tail ends of canals have suffered most. Generally speaking, the crop is backward and is not uniform. Preparations were made at the beginning of the season for early sowing, but bad weather interfered with this, and late sowing has in many cases been further delayed by scarcity of water, the sown seed having frequently had to wait many days before the water reached it. Until the end of April sowing after beans and barley was taking place, even in Upper Egypt. Slight attacks of aphis and sore-shin have been observed in most provinces. Where the germination of the plants has not been good, this has frequently been attributed by the farmers to the hot-air treatment of seed to destroy the pink boll worm, but this allegation has been proved to be untrue. Early sown fields suffered from rain and sore-shin in Lower Egypt.

Wheat.—The weather has been favourable. The crop continues to present excellent prospects. Rust, which attacked the Baladi variety late in the season, has done very little damage to the grain. The Hindi variety, which forms the bulk of the crop, has suffered very lightly from pest attacks. Harvesting commenced in the basins and perennial areas of Middle and Upper Egypt towards the middle of April, and the yield is expected to be very satisfactory—above the average for the past seven years and far above that of last year.

Barley.—Harvesting has started in Lower Egypt; in Middle and Upper Egypt it is practically over. The attack of rust and smut, which has been reported from several provinces, has not caused much damage. The yield is above the average.

Beans.—Harvesting is over in Middle and Upper Egypt and approaching completion in Lower Egypt. In the latter part of the country the attacks of rust, broom-rape and blight reported last month have since considerably developed, and rust in particular has caused serious damage to the crop, especially in the provinces of Daqahliya, Sharqiya and Qalyûbiya. The reports on the yield are therefore less favourable than last month.

Bersim.—The weather has been, generally speaking, favourable, but the shortage of water has seriously affected the growth of the crop, dwarfing the stalks and shrivelling the seed. Harvesting of the seed crop is making good progress in Asyût and is over in Girga. On the whole the seed crop is expected to be relatively small this year, owing to the small area left for seed.

Sugar-cane.—Sowing of the new crop has been checked by the shortage of water, and the area put under this crop is reported to be smaller than usual. The second-year crop is being manured. The old crop is still being cut in Asyût and Girga.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Better Clearances in Egypt.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The tone of the market has continued very dull, and business to some extent has been disorganised by the Whitsuntide holidays. The outlook for spinners and manufacturers tends to get worse, and owing to the production of the machinery not being sold, producers in all sections have steadily lost ground. Reports relating to the Egyptian cotton crop remain more favourable, and there is every expectation of a very fair increase in the acreage. Owing to lack of demand and the probability of larger supplies, prices have given way. There has been very little buying of new crop months in futures. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton have also been very slow. Sentiment amongst users is distinctly bearish, and buyers are purchasing as little as possible. Trade in piece goods for the Near Eastern outlets has been of limited dimensions. Cases continue to be reported of shippers asking manufacturers to defer deliveries. It is stated, however, that the position in Constantinople is improving, and rather better clearances are taking place in Egypt. So far as fresh business is concerned, this is out of the question, as merchants distrust current rates. The turnover in cloth for India has been very disappointing. China continues to try to resell goods or cancel contracts. Some demand has been mentioned for Central and South America but comparatively little has been done. The American yarn market has been flat. Prices have favoured buyers. Export numbers have attracted very little attention.

TRADE OF VOLO IN 1918.

The great increase in the value of the exports for 1918 (£2,699,282) as compared with £214,636 in 1917, £468,699 in 1916, and £500,049 in 1914, is entirely due to the enormous quantity of tobacco now grown and exported from the district (says H.M. Consul at Volo in a recent report). The valuation of such tobacco is a somewhat uncertain matter but a fixed rate of ten shillings per oke has been assumed for that exported during 1918. Imports consist of manufactured goods and textiles of all descriptions. They still only indicate what has proved procurable, and do not by any means represent the real present needs of importers or consumers. The value of imports in 1918 was £306,602, as compared with £161,348 in 1917, £336,985 in 1916, and £553,031 in 1914. Merchandise to the value of £94,343 was received from the United Kingdom in 1918, imports from America being valued at £126,495, from Spain at £50,352, from France at £18,212, and from Italy at £17,200.

Openings for Trade.

Stocks in retail establishments are still very low, and a considerable unsatisfied demand continues to exist for manufactured articles. It is unfortunate that large textile buyers who have hitherto almost exclusively obtained their supplies from the United Kingdom now find this class of goods especially difficult to secure.

For many years past—indeed, ever since the Ottoman régime—British manufacturers in general have been highly esteemed, German or Austrian goods having a greatly inferior reputation. The main, if not the only, consideration which has influenced importers of German and Austrian production has been cheapness. It is true that in the past such goods have been ably pushed, and tempting inducements offered by competent commercial travellers, but the principal local importers are well acquainted with the various foreign markets and producers, and are not entirely influenced by mere "push" or convenient methods of doing business, as is sometimes assumed. Where foreign goods have supplanted British it has almost certainly been due to precisely the same causes which in the past led British buyers and consumers in the United Kingdom itself to prefer certain classes of imported goods to those of home manufacture.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard Line s.s. Brescia, for Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 5.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. City of Oxford, for Malta and Alexandria, will leave Liverpool on May 29.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Douro, for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo on June 10.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Oran, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Beyrout, will leave Liverpool on May 29.

The Prince Line s.s. Italian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast ports, and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on June 5.

Olivier's Levant Line s.s. City of Smyrna, for Tangier, Oran, Algiers, Tunis, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, Odessa, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will load at Middlesborough at the end of the current month or the beginning of June.

The Bibby Line s.s. Leicestershire, for Rangoon, will leave London on June 8.

The Anchor Line s.s. Scindia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 5.

The Harrison Line s.s. Explorer for Calcutta, will leave Liverpool on June 1.

The Johnston Line s.s. Fernandina, for the Mediterranean, Black Sea, and Danube, from Liverpool, Swansea, and Antwerp, to Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo on June 1. The same line's s.s. Portinglis, for the same destination, will close for cargo on June 11. Cargo can be received by special arrangement only. All sailings are liable to cancellation with or without notice. All freight quotations and contracts are made upon terms of the Johnston Line bill of lading in use for the particular trade. For freight or other particulars apply Johnston Line, Ltd., 6, Billiter Street, London; 9, Mount Street, Manchester; J. and A. Roxburgh, Glasgow; M. Langlands and Sons, Dundee; Burgess and Co., Ltd., Swansea; Furness Shipping and Agency Co., Antwerp; and Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., Royal Liver Buildings, Liverpool.

Notes.

There was launched at Jarrow recently the steamer Alipore, built by Palmers' Shipbuilding and Iron Company, Limited, for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. The Alipore is 400 ft. long, 52 ft. broad, and 31 ft. deep, with a dead-weight carrying capacity of 8,200 tons. The vessel will be fitted with triple-expansion engines which will give her a speed of 11½ knots.

SHIPPING AT MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, May 12,

The latest arrivals at this port have been H.M.S. Transport Frankfort, from Constantinople; H.M.S. Tobago, from the same port; H.M.S. Concord, from Gibraltar; H.M.S. Czantza, from Southampton; H.M.S. Teutonic, from Liverpool; H.M.S. Spear, from Gibraltar; ambulance transport Varela, from Newport; and H.M.S. Endeavour, from Port Said.

The following have recently left this port:—H.M.S. Tribune, for Syracuse; H.M.S. Tomahawk, for the Black Sea; and H.M.S. Hussar, for Constantinople.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

Revised Wheat Estimate.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 12:—Nearly general rain has fallen in Kashmir, North-Eastern India and Burma. Local in Northern India, South-Eastern Madras and Malabar. All India wheat revised estimate April 30, 29,727,000 acres (as compared with 29,537,000 acres in the special wheat forecast intimated in the cable dated April 28). General crop conditions good. Construction Nanjangud-Hardanhalli metre gauge railway by Mysore Darbar, twenty-seven miles sanctioned. Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good broach May Rs.484, July-August Rs.448 8 As. Piece-goods market no improvement. Calcutta jute market quiet with fair business passing. Hessians steady with tendency towards easier rates. Heavy goods steady with moderate demand.

No change in Bank Rates.

A later message dated May 19 states:—Nearly general rain has fallen in Kashmir, Bay Islands, Assam, Orissa, Chota Nagpur, North Madras Coast, and Central India West. Local in rest of North-Eastern India and Central India, Madras and Punjab. General crop conditions good, but rain required for sowing jute and paddy parts Bengal. Bombay Cotton Market steady. Fully good broach May Rs. 486, July-August Rs. 448-8 Annas. Piece-goods market no improvement. Poor demand. Calcutta jute market fairly steady, but no business. Hessians steadier with advancing prices. Heavy goods very quiet. Bank rate is—Bengal 7 per cent., Bombay 8 per cent., Madras 9 per cent.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Banque d'Escompte Slovène is raising its capital from 10 to 30 million kronen.

The Credit Foncier d'Algerie et de Tunisie has opened a new branch at Gibraltar.

The directors of the Bank of Athens announce a dividend of 7 drachmæ per share of the 1913 issue.

Chemins de fer de la Basse Egypte.—An extra-ordinary general meeting will be held at Cairo on May 31.

The report of the Banque d'Escompte Croate shows that the net profits for 1919 amounted to 5,335,832 kronen.

The Bulgarian Consortium has concluded a contract with the Government of Austria for the sale of more than 1,000 wagons of maize.

The directors of the Mayfield (Dimbula) Tea Company of Ceylon propose to subdivide the £10 preference and £10 ordinary shares into shares of £1 each.

It is understood that the Bucharest branch of the Agence Polonaise, a State institution, will establish an agency in Sofia for the purchase of cereals and other exports.

In an answer to a question as to the reasons for the continuance of restrictions upon the import of gold into India the Secretary of State for India points out that the removal of the present control is an objective of currency policy in India.

The accounts of the Gold Fields of Mysore and General Exploration, Ltd., for the year ended December 31 show that the revenue amounted to £1,875, against £2,031; expenditure was £2,191, to which is added £281, representing loss on shares, making £2,472, leaving £598 for the year.

The directors of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway propose the payment, in addition to the half-year's guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent., of a final dividend of 2 per cent., with a bonus of 1 per cent. from the company's share of surplus profits for the financial year to March 31 last, making a total payment in July next of 4½ per cent., less tax. The return on the capital stock for the whole year will therefore be 7 per cent., less tax, as compared with 6½ per cent. for the previous year.

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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—
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MASSILIA ABOUT JUNE 24.
CASTALIA ABOUT JULY 7.
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ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
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POTTERY INDUSTRY OF FEZ AND MEKNEZ.

The principal articles of pottery manufacture in Fez are bowls, jars, tiles, glazed and coloured goods, such as plates, dishes, and small lamps. The usual fuel is "doum," or dwarf palm, but olive stones and skins and similar refuse from the oil presses in the town are also used. The colours employed to ornament the pottery are blue, green, yellow, and black, states H.M. Acting Consul at Fez. The blue dye is imported from the United Kingdom, and is known as "berrya." The green is obtained from an amalgam of copper and lead, the yellow from earth brought from Ghiatsa, near Fez, and known as "safar" (yellow), and the black from another kind of earth from the near neighbourhood of Fez. The secret of the light blue dye, which was formerly used, and which is seen on old tiles and pottery, has been lost.

The glaze used is made from lead, pewter, copper, and a white sand obtained from the neighbourhood of Meknez. The lead is obtained from the lead paper used for packing tea, being bought up all over the country. The pewter is obtained by melting down old pewter teapots, the usual teapot used in Morocco, and the copper by melting down old copper cooking utensils. Scraps and shavings of brass and copper are bought up from the coppersmiths and also utilised. The tiles have only one face dipped into the glaze and dye, but other articles, such as plates, are plunged completely into the glazing mixture. The designs, which are varied, but all conventional, are painted on by hand. In one part of the potteries there is a machine introduced by the French for making large tiles. The designs, which are not Moorish, are stencilled on, and four tiles make up the pattern.

The potteries at Meknez are not so extensive as those at Fez, but are of the same description. One section specialises in reproducing the old Moorish designs. The secret of many of the old colours has been lost, but experimental work for several months has resulted in the reproduction of some of them, while hopes are entertained that the others may also be recovered. Considerable quantities of square tiles for floors and walls, ornamented with designs copied from old Moorish tiles, are now being manufactured at Meknez and exported to France, while others, made in plain colours, are mostly sent to Rabat, Marrakesh, and other towns for local use. Large plates and dishes and jars of various shapes and sizes are also made in the Meknez potteries, and ornamented with designs in blue, green, yellow, and other colours. Some of these are exported to France as "objets d'art," but the greater part are at present sold locally. Curved green tiles, used for roofing, and a thin brick for building purposes are also made.

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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TRADE TENDENCIES IN CORFU AND EPIRUS.

Italy's Strong Position.

As might be expected, for geographical reasons as well as for those connected with the rate of exchange, Italy appears to be rather the dominating factor in Corfu trade, says Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Athens in a recent report. No British or French steamships make regular calls at Corfu, but the following Italian steamship lines call regularly:—The Lloyd Triestino Line, two boats weekly, each way. The Puglia Line, one boat weekly. There is much complaint that British goods take a very long time to reach Corfu, viâ Patras, and, even then, arrive much damaged and often unfit for sale. There appears to be no special competition from France or America. There is, however, a French store which sells all kinds of articles of a rather cheap variety. It was stated that a German firm in Saxony has been offering clinical thermometers c.i.f. Chiasso, Italy, for 24 lire the dozen.

Although the trade of Epirus was, before the war, mostly in the hands of Austria, it appears that the Italians now hold the monopoly in this district, and do some two-thirds of the whole total import. The reason for this is rather obvious, since Italian steamers call twice weekly at Santi Quaranta, and the Italians run lorries straight up to Janina by the Santi Quaranta road; but the local Greek companies may now use this road. The Greek lorry companies can only bring goods up to the Prevesa road, which is in a very bad state of repair. It is said that Italian goods can reach Janina two weeks after the order has been sent. British goods, however, would take months viâ Piræus or Patras and Prevesa.

It appears, therefore, that Italy is hoping that this district will increase in population and importance. American and French trade is said to be insignificant. As openings for trade might be mentioned:—(1) Small market for ready-made clothing. (2) Drugs (which formerly came from Germany now come from France and Italy). The inhabitants of Epirus seem well off for money. The only local industry is tobacco, and the chief exports are wool, cheese and butter. The whole country is awaiting developments, as there is a good deal of water power for electric power purposes, and much could also be done in the way of dairy produce. There is a branch of the Instituto Commerciale Italiano in Janina. A Bureau Commercial Français has also just been started under the auspices of the French Consular Agent, M. Lappas.

The American-Southern Slav Bank is reported to have been formed at Agram with the co-operation of the American Foreign Finance Corporation. The share capital of the new institution is 10,000,000 dollars.

It is reported that a Swiss syndicate, representing twenty electricity works, has been formed with the object of founding individual undertakings in Roumania.

H.M. Commercial Commissioner in Bulgaria has forwarded a list of articles to the Department of Overseas Trade for which catalogues, and in some cases samples, would be welcomed by him. These will be displayed by the British Chamber of Commerce, which was recently formed at Sofia. The lists may be consulted on application to the Department. He points out that to be most useful catalogues should be in French, German, or Russian, giving present prices, or, failing them, catalogues in English with present prices.

ON CHANGE.

Depression Continued.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Friday.

There has been much less business doing this week, and prices, except as regards Egyptian Government stocks, are again lower. Egyptian Unifieds, for which there has been a continual demand, closed round about 68, and the 3½ per cent. pref. stock at 56.

In Bank shares Nationals of Egypt have dropped about half a point to 19⅛, and Agriculturals finished at 4¼ only, being ⅜ decline.

In Land shares Aboukirs were offered at one moment as low as 33s., but look a better market to-night at 34s. Gharbieh Lands are about 3, Sidi Salem 2, Union Foncières 5⅛, and New Egyptians 35s.

Amongst miscellaneous descriptions Salts and Sodas are again easier, having fallen 2s. 6d. to 50s.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B have declared a dividend to-day of 20 per cent. for the year, but are a further 6s. 3d. down on the week at 65s. Roumanians have picked up a little to 18s. 6d., whilst Traians are somewhat easier at 8s.

In Greek stocks the 1881 and 1884 loans are two points down at 52, and 1890's have dropped one to 54, but in the 1914 loan there are still unsatisfied buyers at 50. Bank of Athens shares are rather a nominal market to-night, closing at 60s. ex. div.

TRADE WITH SYRIA.

The following resolution was passed at a recent meeting of the Egypt and Levant Section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce:—"This meeting of merchants interested in trade with Syria records its grave concern at the almost complete cessation of trade with that country, which in the opinion of those present is the direct result of various regrettable actions, amongst which are: the imposition of a tariff duty of an extra 12 per cent. by the Arabian sphere of influence, and the forcing of the French currency (so-called Syrian) upon certain areas, which currency is refused by the majority of the inhabitants. Free business intercourse between these areas is thus rendered impracticable. It is estimated that more than £3,000,000 worth of Lancashire and Yorkshire goods have now been thrown back on the hands of Manchester shippers by Syrian importers. The meeting urges H.M. Government to give the matter immediate attention with a view to the taking of such steps in the proper quarters as will effect a removal of the present difficulties and disturbances and a prompt reopening of trade operations."

OIL OUTPUTS.

Roumanian Consolidated.—Production for April, 3,010 tons.

Anglo-Egyptian—Hurgada.—Production for week ended May 16 6,206 tons (previous week, 2,105 tons).

The Nile Commission opened its public sittings in Cairo on May 25.

At the instance of the Chamber of Commerce of Sofia, a meeting of chambers of commerce and commercial bodies was held at Sofia on May 10 to discuss questions concerning imports and exports.

According to a Zagreb (Agram) newspaper, the surplus products of the province of Batchka amounted to 3,000 waggons of grain, 20,000 waggons of maize, 4,000 waggons of oats, about 600 waggons of wheat and a similar quantity of straw. The most urgent requirements of this area, it is stated, are agricultural machines, petrol, oil, paraffin and copper.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price May 17.	Price May 24.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	36	36
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	27	27
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	64	64
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	65¼	68
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	55¼	56
Greek 5%, 1881	54	52
Do. 5%, 1884	54	52
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	39	39
Do. 5% 1890	55	54
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	51	51
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	42	42
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	38	38
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	50	50
Do. 5% Currant	91	91
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	68½	66
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	30	30
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	60½	60½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	53½	53½
Do. 4% Unified	35	35
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅝	4⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	5¼	5¼
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	66	66
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	68	68
Bank of Abyssinia	32/6	32/6
Bank of Athens	65/-	60/-xd
Bank of British West Africa	6	5⅞
Bank of Roumania	5⅜	5⅜
British Trade Corporation	9⅛	9
Imperial Ottoman Bank	8⅛	8⅛
Imperial Bank of Persia	8¾	8¾
Ionian Bank, Limited	6¾	6¾
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	5⅞	5⅞
London County and Westminster	14⅛	14⅛
National Bank of Egypt	19⅛	19⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	5⅞	5⅞
Do. 5% Debs.	68½	68½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9¾	9¾
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	14	14
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	34	22
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	29⅞	25½
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	65	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50¾
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	36/-	34/-
Do. 6% Debs	140½	140½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	75/-	75/-
Béhéra Co.	17	17
Do. Pref.	4	4
Building Lands of Egypt	30/-	30/-
Egyptian Consol 5/-	3/1½	3/1½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/9xd	13/9xd
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/9	14/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	29/-	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	84½	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	37/-	35/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2¼	2
Sudan Plantations	4⅞	4⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp.	13/9	13/9
Alexandria Water Co.	10	10
Associated Cotton Ginners	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	52/6	50/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	96⅜	96⅜
Khediv al Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3½	3½
Levant Co. (fully paid)	17/7½	18/-
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	18/6	18/6
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99½	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	58⅞	58½
Do. 5% 1896	74½	74½
Argentine 5% 1890	74	72
Do. 5% 1907	82½	83¼
OIL.		
Algerian	3/3⅜	2/9⅜
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	71/3	65/-
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/7½	22/3
Do. 5% Debs.	82	82½
Anglo-Roumanian	8/6	6/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/-	4/4½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	14/-	14/-
Roumanian	17/7½	19/3
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	7/-	5/6
Traian (Roumanian)	9/-	8/1½

The offices of the Cyprus Oil Trust, Limited, have been transferred to 62, London Wall, E.C.2.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields recommend a dividend for the year 1919 equal to 20 per cent. on the "B" shares, payable July.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

(continued.)

BRUSSELS BOURSE.	Price May 8.	Price May 24.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs.	400	440
Do. do. Priv.	537·50	560
Do. do. Cap.	450	401·25
Do. do. Div.	408·15	340
Anglo-Belgian Co.	39·25	37·50
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	276·50	238·75
Do. do. Div.	365	327·50
Caisse Hypothécaire Act	487·50	489
Do. do. (10 eme p.b.)	75	75·25
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs.	350	335·50
Do. do. Priv.	518·75	514·75
Do. do. Div.	181	175
Compagnie Immobiliére Deb.	400	380
Do. do. Cap.	199·75	180
Do. do. Fond.	305	255
Enterprise and Development Cap.	272·50	250
Do. do. Div.	155	175
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv.	—	—
Do. do. Ord.	497·50	497·50
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	212·50	212·50
Do. do. Div.	195	195
Salonika-Constantinople Railway	280	280
Salonika-Monastir Railway	200	200
Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894	290	290
Do. do. 4%, 1895	190	190
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv.	130	105
Do. do. Div.	185	185
Tramways du Caire Priv.	450	457·50
Do. do. Jouiss	705	691·25
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	282·50	272·50
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div.	55·50	40

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	May 18.	May 25.
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	60¼	59
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	60	60
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		83½	83½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1903-10, 1939-40		70	70
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		67½	67½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		73	73
Eastern		7¼	7¼
Mercantile of India A.		34⅛	26
National of India		53¾	53¾
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		9/0⅜	7/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		13/4½	13/4½
Burma Corp.		9⅛	9⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		8/4⅜	5/3
Champion Reef Gold		3/4⅛	3/1½
Mysore Gold Mining		17/9	15/-
Nundydroog		13/9	13/-
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		15/9	15/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		21/10½	21/10½
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		24/3	24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		31/10⅜	28/9
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		35/3	36/3
Brit. Burmah		4⅜	98⅜
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		16⅜	15¼
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		18/9	18/9
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		9½	9½
RAILWAYS.			
Assam Bengal		54	55
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.		131	131
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.		50	48½
Bengal-Nagpur		114⅜	112⅜
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India		102	100⅜
Burma Railways		106½	105
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.		—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953		12	12
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957		11⅜	11⅜
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948		11⅜	11⅜
Madras and S. Mahratta		112⅜	112⅜
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.		121	121
Nizam's Guaranteed State		72	72
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.		56/3	56/3
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		20/6	20/3
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.		76	76½
Do. Deferred		495	460
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
Assam Co.		62	60
Bengal United Tea Ord.		15⅞	15⅞
British Indian Tea Ord.		7⅜	7⅜
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.		15	15
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.		10/3	10/3
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.		57/6	56/-
Consolidated Estates		40/-	36/3
Darjeeling Co.		18/6	19/10½
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.		60/-	60/-
Dooars Tea Ord.		52/3	50/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.		21/6	18/3
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.		63/1½	63/1½
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber		30/-	30/9
Hewagam Rubber Co.		21/3	22/6
Jhanzie Tea Association		9⅜	9⅜
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.		19⅜	19⅜
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates		14/6	14/9
Lanka Plantations Ord.		22/-	22/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.		22/6	21/3
Malayalam Rub. and Produce		39/8	36/10½
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.		12⅜	12⅜
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates		31/10½	32/3

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	April 17. Rs.	April 24. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	59	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	303	303
Bank of Bengal	1740	1695
Bank of Bombay	2200	2200
Bank of Madras	1550	1550
Bank of India	135	135
Tata Industrial Bank	62½	58½
COAL.		
Baraboni	14ex	14ex
Bengal	805	796
Burrakur	48½	49½
East Indian	38½	38
Equitable	42½	41½
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	67	67½
Standard	68½	69½
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	720	695
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	4290	4330
Bowreah	1550	1550
Buckingham	1600	1600
Carnatic	750	750
Cawnpore	195ex	195ex
Century	1505	1485
Central India	5885 / 2942½	5635 / 2917½
Elgin	175	175
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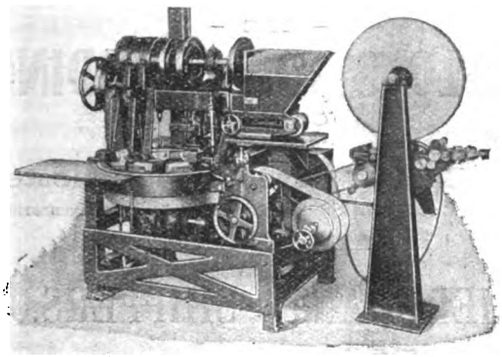

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 474.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

M. Vesnitch, the new Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, wisely lost no time in making known the Government's policy; and though there was nothing very remarkable about the declaration which he made on May 26, it was satisfactory inasmuch as it was what might have been hoped for from a Government determined to grapple immediately with the political ills from which the country has been suffering for some time past. The first aim of the Government, M. Vesnitch announced, would be to prepare the Constitution of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; the elections for the Constituent Assembly would be hastened forward, and a Bill in general terms would be immediately prepared for its approval. Bills for the ratification of the Treaties with Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria would also be introduced as early as possible; and for the rest, in its foreign policy, the Cabinet would follow the path heretofore trodden by Serbia.

Unfortunately, the Vesnitch Cabinet is likely to find the Adriatic Question no easier to solve than did its predecessors. The outlook has not improved during the past week, and an attack made by D'Annunzio's troops upon the Yugoslavs has given rise to a situation fraught with danger. Early last week it was announced in Rome that Signor Scialoja would shortly leave for Pallanza to resume the interrupted negotiations; but at the end of the week a semi-official announcement was forthcoming to the effect that the internal and international situation would not allow of the fixing of any definite date for the resumption of the direct conversations. This fresh delay may quite well be unavoidable, but it is extremely unfortunate, and the sudden recrudescence of activity on the part of D'Annunzio and his *arditi* makes it terribly dangerous. Signor Nitti is reported to have said, only a few days ago, that whenever negotiations for settling the Adriatic question were undertaken, alarming rumours were spread and agitation was intensified, in order to prevent a settlement. The statement would appear to be well founded as far as the arch-agitator at Fiume is concerned.

Reports regarding D'Annunzio's movements are conflicting, but it seems to be established that his followers have occupied territory from which Italian regular troops have lately been withdrawn, and that he has announced his intention to occupy Sushak, if he is not forcibly prevented from so doing. A Paris message says that his troops "have attacked the Serbs," but does not say where. In face of this provocation the Yugoslav Government maintains a strictly correct attitude. It has very naturally warned the Italian Government that such conduct as D'Annunzio's must compel it to take steps to defend Yugoslav interests, and that it declines responsibility for any consequences that may follow; it has given orders to the Army to be ready for all contingencies; and it has instructed its Peace Delegates to bring the matter before the Ambassadors' Council. But it has thus far refused to play D'Annunzio's game for him. Such restraint in circumstances so trying to a proud-spirited nation surely entitles Yugoslavia to favourable treatment by the Peace Conference; but the situation is too pressing to be treated with the deliberation which characterises most actions of that august body.

Turkey has asked for an extension of the time during which she may make observations on the terms of peace offered her, and it is practically certain that she will be given to July 11. That she will then suggest very extensive modifications is not to be doubted; for that is the Turkish way of playing the game, and moreover no Turkish Government would dare to accept such severe terms without first making a show of strong opposition. As a matter of fact, the spirit of opposition is hardening day by day, and criticism is reported to be spreading, so that it now extends not only to the clauses dealing with Smyrna and Thrace, but also to the extension of the Capitulations and to the provisions regarding the control of the Straits; and it has reached such a stage that the Grand Vizier is reported to have tendered his resignation to the Sultan on the grounds that his supporters are all falling away from him. In view of this feeling—which we must acknowledge is a quite natural one, though we may hold that its manifestation will avail the Turks nothing in the long run—it is not surprising that the Government's operations against Mustapha Kemal are languishing.

The Greek occupation of Western Thrace was completed on May 28. An official *communiqué* issued in Athens reports that at Gumuldjina the Greek troops "were enthusiastically received by the population and by the Presidents of all the national communities, including the Bulgarian"; that "the occupation was carried out without the slightest hitch"; and that "complete order reigns." Dedeagatch also has been occupied without opposition reported; but in the neighbourhood of Kirdjali the advancing Greek troops were attacked by Bulgarian *komitajis*. Cynics will be tempted to observe that it is easier to believe the latter report than the former; and that in view of the enthusiasm

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which always manifests itself in any Balkan town or province on every occasion when it is occupied, it would seem superfluous to mention such commonplace events. The explanation, however, probably is that on such occasions many, if not most, of the inhabitants who would deeply resent the occupation betake themselves to more congenial surroundings before it becomes effective. According to Bulgarian reports that is what has been taking place in this case on a large scale in Thrace It is to be hoped that this latest migration will make for peace in the Balkans.

Last week it was announced that King Alexander of Greece was last November secretly married to Mlle. Manos, a member of one of the leading Greek families. It is now stated that as the ceremony was performed without obtaining the Metropolitan's licence and lacked the observance of certain formalities, the marriage was only a morganatic one, and not recognised by the Constitution. The Greeks are a warm-hearted people, who doubtless share the world's love of a lover, and Greece is a thoroughly democratic country; it is, therefore, not impossible, though perhaps rather improbable, that Mlle. Manos may yet be recognised as Queen of the Hellenes; and the fact that she is herself Greek will certainly be in her favour. The question is, of course, one that the young King, his Parliament, and his people must decide between them; but the decision will be awaited with lively interest in other countries as well as in Greece; and Democracy especially will inevitably express its opinions strongly in certain eventualities. Meanwhile much sympathy is expressed for King Alexander and Mlle. Manos, who had the misfortune last Friday, while motoring in the Forest of Fontainebleau, to be the cause of an accident to another car, the driver of which has since died of his injuries. The King is reported to have been free from blame for the accident, and his conduct immediately after it won the admiration of all who saw it.

In accordance with the decision taken, as briefly reported last week, the Egyptian Nationalist Delegation, in response to an invitation extended by Lord Milner, has sent three of its members to London to endeavour to find a basis of agreement between Nationalist aspirations and Great Britain's interests. These three representatives are: Mohammed Mahmoud Pasha, well-known in this country, and one of Zaghloul Pasha's most able lieutenants; Aziz Fahmi Bey, a prominent lawyer; and Ali Maher Bey, formerly a judge. According to a telegram sent by Zaghloul Pasha to Egypt, the immediate object of these delegates is "to ascertain the intentions of Great Britain in regard to Egyptian aspirations relative to complete independence." If that be so, we cannot pretend to feel very hopeful regarding the result, if we understand Zaghloul Pasha's "complete independence" aright. Nevertheless, there is some ground for hope, and it is almost certain that no harm can come of the visit. The fact that Adly Yeghen Pasha, who was Minister of Education under Hussein Rushdi Pasha, and who is a Moderate of the best type, is also in London now affords further reason for believing that the situation is actually more promising than it appears on the surface.

A Reuter's message from Washington announces that: "President Wilson's proposal that America should accept the mandate for Armenia has been disapproved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the voting being 11 to 4." This is regarded in some quarters as a measure of retaliation for President Wilson's veto on the Republican peace resolution. Be that as it may, it means apparently that Armenia must abandon all hope of American help in the form in which it would have been most acceptable and most efficiently given; though there is still a prospect of generous financial assistance being rendered her by the States. The disappointment will be a very real one, and very acute, for Armenia's friends as well as for the Armenians themselves, but it must be recognised that President Wilson has tried hard to get his ideals converted into realities; and, on the other hand, that if his countrymen feel an insuperable aversion to commitments in Europe and Asia, the instinct may well be a sound one. While granting this, however, we must realise that in future discussions of European and Asiatic questions America's voice will inevitably carry less weight than it would have done had she seen her way to accept the mandate for Armenia. It was for her to decide whether the game was worth the candle. But we may be permitted to regret her decision.

There are no developments of importance to report regarding the situation at Enzeli. The Bolshevists appear to be still in occupation of the town, and the latest news of our own small force is that it is still at Resht, unmolested. Persian reports are optimistic regarding the departure of the Bolshevists, and as a matter of fact the Bolshevists seem to be too busily employed with Georgia and Armenia to trouble much about Persia—yet. Besides protesting to the Soviet Government, the Persian Government has appealed to the League of Nations, with whom its Foreign Minister has lodged a formal protest against the Bolshevist aggression. Prince Firouz has been in close touch with the Foreign Office since his arrival in London, and it is understood that he is highly satisfied with the result of his conference with Lord Curzon, whose wide knowledge of and personal interest in Persian problems are assets of incalculable value to both countries at the present time.

The long-expected report of Lord Hunter's Committee on the disorders in India was published last week, together with the views of the Indian Government and the final orders of the Cabinet. We deal with the subject elsewhere, and it must suffice to say here that our recent prognostications as to its reception appear to be justified by the latest messages from India. The report is clearly not accepted as an eirenicon, but is taken as an excuse for the repetition of preconceived views, and an idea of its treatment by the Extreme Left may be formed from the description of Lord Hunter's judicial summary as "special pleading," a description which is ludicrously inappropriate in the ears of anyone possessed of even a superficial knowledge of legal procedure. We hope, however, that the value of the investigation will become more manifest as time goes on; truth tells, though perhaps less quickly in India than in the West, and the large number of politicians who are also lawyers will realise, though they may not admit, the merits of this impartial examination of occurrences which have been misrepresented in every conceivable way.

That Indian public men are not impervious to such considerations may perhaps be inferred from the change which has come over the Khalifate agitation. A good many of the politicians have now recognised the danger, and are putting on the brake, so that, if the matter were purely political, we might almost be justified in concluding that the worst was over. Unfortunately the actual position is somewhat different. Judging from recent messages, the mischief has progressed to a point where the religious sentiments of the Moslem masses have been definitely stirred. These masses are apt to conduct their arguments with clubs and butchers' knives, and those of our readers who have witnessed the response of an Indian city to the cry of *Din! Din!* will watch the cables with anxiety for some time to come. We trust that efficient administration and wise leading may suffice to avert the danger, but if it should unfortunately materialise, no elaborate enquiries will be needed in order to fix the blame.

The industrial situation in India shows no improvement. Strike follows strike and since the strikers have no sense of discipline, each cessation of work is followed by a greater or less amount of disorder and wanton destruction. At this distance it is difficult to speak with certainty regarding the causes at work, but the tide of prices seems to have definitely turned; there has been time now for the remedy of all genuine economic grievances, and we rather suspect that the weather is partly to blame. In India tempers vary with the temperature, and both are just now about the maximum. The best news to be expected from that quarter of the world is the advent of an early and generous monsoon, which would soothe strained nerves, accelerate the fall of prices, and set the country free to concentrate on choosing legislative councils worthy of the great occasion.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

Parliament and Soviet Envoys.

Politics have been so utterly dead during Whitsun week that even the Independent and Coalition Liberals seem to have forgotten to quarrel; but that particular oversight will no doubt soon be rectified when Parliament meets again. There are, however, more immediate indications of a storm over the status and reception by the Government of the Soviet envoys. M. Krassin, delegate of the Bolshevist Government to discuss the resumption of trade between Russia and Britain, arrived in London last week, and so far he has been remarkably reticent. But the papers have not. The Socialist and Labour journals can hardly conceal their glee; the journals of another persuasion have been examining the past of M. Krassin, and the suggestion that the Bolshevist Government is willing to export gold to England has been received by these organs with shouts—or rather placards—of "Will you take stolen gold?" My general impression is that the public is rather confused by the whole business, and discounts the statements of both sides. The worst of political propaganda of this kind is that you have to raise your voice so loud to drown what the other man is saying that the noise becomes deafening, and people retaliate by turning from the political to the sporting page.

The most damaging statement made against the Bolshevists has been that of Mr. North, the British parson at Moscow, whose report carried weight because it was plainly stated and bore the impress of truth. Mr. Lansbury and the *Daily Herald*, who worship daily at the Soviet shrine, have been unable to refute the clergyman, although they have tried hard to do so.

London as Financial Centre.

Mr. Otto Kahn, the great American banker, is now in London, and has discussed the financial situation of Europe with a representative of *The Times*. His views cannot be called pessimistic, but the particular point of his remarks concerns the future of London as the financial centre of the world. During the war, and since, several people in the United States claimed that New York would displace London, largely owing to American profits from increased trade; but Mr. Kahn will not hear of it. His position makes his words sufficiently important to be quoted:—

"The world position of London," he says, "is the result of psychological, geographical, and economic factors. It springs from racial qualities and practices and the accumulated commercial wisdom and experience of generations. The British people during and since the war have demonstrated to the admiration of the world that they retain to the full the qualities which have rightly given them the prestige and position that have long been theirs. America henceforth will be a factor in international financial affairs more than heretofore. But she will be that, and ought to be that, not with the aim of supplanting England, but of supplementing England. The world is in need of all the efforts that both countries can put forth with their utmost energies."

Housing Loans.

The British public is a very practical person. The Government Treasury Bonds and Housing Loans are in open competition for the investor's favour, and the Housing Loans seem to be beating the Treasury Bonds. At any rate, it is announced that the Kent portion of the composite Housing Loan—a million and a-half sterling—has been oversubscribed, and the London County Council Loan of three and a-half millions was also oversubscribed in three days, and this particular scrip has gone to a premium. That looks as though we may be getting houses built in some numbers before the winter sets in.

As a matter of fact, I saw a house being built—a single house—in a London suburb the other day. It was such a novel sight that several people, not obviously feeble-minded, had stopped to look at it.

Guild Socialism in Practice.

Incidentally the house famine has led to an interesting experiment. Many people have heard of the Guild Socialists and their theories—Mr. G. H. D. Cole, a young Oxford man, and a leader of the Labour party, is their shining light—but it has always been objected to them by the ordinary practical man that they are all theory and no practice. Their theory, as I understand it, is roughly that work should be done for pleasure and pride in one's craft, and not for profit. It does not seem a very outrageous idea, or one that bears the essential stamp of Bolshevism or anarchy, but it seems to horrify many worthy people.

However that may, a Building Guild is being formed, or, rather, has been formed, to build houses on these lines. No doubt the bricklayer will sing at his work, the carpenter will meditate on the good of humanity, and the plumber construct a new political philosophy as he plumbs; but if the house is properly built and made ready for occupation at a reasonable rate, I do not see why anybody should object very much. The idea that they will convert the world into a non-profit-making paradise strikes one as a little ingenuous—almost as ingenuous as those who are frightened of the success of the experiment.

Cost of Living Rises.

As I foresaw, the cost of living has again risen, and those newspapers which make a great feature of a speedy fall, like the *Daily News*, now look rather foolish. These Fleet Street "stunts" raise expectations which are doomed to disappointment, but it is a great pity that, in the rush of producing a daily paper, the editor has not time to think. A moment's thought would have shown that there was no real possibility of prices falling this year in anything but local or seasonal things. One thing goes down a penny, but something else goes up twopence; the general tendency is for the cost of living to rise for at least the next year or two. Indeed, the *Outlook* assures us this week that there is no great probability of a fall for the next eight or ten years, owing to the increase of population and the general shortage of supplies. Meanwhile, the director of the London School of Economics has worked out a new variety of the sun-spot theory, which seems to show that things will be at their worse in 1925; but these prophecies leave us cold. The statisticians have generally forgotten some factor which turns a minus into a plus, or a famine into a surplus.

The London Hospital.

The plight of the London hospitals, and particularly of the London Hospital, is more desperate than ever. The latter is £85,000 overdrawn at its bankers, and has borrowed a further £15,000 from an insurance company. Lord Knutsford, the chairman, in a letter to the Press, states that, "unless largely helped, the Hospital cannot pay its bills or expenses after the end of this month." The situation is a deplorable one, and all the hospitals are in practically the same position, owing to high prices of food, drugs, and labour. The contributions have increased, but not so rapidly as the expenses, and every rise in prices hits the efficiency of the hospital, and consequently affects the public health.

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Dean Inge on Progress.

The Dean of St. Paul's, who is popularly known as "the gloomy dean," because he seldom echoes the popular optimism of the day, delivered the Romanes Lecture at Oxford last week. By a curious coincidence, he chose for his subject the Idea of Progress, which formed the subject of Professor Bury's last book. Of course, the Dean will have none of it. Mentally, we are inferior to the Athenians, and physically we are inferior to prehistoric man; he refutes Spencer's doctrine of inevitable progress by a citation from Huxley—a telling shot, and he remarks, acidly, that "the superstition of progress" had a profound effect on the philosophy of Hegel and Comte. It is true that he still allows us hope, "the distinguishing characteristic of mankind." The lecture was a very brilliant discourse, full of gems of wit; and the only possible retort that one can make to it at the moment is that, since Dr. Inge is manifestly a greater man than Dr. Donne, who once occupied his position at St. Paul's, the progress which is denied to the universe as a whole is, by some inscrutable Providence, still permitted to "those difficult dignitaries, deans."

Cockneys have often disagreed with their Dean, but they have come to be proud of a man who thinks for himself, and does not toady for popularity, and, since he still permits hope to rank as a Christian virtue, I can only hope that he will escape one of the bishoprics which are now at the Prime Minister's disposal. The episcopal bench would effectually smother his epigrams, for while "deans delight to bark and bite, bishops only purr."

The Week's Books.

In a literary sense, the week has been dull in the extreme; the publishers, like the gods of Baal, have slept, and the booksellers, like their prophets, have called on them in vain.

Mention may, however, be made of "A Short History of Celtic Philosophy" (Foulis), by Mr. H. Moore Pim, which has just reached me. By including Bishop Berkeley, the author makes quite a respectable show of thinkers; but better than anything he cites from his savants I like the Celtic story he quotes of the origin of the world. It appears that "a marvellous cask was given to a woman by God. Being a woman, she could not permit it to remain unopened; and from this cask the world received its waters." It is a subtle tribute to the curiosity of woman.

"The Taint in Politics," which is published anonymously from the house of Grant Richards, deals with bribery, corruption, party funds, the sale of titles, and other things which, according to the best authorities,, never happen. Unfortunately, there is a certain amount of evidence, which is diligently collected here, that these things do happen; but the writer admits that things are much worse in America. He suggests no remedy, and until one can devise a patent for overcoming the apathy of the public, which is the direct cause of a great deal of the trouble, I do not see that anything can be done. The idea of shorter parliaments, tentatively put forward here, would probably only lead to a smaller percentage of the electorate voting.

The matter of a sharper tone in criticism, which I noticed last week, has been taken up by a contemporary. It appears that Mr. J. C. Squire, who used to edit the *New Statesman*, has recently published a book of literary essays and criticism. It has been condemned as superficial and meritricious and precious, and one of the critics has invoked the name and principles of Sainte-Beuve. The spectacle of a live critic using a dead critic as a battering ram for another living critic has its amusing side; but one cannot but agree that Mr. J. C. Squire should be allowed to stand on his merits—or demerits—quite apart from anything Sainte-Beuve said or did. There is certainly too much pedantry in criticism, and the dead hand of the past is as heavy on the reviewers as their hand is on the authors. For all that, I never heard of a book being killed by criticism, and broadly speaking it is still true, as Dr. Johnson said, that a man was never written down except by himself.

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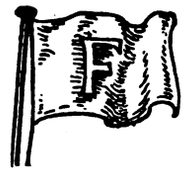

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 17.

Lord and Lady Allenby are at present in Palestine, whither they have gone for another short trip. The situation in Jerusalem seems to be improving, according to recently-arrived travellers, but that on the northern frontier and in French territory, especially the latter, is far from satisfactory, and the Palestinian Administration has been called upon to cope with a steady flow of refugees across the border.

The Cabinet.

There have during the past few days been persistent rumours of a Ministerial crisis. The Prime Minister, Sir Yussuf Wahba Pasha, who has been indisposed on and off for some time, is now laid up with fever; and despite the many efforts made no one suitable has been found to take the vacant portfolio of Agriculture, which is still held temporarily by the Minister of Public Works, H.E. Mohammed Shafik Pasha.

The Attempt on Darwish Pasha.

Meanwhile it has for all practical purposes been established that the student who died as the result of wounds received on the occasion of the attempt on the life of Hussein Darwish Pasha, the Minister of Wakfs, was actually the man who threw the bomb. The nature of the wounds sustained by him, the suspicious manner in which he slunk home after the attempt, and, in spite of his agony, changed his clothes and had them concealed, the correspondence, etc., found in his rooms, and the discovery of bottles containing acids similar to those used in these bombs all point to the conclusion that the dead man died by his own hand.

It is certainly a satisfaction to find that retribution has so swiftly followed the commission of the act, and this will no doubt have its due effect on any other of the irresponsible Extremists who may harbour similar intentions towards Egyptians in authority. It is true that the man did not live long enough to supply any information, or give any clues to enable the authorities to lay their hands on the criminal organisation at the back of all these attempts; but, as pointed out on previous similar occasions, these enquiries had hitherto never led to really useful results, and have only conduced to delaying punishment—even then not always sufficiently severe—until it was too late to act as any real deterrent. The immediate and drastic punishment of bomb-throwers is the only satisfactory way of dealing with them, and the significance of the assassin in this case dying by his own hand without in any way injuring his would-be victim, after every one of the other Ministers whose lives have been attempted had escaped scot-free, will by this time undoubtedly have dawned on the rest of the clique.

The Attacks on British Soldiers.

Since my last letter there have been no further authentic attacks on British officers and soldiers, but the General Officer Commanding the Cairo Brigade has issued an order closing all shops, cafés, and places of amusement from 7 p.m., in a prescribed zone in each of the localities where attempts were made the preceding week. It is not understood why an interval of a week has been allowed to elapse before introducing this punitive order, but it is better late than never. In any case, the people of the district, who had expected some measures of this sort immediately to follow the attacks, will probably have been lulled by the intervening silence into thinking nothing was going to be done, and so the measure will have all the greater effect.

The Non-Official British Community.

During the March troubles, when the non-official British community was somewhat exercised in its mind as to the policy which was being followed in this country and the effect which it would have on British prestige, a number of members met together and decided to ask the President of the Cairo British Chamber of Commerce to call a meeting for the purpose of considering the question. At the meeting a number of delegates were elected to wait upon the High Commissioner and submit to him certain resolutions which had been passed by the British community.

During the intervening period the desire to have some more or less permanent body to watch over British interests in general and those of the non-official British community in particular has become more pronounced. At a meeting held at the British Recreation Club last week, when a report on the work done by the delegates during the year was submitted and the situation reviewed, it was decided that some permanent body of the kind should be constituted; and the delegates who had waited on the High Commissioner last year were elected as a Council to consider a scheme having the object mentioned in view, and to submit it at a subsequent general meeting of the community.

The Industrial Situation.

The latest development in the industrial situation is a strike amongst the printers, as a result of which several European papers in Cairo have had to suspend publication for several days. Meanwhile, one of the leading clothing factories is also having trouble with its men, and although in other directions things are fairly quiet there is still considerable restlessness, which may manifest itself in further strikes at any moment.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, May 6.

The Cabinet Makers.

The negotiations for the formation of a Coalition Cabinet have been continuing for several weeks. M. Vesnitch has been in constant conversation with M. Protitch, leader of the Radicals, and M. Drashkovitch, who is now leader of the Democrats. Several times the rumour has gone round that an agreement had been reached, and the Press of both parties has been optimistic, forecasting an early settlement. It appears that the difficult personal questions have been solved, but the chief difficulties are the question of a draft Constitution, on which parties must be more or less agreed, and the electoral law, from which controversial points must be eliminated to enable the new composite cabinet to carry out its programme, which is the summoning of the Constituent Assembly. Yesterday evening it was reported that the final arrangement had been achieved.

Riots and Rumours.

The hostile Press has been making much and inventing more out of the various incidents connected with the railway strike last month and the affair at Subotitsa, and THE NEAR EAST has already referred to the reports of riots and conflicts between the strikers and the military at Liubliana, Belgrade, and Zagreb. Your Correspondent did not leave Belgrade for the whole time of the strikes, but he never saw a sign of disturbance. Even the First of May passed without incident and without demon-

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stration. The truth is that the wish is father to the thought on the part of anti-Yugoslav writers, especially in Italy. The best comment is that *Il Messagero* came out with a detailed description of the "revolution" at Subotitsa a day before it happened. The Subotitsa business was, of course, quite a serious affair; there were several hundred casualties; but it has been abundantly proved that it was an old and carefully organised plot on the part of the Hungarian Nationalists, who are moving heaven and earth to stultify the Peace Terms.

It is true that there was bloodshed also on the line between Liubliana and Zagreb. A party of some thirty odd strikers, with a good proportion of Communists—which in this country, it cannot be too often repeated, practically means the non-Slav, discontented, and disappointed minority—attacked a train run by troops. But they caught a Tartar, for the train was carrying a contingent of the Royal Guard. The survivors of the "Communists" bitterly regretted their indiscretion in the cold atmosphere of the cells.

The Fiume Question.

Dr. Trumbitch, after consulting with the Government, has returned to France, where he is joined again by M. Pashitch, and the public is watching with interest the direct negotiations which they are now carrying on with the Italians on the Adriatic question. As proceedings through the Conference have dragged on for a year and done nothing but irritate both sides and bring about an intolerable situation, it is to be hoped that direct negotiations may be more productive. There is at least the advantage that both sides know what they are talking about. The fall of the Nitti Cabinet, reported here, has caused great interest, and everybody is waiting eagerly to see what will be the attitude of the new Italian Government. The Slavs are adamant on the vital necessity to them of absolutely free and untrammelled access to the sea at Fiume, and also, what is usually overlooked in England, on the freedom of Albania. Their policy here is "the Balkans for the Balkan peoples," and surely public opinion in Great Britain will sympathise with their support of the Albanian demands for freedom and objection to a tutelage under a Power whom they do not want. After all, Albania as a State was created in London, to oblige Austria, it is true, but it would now be ridiculous for us to place it under Italian mandate to oblige Italy.

The Balkans and the Powers.

There is another danger in this question which seems to have been overlooked. All the political unrest in the Balkans during the last hundred years or more, all the delay in liberating the Christian peoples under Turkey, have been due to the mutual jealousies of Russia and Austria, two non-Balkan States. Now these have ceased to exist, at least as Balkan Powers, and the great disturber of European peace is removed. To admit Italy, another non-Balkan State, into the peninsula means opening the door to new intrigues, new policies of expansion and Imperialism, which must keep Europe in a ferment. It is too fashionable to blame the Balkan peoples for all the famous "unrest" of the peninsula. This is not fair—the hatred between Bulgaria and Serbia was purely artificial, deliberately created, encouraged, and fostered by Russia and Austria, who treated both these States as pawns in their game. Fifty years ago the Serbs actually helped the Bulgars, with men and money, in their anti-Turk movement, in full sympathy for their desire for freedom. Prince Michael of Serbia in the middle of the last century laboured to bring about the liberation of all Balkan Slavs under his own sceptre, which would have been the logical thing. But Austria and Russia could not allow that.

The "Samouprava" and Dr. Seton Watson.

The *Samouprava* has been having a dig at "Scotus Viator." Dr. Seton Watson's name is so well known and so respected, especially in Yugoslav circles—he has even been proposed for membership of the Serbian Academy of Sciences—that this occasions some surprise. The reason of the attack by the *Samouprava* is a recent article from his pen in the *New Europe*, in which he is accused of taking a pro-Italian view of the Adriatic question, of taking his information from the anti-Serb *Obzor*, and of giving a one-sided account of the case. The article comments with vigour on Dr. Seton Watson's proposal for the partition of Albania, by giving Valona and its district to Italy, and the southern districts to Greece and supporting the suggestion of an Italian mandate, which the Albanians themselves object to.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, May 1.

The Question of Thrace.

Since the San Remo Conference there have been persistent rumours that the fate of Thrace is definitely decided, and that that province will shortly be handed over to Greece, in spite of the wish expressed by the majority of the population: for autonomy under international administration. These rumours have alarmed the Government and the people alike, and the resulting excitement is certainly hindering that concentration upon peaceful development which is so greatly to be desired. The local newspapers are filled with comments from the foreign press on this burning question, which is to Bulgarians one of life and death. The French and Italian papers that are favourable to the Bulgarian view are quoted literally; and they afford a little hope that all is not yet over, and that at the eleventh hour other counsels may prevail.

The editor of the *Journal des Débats*, returning here from a ten-days' stay in Thrace to study the question on the spot, has made a declaration to a Bulgarian journalist as follows: "I cannot understand the insistence of the Greeks on their demand for Thrace, when statistics taken by the French administration have proved that they do not form more than a quarter of the population (56,000 in a total of 204,000 inhabitants), and when the great majority has pronounced in favour of autonomy under our protectorate. Those very wise words used by M. Venizelos in the Greek Chamber in March, 1913, when he declared his unwillingness to annex 'Thrace full of dangers' and said that he would treat as national evildoers those who pressed for this Imperialistic policy, are perhaps, more true to-day than at the time they were spoken. What gust of unwisdom has changed his policy? Let us hope, for the sake of justice and of peace, that the Conference will not imitate him in changing front."

The Bulgarian Orange Book.

By decision of the Cabinet, the "Green Book" which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been preparing, and in which are to be published the documents relative to the intervention of Bulgaria in the war, is to be known as the "Orange Book," after the election colour of the Agrarian party. M. Stamboliski has appointed a special committee to verify the documents, which are now in the hands of the printers at the State Printing House.

Diplomatists Dismissed.

Desiring to reduce the diplomatic service, and to leave in it only the most capable and indispensable servants, M. Stamboliski has dismissed many diplomatic servants, especially those serving in Turkey and with the Central Powers.

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The Chamber and the Elections.

Last Thursday's sitting of the Chamber was stormy and eventful. The Order of the Day was the verification of the elections at Vratza, where five Communists and one Progressist—Dr. Daneff—were returned. Several petitions, on the ground of violations of the election laws, had been presented against the validity of these elections. The Communists and Progressists, supported by the Broad Socialists and the Democrats, stoutly defended the legality of the election, while the Narodniaks and Agrarians demanded its cancellation. The attacking force was in the majority; so eventually the five Communists and the leader of the Progressists lost their seats. Thus the total number of deputies is diminished to 223, of which number 109 are Agrarians.

A Soviet Protest.

A protest has been addressed direct by the Russian Soviet Government to the Bulgarian Government against the alleged supply of arms and ammunition to the "revolutionary" troops fighting against the Bolshevist army. M. Stamboliski, the Prime and Foreign Minister, has replied that since the Armistice and the occupation of Bulgaria by the Allies' troops Bulgaria has been disarmed, that all Bulgarian arms have been handed over to the Allied Command, and that the Bulgarian Government treats all Russians alike.

The "First of May."

According to an order issued by the Ministry of the Interior, the Communist and Socialist Labour organisations will be allowed to make their customary street manifestations and celebrations in honour of the First of May only in Sofia, Rustchuk, Varna, Pleven, Phillipopolis, Burgas, Kustendil, Trojan, Sliven, and Lom. The participation in such manifestations and demonstrations of State or municipal employees is prohibited.

Smallpox.

Smallpox has been brought into the city by the Russian refugees, and has caused a good deal of anxiety. I am sorry to have to report that it has found a victim at the British Legation, in the person of Mrs. Elder, who died after only four days' illness.

The Cabinet has voted a second credit of two million levas for the support of the poor Russian refugees.

MOROCCO.

TANGIER, MAY 16.

A Daring Crime.

A most regrettable event took place recently in the Spanish zone two or three miles from one of the military posts between Tangier and Larache. A party of four Spaniards, three engineers and an interpreter, and some fifteen natives were working on the Spanish section of the Tangier-Fez railway near Sok et Nain, and money for wages had just arrived, when they were attacked at night, two of the engineers were killed, and the third taken prisoner. The interpreter, hidden in a tent among old wood and bags of cement during the butchery, escaped the following day. From what he heard it appears that the affair was a vulgar robbery, and had no political significance.

The two engineers were killed before the arrival of the leader of the band, who, when he found them dead, rated his men severely, pointing out how much greater value they would have had alive and held to ransom. The murdered men were highly connected, one being a relative of the Spanish Prime Minister, and the other a son of a member of the King's household.

Patriotic League and Overseas Club.

The annual meeting of the Tangier Branch of the Patriotic League and Overseas Club was held on May 10 at the rooms of the British Chamber of Commerce. A new and representative committee was elected, which at a subsequent meeting appointed officers. The committee also decided what form this year's celebration of Empire Day should take, and formed a strong ladies' committee to make the necessary arrangements.

Kaid Sir Harry Maclean was president of the branch from its formation, and considerable sums had been sent to London for patriotic purposes during the war. Sir Harry and Lady Maclean had undertaken most of the expense of the Empire Day celebrations, but this year a special list was opened, and a sufficient amount was obtained.

A new effort will be made to interest the British colony and to bring about more frequent gatherings, and it was decided to study the possibility of founding a British Sports Club in Tangier. A special committee was elected for this purpose.

A Destructive Gale.

On Tuesday, the 4th, and two days following Tangier experienced the worst gale from the east for many years. One authority estimated the velocity of the wind at 90 miles an hour, and this lasted during Tuesday night and part of Wednesday, declining in violence to some extent during Wednesday night and Thursday. Steamers which came into the bay for shelter risked dragging their anchors and being carried on to the beach, and most of them decided it was better to go out to the open. Bland's boat from Gibraltar, with quite a number of passengers, including Viscount and Lady Bryce, arrived in the afternoon and anchored. Communication with the shore was impossible, and she put to sea in the evening without landing her passengers for Tangier, whom she carried on to Casablanca, where on landing, though they were leaving by the same steamer in a couple of days, they had to conform to the annoying regulations and submit to vaccination. Bland's steamer from Casablanca to Tangier had a terrible time, as she came through the worst of the gale.

Fortunately only one accident was reported—an employee of the Electric Light Co.—but material damage was very great. Broken electric light wires resembled a display of fireworks; telephone wires hung in confused loops in every thoroughfare; while flat cement roofs did not suffer, tiles were lifted in hundreds, and many windows were blown in and shutters blown off and carried away. Native huts suffered by far the most. Built largely of any material, from soap-boxes to stone, and roofed with tiles, galvanised sheets and thatch, they were an easy prey, and roofs were raised and carried whole many yards. In some cases roofs and walls were entirely blown away, leaving sleepers uncovered on the ground. It was almost impossible to walk, and even horses found it difficult to get along.

The effect this east wind *(levante)* has had on vegetation is very curious: trees, shrubs, and plants have the appearance of being subjected to a wave of heat, shrivelled and dried up, and all moisture seems to be drawn from the land. Tangier is famous for her gardens—most of her best belong to English residents—and all have suffered greatly, many being nearly ruined. Fruit and vegetables have practically all been spoilt, and this means a further increase in the cost of living, which is already high enough.

It has been unusually hot, but we have had one night and morning of really heavy rain which has freshened everything up and cooled the air.

Work on the new water supply is progressing, and there appears to be a possibility that the public service will be at work before very long.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, MAY 24.

The Legislative Council.

The session was opened on April 19, and the proceedings might have been predicted with complete accuracy by anyone acquainted with the State of Affairs and who has followed the Greek tactics of the last few years. The officer administering the Government, Mr. Malcolm Stevenson, in his opening speech, referred to the very satisfactory condition of the island finances, which allow of provision being made for public works, including roads, on a more liberal scale, and also for an increase of the emoluments of those employed in the public service; for which latter £74,000 would be required, or £35,000 in addition to the £39,000 which had been provisionally granted during the war. About twelve draft laws were mentioned as calling for the consideration of the Council. The Acting High Commissioner then left the Chamber, the Chief Secretary taking his place as President. A sub-committee was as usual entrusted with the duty of preparing a reply to the address, the members being the King's Advocate, the Principal Forest Officer, the Ottoman member Irfan Bey, and two Greek members, MM. Sevéris and Emphiczi. The official members and Irfan Bey supported a proposal that the reply should only convey the thanks of the Council to his Excellency for his address. The Greek members attempted, as in late years, to add a paragraph stating that the Greek representatives, in present circumstances, desire to inform the Central Government that the Cypriot-Greek community desires no legislative work to be undertaken, seeing that a political change is impending in accordance with their aspirations, and that the Government should not proceed to discuss any measures except those absolutely necessary for enabling the service of the Administration to be carried on. The other members objected, and the matter was subsequently submitted to the full Council. The proposal was opposed by Irfan Bey, who stated that even if the dreams of the Greek members regarding any political change were likely to be realised, this did not exempt members from their duty of dealing with measures which aim at progress in the island. The other two Turkish members, Hamid Effendi and Said Effendi, also opposed the motion at length. Said Effendi did

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not believe that Great Britain would commit an error comparable to that of the cession of the Heptanese and Heligoland, or would abandon a place whose geographical position rendered its retention most valuable and necessary. The Greek proposal being put to the vote was rejected by the votes of the official and Turkish members. It may be well to mention how matters stand. The Council consists of six official members and twelve elected. The latter include three Moslem (Turkish) and nine non-Moslem (practically always "Greek") members. When all are present the Greek votes equal those of the official and the Turkish members together. As the Turkish representatives almost invariably vote with the official, and the Greeks are generally in opposition, the casting vote of the High Commissioner turns the scale in case of equality; and the fate of measures has been sometimes thus decided. At present, as four Greek members are absent with the deputation, the official and the Turkish votes together outnumber the Greek by four. As it is obviously the intention of the Greeks to obstruct the passing of laws, or to abstain from voting, it is satisfactory in the interests of legislation that this should be so.

Sir Hamilton Goold Adams.

At a sitting on April 21, news having been received of the death of Sir Hamilton Goold Adams, a Greek member, M. Loues, proposed a resolution expressing the profound sorrow with which the Council and the people of the island had received the sad announcement of the death of one who, during his administration of the Government, had rendered signal services to Cyprus. These would always be remembered with gratitude, and the Council begged that his Excellency would convey to Lady Goold Adams the heartfelt sympathy of the island in her bereavement. The resolution was supported by the Chief Secretary and carried unanimously. High tribute is paid by all classes to the memory of Sir Hamilton. The *Phoné tes Kypron*, which presents his portrait, devotes two columns to a warm appreciation, eulogising the work carried out by him for the promotion of agriculture, of health, and especially of education—work interrupted by his transfer to the Government of Victoria.

Personal

Mr. Stanley Fisher (Chief Justice). Mr. Bowring (Receiver-General), and Major Bolton, O.B.E. (Commissioner of Limassol) are shortly proceeding to England on leave; also Mr. A. K. Bovill (Principal Forest Officer). Mr. J. R. Holmes (Puisne Judge) is shortly retiring.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, May 10.

The Lebanon as a Summer Resort.

The Lebanon has perhaps been the most sorely tried among the countries involved in the war. After losing about one-third of its population by starvation and disease, its remnant of vitality has, since the Armistice, been gradually drained by wholesale emigration, due mainly to the undue prolongation of an impossible political situation. Now, however, that the situation is getting more clearly defined, and a return to normal conditions, as regards both security and the cost of living, is being rapidly reached, it would be wicked folly to allow exaggerated and ill-intentioned reports to prohibit the application of the one great remedy—viz., the influx of summer visitors from abroad. In the interests, therefore, of the Lebanon, as well as of the thousands of Syrians who have been prevented during the long years of the war, and the first equally hard year of the Armistice, from enjoying a welcome and much-needed change from the enervating climate of Egypt, it is necessary that the real facts of the case should be made known. Public security reigns in the Lebanon, and especially in those regions which summer visitors are in the habit of patronising; while the cost of living is falling fast, and is expected to reach in summer an even lower level than that obtaining in Egypt. Already meat is more than 100 per cent. cheaper than it was a few months ago, eggs and milk 50 per cent., some vegetables over 300 per cent., butter about 100 per cent., flour 50 per cent.; and, now that the political fate of Syria has at last been decided, and free intercourse with the interior is expected shortly to be resumed, it is more than probable that a further considerable drop in the prices of all foodstuffs will take place in summer, and that the average cost of living will be considerably cheaper than in Egypt, especially as active steps under official patronage are being taken to that end. All crops promise to be plentiful, including that of oil. But even if the average cost of living were to be about the same as in Egypt, the abundance and cheapness of fruit, especially of grapes, should constitute a singular attraction, not to speak of the greatest attraction of all—the fine mountain air and scenery. But matters are not being left to chance, and it is most gratifying to learn that the authorities are giving this important matter their serious attention. The military governor, Commandant Labrue, convened last week at the Seraglio of Baabda a body of men composed of the President and some members of the Administrative Council, the Director of the Secretariat, an official of the Railway Administration, an official of the Supply Department (*Service de Ravitaillement*), some of the leading hotel-keepers, and a few representatives of the Press. Commandant Labrue opened the discussion with a brief enumeration of the benefits accruing to the Lebanon from summer visitors, and explained the necessity of using every possible means for securing the utmost comfort for them. He deplored the reports that had been published in certain Egyptian papers about the alleged lack of security in the Lebanon, which were calculated to make intending visitors turn away from the Lebanon, and he urged the native Press to gainsay these reports and let the real facts of the case be widely known—viz., that perfect security prevails, and that even minor cases of individual aggression have not been recorded lately. He finally spoke of the necessity of forming a Union of Hotel Keepers.

A well-known journalist who has been displaying recently a commendable initiative in this matter then described at length the advantages of such a union and the manner of its formation, and further proposed that a Touring Association should also be formed and affiliated with the Union, both working for a common aim. The Union will have an Information Bureau at Beyrout. The Touring Association would seek the collaboration of similar institutions abroad who would help, through the usual channels of publicity, such as an exhibition of pictures of Lebanese scenery, descriptive articles, and so forth, to attract tourists to the Lebanon.

The hotel-keepers were then asked to express their opinion on the subject for eventual consideration by the Government, and finally the representative of the Railway Administration was charged with the drawing up of a time-table to suit the convenience of summer visitors.

Commandant Labrue promised every possible assistance to the hotel-keepers, and that the *Service de Ravitaillement* was ready to supply them with all their needs by means of special tickets. He further promised that the Beyrout authorities should be asked by the Lebanese Government to watch specially over the welfare of summer visitors coming from abroad, and to issue special instructions to the Port and Passport officials in this connection.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHRISTIAN CROSSES AT JERUSALEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It was with much pleasure that I read Dr. Weizmann's letter in your issue of the 20th inst.

My letter was an appeal to Jewish leaders to influence their people in the right direction, and his reply is a proof that he will do so. But his denial that there has been any sectarian intolerance, I fear, he will find is not justified. Travellers returned from Palestine quite recently confirm the reports which I had heard; and I understand on very good authority that a proposal was being considered in Jerusalem to substitute headstones with crosses on them for a cross, in order to meet the objection raised by Jews.

Enlightened Zionists like Dr. Weizmann will doubtless agree that the principle underlying the symbol of the Cross —viz., self-sacrifice—was latent in Judaism (see Isaiah l.iii); but less religious and enlightened Jews may regard the cross as an enemies' flag to be dragged down and dishonoured.

I should be glad to be able to believe that Dr. Weizmann is right, and I wrong, about the facts. Time will make that clear.

I recently received a communication from a gentleman who has been writing in *The Times* on a cognate question, thanking me for my "profoundly important letter."—I am, etc.,

BERESFORD POTTER.

Rake Manor, Milford, Surrey,
May 25, 1920.

AZERBAIJAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of April 1 (unlucky date!) you were good enough to publish a letter of mine regarding the Azerbaijan Republic, in which I denied that the then Government was intriguing with the Young Turks. In this letter I admitted that there were many Young Turks in Baku and district, working hard to further their own ends, but I protested against the allegation that they were working with the Government.

Recent events would seem to show that I was wrong—that we all were wrong in our estimation of the Azerbaijan leaders, for the change of government in Baku last week was not so much a Bolshevist victory as it was a triumph of Pan-Turkism. Nevertheless, the circumstances were such as may well excuse me.

On many occasions President Ussubekov and Fatali Khan Khoisky, the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, have expressed their loyalty to the Allies and their determination

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to have nothing to do with the schemes of Nuri Pasha and Co. They also stated that any attempts of the Bolshevists on their independence would be strongly resisted. But they asked for help: without material assistance, at least, they felt that they would be unable to put up any continued fight. In January of this year a British officer arrived in Baku for the purpose of finding out exactly what arms, ammunition, and equipment were required. He received the figures—but nothing further was ever heard on the matter. The promised help did not arrive. Meanwhile, the Volunteer Fleet left Petrovsk, called in at Baku, and finally left for Enzeli, where it was interned. This in April, when the ice in Astrakhan was breaking up and when the Bolshevist ships were able to set out to sea. And Azerbaijan had no ships of her own with which she could defend Baku. Meanwhile, also, the Armenians launched an attack against the Tartar posts and villages in Karabagh, and drew the greater part of the Azerbaijan army away from Baku, leaving the front open to any attack from the north. So that it came about that the Azerbaijan Government was faced with the possibility of a bombardment of Baku from the sea and an attack by land from the north. The Tartars might have been able to resist a Bolshevist advance for a few days, or at the most a very few weeks, but such resistance would only have resulted in the probable wrecking of Baku and very serious damage to the oil wells.

There was really only one thing to do—hand over the power to the local Communists. This Ussubekov did. But it is all very regrettable, and the outcome of the Turko-Bolshevik alliance may well prove very serious for the British.

I have consistently urged that the Allies hold the Batoum-Baku line. This could have been done with quite insignificant forces. The mere presence of several hundred Allied troops in Baku would have been sufficient to save the situation. Now, of course, it is too late.—I am, etc.,

SCOTLAND LIDDELL.

Tiflis, Georgia,
May 3, 1920.

LITERATURE FOR SERBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Last year the Committee for the Reconstruction of Serbian Libraries (working under the Entente Committee of the Royal Society of Literature) issued an appeal for gifts of books for the reconstruction of Serbia's ruined libraries, to which you were kind enough to give publicity in your paper. As a consequence of the appeal, local Committees have been, or are being, formed in University and other towns in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and about 7½ tons of books are already being shipped to Serbia, representing about 6-7000 volumes. The Natural History Museum (South Kensington) has, moreover, despatched books to the value of several hundred pounds, and has also promised to send a selection of specimens from the duplicates in store.

Last year we hesitated to appeal for money, owing to the more pressing material needs of Serbia, but the time has come when financial help is absolutely necessary in order to buy volumes that have not been given, but without which a library would not be thoroughly representative, and also to pay for the heavy cost of freightage, which has already reached £80.

May we again ask for the kind help you gave us last year? It is hardly necessary to recall to the minds of the British public the tragedy and the heroism of the Serbs; but we should like to emphasise the peculiar desirability of fostering that mutual understanding between Great Britain and Yugoslavia, in which books are bound to play so large a part, and of keeping up the interest in this country of those Serbian boys who have been educated here.

Cheques should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Lord Charnwood, the Royal Society of Literature, 2, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1. The Hon. Organising Secretary, Miss L. F. Waring, will be glad to receive lists of books offered, at the same address.

Yours, etc.,

(Signed) CHARLES OMAN, Chairman.
CHARNWOOD, Hon. Treasurer.
HENRY NEWBOLT, Hon. Foreign Sec.

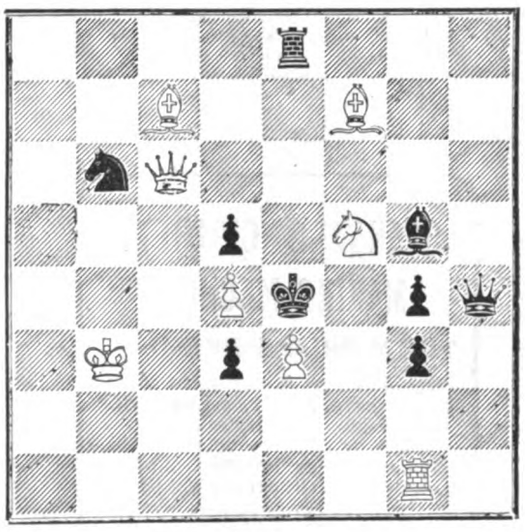
The Royal Society of Literature,
2, Bloomsbury Square,
London, W.C.1.

INDIA AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

The Selection Committee of the Indian Olympic Association have finally chosen the following team to represent India at the next Olympic Games in Belgium:—For the Marathon and long-distance races: P. D. Chaughule, of Belgaum; H. D. Kaikadi, of Satara; and S. V. Datar, of Sangli. For the athletics: P. C. Banerji, of Calcutta. For wrestling: K. T. Navale, of Poona, and D. R. Shinde, of Kolhapur. Mr. S. R. Bhagwat, general secretary of the Indian Olympic Association, accompanies the team, which will undergo special training in England before going to Belgium.

CHESS.

Problem No 19.
Black.



White.

White to mate in two moves.

The above problem was given in last year's Victory Problem Tournament.

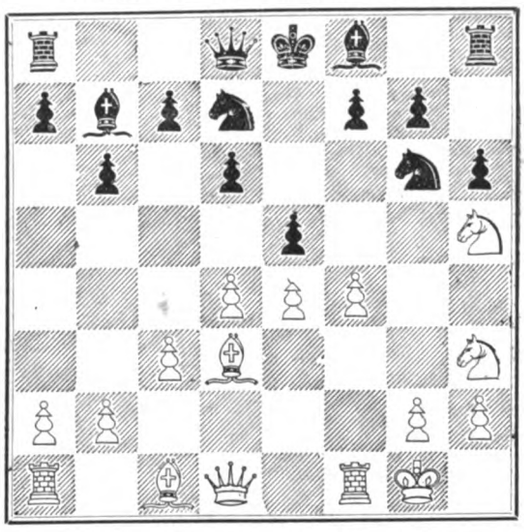
At a meeting of the London Chess League it was decided to revert to 20 boards a-side in London League matches, and to start matches at 7 p.m.

The following is another game from the current Murton Cup competition, White receiving two moves:—

1	P—Q4		
2	P—K4	P—QKt3	
3	Kt—QB3	B—Kt2	
4	Kt—B3	P—K3	
5	B—Q3	B—Kt5	
6	0—0	Kt—K2	
7	Kt—K2 (1)	Kt—Kt3	
8	P—B3	B—K2	
9	Kt—Kt3	P - Q3	
10	Kt—R5	B—B (2)	
11	Kt—Kt5	P—KR3	
12	Kt—R3	P—K4	
13	P—KB4	Kt—Q2	
14	P x P (3)	P x P	
15	B—QB4	Kt—B3	
16	Q—Kt3	Q—K2	
17	Kt—Kt3	P x P	
18	P—K5 (4)	Kt x P	
19	B—B4	Kt x B	
20	Q x Kt	0—0—0	

and Black ultimately won.

Position after Black's 13th move, Kt-Q2.



(1) This move greatly improves White's game. Black is now under the necessity of finding a loophole for the B.

(2) Apparently the best move. 0—0 would have been inviting difficulties.

(3) A mistake. P—B5, Kt—K2; 15 Q—R4, followed by B—Q2 and QR—Q, would have given White a winning attack.

(4) The culminating mistake. P x P was the proper answer, when Black would have found it extremely difficult to save the game. The text move left Black two pawns up with the better position.

CARO-KANN.

A number of distinctions have been accorded to Egyptians, mainly in recognition of services rendered in connection with the disturbances last year.

A new organisation in Yugoslavia—the Middle Classes Committee—has been started for the protection of civil rights. Its aim is the formation of a well-organised body of strike-breakers, thus making the strike weapon ineffective.

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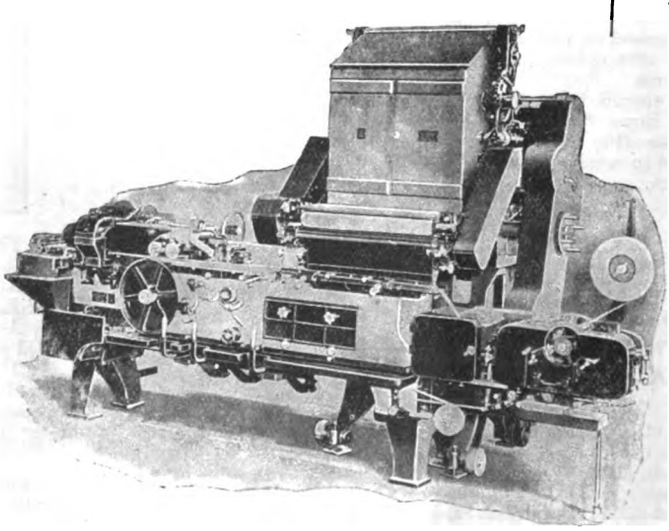

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Turkish Treaty.

The *Manchester Guardian* of May 28, in dealing with the above subject, dilates upon the "impossibility" of the Peace terms, and says that under them there can be no independent Turkey. It proceeds:—

The horrors committed by the Turkish Government against certain of its subject Christian races—in the old days against the Bulgarians and in the later days on a vastly enlarged scale against the Armenians—ought not to blind us to all considerations of policy and justice in the treatment of the Turks to-day. The problems presented are in any case hard enough, but unless something of equity and of humanity, even in relation to a barbarous and defeated foe, is permitted to enter in, it is indeed hopeless. The crucial question of Armenia, which on every ground of honour and humanity should most strongly have appealed to us, is, it would seem, the last which has been considered. It was sought to shuffle off responsibility first on to the League of Nations—which would have accepted it, if granted adequate material support—then on to the United States, which it was known with certainty in advance could not, owing to domestic differences, accept it. These are ignominious shifts as to which history will pronounce no hesitating verdict. In the same way there has been a total lack of any large and generous principle in the treatment of the future of the former dominions of Turkey. There is room here for reconsideration and a better mind, but unless the whole matter here, as in Turkey proper, is approached definitely from the point of view of the interests of the populations concerned, and not from that of the supposed interests and material greed of the intended "mandatories," no tolerable or stable solution is possible. It is here that this country may do something by way of example and to redeem the credit of the whole transaction. In Mesopotamia, as in Palestine, it is open to her to show that she is capable of a wise and disinterested policy in the true spirit of the League of Nations whose mandate she aspires to hold. The conception of disinterested rule over peoples of less advanced civilisation is, happily, not alien to her traditions, and here she is called upon not to rule but to guide and support a native administration which in time may stand alone. It is a difficult task, but a great opportunity. It is perhaps the only road of escape from chaos or the return of the Turkish tyranny.

Greece and Italy in the Levant.

In the *Gazette de Lausanne* of May 24, M. Charles Vellay makes some very interesting comments in an article called "Italy at the Gates of Constantinople." He commences by remarking that, though the European frontiers of Greece have been advanced to the borders of Constantinople, in Asia Minor she has found innumerable obstacles. These, he says, have been provided by Italy, who, holding the metalled route from Aidin, detracts greatly from the value of Smyrna, and, in installing herself in the Gulf of Edremid, closes to Greece the route from Constantinople. He proceeds to state that all Italian policy during the last few years has been directed towards barring the Greek route from Smyrna to Constantinople.

It seems that to-day this has been almost accomplished. Italy has not cloaked her ambition of holding an exceptional position, exceptional as much from the economic as from the diplomatic point of view, in what is to survive of Turkey. She finds before her the firm opposition of England in what concerns Constantinople and the Straits; but there remains an immense field of action in Anatolia, and, if the actual moment is not very favourable to the installation of a great European Power in this zone, it is not less true that Italy has forsaken none of her hopes, and that she reckons on taking up to-morrow her policy at the exact point where she now finds herself checked. Will she succeed, as she hopes, in making a friendly and fruitful working arrangement with Turkey? The answer is uncertain, for the state of mind of thousands of Mussulmans is so agitated at this moment that Italy, in spite of her smiles, is in this respect in no happier a situation than is France, for example, in Cilicia or in Syria.

The article concludes with a word of disapproval of French policy and a comment on the possibility of strife between England and Italy. It refers to

The French diplomats, who, blinded by an unreasoning hatred of Greece, have done their utmost to reduce to the lowest limits the sphere of Greek influence, without seeing that, to the detriment of France and of French interests, they have merely aided the expansion of Italy.

Is a conflict coming between England and Italy for Constantinople? It is not probable, first because England has economic and military resources far superior to those of Italy, and, secondly, because British diplomacy with supreme skill has ranged Greece on her side, and, finally, because the support of the Greek element in these regions is of almost decisive importance. That is what Italy and France have failed to understand, or have understood too late. . . . In trying to support themselves on the Turks against the Greeks, France and Italy have placed their hopes on the least sure ground, for, from whatsoever point of view one looks, the Turks represent nothing or almost nothing. But, if England has incontestably chosen the wisest course, Italy, which has vast ambitions, and whose policy of reconciliation with the Central Powers becomes daily more marked, is beginning to entertain a scheme which will have as field of action the whole of Asia Minor, and the evolution of which it will be extremely interesting to follow.

Albania.

In the May issue of the *Contemporary Review*, Mr. H. Charles Woods writes on "Some Adriatic Problems." His opinion on the Albanian question is as follows:—

Much as I admire many of their characteristics, I do not think that the Albanians can at present manage their own affairs without some kind of foreign assistance, and that, under the circumstances, they are either face to face with the necessity of accepting some form of unpopular protection, or of risking what in fact, if not in name, will amount to early and definite partition. As a firm supporter of the cause of small nations, therefore, I feel, unless the League of Nations is in a position to undertake direct responsibility in Albania, that her people would be well advised to accept an Italian mandate. That mandate, the unpopularity of which would be considerably decreased were Italy to accept it in place of the full possession of Valona, should be carefully defined in its scope, strictly limited in its duration, and absolutely dependent upon the recognition of nothing less than the pre-war frontiers, which are already guaranteed by Europe.

Palestine.

The *Glasgow Herald* recently commented upon Great Britain's new mandates. Of Palestine it said:—

In Palestine our task is not likely to be an easy one; but our difficulties will be much lighter than would be those of any other Power to whom the mandate might conceivably have been assigned. Our past record in regard to both Jews and Mohammedans is as clear as such a record could well be, and it will be strange if, with a due regard for Jewish nationality, Mohammedan religious susceptibilities, and Arab territorial rights, we cannot combine the closest possible respect for the associations, tender and tragic, historical and spiritual, which the Holy Land has for all Christianity. That our control will have to be a firm, as well as a tactful one, is already sufficiently obvious. Moslem fanaticism and Zionest self-assertion will alike need to be restrained, and from time to time we have trouble with Arab incursions induced by the growing prosperity of the lands under our rule. But we are no strangers to the circumstances in which our mandate will be exercised. It must, moreover, be remembered that under the new arrangement Palestine becomes *de jure* as well as *de facto*, at any rate so long as our mandate is retained, an outpost of Egypt, and that the whole military position in regard to it has been entirely altered by the railway across the Sinai Peninsula and along the coast. Should any hostile combination ever be effected between the Syrian Arabs and the Arabs of the Hejaz, we could, with very little difficulty, reinforce our garrison in Palestine sufficiently to make a violation of the frontiers of the latter a very risky proceeding. Happily, such a contingency is probably remote, as all our policy has been in the direction of maintaining friendly relations with the Arab auxiliaries who helped us to turn the Turk out of Palestine and Syria. The British Government has been blamed, more especially by the Zionists, for standing by the Emil Feisul. But if the Zionists were to be given in Palestine the free hand the extremists among them appear to crave, they would soon find Arab pressure from without as well as from within a formidable menace to their security.

A reception was held at the Ritz Hotel on May 26 in honour of the Jewish delegation from Jerusalem, which is in London for the purpose of meeting fellow Zionists and discussing the future of Palestine. The delegation consists of Rabbi Jacob Meir, Mr. David Yellin, and Mr. Reubini. They were received by Dr. Weizmann, and the company included about 150 sympathisers.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Mme. Cella Delavrancea, the Roumanian pianist, gave a second recital at the Steinway Hall on May 27, but to my remarks last week on her first appearance there is little to add. She is an accomplished, but not a distinguished, pianist. At this concert her programme was made up of some sonatas of Scarlatti, Beethoven's Sonata, Op. 31 (No. 2), the twenty-four Preludes of Chopin, and Schumann's "Etudes Symphoniques" (Op. 13). Now, in all of these there were different, if not equal, faults. Scarlatti's compositions chiefly need exquisite polish; they are not deep, and were written only to please. Mme. Delavrancea's persistent indulgence in *rubato* was therefore misplaced, and took away the charm of these sonatas. Scarlatti is still popular, in the best sense; but while his charm is real it is superficial, and any attempt to credit him with profundity can but fail. In her Beethoven Mme. Delavrancea was certainly original, but it was an originality that one simply could not agree with; it did not, moreover, make her reading anything but thin. She was much better in some of the Chopin preludes; in those like Nos. 5, 8, 10, and 16, for instance, her neat technique served her extremely well; but one missed some of the poetry in the deeper ones, like Nos. 6, 15, or 20. I do not think, however, that Mme. Delavrancea was in her best form at this recital; and it must be added, in justice to her, that an inconsiderate audience, which thought a verbal accompaniment to Beethoven and Chopin should have been included in the composer's directions, and that the unity of the twenty-four preludes would not in the least be affected by their continuous departure, must have been a sore trial to a sensitive pianist.

The number of young violinists in this country who bloom in the spring is vast, but some at least of their recitals one must attend, because nearly all of them are hailed as a budding Heifetz, and one day this claim must more or less of necessity be verified. Now, there is no denying the skill of the majority of these violinists: what one does deplore is their lack of wisdom. At his recital at the Wigmore Hall on May 27, M. Emanuel Compinsky, who was a pupil of the late Emile Sauret, commenced his programme with Bach's Concerto No. 2, in E, and Paganini's Concerto in D. Both these things are immensely difficult, and to say that M. Compinsky failed in them would be an unnecessary cruelty. He can play, one might say, very nicely; but when he chooses to play such a thing as the Paganini, he is not asking, to say the least of it, for kind words. There is no reason, however, why, when he has learned the limitations of youth, and when he has acquired confidence, he should not become an accomplished musician. He will certainly be heard of again; but, I hope, not too soon. It can be mentioned that he was not helped readily by his accompanist, M. Roger Jalowicz, a rather unsympathetic and not very capable player whose work, I think, has been noted before on this page.

We are constantly being told in London that the capital is about the worst place in England for music; that what takes place in this city is no criterion of the culture of the rest of the country. (And lest foreign readers should take these notes as representative, I would remind them that it is only London concerts that I attend, and that I hope and believe that London is a poor reflex of England.) In particular, the North of England is pointed out as the place where things are ordered better than here, where musical sense, both natural and cultivated, abounds. I was more than ordinarily interested, therefore, in the violoncello and pianoforte recital which Messrs. Carl Fuchs and Edward Isaacs gave at the Wigmore Hall on May 28, for hitherto they had confined their performances to the North. The result was not overwhelming. The audience welcomed the two musicians, and was pleased; but it did not appear to recognise any inferiority on its own part. A Sonata in D for violoncello and pianoforte, by Frank Bridge, was the first thing played; but, apart from a few isolated passages of great beauty, it is not a work that appeals. Mr. Fuchs then played Max Reger's Suite, Op. 131 C. for violoncello alone. It was the first time it had been played in London, but it proved very attractive, and will doubtless be heard again soon. Reger has a way of saying very little in a great many words, but in this suite he has abstained from the habit. Mr. Fuchs played the music very finely; there was none of that useless refinement and subtlety which mar so many of the works and presentations of the modern Bach. The other things that Mr. Fuchs played—some slight pieces by Corelli, Arensky, and Sinding—were very pleasing, but scarcely required a master's hand. That he is a master is pretty certain, but one would like to hear him in stuff of greater requirements. Of Mr. Isaacs' pianoforte playing there is not a great deal to be said. He played Bach's Italian Concerto, Ravel's Sonatine, and Liszt's "Mephisto Waltz," and he was by far the best in the Liszt. The colour, the gusto, and the general vividness of this Faust piece seemed to suit his temperament, and he gave it quite brilliantly. In Bach and Ravel he was not particularly distinguished; for the most part he was content to play the notes as they stood, without giving them an individual interpretation. Of the two Mr. Fuchs is without doubt the finer artist.

Some of the best British singers have come from the colonies, and it was with hopes derived from this fact that I went to the vocal recital given at the Wigmore Hall on May 28 by Miss Irene Ainslie, a New Zealand contralto, and Miss Dorothy Hugh, a soprano. But those hopes were not realised. It is some time since I heard a voice of so unpleasant a quality as Miss Ainslie's. She has a good range, and her upper notes are pure; but her lower notes, while strong, are harsh and almost grating to the ear. She possesses, moreover, but small musical sense. Miss Dorothy Hugh's singing was altogether on a higher plane. She sings naturally and pleasantly, and has some command both of tone-colour and of atmosphere. Popularity is assured to her. A word may be said upon the composition of the programme: it was, but for the inclusion of some songs by Percival McGuire and Landon Ronald—the proper place for which is at the ballad concert—extremely good. Another word may be said on the New Zealand pronunciation of French: it was just as bad as the English way of doing it.

ANDANTE.

OLD FORTIFICATIONS OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society, held on the afternoon of May 19 at the rooms, 74, Grosvenor Street, London, under the chairmanship of Lord Carnock, a paper on "The Old Fortifications of Constantinople" was read by Mr. E. H. Freshfield. In opening the proceedings the chairman mentioned that Mr. Freshfield had quite recently been in Asia Minor, and had been good enough to expedite his return to this country in order to read the paper. Mr. Freshfield, who dealt with his subject from an historical and a technical standpoint, said that the fortifications of Constantinople had been famous in two very important respects. Nothing equal to them had previously been attempted, and they were subsequently used as the model for most of the Byzantine constructions of later periods. The walls were built to protect civilisation from the barbarity of Asia, and were in all respects successful for the purpose for which they were intended. They were originally built to protect Constantinople against the onslaughts of the Huns of Attila, and latterly were restored, rebuilt and added to in order to protect the city against the Avars, then the Saracens, then the Bulgarians, then the Latins, and last of all the Turks. It was no exaggeration to say that they stood practically alone during the period from 600 to 750, when the Roman Empire ceased to exist, to protect civilisation from utter and complete destruction. It was not without reason, therefore, that the walls were dedicated, not once but over and over again, to the service of God. He happened to be one of the trustees of the British School at Athens, and he hoped it was going to be the duty of that body to make investigations relating to the archæology of Constantinople and Anatolia. Their efforts would be directed to seeing whether there was any trace of the ancient, pre-historic city which he was sure undoubtedly exists. It was quite certain that an ancient Greek city occupied the site of Constantinople, because, oddly enough, a portion of the old walls of the ancient city still exists and formed part of the kitchens of the great Seraglio of the Sultan's Palace. Two or three months ago a suggestion was made that the fortifications should be pulled down in order to form streets. It seemed to him, however, that this was quite impossible, partly because of the tremendous expense involved and because of their great length. The total length of the outer wall was about 7,000 ft.; it was 30 ft. high and 12 ft. thick. The inner wall, on the other hand, was 5 ft. high and had about 180 towers. There was only one other work like it in the world, and that was the Great Wall of China, and it had to be noted that both walls were designed and built to protect civilisation against the same treacherous foe and the same traitors who provided the thrones of Constantinople and Pekin with sovereigns before these cities were peopled with the same race.

Lord Carnock, at the conclusion of the lecture, said he was glad that Mr. Freshfield had been able to assure them to a certain extent that there is no intention of actually demolishing the fortifications. He confessed that it was with some consternation that he recently read in the papers a notice to the effect that such a measure was in contemplation. At the same time he could not have absolute confidence, in these progressive days, that ancient, historical monuments which could not be said to be of any immediate practical utility were likely to be allowed to stand in the way of modern improvements. He could only express the hope that his fears would not be realised with regard to the walls of Constantinople. He must say, having visited both, that one's associations and feelings were more stirred by seeing the Walls of Constantinople than they were by visiting the desert regions through which the Great Wall of China runs. In thanking Mr. Freshfield on behalf of the meeting for his address, Lord Carnock expressed the hope that the colleagues of that gentleman, the Trustees of the British School at Athens, would extend their investigations not only to Constantinople but to Asia Minor.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"INDIA'S SILENT REVOLUTION." By Fred B. Fisher. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 7s. net.)

II.—"A PRISONER IN TURKEY." By John Still. (London: John Lane. 7s. 6d. net.)

I.—AN AMERICAN ON INDIAN UNREST.

The European official in India finds himself at some disadvantage when he attempts to gauge the wants and aspirations of the people; his interlocutors being more anxious to stand well with him by re-echoing his sentiments than to disclose their own. They are apt to be more outspoken with a non-official, from whom they have nothing to gain or lose. Mr. Fred B. Fisher belongs to the latter class, and it must be admitted that his views on Indian unrest reflect the opinions of the masses more faithfully than any Blue-book. On the other hand, he has approached a thorny subject with many ingrained prejudices, and ignores the enormous difficulties encountered by the handful of British administrators who are responsible for the happiness of 315,000,000 Asiatics. His cardinal mistake lies in treating Indian unrest as an isolated phenomenon. Everyone knows that volcanic conditions prevail throughout the world. The first rumblings of the approaching upheaval were heard more than a generation back; and it has received a mighty impetus from the world war. Everything points to a cataclysm which will change the entire current of civilisation. For ages unnumbered India was severed from the rest of the world by a mountain barrier on the north and the perils of navigating the ocean which surround her other sides. Rapid means of communication have brought her into touch with the centres of Western thought, and English education gives malcontents a *lingua franca*, which, indeed, bids fair to supersede the eighty-five dialects spoken in the peninsula. It would be nothing short of miraculous if India had remained immune from the unrest which rages from China to Peru.

Mr. Fisher discourses on some of the underlying causes. The "dumb millions," of whom we heard so much, found a mouthpiece in the Congress agitation of 1885, engineered, as our author states, by the late Mr. A. O. Hume, who, however, was not "in the confidence of the Viceroy, Lord Dufferin." Twenty years later Japan's victory over Russia dissipated the legend, which took shape at Plassey—that Asiatics led by Asiatics were no match for a fraction of their number under European leadership. The Great War elicited a magnificent outburst of sympathy with the Entente's cause; but it produced a virulent anarchistic propaganda, which has distinctly lowered British prestige. India's 2,500 castes are as many water-tight compartments separated by mutual jealousy, and her 57,000,000 "untouchables," who stand outside the hierarchy of caste, are clamouring for recognition of their right to live as human beings. An ever-growing proportion of Indian womenfolk are up in arms against the subjection which law and custom impose upon them. The Mohammedan community—nearly 60,000,000 strong—is disgruntled because the lion's share of official loaves and fishes is that of the suppler Hindus. Lastly, Mr. Edwin S. Montagu fed fuel to the flame of political unrest by his violent onslaught on the administration of India. Just before his appointment as Secretary of State he told an astonished House of Commons that the Governmental machine was "illogical, antediluvian, inelastic, and inefficient." Mr. Fisher writes with perfect truth that "Mr. Montagu's words disparaging the old order have called up vivid hopes and wild dreams in Indian hearts" (p. 181).

But other causes are at work, which find no mention in these pages. The world-wide battle royal between capital and labour has extended to India; strikes are of constant recurrence, and keep the industrial class in perpetual turmoil. More important still as a generator of unrest is the enormous increase in the cost of food and clothing, which is acutely felt in a land of microscopic incomes. Mr. Fisher has confined himself to the politico-social side of his "silent revolution," albeit that its genesis must be sought for in the economic sphere. Unless a remedy be found for the dislocation of industrial life, the Montagu-Chelmsford constitution will prove little more than the proverbial "scrap of paper."

F. H. S.

II.—A PRISONER IN TURKEY.

Some months ago Mr. Still published a volume of verse which derived its main value from its existence as a personal, human document, written under every conceivable kind of disability. In this, his latest book, he has not laboured under that disadvantage, and its worth, both because of this and because it is a record both of "facts and opinions," is proportionately increased. Although this work makes little pretension to literary form—it is altogether a plain, ungarnished account—it is most readable, and should, in fact, be studied by everyone interested in the fate of the Turk.

Of the facts here dealt with (which concern mainly the bad treatment of British and other prisoners of war in Turkey), this is not the place to speak; for it would appear that those responsible for the Turkish Treaty are not without knowledge of the war-behaviour of the Turk. Mr. Still is perfectly right to insist upon his facts, which, of course, inform his opinions; but it is his opinions which are at the moment the more interesting. It should be noted that he completely controverts the statement made by Major-General Sir Charles Townshend that the Turk is a sportsman and a clean fighter. His experiences in captivity were those of a subaltern, and these do not tally, except in very rare detail, with the dictum above expressed. For Mr. Still the Turk was everywhere and at all times "unspeakable"—the instances where a spark of decency was shown are carefully and generously put down, and merely make the author's final opinion all the stronger. And just as his experiences were worse than those of British Staff officers, so, he justly could surmise, were privates' experiences worse than his. The official Turk is beneath his contempt; but he has respect for the bravery, patience, and generosity of the peasant Turk.

What Mr. Still says of the Armenians is worth transcribing:—

> Englishmen don't like Armenians. I don't myself. Turks loathe them. Greeks dislike them. In the Caucasus the Georgians hate them. This almost universal unpopularity is no excuse at all for massacre, but—in Turkey—it helps to explain it. Where the European avoids, the Turk, having a different standard, slays. To him they are vermin. . . . If the Armenians are protected; allowed to be successful, and to enjoy their success themselves; allowed to be independent and not suffer for their independence; allowed to be brave and not to die for their courage: allowed, in a word, fair play, they will grow into a fine people.

This book consists of the narration of a series of trials, commencing on August 9, 1915, when the author was captured at Suvla, until November 1, 1918, when he left Smyrna to be repatriated. It tells of the treatment of prisoners in general at the camp at Angora and at Afion-Kara-Hissar, and although its first purpose is merely to tell a story, its achievement is that it constitutes a most convincing indictment of the character of the Turk. No one can read unmoved of the vile treatment accorded to British prisoners, and no one can accuse the author of any but the honestest motives in writing his book. "A Prisoner in Turkey" has, both in what is said and in what is left unsaid, the ring of reality about it; and it is to be hoped that it will not escape the notice of those folk who are already clamouring for mercy to be shown on behalf of an uncivilised and a beaten foe. First-hand evidence like this as to what the Turk is, is worth a thousand guesses as to what the Turk might have been, or what he may become.

BOOK NOTE.

We have received a copy of the pamphlet "Analecta," by Theodore D. Moseonas. (Manchester: Norbury, Notzio and Co., Ltd., 6d. net.) It contains a short account of the Holy and Apostolic Church of Alexandria and the story of the Greek Pilgrim Fathers (eighteenth century).

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Amritsar and Our Duty to India." By B. G. Horniman. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s. net.)

"Hellenism." By Norman Bentwich. (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America.)

"Persecution of the Greeks in Turkey, 1914-1918." (Constantinople and London: The Hesperia Press.)

"The Problem of Dock Labour." By Arthur Shadwell, M.A., LL.D. Reprinted from *The Times*. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1s. net.)

"Wanderings with a Camera in Mesopotamia (Babylonia)." With sixty illustrations and maps. By Alfred Vowles, F.R.G.S. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co., Ltd. 6s. 6d. net.)

"Eastern Nights and Flights." By "Contact" (Alan Bott). (London: Wm. Blackwood and Sons. 7s. 6d. net.)

"A Tropical Romance." By Adeline Barnby. (London: Murray and Evenden, Ltd.)

"Indian Nationalism." By K. M. Panskkar. (London: The Faith Press. 2s.)

"Le Monténégro et la Question de Scutari." By Ing. P. Popovitch. (Geneva: Edition Atar, Corraterie, 12. 1 fr.)

"The Shadow of the Mosque." By Morris McDougall. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. June	1920. May.		1338. Ramadan.	5680. Sivan.
3	21	Thursday	16	17
4	22	Friday	17	18
5	23	Saturday.....	18	19
6	24	Sunday	19	20
7	25	Monday	20	21
8	26	Tuesday	21	22
9	27	Wednesday	22	23

Major Morrison-Bell, M.P., is on a visit to Malta.

M. Aristide Blank, late Roumanian Minister of Finance, has left Claridge's for Brussels.

Lieutenant Moffat, who has been held captive by Mustapha Kemal Pasha at Adabazar, has now been released.

M. Titulesco, Roumanian ex-Minister of Finance, and the present head of the Peace Delegation, left London last week for Paris.

Major-General Sir Charles Townshend, K.C.B., is to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Toronto.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* states that Sir Paul Harvey, Financial Adviser to the Government of Egypt, will retire in the autumn.

The Czecho-Slovak Foreign Minister, Dr. Edward Benes, and Dr. Alice Masaryk, the eldest daughter of President Masaryk, have arrived in London.

It is announced from Baghdad that the Shah of Persia is seriously indisposed, and that he has been obliged to cancel all his engagements. He left on May 28 for Persia.

A communication has been received from Central Arabia stating that Prince Faisal, the young son of the Emir, Ibn Saud, who was at the head of the Central Arabian Mission to this country, has married his first cousin, the daughter of Mohammed Ibn Saud.

Under the auspices of the Royal Society of Arts, Sir Valentine Chirol will deliver on June 18 the Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture. His subject will be "The Enduring Power of Hinduism," and the lecture will be presided over by the Right Hon. Lord Meston, K.C.S.I., LL.D.

A Requiem Mass was held for the late Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, G.C.S.I., at the Brompton Oratory at 10 a.m. on May 25. The service was attended by members of the family and the following:—Sir Charles Rivaz, Sir Louis and Lady Dane, Sir Charles and Lady Lyall, Sir Charles Bayley, Sir Alexander Diack, Mr. W. Coldstream, Colonel C. E. Yate, M.P., Colonel Dallas, Mr. C. E. Buckland, Sir James Dunlop Smith, representing the Secretary of State for India, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Sir Richard Udny.

The Hyderabad Contingent Dinner took place on May 31 at Oddenino's Restaurant, Regent Street, and was attended by the following officers:—General W. W. Warner, C.M.G., Major-General Sir Norman Stewart, Bart., C.B., Major-General T. H. Hardy, C.B., Colonels H. Greany, R. F. M. Johnstone, H. Lowther, C. H. Macdonald, C. E. Macquoid, D.S.O., R. G. Ouseley, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., E. G. W. Pratt, G. W. Priestley, D. W. Purdon, E. A. W. Stotherd, E. W. Welchman, C.B., F. W. Whittall, Lieut.-Col. K. E. Nangle, Major F. Welchman, and Mr. Austin Low, C.I.E., hon. secretary.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (May 1):—The great event of the past week has been the marriage of Captain Walter Collins, of the British Military Mission in Bulgaria, with the young and charming daughter of General Zagorsky, Mlle. Yanka Zagorsky. The marriage took place last Monday in the ancient church of St. Sophie, a Bulgarian Orthodox priest, Archimandrite Chivatcheff, officiating. The ceremony attracted a large and fashionable crowd, among others present being H. E. General Gondrecourt, who commands the Allied troops in Bulgaria, and many members of the *corps diplomatique*. Afterwards a reception was held at the quarters of the British Military Mission. The following day the happy couple left for Vienna, by way of Belgrade.

The following are recipients of the Egyptian Order of the Nile:—Third Class: Maj. R. P. S. Elderton, Maj. Viscount Hawarden, Maj. S. E. H. Giles, D.S.O.; Maj. A. G. Cummins, M.C., M.B.; Mr. B. Burnett, Director of Works, Sudan Government; Mr. H. Fraser, Director of Lands, Sudan Government; Mr. M. F. Simpson, Ministry of Public Instruction, Egypt. Fourth Class: Maj. A. H. Betterton, Capt. J. J. M. Soutar; Mr. O. Bentley, Senior Inspector, Nuba Mountains Province; Mr. W. A. Davie, Inspector of Agriculture, Sudan Government; Mr. S. C. Dunn, Geologist, Sudan Government; Mr. A. W. Fraser, Assistant Director, Cadastrial Surveys, Sudan Government; Mr. G. E. Mason, Assistant Mechanical Engineer, Sudan Government Railways; Mr. A. E. Robinson, Inspector of Accounts, Customs Department, Sudan Government; Mr. C. J. Slade, Divisional Engineer, Public Works, Sudan Government.

The following were present at the Indian Police Dinner, which took place at Oddenino's Restaurant, Regent Street, on May 28:—Mr. Douglas Straight, C.I.E. (in the chair), Major T. C. Annesley, Colonel S. Babington, Mr. A. C. J. Bailey, Mr. L. M. Bavin, Mr. E. B. Belcher, Lieut.-Col. J. F. C. Carter, Mr. C. W. Chichele-Plowden, C.I.E., Lieut.-Col. E. G. Gregson, C.M.G., C.I.E., Mr. A. J. Shappell, Mr. O. A. Harker, Mr. A. St. J. Ingle, Mr. I. A. Innes, Mr. J. B. Jenkins, Mr. H. R. Langtree, Mr. A. E. M. Le Marchand, Mr. Austin Low, C.I.E. (hon. secretary), Mr. C. A. Macpherson, Mr D. Petrie, Mr. J. R. Phillips, Mr. M. C. Conway Poole, Mr. H. E. C. Paget, Mr. R. E. A. Ray, Mr. A. W. Richardson, Mr. G. Archer Rundle, Mr. W. Moyle Sherer, Mr. J. Slattery, Mr. W. Sloane, Mr. F. A. M. N. Vincent, C.I.E., M.V.O., Mr. B. Wardle, Mr. W. H. A. Webster, Mr. N. Williamson, M.B.E., and Mr. N. L. K. Wilson.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Abdur Rauf to be a Puisne Judge of the Lahore High Court, in the vacancy created by the recent appointment of Mr. Justice Shadi Lal to be Chief Justice of the Court.

OBITUARY.

A report has reached London that the Sirdar Nasrullah Khan, brother of the late Ameer, is dead. He had been under some kind of surveillance either at Jallalabad or Kabul since the accession of the present ruler, and it is not quite clear how much political influence he exercised lately.

Air Commodore Groves, Commanding the Royal Air Force in Egypt and the Middle East, and Flying Officer C. O. Bird were killed in an aeroplane accident at Heliopolis on May 27.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

At the Alpine Club Gallery is being held an exhibition of pictures called "The Russian Revolution." They are the work of Mr. Edward Saltoft, who was from 1916-1918 chief of the Danish Red Cross in Russia. "He also was entrusted," the catalogue tells us, "with a special mission in the spring, 1919, when he carried out negotiations with the Soviet Government on behalf of British, French, American, and Roumanian subjects in Russia." Readers of this journal will probably recall the fact that Mr. Saltoft was well known before the war in Caucasia and South Russia. (It is possibly this experience that enabled him to draw so faithfully such types as No. 17. "An Old Persian from Tiflis"; No. 35, "A Tartar with Yellow Muffcap"; No. 36, "A Persian with Yellow Muffcap"; and No. 43, "A Boy from Caucasus with Red Cap.")

Including some portraits which are not particularly arresting, there are sixty-seven exhibits altogether, but they are by no means of equal value. To our mind, Mr. Saltoft's best work is that devoted to the drawing of the Red Army on the march; he has here no moral to convey, and he seems to have caught admirably the fatalistic spirit which inspires the soldiers to march across the desolate wastes of snow. There is also very fine drawing in No. 39, "The Red Gate in Malajamorskaja, July 6, 1917, 11 p.m.," a most vivid and brilliant piece of work. In those pictures which appear to have direct value as propaganda, such as those upon "The Cry of the Revolution," or No. 27, "The Dead Horse, January, 1918," or No. 42, "Assassination of General Stackelberg, March 10, 1917," we do not see much merit; for there is in them a vagueness of detail and of outline which mars what might otherwise be very effective craftsmanship. It may be said that these pictures are perhaps more of contemporary and practical interest than of artistic interest, but, quite apart from their subject matter, they are worth seeing.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Ras-el Bahr post office was opened on June 1.

In view of the disturbed situation in Syria, French warships have been despatched to Tyre.

It is officially announced that Greek troops have occupied Dedeagatch, as well as Gumuldjina.

On May 6 the headquarters of the Red Sea Province were moved from Port Sudan to Erkowit.

It is announced that General Mahmud Mukhtar Pasha, Turkish Minister of War, and one of the members of the Peace Delegation, has resigned both offices for reasons of health.

A Bill has been submitted to the Greek Chamber regulating Mussulman religious institutions and Turkish schools in Mussulman communities in Greece.

A short time ago two dispensaries were opened by the Sudan Government, Medical Department, in Merowe Province—one at Kareima and the other at Tengassi.

Platten, the Swiss Bolshevist leader, who was imprisoned in Roumania, and who afterwards fled to Moscow, will be brought back to a Swiss prison in a day or two from Königsberg.

The Viceroy has provisionally fixed August 20 as the date for the first autumn meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council at Simla, and September 24 as the date of the final meeting of the session.

Credits asked for by the French High Commissioner in Syria and Cilicia and also on account of the French armies of the East and the Eastern Mediterranean have been passed by the French Chamber.

On behalf of the Palestine Restoration Fund £2,500 was collected in the New Synagogue, £1,000 in the Stoke Newington Synagogue, and £1,400 in the Borough Synagogue during the Jewish Festival on May 23 and 24.

A telegram from El Arish states that a number of Moroccans who were concerned in the murder of the two Spanish engineers, reported by our Tangier Correspondent, have been tried by court-martial and executed in the presence of their compatriots.

The Jewish Correspondence Bureau states that Mr. Herbert Samuel, the first High Commissioner for Palestine, will be responsible directly to the British Government. Lord Allenby, who has under his command the chief administration of Palestine, will thus be relieved.

The *Bombay Chronicle* states that Yaqub Hasan Sahib Bahadur, an elected member of the Madras Legislative Council, has resigned from the council of the Prince of Wales's Reception Committee, the Madras Corporation, and the Madras Port Trust as a protest against the terms of the Turkish Peace Treaty.

NEW ASSYRIAN PATRIARCH.

The vacancy in the Patriarchate of the Assyrian Church, caused by the death of Paulus Mar Shimun on May 9 (as recorded in our issue of May 20), has been filled by the election of his nephew, Ishai (Jesse) to that office.

The Patriarch-elect is the son of David d'Mar Shimun, brother of the late Patriarch and Sirdar of the Assyrian contingent now in British service. The fact that the new prelate is a lad of scarcely thirteen years of age is no obstacle by the customs of this nation, and he has received formal consecration to all the grades of the hierarchy of his church up to and including that of Metropolitan or Archbishop. The formal anointing of the Patriarchate will probably take place shortly.

The Patriarchate, which carries with it the chieftainship of the wild highland clans that form the bulk of this nation, is hereditary in the "Shimunaia" family, but this fact does not prevent the "notables" of the nation from exercising a choice within its limits. In the present case it was these notables who over-rode the wish of the bishops of the church for a period of delay before raising this boy to so high a dignity, and they also demanded the lad Ishai as Patriarch, to the exclusion of his elder brother Theodore. The practice of electing a member of the house who seems most fitted to the honour of the chieftainship, and disregarding the strict rule of primogeniture while respecting the right of the family, will remind historical students of the custom of our own ancestors.

One might expect that such a custom would cause family quarrels, but, as a matter of fact, that has not been the case in the past to anything like the extent that might have been anticipated.

One difficulty, however, does arise at times in cases where, as at present, the father of the Patriarch is alive and vigorous. Then at times there is a conflict between the obedience which a son naturally owes to his father all the East over and the obedience which a mere lay member of the church owes to the Patriarch and head of the "millet" who happens to be his own child! However, members of the Church of England are well aware of the great truth—that an arrangement that is quite intolerable in theory may yet work very fairly well in practice.

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THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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THE LESSON OF THE PUNJAB.

The publication of the documents relating to last year's disturbances in India at length makes it possible to view the facts of the situation as a whole, and to form a just idea of their bearing on the future. The delay in the appearance of these papers is doubtless susceptible of explanation, but it has none the less produced unfortunate results; discussions based on partial knowledge have tended to obscure the real issues, the public has been pressed to take sides, prejudice of almost every kind has had free scope, and if we were to be guided by some sections of the popular Press, we should expect to find in the Report of Lord Hunter's Committee all the elements of a transpontine melodrama, in which heroes and villains should hold the stage in turn. The only effective treatment of such a situation is an authoritative exposition of the facts, and this is now available. It is true that the members of the Committee have been unable to make a unanimous report, but the divergence is much less than it seems. A purely judicial enquiry would almost certainly have resulted in unanimity, and while the decision to make the Committee representative, as the phrase goes, involved the abandonment of that ideal, comparison of the findings in the two reports shows that the essential facts are no longer in dispute. The divergence is one of standpoint, and we are shown the facts from two widely different points of view, but such controversies as remain relate to the significance of particular events rather than their course. On these controversies the last word necessarily rested with the British Government, and the somewhat unusual wording of Mr. Montagu's closing despatch makes it easy to distinguish the considered orders of the Cabinet from the views expressed by the Minister on matters of departmental import. The case is thus ripe for the final decision of the public.

The story as now presented is indeed no melodrama, but a natural development from the operation of causes of a type familiar to Indian historians, if not easily appreciated by men whose memories are short. In the spring of last year Indians in the mass were upset by a variety of causes; war restrictions, bad crops, high prices, epidemics, and other occurrences combined to produce this result, and it should never be forgotten that when the minds of Indians are upset they draw on centuries of experience, and conclude that a change of dynasty is impending. We are told that the hooligan element in Lahore raised their ragged regiment by proclaiming that King George was dead; similar cries have been the prelude to disorder for at least a thousand years, and the incident is significant of one of the most strongly marked characteristics of Indian mass-psychology. The onset of such mental disturbances is watched for by experienced administrators, but Indian politicians are unfortunately still inexperienced, and they chose this dangerous moment to initiate a raging agitation against the provisions of the Rowlatt Act, a measure which had already been seriously whittled down, and was little more than a shadow of what had been recommended by the full weight of an impartial tribunal. The agitation thus started came as a godsend to the criminal elements, intent, as always, on creating active hostility to any form of government; wild stories were spread abroad, and, of course, readily believed; all the materials for a conflagration were on the spot, and only a spark was needed to produce it. That spark was struck by the men who, actuated by academic theories, preached disobedience to the law. We need not recall the details of the outrages which were committed; suffice it to say that things were done which Englishmen may forgive, but which they will find it hard to forget: in the worst centres of disorder the civil administration found itself helpless, and the ordinary machinery was displaced by martial law. The Minority Report argues that this extreme measure was unnecessary, but the arguments advanced have been brushed aside in the final pronouncement of His Majesty's Government, and in truth they called for no more respectful treatment; the military authorities took charge of the situation, and their administration succeeded in meeting the emergency, but, owing mainly to lack of guidance, some mistakes were made, while in the case of the most spectacular incident, the officer in command acted on a theory which has been condemned by the entire Committee, and has been formally disavowed by the Cabinet and the Indian Government. The results of these mistakes were in some cases deplorable, and it is, therefore, all the more necessary to insist on the fact that they were exceptional, and that in an exceedingly difficult situation the officers employed kept their heads and acted as British officers are expected to act. The mobs were rapidly brought under control, the leaders received exemplary punishment, the general population was at last convinced that authority stood firm, and while it must be admitted that feeling still runs high in some parts of the affected area, the danger of a recurrence of disorder has seemingly passed away.

What lesson for the future may be drawn from the events thus briefly chronicled? The Home and Indian Governments are agreed in recognising that, since the need for martial law must be expected to recur, suitable instructions for its execution should be laid down in advance, and arrangements made to avoid the risk of such mistakes as have been indicated. We have no quarrel with this conclusion, which accords with the canons of sound administration, but we desire rather to direct attention to the major premiss on which it is based, the great and pregnant truth that the rule of law is not yet firmly established in India. That truth needs to be constantly borne in mind. Indian memories are long, and the people have known too many changes of dynasty to realise either that modern Governments tend to be stable, or that stability is the essence of a prosperous and progressive state. Combustible material abounds, and precautions are still needed in India which may safely be dispensed with elsewhere. We are not sure that this truth has always been fully realised in practice by the administration during the last ten or fifteen years, but we are now concerned less with past administrations than with the Indians who aspire to control the administration in the near future. They have not yet learned to realise the danger of the firebrand; too many of them are inclined, on trivial pretexts, to play that part themselves. Within the last few months we have seen many of them adhere to the doctrine of organised disobedience, while others have proposed to turn India into a bear-garden if their peculiar views on European politics are not accepted *ex cathedra* by the world at large; and, apart from these notorious activities, it must be admitted that in almost every corner of the country there are men who threaten disorder if they are not obeyed. It would be superfluous to argue that such action is the very negation of democracy, but in India it is much more than that: the chances of disorder are far too great for such threats to be permissible, and politicians who aspire to become statesmen or administrators must, before it is too late, school themselves in the theory of political responsibility, and in the practice of political restraint. That is the true lesson of the events with which we are now concerned. In the atmospheric conditions which prevail in India just now, fires are easily kindled, but are hard to quench; and while the Government is very properly concerned to improve the efficiency of its remedial apparatus, the leaders of the people are faced with the even more urgent duty of seeing that sparks are not struck.

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BRITISH COMMUNITIES ABROAD

FOREIGN OFFICE ACTION.

While in recent years knowledge of the Empire has become general, and the life of our brethren overseas a topic of perennial interest to people at home, it must be confessed that very little attention has been paid to the problems associated with the lives of those British communities in foreign lands on whose enterprise our commerce is so largely dependent, and by whose general conduct our status among the nations is to a great extent determined. Sometimes one is inclined to think that they understood these things better in the Middle Ages, when there was hardly a nation unrepresented in the great cities of Europe. Each little foreign colony, with its compact organisation, secured rights, and definite status in the body politic, performing a definite duty to the land of its origin in spreading abroad knowledge of its resources, manners, customs, and ideals. We cannot, of course, revive the ancient system of corporations specially chartered to trade in various countries, even if we can claim for it advantages not always discoverable in the haphazard methods of international intercourse holding good today, but we can at least seek to revive a little of its ancient spirit by giving something suggestive of a coherent organisation to our British communities abroad, and it is with immense satisfaction that we note the great step forward in that direction made by the publication of the report of the Foreign Office Committee specially charged with the examination of the subject for the information of the Government. As might be expected, the report covers a very wide field, in spite of the care that has been taken to keep within the terms of reference. These, divided into eleven headings, refer as much to British propaganda in foreign countries as they do to the conditions of life among British communities abroad, but the report shows us plainly that the two subjects are so closely interwoven that the title given to it need not be cavilled at by even the most critical.

The question of the education of British children abroad is dealt with very thoroughly, and nobody is likely to quarrel with the committee for urging that "His Majesty's Government should make it their aim to see that any British child has the opportunity of receiving a British education." The recommendations are, briefly, that the Government should obtain information from its representatives abroad as to the approximate number of British children in their districts requiring primary and secondary education, and that when they number as many as twenty or thirty in one place the amount the parents could contribute in the shape of school fees is to be ascertained. A grant in aid from the Treasury is recommended in all cases where the setting up of a British school is practicable, and it is suggested that facilities should be given to the more promising children in primary schools to enter secondary schools in this country. The subject obviously bristles with difficulties, but these are by no means insuperable, and several examples may be quoted of British communities having succeeded in solving their local education problem without any financial assistance from the Government. Among these, Constantinople stands out conspicuously, the excellent record of its British schools being familiar to many of our readers.

It is not perhaps sufficiently realised how often this educational difficulty deters many men of the best stamp from applying for situations abroad for which they possess every qualification needed. This applies to all classes, but perhaps most to men in the lower ranks of life. In their case, only too often, to take their children out with them to a foreign country is tantamount to depriving them of the privileges of their British nationality, and when the sacrifice is made it not infrequently results in the loss to the Empire of several useful young citizens. How clearly this is appreciated by the Committee is evident from their report, and it is to be hoped that the Government will act on the very full recommendations made for remedying the unsatisfactory conditions existing at many important places. We notice with some regret that British communities in the United States are ruled out of the inquiry, but this could hardly be avoided, since it cannot be denied that the British child in America probably gets, in most cases, as good an all-round education as he would in his own country. Still, one cannot shut one's eyes to the fact that an English and a British education are not one and the same thing in this case, since it is admittedly one of the objects of American education to denationalise the foreign child as a preliminary to giving him a distinctly American outlook on life; and this, in the case of the British child, entails the viewing of eighteenth-century history in a form unrecognisable to his relations at home. It is suggested in the report that at places where the establishment of a British school appears to be feasible, an endeavour should be made to ascertain whether it might be possible to attract to it a certain number of foreign children. This is a most valuable suggestion, and we hope it may be widely acted upon, for it is rarely one comes across a foreigner who has received his education in a British school who does not in after life entertain friendly feelings towards this country; and in the great campaign against wars and international misunderstandings inaugurated with the founding of the League of Nations the services of such men are likely to be invaluable.

Curiously enough, the report makes no reference to the subject of interchange of undergraduates between universities in different countries. Is it because the Committee were trying to forget that we had German Rhodes' scholars with us before the war? Or is it because they think this is a matter better left to the universities themselves to settle? The omission is remarkable, however, when we recall the presence of so many Belgian and Serbian students in our universities during the war years and all the mutual advantages accruing to the nations concerned. Schemes for the interchange of students between the universities in this country and those in the dominions overseas are now under consideration, but our duty to think Imperially does not relieve us from the obligation to be "good Europeans," as Lord Morley once put it, and we should like to hear that schemes were also in the making for giving our young university men the chance of studying in Athens, Belgrade, and Bucharest, their places being taken here by some of their Greek, Yugoslav, and Roumanian contemporaries.

We admit that we are viewing the question from a sectional point of view, but since this is precisely what this Foreign Office Committee advocates we make no apology for doing so. Not the least valuable of the recommendations of the Committee in advocating the setting up of an inter-departmental committee to advise the Foreign Office on a number of questions involving the welfare and usefulness to the Empire of British communities abroad is that it should be supplemented by sub-committees whose business it would be to advise on matters affecting different groups of countries, and these it is suggested should be as follows:—(1) South America, (2) Far East, (3) Western Europe and Morocco, (4) Turkey, the Levant and Egypt, (5) Central Europe and the Balkan Peninsula. The principle is excellent, but the grouping proposed is certainly open to criticism. The countries of the Balkan Peninsula, among which presumably Greece is included, as otherwise she would appear to be left out of the scheme, have a closer connection with Turkey than they have with Central Europe, while Egypt, now a British protectorate, can hardly be said to fit in with it at all.

One of the most interesting sections of the report is that dealing with "institutions which tend to produce

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a spirit of solidarity among British subjects abroad," and among these kind things are said of the English Church. We are so accustomed to having the tale of the Church's sins of omission recounted to us that to find it blessed has all the charm of novelty about it. The report states that the evidence given before the Committee shows that

"the English Church is, quite apart from any question of religion, usually a valuable centre for the British community, and that the chaplains have opportunities for being in touch with sections of the communities which do not come within the scope of the ordinary activities of the Diplomatic and Consular officials."

It may be added that in the Near East the work of the Anglican and Orthodox theologians who are seeking to promote reunion between their respective Churches is likely to have a very good effect in the near future.

That admirable institution the "Alliance Francaise" is held up to us as a model of what can be done by voluntary effort in the spreading of knowledge of the literature of a country among the people of foreign lands. Hitherto the Englishman has been content to leave to commerce the spread of British influence abroad, but during the war we discovered that thought probably counts for more even than trade when international relations are concerned. In the Near East, France has never aspired to commercial predominance, and she has never there aggressively asserted her power, yet, without any obvious effort, she has succeeded in giving the spirit of civilisation in several rising countries a distinctly French tinge. French culture has proved in its way a force no less potent than British trade, even more so, perhaps, because of it is everywhere born that spirit of understanding which makes for sympathy between individuals and friendship between nations. Germany recognised this long ago, and in her great pre-war push in the Near East exported professors as liberally as commercial travellers, and yet she signally failed to eradicate French culture even when she succeeded in ousting British trade in the countries she marked down for peaceful penetration. Far be it from us to suggest that it is desirable to aim at the substitution of British for French culture in the countries where the latter has taken firm root, but it amounts to a national duty that we should strive by all means in our power to break down the barriers of ignorance and prejudice which separate us from so many of even our "best customers." Much might be done towards the attainment of this object not only by encouraging the study of our language and our literature in foreign countries, but also, as the committee point out, by endeavouring to get many of our best technical works translated into foreign languages. Very few of the books in common use in our schools and universities are even known by name on the Continent, where French and German text-books are widely circulated; and as a result the young generation in many countries are quite unaware of the fact that Britain's contribution to science, literature and art is capable of standing the test of comparison with the result of the labours of her neighbours in the same fields.

In dealing with the value of British Chambers of Commerce in foreign countries as a means for developing British trade and for promoting the spread of British ideals and culture, stress is, we think very rightly, laid on the fact that such work is in many cases hampered by the constitution of individual chambers. In some cases membership is strictly limited to British subjects, in others foreign representatives of British firms are eligible, while in others again membership is practically open to all. The committee think that a British Chamber of Commerce should confine the privileges of full membership to British subjects, while the foreign representatives of firms or possibly foreigners trading with this country might be admitted as associate members without a vote.

One sometimes feels that as a people we should not be so profoundly misunderstood on the Continent if the British retail trader was more in evidence in foreign cities. Here in England French and Italian restaurants and shops are to be found in nearly every town but one can travel for days through populous tracts of Europe without coming across a single place where an Englishman can be found selling English things to the foreign public. Whether this can be altered is an open question, but many of our readers will doubtless be able to name places where it would seem likely that good business might be done by an English book-shop supplemented by a reading-room and a circulating library, and one would imagine there is considerable scope for a retail trade in other lines in many Continental cities. An English restaurant one feels, however, could only flourish in a place possessing a sufficient British population to support it, for until he is completely denationalised one doubts whether any foreigner is capable of appreciating English cookery. Still, this matter of retail trading seems to deserve the attention of our British Chambers of Commerce abroad. Exhibitions of samples have their uses, and they have proved of value in stimulating trade in British manufactured goods, but a shop offers temptations to the general public to buy many things the existence of which is only made known to them by the best of all advertisements—open display. Ladies do not buy French hats out of catalogues!

Considerations of space make it impossible for us to attempt to deal with many of the subjects covered by this most interesting and suggestive report, but we hope at least that we have been able to convey something of its spirit to our readers. That spirit suggests that the new Imperialism will have much in it conspicuously lacking in the old. One feels, for instance, that it will recognise that Englishmen who go abroad to foreign countries have as good a right to claim that they are doing the work of the Empire as their brethren who prefer to seek their fortunes in lands marked red on the map of the world. British communities abroad contributed thousands of good soldiers to our armies during the war, and among them were many whose knowledge of foreign languages and customs were of special value to the State. The Briton resident abroad claims no special privileges, but he has the right, at least, to expect that his Government will do all in its power to secure for him those to which his nationality entitles him in common with the rest of the King's subjects. This, in effect, is the message conveyed to the nation in the report of the Foreign Office Committee on British communities abroad, and it is sincerely to be hoped that, taking it to heart, the nation will support the Government in giving prompt effect to the recommendations contained in it.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that four camels (two male and two female) and a camel calf, and one Indian spotted deer, have been allowed by the Ministry of Agriculture to be landed in this country under the powers given to the Minister by the Diseases of Animals Act in regard to "animals intended for exceptional purposes." The camels have come from Oran, Algeria, and are the property of Mr. Arthur Collins; the deer belongs to Mr. John D. Hamlyn. All the animals have to be kept in quarantine for twenty-eight days.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The remarkable recuperative power which Egypt has always displayed is well illustrated in the financial statistics for the eleven months ended February. The revenue for that period is £E4,000,000 above the figures for the corresponding period of 1918, and, it may be added, is in excess of the Budget estimate, while the approximate available surplus is £E4,500,000. After the disturbances in the spring of last year, such a forecast would have been regarded as somewhat optimistic. The outbreak, however, had no more than a transitory effect on the country, and at the present time, but for the fact that Egypt's prosperity has had a very unequal incidence, conditions there might be regarded as uniformly favourable.

***

According to a correspondent, the disposal abroad of Bulgaria's surplus grain this year is likely to be a matter of very considerable difficulty because of the attitude of holders in regard to quotations. It is not merely that the price is unreasonable, but also the fact that it is impossible to get a quotation for the grain on board ship. The grain has to be put in Roumanian barges for shipment, and a very high price is quoted for it put into a barge; but the holders will not quote for anything beyond that. I understand that the price in a barge works out at as much as wheat delivered in London from the River Plate. Naturally, business cannot be transacted on such terms.

***

My recent remarks with regard to the apparent neglect of the Indian market by British motor manufacturers are fully borne out by a letter in the current issue of the *Bulletin* of the Federation of British Industries from a correspondent in Calcutta. "As I am anxious to assist British trade in any way within my power," he writes, "I take this opportunity of bringing to your notice the extraordinary indifference of British motor-car manufacturers to the Eastern trade. Although it is almost eighteen months since the Armistice, I doubt whether there are a dozen post-war English motor-cars in Calcutta to-day, while on the other hand a single steamer from America, which arrived two weeks ago, brought as many as eighty-five."

***

One reason for the indifference to the claims of this and other markets has been the fact that manufacturers have been overwhelmed with orders for the home market. But that phase as regards motor-car manufacturers is rapidly passing. The wave of home orders has slackened, production is overtaking demand, and there is evidence that attention is again being paid to the markets overseas, so that I think it may not unreasonably be hoped that the time is not far distant when the Americans, instead of having things more or less their own way in the Indian market, will find that a very hard struggle is necessary to retain even a part of their trade in motor-cars.

***

Egypt is another market for motor-cars which ought not to be overlooked. Here again America is in front of this country. The imports from the United States in 1919 amounted to 180 motor vehicles and chassis, as against 56 from the United Kingdom. Discussing the position, the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt says that British cars were never so much in demand in the country as they are at the present time. "Although there does not seem to be an all-British prototype of the famous 'Tin Lizzie' produced by Mr. Ford, which has been so popularised here during the war," our contemporary adds, "the present boom has created such a demand that there is a large market for almost every class of British car. A little experience has already convinced the discriminating public that a car built on the 'made-to-last' principle, well painted and varnished and generally well finished, is easily the cheapest in the long run."

I understand that the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt intends to establish a permanent sample room of British manufactures at Alexandria. This project should prove invaluable in furthering British trade enterprise in this most important market, and I trust that our manufacturers and exporters will not hesitate to give the scheme their fullest support.

***

Holders of the guaranteed stock of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have every reason to congratulate themselves on last week's dividend declaration. In addition to the guaranteed interest of 3 per cent. they are to receive a dividend of £3 and a bonus of £1 compared with the payment of 35s. for 1918-19, or in other words, a substantial increase of 45s. It represents the highest payment out of surplus profits since the railway was vested in the Secretary of State for India in 1900, the previous highest figure being the declaration for 1911-12 of 32s.

***

There was a considerable decrease in the profits of the India General Navigation and Railway Company for the past year, due mainly to the disorganisation of traffic resulting from a severe cyclone in Eastern Bengal, which caused the total loss of one steamer and three flats, and serious damage to other vessels. The gross profits fell from £247,500 to £161,400, and the net profits were £9,300 lower at £81,000. The dividend is maintained at 10 per cent., and the carry forward is £25,600, as against £28,600. It is stated in the report that every effort is being made to restore the company's fleet to its pre-war standard, and that in addition to re-purchasing nearly all the vessels which were taken to Mesopotamia a programme of new construction has been undertaken, which will involve the expenditure of about £800,000.

***

In an interview which appears on page 799 Mr. Bellasis makes a very complete reply on behalf of the Federation of British Industries to certain criticisms of the Athens Exhibition by the American Consul-General at Athens. It was, of course, inevitable that the exhibition should be somewhat incomplete, having in view the time at which it was held, and as it happened some of the goods which it was not possible to include were those for which there is a special demand in Greece. But if it was not absolutely comprehensive—and what exhibition ever merits that term?—it was at any rate wonderfully effective. The exhibits represented goods which British manufacturers were in a position to supply without undue delay, and the result of the exhibition and the prompt carrying out of orders has been to establish British goods in firm favour in the market. Manufacturers of several of the commodities which were not exhibited at Athens, such as cigarette-making machinery, are now, I believe—or very soon will be—in a position to meet orders, and with the happy experience of other trades before them it is to be hoped that they too will make every effort to enter the Near Eastern markets.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, May 16.

Currency Questions.

All restrictions on dealing in foreign currency of certain specified countries are now extended to all foreign currency except Austrian and Hungarian.

The krone is finally dead, the recall being completed. The organisations for effecting the exchange of the krone for the new currency are now being demobilised.

Banking Amalgamation.

It is reported from Zagreb that an amalgamation has been arranged between the Yadranska Banka, the Banka i Shtedionitsa za Primorje (Coast Region Savings Bank), the Zagreb Industrial Bank, all of which will be fused with the Yadranska (Adriatic) Bank. The combined capital will be 100 million krönen, which will shortly be increased to 250 million krönen. These krönen, of course, count at the rate of four to the dinar, as the values are expressed in the new currency.

Orders for Agricultural Machinery.

The Ministry of Agriculture is about to place orders, through the Union of Agricultural Associations, for a large quantity of agricultural implements to be distributed in the devastated southern regions. A credit of two million dinars has been voted for this purpose.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, April.

The Director of the Bulgarian State Railways, M. Morpoff, leaves for Paris on May 4 to represent the Bulgarian Government at the conference which is to arrange the time-table of the Orient Express. The conference opens on May 10.

SYRIA.

Beyrout, May 11.

Crop Outlook.

In spite of reduced sowings, due in most cases to lack of corn seed, lack of cattle, and other legacies of the war, perpetuated during the Armistice by conflicting political interests, the cereal crops in Syria and Palestine are reported to be most promising. This is also the case with regard to fruit. This was fully expected from the excellent rainfall, which was above the average (about 39 inches) and came at a most timely juncture in the spring. If the country had enjoyed settled rule, and the people had received a little help in the shape of corn seed and cattle, a year with such a record rainfall should have been enough to set the country on its feet.

In the Gaza district the barley crop is estimated at about 40,000 tons, the highest maximum ever reached before the war. There, of course, the occupying Power started organised help even before the Armistice, and there was a comparative freedom from unfavourable circumstances.

The olive crop promises to be very abundant, and will, it is hoped, compensate to a certain extent for the damage caused by the phenomenal snowfall in late winter. The greatest damage was sustained by Sahret el Scheifat, by far the largest and richest olive grove in the whole of Syria. There some of the trees lost one quarter, and others even one-third, of their branches. Curiously enough, the olive groves in the Tripoli district were scarcely affected, and the same may be said of the olive tree gardens in the hills. Of course, the trees in the latter regions are inured to snowfall, which is regular in winter. Two main causes are assigned for the particularly heavy damage sustained by the vast olive tree plantations of Sahret el Scheifat. In the first place, the trees there are scarcely ever lopped or pruned, so that the quantity of weak and old branches is larger than on the pruned trees, where only vigorous shoots are left; secondly, the trees in that low-lying plain are unaccustomed to snow.

Sericulture.

A serious question that is now engaging the attention of Syrian cultivators, but more especially the French, is the gradual disappearance of mulberry plantations and their replacement by fruit orchards. If mulberry tree growing and silk worm rearing were being increasingly neglected before the war, when labour and other conditions were far less unfavourable than they are at present, there is every reason to think now that unless organised and efficient help, as well as practical scientific advice, be given promptly by the French authorities, their silk industry at home will ultimately lose the Syrian market.

The mulberry trees this year are bearing abundant foliage, thanks to the good rainfall, and yet the silk production is estimated at not more than 1,500 bales, against a normal pre-war crop of 4,000 bales, according to the export statistics. It is rumoured that some merchants are already advancing as much as PE 60 (about 12s. 6d.) per oke (about 1,200 grammes) of cocoons; but one is rather sceptical about such reports, because so far the cocoon growers have been invariably the victims of the merchants, who have taken advantage of the fact that the cocoon can remain whole only for a few days, and that, unless they are steamed, they become useless for spinning purposes. Therefore, the merchants have usually dictated their prices at the last moment, knowing well that the growers have had no other option but to part with their cocoons within a limited number of days. Now, in order to place the growers in a secure position, the authorities are recommended to help in the formation of a co-operative society, which will undertake to have the cocoons steamed at a reasonable price, also to make advances to the growers, who are in the majority of cases poor and are unable to wait until the cocoons are steamed and sold.

The greatest gain was reaped by the silk merchants in France, who controlled the Syrian market and dictated prices far too much in their own favour. This, however, ultimately reacted on them with prejudice, and their case recalls in a way the fable of the golden egg. It is now in their interest to use their influence with the authorities not only to prevent the further decline of sericulture in Syria, but to help it to regain its former importance.

The silk worm is a delicate insect, and the utmost care and scientific treatment are required for its successful growing, and the processes must be so modified in each case as to suit local conditions, both physical and meteorological. So far, this industry has been carried on in Syria in the most primitive and unscientific manner, and that is why the yield is said to have always been from three to four times less than in France. For example, the same seed (egg) would be used indiscriminately in the hot plains and the cold hills. Further, certain native merchants, neither well equipped nor qualified for such minute scientific work, have up till now been allowed to sell so-called individually selected eggs, with the consequence that the simple folks on whom these seeds were foisted lost sometimes half of their crops or more, through disease of the worms. What should be done is to found under official control a special laboratory for supplying seeds tested one by one under the microscope by expert specialists, and to provide each locality with the kind of seeds that suits it best. Then, the whole system of breeding should be reformed and practical hygienic measures should be introduced. Often successive crops have been partially destroyed by the continued use of the same reeds for the huts, shelves and trays whereon the worms are reared. Only in the hills, where it is cold and more rainy, are the worms reared in permanent stone houses. Unfortunately, it has never occurred to the growers to destroy or disinfect the reeds, where, through the failure of the crop, germs might have been suspected to be lurking, with the result that the disease persisted year after year with disastrous consequences.

MOROCCO.

Tangier, May 16.

The Currency.

The withdrawal of Hassani money, in those districts of the French Protectorate where the State Bank will buy it in at 200 francs to 100 pesetas is going on quietly, but it appears that, notwithstanding the large amount of silver bought in the coast towns, the natives still retain a great deal, and, though the authorities do not admit it, Hassani is still used by them in villages for transactions among themselves. Probably much of what they have kept will be melted and used for the ornamentation of their women.

It is stated that a Moorish peseta or franc note will be issued, and that a silver coin of that value will be minted when the price of silver appears to be favourable.

The State Bank at Tangier is cashing Hassani notes (100 pesetas) in Hassani silver, and at present there does not appear any great shortage of this silver money. The country people around will accept nothing else.

Favourable Crop Reports.

Excellent crops are reported from the agricultural districts, and the decision as to the quantities of grain which will be freed for export is anxiously awaited, though there seems some doubt whether the withdrawal of Hassani may not affect the native willingness to sell.

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THE ATHENS EXHIBITION.

THE F.B.I. AND AMERICAN CRITICISMS.

In a recent report the American Consul-General at Athens, Mr. W. Weddell, makes some severe criticisms with respect to the Athens Exhibition. Admitting that the greater part of the exhibits were sold, and that large orders were placed for future delivery, he comments adversely on the size of the exhibition, the absence of various kinds of machinery in use in Greece and the introduction of others unsuited for that country, the lack of adequate advertising, and the time at which the exhibition was held.

Interviewed by a representative of THE NEAR EAST, Mr. Bellasis, the organising secretary of the Athens Exhibition, remarked that the Consul-General had largely discounted his criticisms by admitting the success of the exhibition as far as immediate and future orders were concerned.

"In stating that it was a failure, 'considered in its larger aspects,' he presupposes that much greater and wider effects were aimed at than would be possible in the circumstances. It may not have compared in size with 'the average State fair in America,' but it served adequately the purpose for which it was intended, and it was by far the largest concerted trade effort seen either in Greece or in any other Near Eastern country. It might, in fact, be compared with the average successful trade exhibition in London, the area covered being about equal to the Agricultural Hall. The exhibits included practically all the goods for which there is a special opening in the Near East. The exceptions Mr. Weddell signals out for specific mention—cigarette-making machinery, currant-cleaning machinery, olive and wine pressing machinery, weaving, spinning, and hosiery machinery, and wood-working machinery.

"For all these commodities there is unquestionably a great and growing demand, and the firms making these classes of machinery were not represented at Athens simply because of conditions arising out of the war. Exhibits had to be ready for shipment within six months of the Armistice, and manufacturers were either not ready to supply, or else they had so many orders for home consumption that they could not consider the development of an export trade at the moment. The latter was the case particularly with regard to spinning, weaying, and leather-working machinery.

"The great value of the exhibition lay in the fact that it represented commodities which could be supplied either at once or for near delivery. To exhibit goods which could not be quickly supplied would have rendered a grave disservice to British trade with the Near East. Imagine the feelings of buyers on being told that they might have to wait months, or even years perhaps, before firms could 'deliver the goods!' Most of the firms who exhibited were able to promise fairly early delivery, and it is eminently satisfactory to be able to state that, despite the difficulties of the past few months, they have in practically every case performed what they promised.

"This was not Greece's experience with regard to the American traders with whom the country was filled about the time of the exhibition, and our exhibitors, as a matter of fact, profited to no small extent by the failure of American houses to fulfil orders given earlier in the year. The exhibition, it may be noted, materially checked the American commercial invasion, which had up to that time been almost unopposed. Before it opened, the hotels were full of American travellers brimful of confidence. Their demeanour noticeably changed as the success of the exhibition became apparent, and by the time it was over most of them had vanished away."

Regarding the criticism of the time at which the exhibition was held, Mr. Bellasis pointed out that this factor was governed entirely by the urgent need to keep pace with what commercial rivals were doing in the Near East. "To be of the fullest utility," he continued, "it had to take place when it did. Obviously, it would have been preferable in many ways to have held the exhibition this spring. There would have been more time for organising, and the exhibition, in consequence, would have been more comprehensive, more complete, and more far-reaching in its appeal. But it was the time factor that counted over all other considerations, and there is no doubt that the psychological moment was chosen for success."

"It was the first All-British Exhibition ever held overseas," he added; "possibly, indeed, the first 'one nation' exhibition of any kind held in a foreign country, and as such it can fairly claim to create a standard of its own to be judged by rather than to be compared to its disadvantage with an absurdly large standard which could not possibly have been reached in the circumstances. A previous American report characterised it as 'one of the best-staged exhibitions ever held.'"

A Bill is to be submitted to the Bulgarian Sobranje to regularise imports.

The revenue of the Sudan Government for the present year is estimated at £E3,500,000, against £E2,685,000 during last year.

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THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF ARMENIA.

By G. T. Agababian, E.S.N.M. (Paris).
(Chief of the Department of Mines of the Armenian Republic.)

Armenia was the cradle of metallurgy and mineral exploitation. Mining tools discovered in Armenian mines (Koghp, Khatar, etc.), besides various metallurgical products revealed by the excavations undertaken by De Morgan and other archæologists, enable us to follow the origin and development of these national industries of the country since the Stone Age.

The smelting of metals, practised at a very early date, and the manufacture of weapons and metal implements and ornaments, created a prehistoric civilisation in Armenia, an echo of which is found in the numerous cuneiform inscriptions encountered in the country. In ancient times, according to the Latin historians of the First Triumvirate, Armenia was rich enough to excite the covetousness of Rome, and the principal reason of her prosperity was her metallurgical products—viz., gold, silver, copper, iron, etc.

These archæological and historical evidences, together with hundreds of abandoned mines and ruins of forges and foundries that are to be found in the country, justify the classing of Armenia among the metallurgical countries of the world at the dawn of our civilisation. The ancient industries disappeared beneath the flood of the Mongol and Turcoman invasions, but with the Russian conquests of the nineteenth century the liberated provinces of the north became the centre of a mining and metallurgical renaissance.

In the following analysis of the present condition of the industry, of its resources and its prospects, the latest statistics published by the Administration of the Mines of the Caucasus are taken as a basis.

The mining industry of Russian Armenia is represented by twenty-two copper ore, rock salt, and iron pyrite enterprises, eighteen of which exploit old mine workings. Seven copper foundries comprise the metallurgical industry of the country. The average annual production during the years 1911, 1912, and 1913 was as follows:—

	Number of Mines exploited.	Average annual output in metric tons.
Copper Ore	13	154,900
Iron Pyrites	4	10,000
Rock Salt	5	25,400
Copper Metal	7 (smelters)	6,614

This total production is made up of the output of the following mines:—

Copper Ore.—Allah Verdi 66,116 tons, Chamlouk 11,147 tons, Chahali 29,955 tons, Achtala 1,460 tons, Sissi Madan 476 tons, Ghedabek 33,576 tons, Sunik 750 tons, Kavart 4,492 tons, Khatar 1,779 tons, Aralikh Kabir 972 tons, Beuk Zami 2,000 tons, Barabatoum 1,151 tons, various 1,026 tons—total 154,900 tons. These copper ores contain silver and gold.

Iron Pyrites.—Tchraghi Dzor 2,000 tons, Allah Verdi 1,000 tons, Ghedabek 2,000 tons, Tanzoute 5,000 tons, total 10,000 tons. These iron pyrites contain from 1.5 to 2.5 per cent. copper.

Rock Salt.—Koghp, 11,300 tons; Nakhitchevan, 3,840 tons; Souste, 3,310 tons; Olti, 1,150 tons; Kaghiswan, 5,800 tons. Total, 25,400 tons.

Refined Copper.—The production of the various works is as follows:—Allah Verdi, 3,000 tons; Chamlouk, 343 tons; Meuhis, 360 tons; Ghedabek, 1,443 tons; Sissi Madan, 22 tons; Sunik, 716 tons; Oughourtchai, 730 tons. Total, 6,614 tons.

This modest and not very varied output shows that the industrial activity is not very great. It should be noted that from its very beginnings the Armenian mining and metallurgical industry has encountered serious obstacles in the commercial, industrial and administrative conditions of the country, and especially in the slow and restricted development of railway communications. The first Armenian railway dates only from the year 1900, and the total length of the system to-day is not more than 370 miles. 17 mines and three foundries, that is to say, 71 per cent. of the two categories of enterprises, are without railway or even of metalled road communication.

Armenia's output of rock salt and iron pyrites represents 100 per cent. of the production of the whole of Transcaucasia, and 69 per cent. of the production of copper. Her output represented 20 per cent. of the total Russian production of copper before the war.

We have no figures concerning the mineral and metallurgical output of Turkish Armenia, nor of Persian Armenia.

With regard to the preceding figures relative to the present state of the mining industry of Russian Armenia, the official information collected by the Mines Administration concerning the total mineral resources of the country, shows that the mines in this region number 450. Of this total 60 contain lead and silver, 10 gold, 210 copper, 11 zinc, three molybdenum, one antimony, six cobalt, 16 manganese, 58 iron, one chrome, eight arsenic, 23 iron pyrites, nine sulphur, eight graphite, 47 coal and lignite, one jet, four combustible schist, nine peat, six oil, one ozokerit, 32 rock salt, six salt springs, one carbonate of soda, one glauber salik, three borax, and 15 alum.

It will be noticed that this list, which is nothing more than the assembling of scattered information, contains no mention of: (1) marble, china clay, asbestos, phosphates, sulphate of barytes, etc. (2) Numerous other mineral areas referred to in the literature of the country or known to local administrations.

Our incomplete knowledge of Turkish and Persian Armenia does not permit us to give similar lists relative to the mineral wealth of those parts of the country.

(To be concluded.)

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY FOR CRETE

A considerable market for agricultural machinery of all kinds undoubtedly exists in several countries bordering the Mediterranean and in the adjacent islands, and British firms might consider it desirable to study the question of selecting the best centres from which the various markets can best be exploited. It may be that any one market, particularly one of the islands, such as Crete, does not of itself possess sufficient attractions to justify a firm organising for a permanent market, but taken in conjunction with neighbouring markets it is more than probable that the total business to be secured might form the basis of a commercial proposition.

H.M. Consul at Canea, Crete, states that the director of agriculture of one of the prefectures is prepared to bring to the notice of the agricultural community any small working models of machinery submitted to him. He will also supply a detailed list of the agricultural and farm machinery most needed, and for which there would be a substantial demand in Crete. Among these a large number of small iron ploughs, some benzene ploughs of from 4 to 5 h.p., small reapers and binders, threshers and winnowers (fitted also to cut up straw for fodder), hand oil presses, and small mills for breaking up the olive for the press, are urgently required. Crete is at present a primitive country agriculturally, and most of the above are not known to the country. It is considered that once the advantages of these can be shown to the agricultural community there will be a continuous demand. British firms desiring to cultivate this market should communicate direct with H.M. Consul, Canea, Crete.

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The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,745,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 33·85 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT. — From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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ENGINEERING.

MOTOR CYCLES FOR THE NEAR EAST.

Now that the stress of the reorganisation work necessary for the change-over of British engineering works from war time to peace conditions is practically over, strenuous efforts are to be made to supply the demands of the Near East for the various commodities of which they have been deprived during the war. Other goods, engineering devices and appliances are to be produced and sold at a greater rate than heretofore, and amongst these may be mentioned motor cycles of light, medium, and heavy power.

The British motor cycle has not been used to so large an extent in Eastern Europe as have the products of certain other countries, a feature due merely to geographical position and to some extent to a sad lack of enterprise on the part of British makers. Now, however, all that is to be changed, and within a few months fairly large supplies of British-made machines are likely to be available for use.

I have recently had an opportunity of examining and testing a machine, designed and built for the export trade, which possesses several novel points of interest. It is apparently just the machine for anyone who wants a thoroughly reliable turn-out of moderate power which can be relied upon for use on medium and even bad roads, which is fast and yet easily controllable, and which is extremely economical as regards both tyres and petrol consumption. The maker tells me that the machine represents the outcome of his experiences as a motor-cyclist using a machine in all weathers and under all road conditions, and he has adopted all those features in its manufacture and design which experience has shown him are necessary for the comfort of a rider.

Without going too technically into the question of the stresses and strains which have to be met by the motor cycle, its engine and its frame, it may be said that these have been the study of the designers of this new machine, and they claim that ample allowance has been made in every part to meet even abnormal conditions of running. The aim has been to secure maximum strength of detailed construction combined with simplicity, and as much protection for the rider as can be secured. A further object has been to reduce the number of parts which require cleaning, adjusting, or overhauling, so as to render this in all truth a "no-trouble" machine. From a buyer's point of view it is interesting to note that the makers have paid the greatest possible attention to the standardisation of every part, and consequently, should anything go wrong or any part meet with an accident, renewals are not only easily obtainable, but can be supplied at a very moderate price. Agents and importers also will be able to obtain a stock of all such parts to hold against eventualities.

In general design the machine is particularly handsome, and is made with pressed steel wheels, tanks, and panels, so that there the cost of extensive brazing and of building up wire wheels has been eliminated.

I understand that the machine will be obtainable in two forms as regards the engine. One model will be fitted with a twin two-stroke engine with the cylinders opposite to each other, whilst the other will have a single-cylinder engine rated at 2¾ horse power. The makers say that the points to be considered with regard to the horizontally opposed engine are that the compression is beautifully balanced, and both firing and engine thrust are perfectly even. Both cylinders are so arranged that they fire at the same moment, and the thrust on the crank pin is consequently evenly balanced and wear on the bearings correspondingly reduced. The flow of the gases is also even, and the cylinders are quickly and perfectly cleared of all exhaust gases before the fresh supply of fuel and air enters. The construction is also such that no "dead" gases can remain near the sparking plug.

The arrangements also permit of a reduced overall length of engine, so that there is ample room for any part to be taken down for cleaning or examination. The combustion chamber is fitted with wide fins of ample area, so that the engine keeps cool under the hardest of working conditions.

The frame is composed of pressed steel panels with an under-frame of high-grade steel strips. Additional cooling of the engine is secured by adopting a system of air admission borrowed from aeroplane practice. The tank is of ample size, and will hold 2¼ gallons of petrol and ¾ gallon of oil. The front of the machine is beautifully sprung, and at the back the frame is supported on springs in connection with the carrier. These springs are of the volute or flat spiral type, and are self-cleaning. Brakes of ample power are provided, and the transmission is by means of a chain and a shaft to the hub of the back wheel.

BRITISH INDUSTRIAL ART.

(From a Correspondent.)

With the opening last week of its first exhibition the British Institute of Industrial Art commences a career which should prove one of singular usefulness to British industry and British art. The Institute owes its inception to the recognition of the fact that if this country is to maintain its pre-war supremacy in overseas markets it can only be by the stamp of quality. In furthering this object the Institute has before it a wide and most useful field of endeavour. Since the dawn of British industry quality has put British goods in the front place, and has kept them there, and they have almost invariably been given the preference abroad over cheaper products simply because buyers knew what they would obtain. But there is no standard that will not admit of improvement, and it may be hoped that the efforts of the Institute will result in putting British trade abroad on a firmer basis than ever before.

The present exhibition constitutes a modest beginning of the Institute's ambitious programme, which includes the organisation in London, in the provinces and abroad of special temporary and travelling exhibitions, and a bureau of information on all questions relating to industrial art and to markets both at home and abroad. But its extent is not the thing that matters, but the fact that it represents the first stage in the working out of a vitally important scheme for the well-being of British industrial enterprise. As a matter of fact, the exhibits make a remarkably good showing. Limited they are in number, it is true, but what is lacking in this respect is amply made up for by quality. The examples of tapestries are particularly notable, though in some cases the tints were not calculated to appeal to the plain man. But, then, it is foreign markets that are concerned, and I should imagine that these wonderfully fashioned cloths would one and all meet with wide appreciation in the Eastern and especially the Near Eastern markets. Hung against the wall—a glorious medley of gold and blues, silver and greys, red and orange—they brought to modernity a touch of the East. It was as if an Eastern bazaar had come for a moment to the Knightsbridge Road. A glance to the side, and the vision vanished before an exquisite fresco in wood, a typical product of the skilful modern school of artists. The grain of the wood has been most cleverly utilised, and the whole, faintly coloured in light grey with a narrow strip of blue across the centre, has a most charming effect. A word of praise must be given also to the finely carved fireplaces and overmantels, while the ceramic exhibits give a very interesting though limited glimpse of the capacity of the British china and pottery trade.

An agreement has been reached between Roumania and Czecho-Slovakia for an exchange of foodstuffs from Roumania in return for sugar, iron, and agricultural machinery from Czecho-Slovakia.

It is reported that in demonstrating the value of their patent process the Universal Ore Crushing Co., Ltd., have discovered silver lode in Bengal close to the Tata Iron and Steel Co.'s works.

Fils de G. A. ERRERA & Co, Ltd.
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TRADE ENQUIRIES.

CIVIL ENGINEER wishes to invest £2,000 in a commercial concern engaged in structural, railway or similar work in the Near East, with a view to taking an active interest at a later date. English, public school, A.M.I.C.E. Fourteen years' experience England and the East.—Box 166, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

THE NEW EGYPTIAN CO., LIMITED.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Nineteenth Ordinary General Meeting of the Members of the New Egyptian Co., Limited, will be held on Monday, the 14th day of June, 1920, at 12 o'clock noon, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, in the City of London, to receive and consider the Annual Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon; to elect Directors and Auditors; to declare a Dividend; and to transact any other ordinary business of the Company.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 7th day of June to the 14th day of June, 1920, both days inclusive.

Dated this 10th day of May, 1920.

By Order of the Board,
THOMAS DAY, London Manager and Secretary.

Pinner's Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.

Shareholders who hold Warrants to Bearer are reminded that if they wish to attend and vote at the meeting, either personally or by proxy, they must, three clear days before the day appointed for the meeting, deposit their Warrants at the Registered Offices of the Company, Pinner's Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2, or at the Offices of the Company in Alexandria, or at any of the principal banks in Alexandria, a list of which can be obtained at the offices of the Company in Alexandria. Shareholders who have deposited Warrants to Bearer in Egypt, and who desire to vote by proxy, must lodge their proxies with their certificate of deposit of Warrants or Cards of admission at the registered office of the Company in London forty-eight (48) hours at least before the hour of the meeting.

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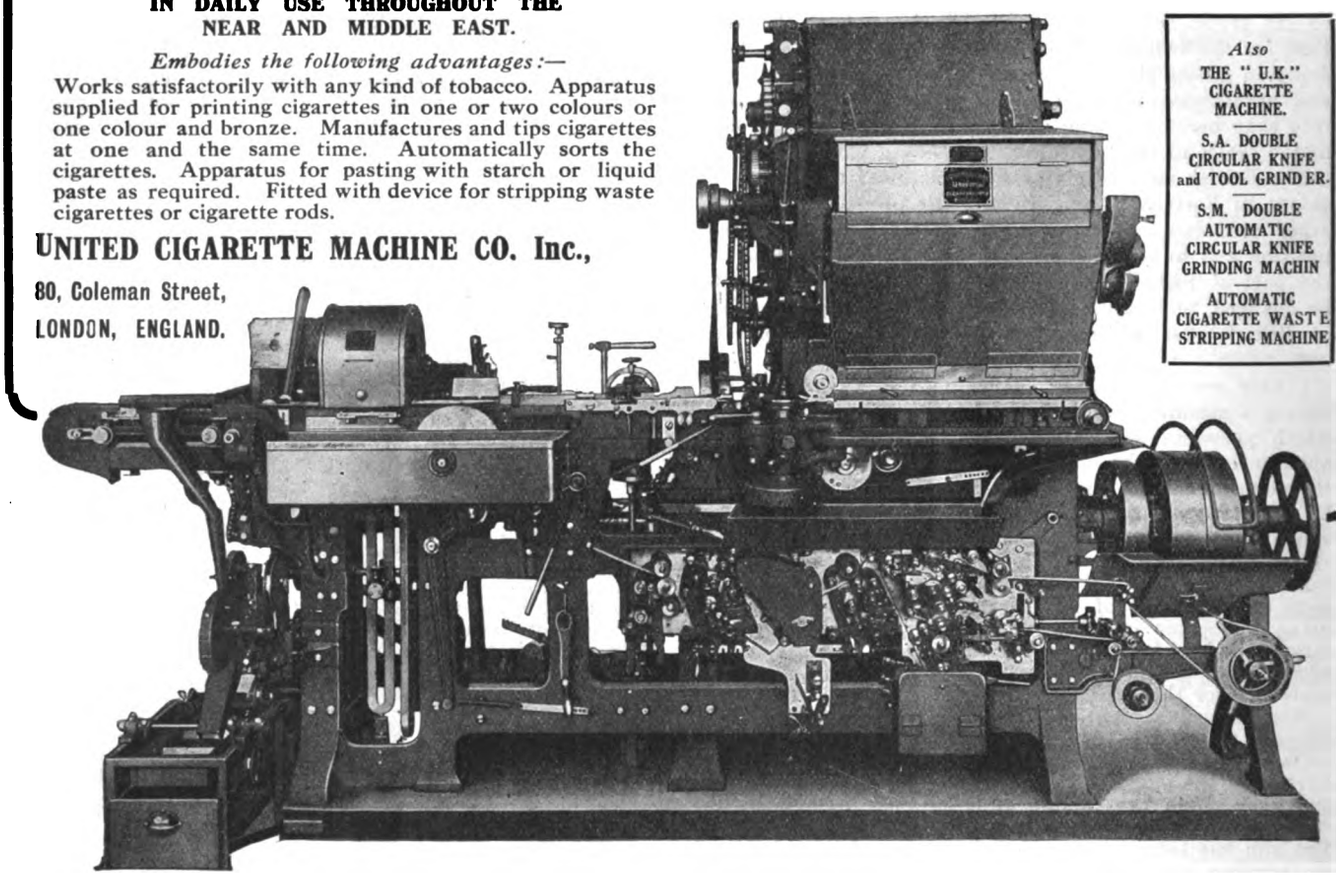

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruits.

Currants have been in improved request, and damaged stocks have been freely taken up round about 30s. The better qualities are in fair demand at the controlled rates. The imports during April amounted to 787½ tons, making the total for the period January-April 11,974½ tons. For the same months the consumption was 12,630½ tons.

Sultanas continue in fair demand. The import of raisins for April amounted to 607¼ tons, making the total since the beginning of the year 10,008 tons. Of this total 1,105 tons came from Turkey. For the same period the consumption amounted to 5,977¼ tons.

There are ample supplies of figs available, and lower rates have brought about an increased demand.

Sugar.

A firm tone has characterised the market for free sugar. West Indian crystallised has been done at from 145s. to 150s., white Java at 160s. and American granulated at 160s. Home refined continues in good demand at the controlled rates.

Coffee.

The effect of the holidays has continued, and in general the market has been rather dull. Costa Rica has been done at 160s. to 170s., Indian at 140s. to 160s., Mocha at 175s. to 190s., Brazilian at 110s. to 116s., and Uganda round about 135s. The futures market has been very quiet.

Oilseeds.

Linseed is a shade firmer, Indian being 44s. and La Plata 39s. Refined has continued round about 40s. Cottonseed has been a quiet feature.

Oilcakes, etc.

Oilcakes have been in fair request during the week. Coconut cake has been done at 13s., ground nut cake at 12s. 6d., soya bean cake at 21s., palm kernel cake at 9s. 6d., and rapeseed cake at 12s.

Rape oil has been quiet, the refined being quoted at 106s. and crude at 96s. Egyptian deodorised cotton oil has come to business at 105s., and the crude variety at 85s. Turpentine has been steady at 185s. spot and 177s. May-August.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the C.E.B. report for March:—

Gum.

The exports during March were as follows:—Via Port Sudan, 1,483,330 kilos of hashab of the value of £E71,517.

Kordofan Province.—15,115 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during March, as against 17,062 kantars during the same month last year, at an average price of £E1.481 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 11,208 kantars, as against 6,146 last year. The amount sold at Um Ruaba was 1,857 kantars, as against 4,515 last year, the average price being £E1.480 per kantar. At Rahad 1,907 kantars were sold, as against 2,176 last year, at prices ranging from £E1.550 to £E1.450 per kantar.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar: The crop is ripening slowly, and it is probable that the cotton market will have to be kept open until the end of May. The cotton, in kantars of 315 rottles (unginned), sold during the month was:—First class, 8,473; second class, 1,689½; third class, 23½; total, 10,186 kantars.

Dura and Dukhn.

Berber Province.—White dura (average), PT450 per ardeb of 380 rottles; feterita, PT420 (171 kilos).

White Nile Province.—Dura is stated to be scarce at Geteina, but elsewhere there is dura in the markets.

Blue Nile Province.—The dura market during March was much steadier than during February, and prices did not fluctuate so much. There has been a tendency for prices to drop.

Kordofan Province.—Sales in El Obeid market in ardebs of 420 rottles (189 kilos): Dura, 113 ardebs at an average price of £E3 per ardeb; dukhn, 396 ardebs at an average price of £E3 per ardeb.

Wheat and Barley.

Dongola Province.—Barley and wheat crops are excellent, being much above the average. The area sown, however, is less than usual owing to scarcity of seed at the time of sowing.

Berber Province.—The wheat crop is in general good and early, but the area small owing to shortage of seed. A good many people are eating barley, which matures quicker than wheat. At Bouga, except for the north of the desert area, the wheat is in general distinctly good, and the poor results there are probably almost as much due to late sowing as to the quality of the soil

Halfa Province.—Reports from Mahas district show that the early wheat and barley crops have been harvested, and are good. There were no pests except a few birds, which did not do much harm. These are apparently now causing much trouble to the cultivators of the later wheat crop. The barley in Sukkot district is in, and gave an average yield of three ardebs per feddan. All other crops are good.

Sesame.

Kordofan Province.—469 ardebs of sesame were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of £E5.450 m/ms. per ardeb of 330 rottles (148 kilos).

Nuba Mountains Province.—February: In Dilling district the sesame crop was better than last year's.

Ground Nuts.

Kordofan Province.—81 ardebs of 210 rottles (94 kilos) were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of £E3.135 per ardeb.

Nuba Mountains Province.—February: In Dilling district the ground nut crop was better than last year's. A large quantity of ground nuts have been exported during the month, going out via El Obeid, Tonga and Kaka.

Sennar Province.—February: 28 tons of ground nuts were exported by rail during January and 2 tons in February.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

STAMBOUL, May 1.

There is no improvement in the position. Communications with Anatolia remain interrupted, and the import and export trade with that region is completely paralysed.

HAIFA, May 3.

Owing to the very satisfactory climatic conditions and the rains that have fallen of late, the crops in general ought to be abundant.

Prices of cereals and notably those of barley are markedly lower than in March, the reason for this being that holders are trying to dispose quickly of their old stock before the new crops appear on the market.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended May 8:—The sales this week on our market amount to twenty-eight cases at piastres 980 to 1,250 per oke as to quality, which is equivalent to 16s. to 22s. per lb. c.i.f. port of destination. The exchange to-day has dropped to piastres 455 for cheque per £ sterling and 0.86 dols. for 1 Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,600 cases, against 375 at same date last year.

THIS YEAR'S CEREAL CROPS.

The Ministry of Agriculture has received the following information from the International Agricultural Institutes at Rome:—

In the United States the estimated yield of winter wheat is 58,600,000 qr.; this is 66 per cent. of last year's yield and 86 per cent. of the five previous years' average; winter rye is estimated to yield 9,000,000 qr., or 90 per cent. of last year's and 138 per cent. of the average yield.

In the Argentine the maize crop is stated to amount to 30,000,000 qr. (115 per cent. and 132 per cent. of last year's and the five years' average respectively).

The condition of cereals was average on May 1 in France, Hungary, Portugal, Egypt, and Morocco. A drought is reported in South Italy and Algeria.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Hurgada production for week ended May 23, 2,407 tons (last week, 2,206 tons).

Algerian Oilfields.—Production from leased area for April, 44,524 kilos.

It is proposed to establish a commercial museum in Colombo.

The area under cotton in India for the past year was 13,302,000 acres, an increase of 2,066,000 acres on the area planted in 1918.

The new offices of the Royal Privileged Commercial Agency of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes are at 110, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Seven thousand tons of Caucasian ore are being delivered at the United Steel Company's works at Workington. This is the first consignment to reach this country since 1914.

Banque Franco-Serbe.

Capital Frs. 20,000,000.

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Every possible facility is offered to British Travellers and Merchants at the Bank's Offices in Serbia (i.e., the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes). British parties travelling to these parts should see that their letters of credit are made payable at the Bank's Branches, where every assistance will be rendered to them.

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(Royal priv. Serbian Bank for Exportation.)

BELGRADE, SERBIA.

Capital, Paid-up, 5,000,000 Dinars

Reserve - - 1,200,000 Dinars

The Bank transacts all Banking Operations, undertakes all manner of financial, commercial and industrial enterprises and effects Money-Transfers to and from Foreign Countries.
The Commercial Department of the Bank deals mainly in the Export of Native Products on its own account and on commission basis.

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Telegrams: "BASPORTICO, LONDON." *Telephone: 3650 AVENUE.*

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WEEKLY C.I.F. PRICE LIST AND MARKET REPORT ISSUED TO APPROVED CONNECTIONS.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard Line s.s. Brescia, for Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 5.

The Ellerman Line's s.s. Polo, for Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on June 12.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Line's) steamer City of Oxford, for Algiers, Malta and Alexandria, will leave Liverpool on June 5.

The Prince Line s.s. Italian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian coast ports and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on June 5.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Oran, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople and Beyrout, will close for cargo on June 5.

The Bibby Line s.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on June 23.

The Henderson Line s.s. Arracan, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on June 9.

The Clan Line s.s. Baron Minto, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on June 10.

Notes.

The steel screw steamer Jeypore, built by Messrs. Wm. Gray and Co. (1918), Ltd., Sunderland, to the order of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., underwent an entirely satisfactory trial trip on May 22. The main dimensions of the vessel are: Length, 400 ft.; breadth, 52 ft. 3 ins.; depth, moulded, 31 ft., with a d.w. carrying capacity of over 8,000 tons. The propelling machinery, built at the Central Marine Engine Works of the builders, consists of triple-expansion engines with cylinders 27 ins., 44 ins., and 73 ins. diameter, by 48-in. stroke, and three boilers, 15 ft. 6 ins. diameter by 11 ft. 6 ins. long, adapted for a working pressure of 180 lb. per square inch, and fitted with Howden's system of forced draught.

The steel screw steamer Aviemore, built to the order of the Johnston Line (Messrs. Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd.), Liverpool, for their service to the Danube, was launched on May 18 by Messrs. Irvine's Shipbuilding and Dry Docks Company, Ltd., Middleton. The dimensions of this vessel, which has been built to British Corporation classification, are:—Length, 372 feet; breadth, 52 feet extreme; depth, 26 feet 9 inches moulded; carrying about 6,150 tons d.w., with poop, bridge, and forecastle, with upper deck and a tier of beams, stringers, and ties at the main deck level for special trades; six bulkheads, five hatches, grain divisions throughout, and water ballast in cellular double bottom and fore and after peaks. The vessel is provided with all the latest facilities for the rapid handling of cargo, including ten steam winches, fifteen steel derricks, etc.; and electric light is fitted throughout. Triple expansion engines are being supplied and fitted by Messrs. Richardsons, Westgarth and Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool, with three large boilers fitted with Howden's forced draught, and capable of driving the vessel at a speed of 11½ knots loaded. In addition to the usual coal-burning arrangements, the boilers are arranged for burning oil fuel. The fuel oil will be carried in the double bottom and two wing-tanks forward of the boiler-room bulkhead, two settling tanks being also fitted to clear the oil of foreign matter before going to the furnaces.

The Hall Line, Ltd., 9 and 11, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., announce that owing to alterations in their offices which have now been completed the following departments of their business, temporarily carried on at 5-6, Billiter Avenue, London, E.C., have reverted to the premises previously occupied at 9 and 11, Fenchurch Avenue, London, E.C.3:—Passenger department (Ellerman Line, City Line, Ltd., and Hall Line, Ltd., to Egypt and India; Ellerman and Papayanni Lines to Mediterranean ports; Mediterranean freight department (Ellerman and Papayanni Lines) to Portugal, Mediterranean ports, Black Sea, etc.

TENDERS INVITED.

Egypt.

(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)

Steel Angles.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of mild steel angles, tees, flats, wrought-iron bars, etc., c.i.f. Port Sudan. June 26.

Filing Cards.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 374,000 filing cards. July 1.

Wrapping Paper.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 750 reams thick wrapping paper. July 8.

Iron Safes.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 180 iron safes. July 12.

Rails.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya) invites tenders for the supply of cut rails in accordance with specification and conditions available at Survey Offices, Giza. Contractors are invited to put in their offers for any quantity available for immediate delivery or for delivery during the current financial year. Tenders should show quantity, weight per yard run, rate per ton of 1,000 kilos, period required for delivery, place of delivery, and any other details necessary. March 1, 1921.

The Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invite tenders for the laying of 10 kilometres of railway track, together with fifty steel double-tip wagons. The latest date for receipt of tenders is June 15. (Particulars may be seen at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) (L.)

Greece, Roumania, Etc.

Greece: Ministry of Communications.—Supply of telegraphic materials. (Particulars may be seen at Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) June 20.

Roumania.—The Frontier Guards of Roumania desire offers, preferably in the French language, from British houses for the following medical supplies, instruments, etc.:—Boric acid, pure carbolic acid, antipirene, aspirin, quinine sulphate, dermatol, iodine, iodide of potash, permanganate of potash, protargol, sulphate of soda, bismuth salts, and vaseline; graduated syringes and needles, platinum needles, surgeons' knives with straight metal handles, probes, and general surgical instruments; cotton wool, gauze, rubber sheeting and bandages. As the amount of money at the disposal of the medical staff is limited, the quantities to be purchased are not mentioned, as these will depend upon the prices quoted. Offers should be addressed to: Monsieur le Commandant I Cerna, Corpul Greniceri, Boulevard Bratiann (Colt cu Batiste), Bucharest.

Greece.—The President of the Rice Cultivation Association of Messinia invites inclusive offers from British firms for the supply of rice threshing, peeling, and polishing machinery, and motor lorries for the conveyance of the rice. Tenders made out to the President of the Rice Cultivation Association of Messinia should be made on the basis of delivery c.i.f. Piraeus or Kalamata (Morea), and accompanied by designs, terms of payment, and any other relevant information, and addressed to The Commercial Secretary, H.B.M. Legation, Athens, Greece.

Morocco.—His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rabat has forwarded a copy of the specification and general conditions of contract for the supply of 25,000 oak sleepers or other timber of a similar nature to the Service des Chemins de Fer of the French Protectorate. The latest date for receipt of tenders is July 1. Copy of the specification and general conditions, which are in French, may be inspected upon application at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Handley Page W/8 aeroplane, which established a British record on May 4, will be exhibited at the Olympia Aircraft Exhibition, to be held from July 9-20.

ANCHOR LINE
FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.
LIVERPOOL to BOMBAY.
KARACHI (via Bombay) calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—
SCINDIA ABOUT JUNE 12.
MASSILIA ABOUT JUNE 24.
CASTALIA ABOUT JULY 7.
ELYSIA ABOUT JULY 22.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

ROYAL SCHOOL
FOR
Daughters of Officers of the Army.

Patrons
Their MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN
and HER MAJESTY QUEEN ALEXANDRA.
Chairman: Lt.-Col. A. GRUBB. J.P.
Vice-Chairman—Surgeon-Gen. SIR WILLIAM TAYLOR, K.C.B.

Daughters of Officers of the Army are admitted to the above Schools according to the circumstances of their parents, at rates of £20, £45, £65, and £80 a year. Granddaughters of Officers are admitted at £45, £65, and £80 a year according to circumstances, and a limited number of daughters of civilians are admitted at £120 a year when there are vacancies. There are 15 Scholarships, open to competition, in the School, of amounts varying from £10 to £20 up to one of £50.

As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

F. W. T. ATTREE, Colonel (late R.E.), Secretary.
Office: Panton House, 25, Haymarket, S.W.1.

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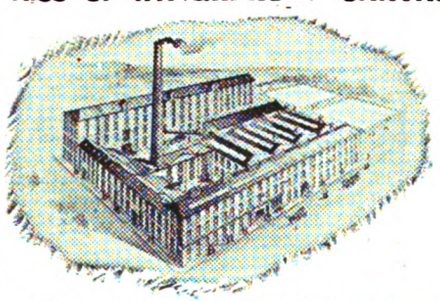
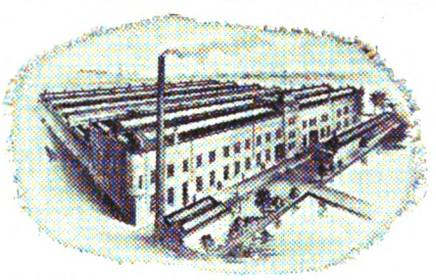
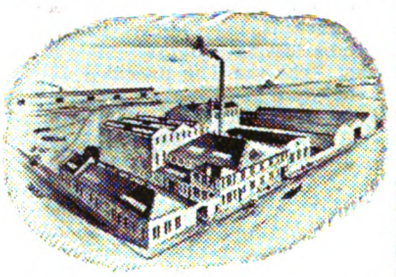

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Chairman: The Hon. EVELYN HUBBARD.

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COMPANY MEETING.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, was held on May 26 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lieut.-Colonel A. St. John Cooke, D.S.O. (director), presiding.

The Managing Director (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I regret very much to have to inform you that your chairman, Major W. I. Le Breton, is not well enough to be present to take the chair to-day, and in consequence the duty has devolved upon me. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery from his illness. He has prepared the speech which he would have delivered, and I propose to read it to you.

Gentlemen,—You will, I am sure, allow me to take as read the directors' report and the accounts for the year 1919. In view of the conditions which you know have prevailed in Egypt, they will, I believe, have afforded you considerable satisfaction. A year ago I was able to convey to you what has proved to be a fairly accurate account of the serious disturbances that had taken place, and of the losses we have suffered thereby. The later figures differ but little from the estimates then given to you. They are:—Damage to property, £19,206; loss of receipts, £13,945; goods stolen, £1,813. And the position in regard to them, so far as we are at present informed, is as follows:—

The legitimacy of our claim on account of the first item is admitted by the Commission appointed by the Government for the purpose of investigating such claims, but there is some uncertainty as to how much of it will be paid to us. We are given to understand that we shall receive a pro rata proportion of a million pounds, set aside by the Government of Egypt for the satisfaction of claims of this nature. We are told that of such claims there are some 5,000, but this conveys to us no more than that there must be delay in their examination, and consequently in reaching a settlement. In the meantime we have received on account the amount we have already expended to meet pressing repairs, £E5,800. For goods stolen we hope to be paid in full, but on the other hand we are told not to expect any consideration for earnings of which we have been deprived. You will not be surprised to hear that, owing to the disturbances, the earnings of our markets were very nearly £14,000 less than they should have been—in other words, that the receipts we show are due to a working period of less than ten months; yet they are the best we have ever enjoyed, and it is additionally satisfactory to note that the improvement extends to cattle, general and outside markets and also to slaughter-houses. The misfortune is that we have to couple with it declines in our miscellaneous trading business and increases in our expenses, both of which are considerable and must to a great extent be regarded as having come to stay. Generally speaking, our regular miscellaneous business should again become satisfactory as more settled trading conditions prevail.

Of our expenses I have unfortunately to speak as of the earnings of our markets. They are the highest we have ever experienced, and there is, indeed, no room for uncertainty as to their continuance and growth. There are occasions when increased earnings *ipso facto* lead to increased expenses, but unfortunately I cannot offer that as an explanation in the present case. We have had to follow the examples set by the Government and by practically the whole of such undertakings as our own in Egypt, and to grant to our Egyptian staff in its entirety costly concessions in the form of increased pay, war bonuses and other allowances. Our one and only satisfaction is that we honestly believe that in our case the staff deserves it.

You will very naturally expect to hear that we propose to adopt the natural and, indeed, the only remedy—namely, to increase our charges to meet these heavier costs. I told you at our last meeting that we had applied for the permission of Government thus to meet our then increased expenses, but our representation was not favourably entertained. We have recently renewed our application, and our case was, of course, very much stronger than before. The Government of Egypt has now, I am pleased to tell you, yielded to this inevitable course, and our revised charges are somewhat more in keeping with existing circumstances.

I do not propose to detain you with any details or comparisons of the figures in the account before you. Everything of interest in this direction has been given prominence to in the directors' report, but I may be permitted to add that we are particularly gratified on this occasion to be able to repeat our 10 per cent. dividend for the ninth year in succession. I have told you that our staff deserves the extra remuneration recently granted to them. I now wish to add that they also deserve our best thanks for their behaviour generally during very trying conditions. The position at times has been very difficult, but it has been very ably handled by our general manager, Mr. Duffield, and his assistants. These gentlemen have, I feel, a very strong claim to our gratitude.

The Chairman then moved:—"That the report of the directors dated May 12, 1920, together with the audited statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1919, be and they are hereby approved, confirmed and adopted."

Mr. W. Home, C.I.E., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A motion that a dividend of 4 per cent., declared on the ordinary share capital, be confirmed, and that a further dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, be declared, was unanimously agreed to. The chairman then moved that £6 6s. 49.100d. per share be declared as dividend on the deferred share capital. This motion was seconded by Mr. G. H. Redwood, and was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected, a resolution was passed that the remuneration of the directors should be paid free of income-tax, the auditors were re-appointed, and after votes of thanks to the chairman and the board and the staff in Egypt the proceedings terminated.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

New Egyptian.

The accounts for the year 1919 show a credit balance of £110.778; less debenture service, £4,032; profit for the year, £106,746; and £46,201 was brought in, making £152,947. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid in December last, and the directors recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent., carrying forward £61,207. The net income derived from the estates amounts to £36,456, as compared with £23,210 in the previous year. Considering the large reduction by sales of the areas let during the year, the return from this source must be considered satisfactory. The area of land sold aggregates 1,754 feddans, against 1,160 sold in 1918; 588 feddans situated in Upper Egypt reached an average price of £162 0s. 2d. per feddan, and 799 feddans in Lower Egypt £154 3s. 8d. per feddan, compared with £134 12s. 7d. and £118 4s. 9d. respectively in the previous year. In addition, the remaining area of the Feshn Estate in Upper Egypt, consisting of 367 feddans—which includes 100 feddans of sandy lands—was sold for £14,770. A further 714 feddans were sold during the year at an average price of over £167 per feddan, but the deeds not having been signed by December 31, these sales have been carried forward to the current year. An estate of 412 feddans has been purchased in Upper Egypt at a cost of £19,016. Since the closing of the financial year an additional area of 1,143 feddans in Lower Egypt was purchased at a cost of £84,506. Since the close of the financial year the directors accepted an offer of 33s. per share for 53,623 shares, being the balance of unissued capital. During the year the company's loans were reduced by over £5,000, and the debenture debt by £6,400. Since the closing of the accounts the debenture debt has been further reduced by £88,350, and now stands at £50,000. Meeting, Winchester House, June 14, noon.

Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The report of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt for the year ended March 31, 1920, states that the gross receipts amount to £29,135 and the net profits to £12,022, to which must be added balance brought forward, £8,529, making together £20,551. The directors recommend a dividend of 6 per cent. for the year, less tax, leaving £11,551 to be carried forward. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., June 4, noon.

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Of all Chemists, 1/3 and 3/-.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price May 24.	Price May 31.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	36	36
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	27	27
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	64	62½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	68	68½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	56	56½
Greek 5%, 1881	52	50
Do. 5%, 1884	52	50
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	39	38
Do. 5% 1890	54	53
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	51	48½
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	42	42
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	38	38
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	50	50
Do. 5% Currant	91	91
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	8⅝	65
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	30	30
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	60½	60½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	53½	54½
Do. 4% Unified	35	35
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅜
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	66	63
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	68	65
Bank of Abyssinia	32/6	32/6
Bank of Athens	60/-xd	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	5⅞	5⅞
Bank of Roumania	5⅜	5⅜
British Trade Corporation	9	9
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅜	9⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	8⅜	8⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	5½	5½
London County and Westminster	14 13/20	14 3/20
National Bank of Egypt	19⅛	19¼
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	5⅞	5⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	7	7
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	12	12
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	22	32
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	25½	24
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	65	65
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	34/-	34/-
Do. 6% Debs	140½	140½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	75/-	75/-
Béhéra Co.	17	15½
Do. Pref.	4	3⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	1½	1½
Egyptian Consol 5/-	3/1½	2/7½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/9xd	13/9xd
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/9	14/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	3	3⅛
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	29/-	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	84½	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	35/-	35/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2	2
Sudan Plantations	4⅞	4
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5⅛	5

STOCK AND SHARE LISTS.

Owing to extreme pressure on our space, we are obliged to hold over the remainder of the Stock and Share Lists this week.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

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E. W. H. BARRY.	J. BOISSONNAS.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.	CHARLES DE CERJAT.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.	LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY.
LORD HILLINGDON.	GEORGES HEINE.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.	A. HENRY.
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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

Business in the market during the past week was considerably disturbed by the Whitsuntide holidays, and very few buyers and sellers have been in the mood to attempt transactions of importance. A very unsettled feeling continues to prevail with regard to Egyptian cotton. Wide fluctuations have occurred in futures, and the downward movement has been checked for the time being, but Lancashire believes that prices are still artificially dear, and local users are not likely to buy freely at current rates. Private telegrams relating to the crop refer to the favourable conditions in most parts. No increased activity can be recorded in yarn made from Egyptian cotton. Users have purchased as little as possible. Spinners are still not selling the output of the machinery, with the result that order lists are running down. Favourite marks and specialities, however, remain firm. Common styles are easier in price when tested. Operations in piece goods for Egypt have been restricted. A good deal of attention has to be paid to the completion of old contracts. Trade prospects in the Levant are uncertain, and merchants are not inclined to anticipate future requirements of dealers in that part of the world. Little has been done for China, and there has been no business of importance for South America. Lancashire manufacturers as a body continue to lose ground, and more cases are being mentioned of sellers offering to take less money and give earlier delivery terms. Home trade buyers remain cautious. American yarns for home use continue dull of sale. Prices tend to give way, especially in the poorer qualities. Very little trade is coming round at the moment in yarns suitable for shipment abroad.

NEW COMPANIES.

Anglo-Serbian Commercial Trust.

The Anglo-Serbian Commercial Trust has been registered as a private company with a capital of £25,000 in £1 shares and 12,500 preference shares. Objects: To act as commercial, industrial, agricultural, or financial agents for Government Departments in Great Britain and in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croates, and Slovenes, and elsewhere, or other public or private corporations, institutions, or undertakings in any part of the world, to carry on business as exporters, importers, shipowners, aircraft owners, merchants, bankers, and financiers, etc. The first directors are: R. Hughes, 17, Oxford Road, Ilfracombe, district representative for Marston, Thompson and Evershed, Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; D. Zebitch, Brussels; Otto Fulton, New Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall; D. Richards, Tinydail, Ammanford, colliery proprietor; A. H. Masters, 4, South Parade, Weston-super-Mare, company secretary. 8, St. John's Square, Cardiff.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 26:—Rain has fallen fairly generally in Kashmir, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Bihar, Bengal, Chota-Nagpur, Madras, and Western Central India. Local elsewhere, with thunderstorms in North-Western India. General crop conditions good. Bombay cotton market dull. Fully good broach July-August Rs. 426. Piece goods market very quiet with slightly easier prices. Calcutta jute market quiet, some business done. Hessians steady. Heavy goods quiet. No change in Bank rates.

The Jadransko Trgovacks Dionicko Drustwo (Adriatic Trading Co.), whose main object is to supply communes with provisions, has been established in Agram with a capital of 10,000,000 kronen.

ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

We have had another quiet week, with the exception of Egyptian Government stocks, in which a very fair business has been doing, and to-night both Egyptian Unified and 3½ per cent. Prefs. are ½ higher at 68½ and 56½ respectively. City of Alexandria Bonds have further dropped 1½ points to 62½. There has also been some demand for Turkish 3½'s (1894), which have put on one point to 54½.

In Bank shares, Agriculturals, after dropping to 3 15-16, are closing only 1-16th down at 4 3-16. Nationals, after business at 13⅞, finish ⅛ up at 19¼. Land Banks have come back ¼ to 5¼. Agricultural Bank of Egypt Prefs. have changed hands at 5¼, but are closing firmer at 5⅜, a drop of ⅜ since last week. There is also a fall of three points to be recorded in both classes of this bank's bonds, the 5½'s being now quoted at 63 and the Guaranteed at 65.

In Railways Delta Lights are ⅛ lower at 5¾.

In Land shares Béneras have been knocked down nominally 1½ points to 15½, and the Prefs. have dropped ¼ to 3¾. Egyptian Consolidated Lands have dropped 6d. to 2s. 7½d., and Egyptian and Foreign Trusts are fractionally easier at 14s. 6d. Mortgage Company of Egypt are half a point down at 6¼, Union Foncières have lost ⅛ at 5, and Sudan Plantations have had the proportionately heavy fall of 7-16ths to 4. On the other hand, New Egyptians have remained firm on the excellent report and dividend, whilst Gharbieh Lands are actually ⅛ higher at 3⅛.

In miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters, on the new issue of capital, have come down with a run to 8⅞, a drop of over one point. Associated Cotton Ginners are nominally ⅛ down at 1¼, but the projected repayment of this company's debentures at 104 ought eventually to improve the position of the ordinary shares. Egyptian Markets are about unchanged at 1 1-16 x.d. Salts and Sodas have improved 3s. 6d. to 53s. 6d.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B. after dropping to 2 13-16 close 3 1-16, a decline of 3-16ths on the rather disappointing dividend. Roumanians have shed ⅝i. at 18s. 9d., and Traians are fractionally easier at 8s.

In Greek securities, apart from Bank of Athens shares, which are ¼ higher at 5¼, and the 5 per cent. Government Loan of 1914, which remains in constant demand round 50, there is a more or less general decline to be recorded. The 1881 and 1884 Loans have both come back 2 points to 50, the 1890 Loan and Rentes are one point lower at 53 and 38 respectively, whilst the 1893 Funding Loan is 2½ points down at 48½.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended May 25 amounted to £6,958.

The transfer books of the New Egyptian Company will be closed from June 7 to June 14, inclusive.

The register of the Bengal-Nagpur Railways will be closed until June 30.

On and after June 10 the offices of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway will be at the White Mansion, 91, York Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

The receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the week ended April 30 amounted to £E11,895, making the total for year £E34,823. For the corresponding period of 1919 there were no receipts owing to the entire suspension of train service.

According to the Hamburger Correspondent, the Prague Company for Trade with the Far East is proposing to purchase sea-going vessels for the Black Sea.

Sir Thomas S. Highet, C.B.E., M.I.C.E., has joined the board of the Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway, vice the late Mr. Alexander Izat, C.I.E.

Sir Thomas Holderness, Bart., G.C.B., has joined the board of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, vice the late Mr. Alexander Izat, C.I.E.

The directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia announce an interim dividend for the half-year to March 20 at 3s. per share, free of tax, payable June 18.

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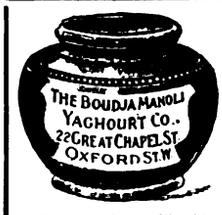

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No. 475.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Supporters of ex-King Constantine have been active of late both in Greece and outside it, and signs have not been wanting that the ex-King himself still hopes to be able to return to the throne that he lost by his own folly. M. Venizelos has retorted by restoring martial law, and has gone so far as to declare in the Chamber that if the Opposition should at future elections raise the question of King Constantine's return they would thereby bring under consideration the maintenance of royalty itself. It was almost certainly in connection with these intrigues that rumours were spread to the effect that King Alexander intended to meet his father in Italy, and that his abdication was under contemplation. These rumours have been officially denied by the Greek Legation in London.

In his letter published on another page our Constantinople Correspondent takes a somewhat gloomy view of the situation brought about by the receipt of the Peace Terms by Turkey, and the opinions he expresses are fully borne out by other communications from Turkey which have reached us from trustworthy sources. These make it clear that not only in Turkish circles, but also among Europeans who certainly hold no brief for the Turk, the opinion is widely held that M. Venizelos has practically been allowed to dictate the terms, and as a result grave fears are entertained of trouble in the Moslem world. For reasons that need not be recounted, the decision regarding Thrace is less criticised than that on Smyrna; and it becomes clearer every day that if Turkey should be driven into any rash course it will be over the latter question. A point on which the Turks are particularly sore is that the Greeks were allowed to occupy the city before the signing, or even the presentation, of the Peace Terms. This is regarded by them as a breach of the spirit of the Armistice.

In the circumstances we need feel little surprise that the Ottoman Government displays no haste to reply to the Allies' proposals. It is, in fact, rather difficult to ascertain exactly when the reply is likely to be presented. Last week it was stated that the Grand Vizier would take it himself to Paris in a few days; but it is now announced that the Peace Conference has granted a delay of a fortnight as from June 6. Meanwhile, Constantinople appears to be in a hopeless welter of plot and counter-plot, intrigue and recrimination. The report of an attempt on the Grand Vizier's life three weeks ago proves to have been unfounded; but, on the other hand, we learn of a widespread Unionist plot for his assassination and that of his principal supporters and for a Unionist *coup d'état* in the capital. At this distance it is difficult to understand how such things can ever be planned seriously, and there is a very strong temptation to conclude that they are made possible only by that lack of loyalty between the Allies to which we have had to refer so often.

Having received strong reinforcements, the French have, near Anitab, given the Turkish Nationalists such a lesson that the latter have since kept discreetly quiet. General Gouraud has agreed to an armistice in Cilicia, and Mustapha Kemal's followers apparently prefer to turn their attention westward rather than try further conclusions with the French just yet. The experience of the French in this region should provide the Allies with an invaluable object-lesson: the Turks have not such a high opinion of Western troops that a small force will awe them into inaction, and if it is necessary to employ force in dealing with them, it is sound policy to have ready a striking force sufficient to secure success at once, instead of at the second time of asking.

During the past ten days there has been some discussion regarding the attitude of Great Britain towards the Arabian problem, and notably towards King Hussein of the Hejaz and the Emir Ibn Saud of Nejd. It has been stated, on no less authority than that of Colonel T. E. Lawrence, that Great Britain has been supplying arms and money to both these rulers, and it is suggested that while the Foreign Office and the War Office have been "backing" the Hejaz, the Indian Government has been similarly "backing" Ibn Saud. In view of the recent fighting between the forces of the Hejaz and those of the Nejd, such a policy would be, to say the least of it, illogical, and it is not surprising that comments, by Press and public alike, have been decidedly caustic. In the House of Commons, however, Mr. Cecil Harmsworth sought to put a different complexion on the case, stating roundly that no guns or ammunition are being supplied to the King of the Hejaz by the Foreign Office. He added that King Hussein and the Emir Ibn Saud are independent rulers, with whom our Government entered into relations during the war; and that "the question of the subsidies which any of these rulers may receive in the future is under consideration." Owing to its limitations, the answer is unlikely to satisfy the critics of the Government, who not improbably know no more now than before it was given. But the raising of the

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question was, doubtless, what they chiefly desired, and if it helps towards the definition of our policy in Arabia it will have served a good purpose.

A year ago the Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, M.P., sketched out in our columns a proposal for a new Government department to take charge of Great Britain's interests in the Near and Middle East. The advantages of such a scheme have now become very generally recognised, and we understand that the Government has been considering the plan, and that it is likely to be put into effect in the not distant future. Details will, of course, have to be most carefully thought out, but in our opinion by far the most important thing to consider will be the type of man entrusted with the running of the new machine, especially in its early days. Orientals think more of men than of measures, and if the new Department is to be a success it will be necessary to staff it with men who recognise the spirit of the Orient and to see that as far as possible men in charge of a particular section are personally acquainted with the idiosyncracies of that section and in sympathy with the people with whose concerns they have to deal. Fortunately we need fear no shortage in the supply of such men: the only risk is in the failure to make a wise selection.

The pourparlers between the representatives of the Egyptian Nationalists and the British Government have been so far satisfactory that Zagh'oul Pasha, the Nationalist leader, arrived in London himself on Saturday night. He had an interview with Lord Milner on Monday, and has telegraphed to his supporters in Egypt that he has hopes of a satisfactory settlement. Largely because the Nationalists have been coming round lately to a more reasonable point of view, it is possible to think that the hope may be realised. The negotiations must, however, be delicate, and it may well be that some little time must elapse before agreement is reached. On what lines it will be reached, and what form it will take, it is as yet too early to say. The *Morning Post* thinks that certain predictions may be made with some confidence. The Capitulations, it says, will remain, and, as a matter of form, there will be some special provision for guaranteeing the public debt; the Suez Canal will be treated on a footing distinct from that of the rest of Egypt; and though the form of Government will remain monarchical, it is an open question whether the present Sultan will remain, or whether he will abdicate in favour of his infant son. Our contemporary has shown itself well informed on the subject, and its predictions are interesting, but how far they will be justified by events remains to be seen. In the meantime, we congratulate the Nationalists on accepting the advice offered them in THE NEAR EAST when Lord Milner's Mission returned to this country.

The public hearing by the Nile Projects Commission of the charges brought by Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy against the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works is now in progress, the first sitting having taken place on May 25. The most interesting point thus far dealt with is that of the gauge readings at Sennar, which Sir William Willcocks originally asserted, and in his evidence now reiterates, had been falsified. On this, and other points, it would obviously be improper to comment at present; but we may note that the Commission has declined to accept evidence regarding the effect that the various projects would have upon the water supply of the Sudan, and may express our regret for the decision. For though this question may be regarded as a mainly political one, it has nevertheless a purely technical side, and it would have been extremely useful to have the opinion on this side of the subject of such experts as the Commissioners.

The Shah of Persia re-entered his capital on June 2, and received a warm welcome from his people. It was unfortunate that his illness cut short his tour in Mesopotamia, and that he was unable to visit the sacred shrines of Baghdad; but in other respects the visit was a great success, and the fact that he was able to make it in so much comfort and so short a time will have been duly noted and appreciated in Persia and the neighbouring countries. Happily the report that Teheran had been invaded by the Bolshevists, which gained currency at the end of last week, turns out to have been false; but the Shah and his Ministers evidently have anxious days ahead of them. The League of Nations, at the request of the Persian Government, is holding a special meeting "to discuss the situation created by the action of Soviet forces in Persian territory," but it is to be feared that the only argument likely to carry weight with the Soviet Government is that of force. And with anarchy rampant just beyond her frontiers Persia is in no enviable position.

The Indian sections of the Birthday Honours Lists bear in advance the traces of what may be expected at the New Year. "Everyone" will then be looking for something from the Prince's hand; meanwhile the bulk of such few distinctions as are available fall to eminently deserving officials, and as a necessary consequence the lists make rather dull reading. There will, however, be widespread approval of the knighthood conferred on Mr. Walter Crum, who has been a worthy representative of Calcutta in the field of Indian politics; Cawnpore will welcome the admission to the Order of the Indian Empire of Mr. C. T. Allen; and Nagpur will be not less gratified at the selection of Mr. Bezonji Mehta for the same distinction. We are glad to see in this list the names of Mr. Hutchinson, agricultural bacteriologist, and Mr. Pearson, forest economist; their work is already well known in the world of science, but it is well that its merits should be acknowledged before a wider audience.

The recent announcement that the impending reconstitution of the Executive Council in India will include the appointment of three Indian members appears to have aroused anxiety in some quarters regarding the strength and capacity of the body by which the government of the country has to be carried on. In our opinion there are valid grounds for anxiety regarding the near future, but the nationality of individual members is not the only or the chief ground. The real danger arises from the growing cry for specialist and expert Ministers. Every progressive Department wants a Minister devoted solely to its interests; no up-to-date Commission fails to include such a recommendation in its report, and it almost looks as if the next Council would consist mainly of eminent departmental heads, at a time when wise and broad statesmanship is infinitely more necessary than any increase of merely departmental efficiency. Law, commerce and education are already represented; industry has been promised a seat; communications, sanitation, "science," and other interests are busily putting forward their claims; and it seems time to insist that government means something higher than administration, and that the central organ should be designed for the performance of its most important functions.

Let it be freely admitted that each separate proposal is by itself attractive, and that if the number of Ministers were not limited by obvious considerations, each of the interests we have named, and various others, might well be represented. The essential facts remain that the Council must be small enough for prompt and energetic action, and that statesmanship is its greatest need. It would be a poor prospect indeed for the next Viceroy if he were dependent on a Council of administrative experts, and what a picture to present to the new India! The engineer and the doctor, the analyst and the vet., hurrying to the Council Chamber, each with his bundle of departmental axes to grind, and united only by the bond of hostility to the Minister of Finance. *Non tali auxilio.* Most of India's troubles in the last ten or fifteen years are directly traceable to the want of statesmanship on the Council, and if the new India is to do better than the old, the recent line of development must be promptly reversed.

We do not, however, suggest that the experts should be content with their present position. We should like to see them better paid, and given much wider authority to dispose of, say, nine-tenths of the cases which now cumber the tables of the council. We would go further,

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and give the head of each department the right to be heard by the council as a whole, though not to take part in its deliberations, on the larger questions of policy affecting his activities; and we believe that any expert fit for his post would find that the conditions we have outlined would give him ample scope. The cranks would doubtless continue to murmur, but in new Delhi there will be no room for cranks. If the great experiment now on foot is to be brought to a successful issue, the central organ of government must above all things be sane. The new Council will have to bear almost the greatest burden ever imposed on any group of statesmen, and it must be able to depend on the unreserved co-operation of every branch of the administration; the man who sets the efficiency of his department in competition with the interests of the country is always a nuisance, but in India just now he is too serious a danger to be tolerated at headquarters.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

War Profits and Ireland.

Politically the week has been one of undercurrents and backwashes, whose exact force and strength it is difficult to measure. The Cabinet has abandoned Mr. Austen Chamberlain's proposal to tax war fortunes, and certain repercussions of that decision are already evident. Business dislikes the Excess Profits Duty, but it dislikes the tax on war fortunes still more, since it is convinced that this can hardly be distinguished from a levy on capital.

The public is fully conscious of the weak point of the Excess Profits; it penalises the new business at the expense of the old-established concern, which is a bad thing in itself; but it also leads to extravagance in business, and all manner of "expenses" are charged up to overhead working costs in the very human desire to reduce the amount of excess profits payable. More serious still for the community is the fact that a large part of the Excess Profits Duty is passed on to the consumer; it is felt that a tax on war fortunes could not be passed on in this fashion.

But the public simply will not believe that it is impossible to construct the levy on war fortunes on ethical lines; they want, in a word, to distinguish between the man who by thrift and self-denial increased his fortune and the mere profiteer, and the failure of the Government to do so has caused very considerable resentment. The feeling may be illogical, but human beings often are; and the opposition are making a good deal of the cry that the Government are afraid of the capitalist. I should have said personally that the boot is on the other leg; the capitalist is more than a little afraid of the Government, and he will continue to be while the problem of the floating debt remains.

The formal business of politics has been the Home Rule Bill debates in the Commons. But it has been an unreal business, with Ireland in its present hopeless condition. Another side of the question has cropped up, in the refusal of Irish Labour to handle munitions. The English railwaymen have been asked to take direct action on similar lines, but it is notorious that Mr. Thomas, their leader, although sympathetic to Ireland, disagrees with direct action, and Mr. Lloyd George's warning, repeated emphatically last week, that Labour cannot be permitted to usurp the functions of Government while it is in opposition, will hardly fail to appeal to reasonable men. The Prime Minister's statement was categorical and conclusive, "We are here to-day. You may be here to-morrow." What is sauce for a Coalition Government may equally be sauce for a Labour Government, and, in that event, the functions and possibility of Government would be at an end.

The Soviet Negotiations.

The discussions with M. Krassin, the Soviet representative, do not appear to make much progress. The Russian agent has taken a flat in Curzon Street for four months, which indicates that he expects the negotiations to be protracted; but meanwhile the doubts are increasing whether he has anything to offer in the shape of exports of Russian grain and other commodities. He is said to be baiting his offers with promises of vast concessions, but how much those concessions are worth is another matter. An air of impenetrable secrecy hangs over the interviews, and Parliament shows signs of increasing impatience at this particular form of "secret diplomacy." There are indications that the Cabinet's policy is unstable in this matter, and veers from day to day. Both the French and the Poles are watching the discussions with some anxiety; the Poles in particular have reason to dread "a change of heart" in Downing Street.

"Fodder Wages."

The railwaymen recently asked for an increase of a pound a week, and after a long discussion the National Wages Board has awarded them four to eight shillings and sixpence a week advance, according to grade. It remains to be seen how long this "settlement" lasts; it will certainly not go unchallenged.

But the most interesting point about the discussions, at least to those who are not railwaymen, was their repudiation of the old theory of wages. It has always been assumed by economists that wages are fixed by reference to the cost of living, which, in effect, boils down to this, that the bare wages of an unskilled adult should work out at the cost of food plus rent and clothes for a married man supporting a family; the skilled man gets more than the unskilled, theoretically, in proportion to his skill, but practically in large measure in proportion to the supply and demand for his particular class of labour. A rise in prices, therefore, almost necessarily means an increase of wages for the unskilled, since otherwise they cannot live.

On this ground most of the demands for increased wages have been framed during the past four years, and since the rise in prices began in August, 1914, and demands for increased wages only began several weeks later, the demand could not in justice be contested. But it happens that among the railwaymen and one or two other classes of labour the advance in wages outstripped the advance in prices, and they were therefore relatively better off than before. Consequently, it became necessary to find a new basis for further claims. It was easily done. The dockers, who were badly underpaid before the war, have now received their "charter," and the railwaymen say that the docker consequently ranks superior to the railwayman, judging by his earnings, and the wives of the railwaymen—so ran the argument put before the Board—do not like being looked down upon by the wife of the docker when she goes shopping.

It is very human and laughable, and if we go on like this, George Robey would make an admirable Professor

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of Economics. But it is difficult to say where it will end, for when one introduces *amour propre* into matters of wages, anything may happen. The dustman's wife and the street-sweeper's daughter may have something to say; while in country towns, where the parson ranks above the doctor and the doctor above the solicitor, the parson's wife may object to her husband's stipend being less than the doctor's fees, and demand a clerical strike.

A Draper's Strike.

Not all strikes are successful, however, even in these days. Six hundred young ladies, and, I suppose, the attendant shopwalkers, marched out of the drapery store of Mr. John Lewis, of Oxford Street, recently. The public was sympathetic, for the ladies were pretty and talkative, but Mr. Lewis calmly carried on. The ladies said they would never, never go back on the old terms, and Mr. Lewis replied that he would never have them back on any other terms. The irresistible force in the attractive form of shop assistants had met the immovable object in the shape of an indomitable shopkeeper, and a serious scientific problem which has puzzled us all seemed ripe for solution. It was the irresistible force that had to give way; Mr. Lewis, like his shop, proved an immovable object, and when I passed the emporium two or three days ago the place seemed as crowded as usual with purchasers, while the young ladies, apparently, have resigned themselves to looking for other posts. Mr. Lewis should put up a statue to himself as the triumphant draper, depicted as selling the mysterious things that decorate his windows with an air of determination combined with detachment.

Rents and Prices.

The absurdity of the cry that prices were falling, on which I commented last week, has speedily been demonstrated. The new Rents Bill is going through the House of Commons—it allows an increase of 30 to 40 per cent. on the annual rent—and there are indications that this will at once be used as a basis for higher wage claims, as is indeed inevitable, for higher rents mean still higher rates, and these are already a substantial item. This will wipe out any possible fall in the price of food a dozen times over.

Derby Day.

Last Wednesday London was perceptibly emptier, and well it might be, for close on a million people went to the Derby by taxi, motor-bus, wagon, and pony-trap. As usual, an outsider won; the most extraordinary thing about the race was that Mr. Asquith, whom we had not previously suspected of sporting proclivities, confessed afterwards that he had "spotted the winner." (One hardly likes to suggest that his recent failure as a politician is due to excessive study of the racing columns, but the coincidence is a little suspicious.)

The racing crowds since the war have become perfectly extraordinary, and more than one racing man has complained in my hearing that it is impossible to see a race with any comfort in these days. It is very much the same thing at cricket, which is overburdened with popularity. England seems determined to make up for five years' abstention from sport by putting in double time.

Journalistic Difficulties.

The steady increase in the cost of paper and printing is slowly turning Fleet Street from the most cheery thoroughfare in London to an abode of pessimists. One or two of the smaller papers are in serious difficulties. The *World* came to an end a few weeks back—and others are becoming very thin. The pity of the thing is that some of the specialised journals, which do valuable work in scientific or artistic fields, find it difficult to enlarge their circulation or to raise their price, and as their proprietors are not always rich men, some of them may have to retire from the struggle and shut down during the next year or so. I imagine the prospect for young writers is not very brilliant for some time to come. But the aspirants appear to be as numerous as ever; the old story of the man who failed to make a bare living out of journalism, but amassed a large sum by writing a book called "How to Make a Fortune With Your Pen," seems still to have its point.

A Garden City Frost.

It was a little surprising to see that the issue of Welwyn Garden City stock was so badly subscribed for. The investing public is no doubt more interested in the yield than the nature of the enterprise, and the profits were limited, so far as I remember, in the prospectus; but one would have thought that more of the future tenants on the estate would have put up money, as shortage of capital must hamper the whole thing. It is the more curious, as the past week has given further indications of success in the Housing Bonds, and the Essex issue is now fully subscribed.

The Week's Books.

Biography has been the main note of the week in the bookshops. Mr. William R. Thayer has published a Life of Theodore Roosevelt (Constable). It seems almost the ideal political biography, and it gives a striking picture of a very notable man. Mr. Thayer does not conceal the fact that the ex-President was anxious for the United States to enter the war far earlier than she did, and his denunciation, and those of the statesman whose life he records, of President Wilson and his policy, are extraordinarily forcible. Seldom were two men more opposite in character; "watchful waiting," the motto of the Democrat, was the last thing in the world that the Republican admired, and there was a personal as well as a political difference between the two men in their later years. Mr. Thayer, however, does not make an idol of Roosevelt, for he criticises his tariff policy adversely.

A smaller public probably awaits the record of "Frederick Locker Lampson" (Constable), which Mr. Augustine Birrell has written. Mr. Birrell has obtained a literary reputation more easily and on more slender grounds than any man living, for only a politician could think "Obiter Dicta" anything but a trivial collection of essays. But in this particular book there is fortunately a great deal of Locker Lampson as well as of Mr. Birrell, and the minor poet was not altogether an uninteresting person. He was one of those people who, like Henry James, thought more of the form than of the matter—it is the sure mark of the second-rate; to him style was practically everything. (It is curious how often this is associated with physical disability; Lampson was practically a lifelong invalid, as was Stevenson, and with both one is always more conscious of the polish on the table than of the table itself.) "He sometimes seemed to me to be all taste," says Mr. Birrell of Lampson; "his favourite word of commendation was 'pleasing.' He very soon wearied of those he called 'strong talkers.' His critical method was in a conversational manner, to direct your attention to something in a poem or picture, to make a brief suggestion or two, perhaps to apply an epithet, and it was all over." That is a just and accurate summary.

A word may be given to "The New Psychology" (Allen and Unwin), by Mr. A. G. Tansley. The writer is not an original thinker, but he summarises accurately a great deal of the work that has been published recently in this field of work.

There are certain books that one feels one ought to read, but an accommodating conscience, after one brief glance at the contents, allows one to put them on a shelf for some convenient occasion which somehow seldom comes. Grote's "Greece" is the outstanding example of books that ought to be read but never are read; and one that will rank in a similar class, at least with this individual, is "Life and Labour in the Nineteenth Century" (Cambridge University Press), by C. R. Fay. Frankly, it is the fault of this reader, and not of Mr. Fay, whose work appears to be thorough and impartial.

Some literary editor with a sense of humour and a distressing knowledge of my deficiencies has sent me a copy of the latest volume of the Oxford English Dictionary, with a request to review it for his journal, which shall be nameless. It has given me a profound insight into such things as vixens, vampires, and volumes, and it can be infallibly recommended to anybody who thinks he knows his own language thoroughly. A glance through the pages of this and the preceding volumes would speedily convince even Mr. Garvin, whose vocabulary seems excessive to the ordinary man, that he has touched only the fringe of possible knowledge.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 24.

Retirement of Wahba Pasha.

Dame Rumour has, after all, proved right, and the Ministerial crisis about which there was so much gossip at the time of my last letter has come to pass. On Wednesday Sir Yussuf Wahba Pasha presented his resignation to the Sultan for reasons of health, and after a little delay, due to endeavours to get him to reconsider his decision, his resignation was accepted. Next day it was announced that Tewfik Nessim Pasha had undertaken to form a Cabinet, and on Saturday, the 22nd, the decree was signed, approving its composition, which is as follows:—Tewfik Nessim Pasha, President of the Council, and Minister of the Interior; Ahmed Ziwer Pasha, Minister of Communications; Ahmed Zulfikar Pasha, Minister of Justice; Mohammed Shafik Pasha, Minister of Public Works, War, and Marine; Hussein Darwish Pasha, Minister of Wakfs; Tewfik Rifaat Pasha, Minister of Education; Mahmud Fakhry Pasha, Minister of Finance; and Yussuf Suleiman Bey, Minister of Agriculture.

All those who have watched events during the past year and have been able to take an impartial view of the situation, unite in their regrets at the retirement of Wahba Pasha, in their admiration of his pluck and public spirit, and in their recognition of the really valuable services he has rendered to his country. He took office at a most critical juncture, when the visit of the Milner Mission was imminent, and it was not known what effect this would have on the country at large. He knew that he would call down upon his head the vials of wrath of the extremists, and he had before him, as an example of what awaited him, the fate of his predecessor, Boutros Pasha Ghali. Yet he considered it his duty to respond to the call made to him, and fortunately contrived to collect around him as colleagues men of the same moral calibre as himself. Wahba Pasha had not long to wait for an indication of the attitude of the less instructed and more irresponsible of his fellow-countrymen. He was publicly disowned by his co-religionists, torrents of abuse were poured upon him and his colleagues, letters threatening them and their families were delivered to them almost daily, and attempts were made, first on the life of the Premier, and then on those of Sirri Pasha, of Shafik Pasha, and of Darwish Pasha. Sirri Pasha was forced to resign, owing to the effect of this campaign on his health. But nothing turned the rest of the Cabinet from the execution of the duty which they had taken upon their shoulders, and which they have continued to carry out, in spite of everything.

However, on a man of his advanced age and ailing health, the anxiety was bound to tell, and it is not surprising that, after eight months of possibly the greatest moral strain that any man could be put to, Wahba Pasha has at last found himself unable to continue any longer, and has now had to give way to the decision of his medical advisers. To say that the Wahba Cabinet has rendered valuable services to Egypt is to put it very mildly. They have, thanks to their determination to carry on, in spite of the actions and machinations of the Extremists, steered the barque of State safely through a most critical period, and have preserved thereby the continuity of government which, in the interests of the country, was most vital to it.

The New Cabinet.

The new Cabinet comes into office under much more propitious circumstances than its predecessor, to whom it undoubtedly owes this improvement in the situation, but there is no disguising the fact that until the Milner Mission has delivered its report, and the future government of the country has been decided on, it will have a somewhat difficult time. The new Premier is held in high esteem, having gained a great reputation in the Parquet for his moral qualities and his ability. He first entered the Cabinet as Minister of Wakfs, under Said Pasha, just a year ago, and in the Wahba Cabinet held the portfolio of the Interior, which he now combines with the Presidency of the Council. Of his colleagues, four held office in the out-going Cabinet, and now retain their former portfolios. The three remaining Ministers are new, but are well known to the public.

The first, Tewfik Rifaat Pasha, who goes to the Public Instruction in the place of Yehya Pasha Ibrahim, has had a distinguished career in the Courts, and became Procureur-General last May, in succession to Tewfik Nessim Pasha. Yussuf Suleiman Bey, who becomes Minister of Agriculture, was Councillor of the Native Court of Appeal, and, being a Copt, fulfils the unwritten law, according to which every Cabinet must include a Christian member. Mahmud Fakhry Pasha, who goes to the Ministry of Finance, was Governor of Cairo, and has done excellent work in connection with the settlement of the industrial disputes which have arisen during the past year. He is a most intelligent man, and has a brilliant career before him. It might be added that he is only thirty-five years of age, and so is following in the footsteps of his distinguished father, the late Hussein Fakhry Pasha, who established a precedent by entering the Cabinet at the age of thirty, and was one of the most valuable colleagues of the late Mustapha Pasha Fahmy during his long term of office as Prime Minister.

Cairo Waifs and Strays.

One of the most serious public nuisances of Cairo are the waifs and strays, the little boys and girls who hang about the streets begging and importuning passers-by, jumping on and off trams, etc., and who, mixing with the low-class element, bid fair in time to swell the latter's numbers, and eventually turn to life of vice and crime. There is undoubtedly a serious moral obligation on the authorities in regard to these children, whom, if they are abandoned by their parents, or, as is the case with so many, are orphans, it is the duty of the community at large to look after and train up to be useful members of society.

The Cairo police have for some time carried on a small school, in which a limited number of these waifs and strays have been sent, and where they are given some elementary training, but the problem is so serious, owing to the large number of these children now on the streets, that the Government has decided to take action itself. The Ministry of Education has now drawn up a scheme for the creation of a certain number of industrial schools to which the younger of these waifs and strays can be sent, and where they may receive instruction and training—physical, moral, and vocational—which it is hoped may fit them to earn their own livelihood and become respectable citizens. These schools are not intended to interfere with the work of the reformatories, which are for children who have committed offences against the law, but they will be limited to boys and girls who, as far as is known, have committed no serious legally punishable offence, and who are physically and mentally sound. The Government is to be congratulated on having made a move in this matter, and it is to be hoped that no obstacle will be set up to the carrying out of what is undoubtedly most vital rescue work.

The Bombing Campaign.

On Saturday last the two men accused of throwing a bomb at Mohammed Shafik Pasha on February 22 were brought before a Military Court. They were defended by M. Harrold Cateaux, and were, as was expected, found guilty of attempted murder. Sentence will be promulgated as soon as it has been approved by the Commander-in-Chief.

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YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, May 20.

The New Cabinet.

The formation of the Coalition Ministry under M. Vesnitch has inspired a feeling of optimism, as it is believed that the long period of political uncertainty has at last reached its close; for the new Cabinet, composite and heterogeneous as it is, has for its main programme the carrying out of the general elections and convoking of the Constituent Assembly, which, it is felt, is bound to give a stable Government. While the two chief parties, the Radicals and the Democrats, are exerting all their powers to obtain success, the non-party man does not really care which wins at the poll, provided one party has a good working majority, for it is the evil of balanced parties, producing a deadlock in the Skupshtina, which has done so much harm to the country during the past twelve months. Yugoslavs look with envy at their Czecho-Slovak cousins who have been more fortunate and completed their fundamental organisation, and so obtained a good start.

The new Cabinet will be a difficult team to handle, but, as M. Vesnitch is an experienced diplomatist, it is hoped that he will rise to the occasion. By birth he is a native of the Sandjak of Novibazar, that wild district which was so much talked of at the time of the Berlin Treaty, with a mixed population of Serbs, Arnauts, and Turks, only united to Serbia as a result of the Turkish War of 1912. It is a district which has given many capable servants to Serbia. M. Vesnitch is, therefore, not unfamiliar with the primitive conditions and mentality still obtaining in the interior of the Balkans, and at the same time his many years' experience in the diplomatic world, and, above all, in Paris, has qualified him to deal with difficulties of a totally different kind.

The eventual success of his negotiations is largely attributed to the personality of the Regent, who used all his influence to put an end to a situation which was becoming intolerable and had done incalculable harm to the country. For it is generally believed that it was the energetic intervention of the Crown Prince which put a stop to the intrigues of politicians and brought matters to a head.

An Improving Outlook.

There are still plenty of difficulties for the country to face, but they look less formidable. The railway strike is satisfactorily terminated, ending with a proclamation by the Union of Railway Workers disavowing political motives and warning its members against the machinations of the national enemies, Hungarians chiefly, now abetted by the Italians, who under the guise of Communism attempted to seduce the men from their patriotism. Still, there are strikes in other countries, and the Orient-Simplon express has stopped running for over a week through Italy. It is consequently a difficult and very tiresome journey from Belgrade to Paris and London, and mails have stopped. We have been isolated for nearly two days, but after the series of railway strikes in England, France, and in Yugoslavia, we are really getting accustomed to living without mails and newspapers.

The Hungarians are vigorously carrying on their nationalist agitation, not only in their own country, but across our border in Yugoslavia. It is reported from Pechuj that the Hungarian General Molnar is busily concentrating troops near the demarcation line, and that 4,000 more men recently arrived at a base near Nagy Kanjizha and at Sekesc Fehervary. It is stated that meetings are being held protesting against the terms of the Peace Treaty, and insisting that Medjumurje shall belong to Hungary and not to Yugoslavia. Their nationalist society, "Move," is said to be at work on this side of the line, and it is reported that a battalion of officers has been formed secretly, corresponding to the four which already exist in Hungary. They are spreading pamphlets and seditious literature in Yugoslavia, inciting the Magyar section of the population to rise. As the boat Goliath, out of Budapest, came to Novi Sad, some Magyars on board attempted to land a whole collection of pamphlets, seditious papers, and propaganda literature, but the police were too smart for them.

An Appointment.

Dr. Koyitch, of Kragujevats, recently Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of the S.H.S. in London, has been appointed *chef de cabinet* of the President of Council.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 6.

General Election.

The electoral campaign is in full swing, and all lists of candidates were to be handed in by May 4. There is feverish activity among the various parties who are negotiating agreements with each other to form *blocs* in favour of or against the Government of General Averescu. A kind of provisory federation has been formed, composed of the strongest parties of the late Parliament—*i.e.*, the National Democrats (led by M. Iorga), the Transylvanian National Party (M. Maniu), and the Peasants' Party, with which federation the Democratic Union of Bukovina (M. Nistor) is at present treating. This federation, as a whole, is naturally opposed to the Averescan Government, as it represents the parties which this Government superseded, but the position is complicated by the fact that many of the most influential members of these parties are opposed to the federation. It would appear that the Socialist party is also working against the Averescan Government. On the other hand, General Averescu can count upon the support of the National Liberals (M. Bratiano), the Conservative Democrats (M. Take Jonescu), and the Progressive Conservatives (M. Marghiloman).

The Liberal Party is very well organised, and possesses great influence through its connection with many of the most important financial and industrial concerns in the country. The Conservative Democrats are popular, but not well organised, while the Progressive Conservatives, being Germanophile, are unpopular, and not very numerous. General Averescu's own party, the League of the People, or, as it is now called, the People's Party, is the only one in the Old Kingdom which has organised an electoral campaign in the annexed provinces (Transylvania, Bessarabia, Bukovina, Maramuresh, and the Banat), and is so strong and so popular that it seems to stand a good chance of returning candidates even from these provinces, especially from the more distant constituencies. On the whole, therefore, the position would appear to be favourable to the Averescan Government.

Whatever happens, one must hope that the Parliament elected will be strong enough and representative enough to get to business, and avoid the bitter party intrigues that have for so long blocked all its useful activities, and kept the country in its present unsettled state.

Inter-Allied Danube Commission.

The Inter-Allied Danube Commission, of which Admiral Troubridge is President, and which has its offices at Budapest and Belgrade, has decided, it is reported, to call a meeting in Paris in May to discuss a proposal for the increase of navigation taxes on the Danube.

The First of May.

It was officially decreed that the 1st of May was to be a general holiday. Accordingly, all shops, offices, and schools were closed. Great lorries filled the roads, carrying excursionists out of town, and the Socialists made a huge procession, but there were no disturbances of any kind.

St. George's Day.

This is St. George's Day, and many of the shop doors are gaily decorated with green boughs or branches of flowering acacias. Roumanians are very fond of flowers, and the baskets of street hawkers are often decorated with any green or flowering thing that can be found. The trees suffer accordingly. It appears to be *de rigueur* to be weighed on St. George's Day, and

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possessors of weighing machines have dragged them out, clothed in bowers of green, to the pavements or some other conspicuous spot, where they have no lack of patrons.

Erika Morini.

A young violinist of this name has recently given three concerts in Bucharest. She is only fifteen or sixteen years of age, and is endowed with really remarkable genius. She has the most perfect command of her violin, her tone is exquisite, and her interpretations robust and strong, and amazingly mature—in fact, she is a finished musician, with no trace left of the student. It is said that for several years she has been playing to large audiences in Vienna. Her reception here was certainly enthusiastic to the last degree; every seat in the Athenée Hall was occupied, and every passage and floor space, including the stage, crowded, so that, after fighting their way in at the doors, many people were only able to reach their seats after half the concert was over. Her programme included Mendelssohn's Concerto, a Vieuxtemps Concerto, Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen, and Beethoven's Romance in G.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, May 22.

Cabinet Reconstruction.

In conformity with the choice of the Agrarian party, the Cabinet has been completed by the addition of MM. Oboff and Omarchevsky. The various portfolios are distributed as follows:—M. Alex. Stambolisky is Prime Minister, Acting Foreign Minister, Minister for Public Worship, and Minister for War; M. Alex. Dimitroff remains Minister of the Interior and of Public Health; M. Alex. Radoloff retains the portfolio of Justice; M. Omarchevsky is Minister of Public Instruction; M. Marco Turlakoff, hitherto Minister of Railways, etc., becomes Minister of Finance; Dr. Raiko Daskaloff, hitherto Minister of Agriculture, becomes Minister of Commerce and Labour; M. Alex. Oboff takes the Ministry of Agriculture; M. Dedelko Athanasoff exchanges the Ministry of Public Works for that of Railways, Posts, and Telegraphs; and M. Tzanko Bakaloff, formerly Minister of Public Instruction, becomes Minister of Public Works.

The Royal Decree regarding the appointment of the new Ministers and the reconstruction of the Cabinet was issued yesterday, read in the Chamber last night by M. Stambolisky, and received with applause by the Agrarian majority. As now constituted, the Cabinet is purely Agrarian, the other parties having refused to collaborate with them. The Agrarians are in a slight majority, holding 109 seats against 107 held by all the other groups combined.

The New Ministers.

M. Stoyan Omarchevsky, who is thirty-six years old, was born at Omarchevo, in the district of Stara Zagora, and educated at Sofia University, where he graduated in both the Historico-Philological faculty and in Law. He entered the Agrarian League in 1904, and has represented the district of Widin in three Parliaments before the present one. He has journalistic and literary leanings.

M. Oboff is a native of Plevna, and, being only thirty-two years old, is the youngest Minister. After passing through the Middle Agricultural School, he also studied law at the University of Sofia. He has represented Plevna for some time, and has been for several years assistant editor of the Agrarian League's journal.

Allies' Financial Delegates.

The Bulgarian Government has been notified that on June 1 the five inter-Allied Commissioners charged with the supervision of the fulfilment of the terms of the Peace Treaty will arrive in Sofia. Measures have already been taken for their reception and lodging.

Refugees from W. Thrace.

Since General Charpy's announcement of the imminent withdrawal of the French troops from Thrace in the direction of Constantinople, great masses of Bulgarian refugees have been streaming across the frontier into Bulgaria, leaving their homes and fields at the mercy of the invaders, and bringing with them only the few belongings they could carry easily. Some American correspondents have gone to the frontier for the purpose of taking cinematographic pictures of the sad processions; and it is understood that these will be sent to President Wilson, to show him how his principles regarding nationalities are being observed by the Allies. The total number of the refugees is said to exceed 30,000. The Bulgarian Government has ordered Bulgarian officials to leave Thrace together with the French authorities. Up to the time of writing the Greek occupation has not begun. As to the form Turkish opposition may take, it would be unwise to prophesy at all.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways yesterday received a telegram from Dedeagatch, saying: "The local railways have, by order, stopped the granting of railway carriages to private persons for emigration. The population is excited, since it is deprived of the chance of saving the last remnants of its modest property. Have pity, for we, too, are Bulgarians. Send trains, and grant us carriages."

Bulgaria and Roumania.

The newly appointed Bulgarian representative in Roumania, Dr. Theodore Nedkoff, has arrived with his family in Bucharest. To the representative of one of the leading Roumanian journals Dr. Nedkoff made a statement as follows:—"For a long time I have been the friend of the Roumanian nation, and now I am sent by my Government to work for a *rapprochement* between your country and mine. I shall do my best to bring about a good understanding, and to accomplish what my predecessors were unable to do. We desire a sincere and lasting friendship between the Roumanian and Bulgarian nations, and the realisation of that ideal should be accomplished early, for it is indispensable to both of us."

Bulgarian Prisoners in Greece.

Yesterday the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, addressed a note to the diplomatic representatives of the United States, Great Britain, France, and Italy, requesting their intervention with the Greek Government on behalf of the Bulgarian prisoners of war in Greece. The French Minister at Athens had undertaken to make the necessary representations to the Greek Government in this connection.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 15.

The Peace Terms.

The peace terms have not yet been published here in detail, but their general significance is known, and has aroused the deepest consternation. The retrogression of Turkey's European frontier to the Chatalja lines has especially made a very painful impression, which is mixed with the bitterest resentment. The accordance of such extensive territories to Greece—the Power which played such a doubtful part during the war, and which was borne to victory on the backs of the Allies—is regarded as an insupportable humiliation and injustice. The Cabinet is now in possession of the detailed Treaty, and it is understood that the response of the Turkish Delegation in Paris will be discussed and approved by the Cabinet before being presented to the Allies. As has already been indicated in previous letters, there is every

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reason to believe that unless the Treaty is modified, so far as the clauses relating to Thrace and Smyrna are concerned, the Government will resign, and it is doubtful whether any Cabinet could be formed that would undertake to sign the Treaty as it stands. No doubt, a refusal to sign the peace terms would not affect the territorial situation, except so far as Armenia is concerned, but a situation will be created which will be full of danger and difficulty.

The Anatolian Situation.

The punitive operations undertaken against the Nationalists by the Government have almost come to a standstill. A considerable proportion of the troops under the command of Suleiman Shefik Pasha deserted to the rebels, and the little fighting that has taken place has been of a desultory and indecisive nature.

Some details are now available of the provisional government established by the Nationalists at Angora. A Great National Congress met in that town on April 23. It consisted of 174 members elected by the communes of every province in Asia Minor; and Mustapha Kemal was elected first president of the assembly, and Jellaleddin Arif Bey, who was president of the defunct Constantinople Parliament, was chosen as second president. An "executive committee" of eleven members was then formed, including several well-known Nationalists who fled from Constantinople when Damad Ferid Pasha became Grand Vizier. It is significant that the members of this council are called "vekils," and not "nazri," which is the usual appellation of a Minister. "Vekil" may, in this instance, be translated "commissioner," but there was no hint in the proceedings that this was due to any other reason than that the Nationalist Government is regarded by its own creators as having been forced into existence by the subordination of the Sultan's authority to foreign influence, and Mustapha Kemal himself stated that as soon as the Khalif is once again a free agent, the powers of the provisional government will be transferred to him.

On the other hand, there is no longer any room for doubt that Bolshevist propaganda, adapted to the needs of Islam, is being freely disseminated in Anatolia. Eski Shehir appears to be the principal centre of activity, and in that town is published a newspaper called the *Ishji*, or "Worker," the object of which is to further the interests of "all kinds of workers and cultivators." It has only been in existence for a short time, and is evidently feeling its way; for in view of the fact that the doctors of Islam deny all possibility of a reconciliation of Mohammedanism with Bolshevism, the need for caution is obvious. Exactly how far the Nationalists are compromised with the Bolshevists is not easy to determine; but that there is some kind of an understanding with them is now almost certain.

The Caucasus.

In view of the above, recent developments in the Caucasus have a peculiar interest for the student of Turkish politics. There have been all sorts of conflicting rumours as to the present state of affairs in the Caucasian republics, but it seems to be clear that Soviets have been established at Baku and Erivan, if not in Tiflis. At the same time, a state of war is said to prevail between the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis in the Karabagh, while the Turks, under the command of Kiazim Karabekir Pasha, are said to be advancing into Armenia through Olti. The establishment of Bolshevist rule—or, rather misrule—in Baku is reported to have been carried out with the assistance of the adherents of the Ittihad party, which is known to be strongly pro-Turk. Undoubtedly the position of Armenia is critical, and it was perhaps a wise move to bow to the storm; but is it probable that the Russians will aid and abet the Turks in their cherished scheme of wiping the Armenians out of existence in order to realise their goal of a great Pan-Turkish hegemony extending into the heart of Asia? There seems every reason to believe that we are on the eve of surprising developments in Russia, the nature of which is foreshadowed in the appointment of Kuropatkin as dictator in Turkestan, and in the presence upon the Bolshevist military council of men like Brussiloff. For some days past nothing has been heard from the great wireless station at Moscow, and it is believed that there are important events occurring in that centre of Bolshevism. In any case, it seems abundantly clear that Russia is about to abandon Bolshevism for—what? Is it not possible that the new Russia will be remarkably like the old Russia, at least as far as her foreign policy is concerned? In the opinion of competent observers, this is something more than a mere possibility, and Mustapha Kemal may yet find himself hoist with his own petard. If I remember rightly, a little more than twelve months ago, M. Sazonoff reminded the Allied representatives in Paris that a treaty with Russia had been signed in 1915.

Unrest in Constantinople.

Last Tuesday the employees of the Tram and Tunnel Company came out on strike, with the result that life has become even more uncomfortable than it was already. The dispute is apparently about hours and wages, and public sympathy seems to be with the men, who demand what amounts to £2 3s. for a 48-hour week. The company, however, states that it would have to double its personnel if these demands were granted, and that, as fares have recently been reduced in the public interest, it is unable to consider such a development. As a matter of fact, the company was allowed to raise its tariff 500 per cent. last year, in order to recoup, but although a reduction has been made, the first-class fares still amount to about three piastres a mile.

The men seem to be very well organised, and it is worthy of note that the strike leaders are Moslems belonging to the recently formed Turkish Socialist Party. The company's premises have been strongly picketed, and hitherto all attempts to start the trams again with independent labour have failed.

The development of unions in Constantinople has proceeded rapidly since the Armistice. Until then, with the exception of the guilds of *hamals* and lightermen, there was only a very futile union of shop assistants, and a rather stronger union of working tailors. Now, however, there are several unions which embrace all the most important branches of industry, and it is said that attempts are being made to bring about a general federation for the purpose of utilising the powerful weapon of a general strike, in order to obtain better conditions of work and remuneration. Although there is very little evidence of open propaganda, there can be no doubt that occult influences have been at work, and no one who is closely acquainted with Turkey can doubt that those influences come from without.

Anti-British Propaganda.

Since the occupation of Constantinople, anti-British propaganda in the provinces has increased in virulence, until it has reached a point on a level with the most violent fulminations of the period of hostilities. Every rag published in Anatolia describes us as "base," "cowardly," "treacherous," "tyrannical," "brutal," and so forth; but what strikes even the most superficial observer is that, while our Allies, the French, are seldom referred to, and then only indirectly, the Italians come in for open compliments . . . which they doubtless deserve, but which few will envy them. The explanation which I received from a Turk who sympathises with the Nationalists is that if only the British could be discomfited, the others would not give much trouble. There may be some truth in this.

The Extreme Penalty!

The Government is determined to play the game, even in its details, and has recently condemned the Nationalist leaders to death. Among the list is the Turkish feminist and exponent of pan-Turanianism, Halide Edib Hanum. As none of the condemned persons are here, the Government was pretty safe in promulgating such sentences. After all, have not Enver, Talaat, Jemal, and company also been condemned to death? And are they not all in the best of health? In fact, no Turk who has not been condemned to death once or twice can be said to have done his duty as a patriot.

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CYPRUS.

Nicosia, May 15.

The Greek Deputation.

It would be superfluous to say more at present regarding the revived mission to London. Letters are received from the Archbishop and M. Theodótou. The former has promised to pay a visit to the Greek Community at Cairo on his return journey to Cyprus. The office of High Commissioner remains vacant in the island, but general opinion now accepts the view that no political change affecting the island is likely to take place as part of the Near East settlement.

The New Scale of Salaries.

The proposed increments affecting all Government officials, now under discussion, while generally welcomed, are not such as to satisfy all. The police also consider that their rates of pay should be revised on a more liberal scale, and the movement on their part will no doubt be carefully considered. It is proposed that the expenses of officials, and of their families, going home on leave should be paid once in every three years. This will apply to those who receive up to £500 a year. There seems, however, no good reason why an official with a rather higher salary should not be similarly helped, considering that he might have a family, whereas one receiving rather less might have none. According to a proposed amendment of the "Pensions Law," public officers will be retired at the age of sixty. The High Commissioner may, however (subject to the approval of the Secretary of State), extend the period of service.

More Refugees.

Several hundred more Armenians have arrived and some more Greeks are expected. There are already 2,000 Russians, including some of the highest rank, and 1,000 more are expected. The total number of those, together with the Jews, who are seeking asylum in Cyprus is thus considerable. There is no little anxiety as to the possible introduction of disease, especially typhus. Dr. Corsellis, District Medical Officer, is acting as Chief Medical Officer. Precautions at the ports are as far as possible being taken.

Censorship Delays.

Strong complaints are made regarding the continued application of censorship on letters and papers, the distribution of which is often delayed for more than three days after arrival of the mails. If, it is urged, the Government still consider that the time has not come to revert to pre-war postal conditions, let there be at least more speed and efficiency in carrying out the work, so that correspondence may be delivered within twenty-four hours after arrival.

ALBANIA.

May 23.

The Situation.

Essad Pasha no longer inspires any fear. After the little storm there is now a calm. The Government appears to be strong and to have confidence in itself. There are, however, some people who say that the calm is deceptive, and that the storm is close and threatening. They think that Essad will not give up the struggle, nor will those who serve Essad. By the last expression we must understand the Yugoslavs (or rather the Radical Party and M. Pashitch) and the Italians. Essad is known to be an intimate friend of the Prince Regent, but since the new Albanian Government follows openly an anti-Italian policy, that Power does everything it can to attract Essad towards itself and to make use of him against the National Albanian Government, or at least to inspire the latter with fear. There is talk of certain Italian functionaries who have had mysterious interviews with Essad in Paris, and it would not be at all surprising to learn one day that the Albanian leader had gone to Rome. Here in Albania people regret the lack of foresight shown by the Serbian Government, which maintains its relations with Essad and works in this manner against the Albanian Government, which is so openly and fully committed as Italophobe.

An Italo-Albanian Incident.

Colonel Castoldi, Commissaire of the Italian Government, resides at Durazzo; the Government of Tirana did not wish to recognise him as Commissaire, and asked for his credentials entitling him to be treated as a Minister. Relations between them were very strained, when a tragi-comic incident cropped up—the disappearance of a small gun and two machine guns. The Italians are withdrawing all their troops from the interior and concentrating them at Durazzo, Skutari and Valona. When they were leaving Tirana some Albanian officers asked the Italian military authorities to hand over to them a small mountain gun, but the latter refused, and an Albanian petty officer conceived the idea of carrying off one of these small pieces and two machine guns. Colonel Castoldi took advantage of this incident to take possession of the Durazzo Customs House. Fortunately, the money there had been sent away the same day to Tirana, and MM. Kadri Prishtina, Minister of Justice, and Cioba, Minister of Finance, went to Durazzo and gave satisfaction to the Italians by the arrest of the guilty petty officer (a native of Skutari), who is to be tried by a court-martial, and it was thus that the Customs House was returned the day before yesterday to the Albanian authorities.

Meanwhile I learn that the Albanian Government has sent a note to Rome demanding the recall of Colonel Castoldi, whose attitude is not calculated to create good relations between the two States.

It is hardly to be expected that the Consulta will give the satisfaction asked for. Nevertheless, many Italians of standing criticise the policy followed up to now by the Italian Government in regard to Albania—a policy all the more to be condemned because the Consulta has never given any clear and frank explanations of its intentions regarding Albania.

BULGARIA AND THRACE.

A message of the Bulgarian Telegraph Agency, dated Sofia, May 29, states:—

The present events in Thrace are provoking grave excitement in Bulgaria: interpellations have been made in the Sobranie. The Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, answering on behalf of the Government, declared that the Bulgarians are leaving Western Thrace *en masse*. The number of those who have already arrived in Bulgaria is over twelve thousand. But (said the Premier) the Bulgarian Government will not oppose the Greek occupation, and will try by all possible means to stop the passage of any Bulgarian bands in Thrace, because the Government are convinced that only a loyal policy on the part of Bulgaria may urge the Great Powers to examine again the decision taken at San Remo in regard to Thrace, a decision which is full of most grave consequences for Bulgaria.

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CORRESPONDENCE

CONSTANTINOPLE OR SMYRNA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We learn from your last issue, also from other notices in the Press, that the Turks have asked for time to complete their case, and July 11 is now the date fixed for them to come up to receive sentence. As I cannot communicate with the Turkish authorities, except through the medium of the Press, will you once more allow me the hospitality of your columns to offer them a final word of advice, now that the full details of the Treaty have been published. THE NEAR EAST has treated me so generously over this Turkish Treaty that I need not explain that my sympathies are entirely on the side of the Turks, and my advice, such as it is, is an earnest endeavour to assist their cause.

In the first place, let the Turks dismiss from their minds that they can look to anyone as a friend amongst the Western Powers. For the moment Italy, and possibly France, may appear less exacting than England, but let there be no mistake, it is not from any sympathy which they have for the Turkish Government. All the Powers are, I fear, actuated by the same motive, of obtaining the best vantage-ground whence Turkey in Asia may be the more easily exploited in the future, her European possessions having been all absorbed. In diplomatic language, it is terms—spheres of influence for economic purposes. I make no distinction, but after Greece, Italy is probably more to be feared, as the Italians think that they have a grievance and have not obtained their fair share in Mesopotamia, Syria, and elsewhere!

I will not enter into all the details of the Treaty except to say that unless words have no meaning the Turkish Government would, in an ordinary Court of Justice, have no difficulty in showing that the terms which they are being called on to accept cannot in any way be reconciled with either Mr. Wilson's famous fourteen points, the fundamental principles laid down for the guidance of the League of Nations, or Mr. Lloyd George's pleading on the behalf of the British Government. But I doubt the Turks advancing their cause in any way by such pleading; they are being dealt with by a Court in which Judge, Jury, and Prosecution are all one and the same.

Judging from the British Press, too, any appeal to public opinion will be quite useless. The *Observer* and the *Manchester Guardian* are the only papers that I know of which speak of the "impossibility" of enforcing such a Treaty; all the others (including, alas! THE NEAR EAST) refer to the terms as drastic but just.

What use, either, is there in a continuation of the war? Even if assisted by Bulgarian bands in Thrace, the Turkish Nationalists cannot fight the whole world! Guerrilla warfare in Asia Minor may possibly be carried on for some years, and make government very difficult, but it will be the unfortunate Anatolian peasant who will suffer most in the end. Of course, we have yet to learn what action the Moslems in Central Asia and India will take, but the British Government is apparently satisfied on this score. Altogether the situation is desperate, the more especially as, with the Greeks at Smyrna, the chance of the Turks retaining even their "renowned homelands" for any length of time is indeed a poor one. As far as I can see, the Turkish Government has only one card that can be played with any chance of success, and that card is Constantinople, or rather what will be left of Constantinople after the requirements of the newly-created Straits Commission have been met. Let this, then, be the bargain: *Constantinople* for *Smyrna*, which would thus become the capital of Turkey. I am fully aware of what a bitter pill this will be for the Turks to swallow; but let them believe me, it is now their sole chance of maintaining any semblance of independence.

With the Powers in their present mind, it is hard to say whether even this enormous sacrifice on the part of Turkey would be accepted without a mandate of some description being insisted on, and I strongly advise the Porte to ask for a joint mandate of *two* Powers rather than *one*. Even at this eleventh hour, if France and England were to undertake this mandate jointly, pooling their respective interests in Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia, we should have travelled a long way on the road to peace, not only in Asia Minor, but also in Central Asia and Arabia. In India and Northern Africa, too, all but the extremists would settle down and confine themselves to legitimate agitation on constitutional lines.—I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

Ruishton, Taunton.
June 5, 1920.

RELIEF IN PERSIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—With reference to "Traveller's" letter in THE NEAR EAST of May 20, may I be allowed to state that whilst it is perfectly true that Lady Marling and those associated with her rendered a noble service during these distressing months, the less well-known but equally good work done by the American Relief Committee over a very wide area, and involving the expenditure of many thousands of tomans, should not be overlooked? The most striking effort was that made by a local committee of Persians. They provided the funds, organised a hostel, caring for a very large number of poor and destitute villagers during these severe months, fighting typhus and typhoid.

The famine, having exacted a very heavy mortality, fortunately was soon over, but as a result of it hundreds of orphan children were thrown on the streets to herd with the dogs for warmth. Here, again, a sympathetic native, an Armenian, in the employ of the Opium Administration, organised an industrial school, the funds being provided by a small tax on the employees of the administration. This has now been greatly enlarged and extended by funds given by the American Relief Committee for the housing and care of these children.

The Persians are fully aware of Lady Marling's efforts, and over and over again have I heard them express their gratitude.—I am, etc.,

ANOTHER TRAVELLER.

THE TOMB OF ST. DEMETRIUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—With reference to the correspondence in THE NEAR EAST under the above heading, I find in a Greek pamphlet of popular character, *Μαρτυρολόγιον Ἁγίου Δημητριου* some details which might further elucidate the matter.

It is said therein that a certain General Leontios, being sent to Wallachia under Constantine the Great, before his departure from Salonika fell seriously ill. None but St. Demetrius through a miracle could heal him. In gratitude he thought of building a church and carrying away for this purpose part of the body of Demetrius preserved in Salonika. But the saint whispered him in a dream: "Do not divide me!" Leontios then took some earth from the tomb of Demetrius; he also managed to get a handkerchief and a ring which belonged once to the saint. With these sacred relics in his possession he arrived on the left bank of the Danube. As he hesitated to continue his journey on account of the river being in flood, St. Demetrius again came to him in a vision and said: "Have no fear, hold up in your hands my kerchief and my ring. . . ." This Leontios did, and crossed over safely to Wallachia, where, the pamphlet adds, he built a church to St. Demetrius.

Now, whether this church exists, and whereabout, I cannot tell. There are two churches dedicated to St. Demetrius in Bucharest; neither has any relics whatever connected with the above story.

Mrs. Will Gordon is quite right. She saw, indeed, the body of St. Demetrius; it lies there in the cathedral at Bucharest, only it is that of another saint—a different person altogether, of slave origin, I presume, as he is still called "St. Demetrius Bassaraboff."

One cannot help being rather perplexed with these saints, the more so if one remembers how a regular traffic in their remains was carried on. Priests used at one time to quarrel and accuse one another of contriving to raise the value of some saints to the detriment of others.—I am, etc.,

King's College, Strand. M. BEZA.

Major-General the Maharaja of Bikanir, who is well known in Europe as the representative of the Indian Princes at the Peace Conference, has been spending a month and a-half in the Kotah and Nepal jungle. Eighteen tigers and one Arna buffalo fell to his rifle, and on April 21 his Highness shot his 100th tiger, a fine specimen measuring 10 ft. 1 in. In Nepal the Maharaja shot what is believed to be the record tigress. She was a magnificent specimen with a total length of 9 ft. 7 in.

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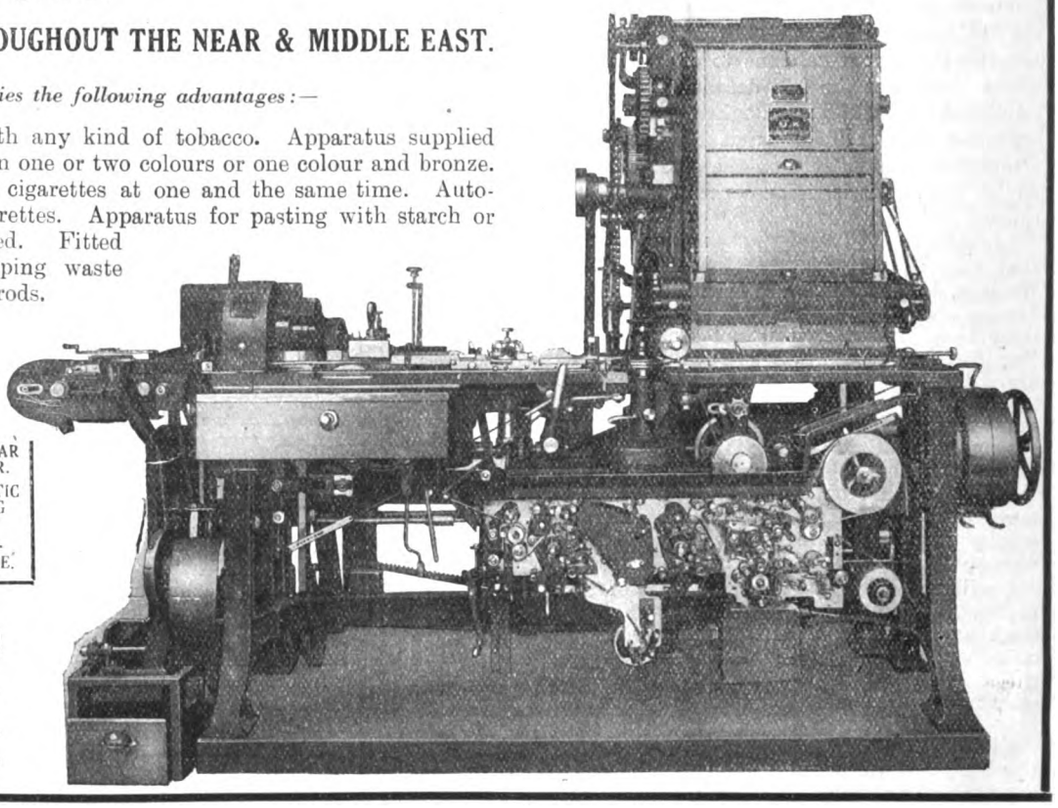

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Mesopotamia.

The Times of June 1 has a long leading article on Mesopotamia in which great stress is laid on the expense of undertaking obligations in that region. Its conclusion is:—

We lay stress upon this matter of expenditure because we feel that the public are being misled, that accounts should at once be laid before the House of Commons showing every penny that is being spent, either directly or indirectly, in or upon Mesopotamia and Persia, and that there should be an independent investigation into the financial aspect of the whole matter. Its military, political, and economic aspects will require investigation no less independent and complete. The problem of Mesopotamia cannot be dissociated from the whole question of our commitments in Asia Minor; and this in its turn is vitally connected with the commitments of our Allies, and of France in particular. But whatever policy we may ultimately elect to follow, we can never agree to the maintenance of a great army in these regions, or to the interpretation of the mandate in a form which would inflict immense additional burdens upon the British public. The right course for the Government is to make a clean breast of their plans to Parliament.

Palestine.

In the *New Europe* of May 27 there is an instructive article on "Jew and Arab in Palestine," by Professor Musil, the occupant of the Chair of Oriental History and Languages at Prague University. He briefly recounts the history of Zionist efforts to enable Jews to return to Palestine, and proceeds to enumerate "the enormous difficulties attached to the settling up of an autonomous home for the Jewish nation in Palestine." On this point he says:—

The Zionists are faced with difficulties both within and without. The former originate in the nature of the natives and in the climate of Palestine, the latter in the Jewish colonists themselves. In Palestine there is no fertile soil which is not cultivated; there is no soil without owner. Almost 90 per cent. of the soil belonged to the State, to the Sultan, to the ecclesiastical institutions, or to the great landlords, and only an insignificant fraction of it was in private ownership or belonged to the communities. The purchase of land for the purpose of colonisation was difficult, and it was almost impossible to carry it out in a legal way. As soon as the Zionists bought a settlement, voices of dissatisfaction made themselves heard among the natives, and the Arab Press accused some official or other of having taken a bribe, and complaints were sent to Constantinople. So long as the Jews did not disturb the state of affairs as it existed before the purchase and the natives worked for them, the Turkish authorities maintained peace As soon, however, as the Jews attempted to cultivate land by their own people a new outcry arose. The Turkish Government favoured the Jews and defended their interests against the native Arab population, whom they either hated or at least treated with contempt. They saw in the Jewish colonists their natural allies.

Under the Arab Government matters will be quite different. Even to-day, when the English are still in Palestine and the civil home government is not established, voices make themselves heard among the Arabs that this or that purchase was illegal, and that the land ought to be distributed among the native farmers who tilled it all their lives. The Arab population was roused by the demand of some groups of Jews that Palestine should be proclaimed a Jewish State, while, further, the Arab spirit is roused by the ceaseless cry of a Jewish weekly published in Jerusalem for the land of Israel to be restored to the Israelites.

Not only the educated classes but also the common Arab people look upon the Jews as dangerous interlopers and unite against them. The excited minds of the people cannot be calmed by official statements from leading Zionists or from the British Government to the effect that nobody designs the establishment in Palestine of an independent State, but only that the Jews desire to settle down there beside their neighbours as in their old homeland. The Arabs ask the English Government, and especially their own King Feysal, not to permit the Holy Land to be taken from the Moslems and Christians and be given to the Jews. Feysal, by his very origin and education, hates the Jews, and will never support them in anything; on the contrary, he would do all in his power to make their stay in Palestine if not impossible at least unpleasant. The English Government will with difficulty be able to carry out its promises. The speech of Mr. Balfour, in which the Jews were promised some sort of autonomy in Palestine, was translated into all Islamic languages and interpreted in a manner very unfavourable to the British Government. Political organisations agitating against England utilised this speech in their favour, pointing out that England wants to deprive the Moslems even of their third Holy City, Jerusalem, and that she wants to hand over to the Jews the tombs of the great prophets Ibrahim and Jacob, the city of Hebron. In numerous cities public prayers were offered to the prophets worshipped by Moslems, asking them to intercede to prevent the dishonouring of their Moslem land.

The writer's conclusion is: "So long as the Jewish colonists regard the colony as merely a provisional stopping place on the way to a more agreeable mode of life, all the efforts of the Zionists to set up in Palestine an autonomous Jewish home will be in vain."

The Trials of Armenia.

The special correspondent of the *Morning Post* at Erivan gives an interesting account of conversations that he held with two Armenian leaders—Major-General Araratov, the War Minister of the Armenian Republic, and General Nazarbekov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armenian Army. Of the immediate prospects of the Republic General Araratov said:—

It's very difficult to be precise in trying to give an idea of the present condition of things military in Armenia. What I would say of our people is that it is one on which you can build. And that is more than can be said of some of our neighbours. But at present we are very tired. For three summers now we have been holding the Turkish frontier, to which before the war the Russians used to send regularly special Cossack and other forces to guard. The Kurds have already begun their attacks upon our villages; as soon as the snows are melted, we shall be up against it again.

We have called up everybody from the ages of twenty to twenty-five and even over; in fact, practically every one we can get hold of between twenty and thirty or thirty-two is in the army, unless they are busied on some other Government service. Desertion is rife. Of course it is; what can you expect? Still, I would say that our army has a minimum strength of about 20,000. Some of them are very good; others are not of much use.

The correspondent proceeds:—

I asked General Araratov what he thought of the neutralisation of Batum. He replied that it was a solution that satisfied Armenia. Had Batum, he added, been handed over to any one of the other nations of the Transcaucasus, this would have been the last straw for the Armenian Republic, which could not have survived. To another question the War Minister said that Armenia would regard Russia in the future with cautious if not unfriendly eyes.

"Finally," he said, "there is one thing that you must know Remember that I am speaking, not as Minister for War, but as an old soldier and an Armenian. You European Powers must keep a tight hold upon us Asiatics! Stand no nonsense!"

General Nazarbekov was not in an optimistic mood:—

Why hide it? he said. Our people are worn out. They have been fighting for seven years. They are now almost unclothed. They have no cartridges for the rifles they have and no rifles for their cartridges. Consequently desertion is fairly heavy. After all, how are we to know who are soldiers and who are not, when a great part of our army is not even in uniform? The only thing they have is boots. When I go through the streets here I don't know who are my soldiers until they salute. And some of them, of course, don't even salute.

Everybody knows what is going on in this part of the world. The Bolsheviks and the Turks are seeking to unite against the British in Persia and India, and one of the conditions of their agreement is that the Caucasus shall be left as it stood at the time of the Armistice. Well, they are already beginning to show their hand. The Turks at Erzerum will soon, we suppose, advance upon Kars. The Bolsheviks are also beginning to move.

Articles to Note

"Arabian Nights and Days," by "W."; "How We Stole Liman von Sanders' Car," by Francis Yeats Brown; and "Lord Kitchener," in *Blackwood's* (June).

"Kitchener," by Lieut.-Col. Repington, C.M.G.; and "Prelude to Amritsar: The Punjab Disturbances of 1919," in the *Nineteenth Century* (June).

"M. Politis and Franco-Greek Friendship," by B. Lanitis; and "An Ultimatum to Yugoslavia," by Eugene Nadovitch, in the *New World* (June).

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MUSICAL NOTES.

England at the present time does not abound in notable tenors, but Mr. John Coates, who gave a love-song recital in English and French at the Queen's Hall on May 31, is in that small class whose fame is deservedly known outside this country. Mr. Coates is both a beautiful and a great singer—qualities which are by no means always found together; and if or when he errs it is in a matter of taste and of nothing else. For this recital he chose a most delightful programme, which consisted (excluding a most generous number of encores) of eight French and thirteen English songs. The whole road of passion, from fickleness to faithfulness, from sorrow to joy, from disappointment to achievement, was trodden by this fine singer, and of each mood he was a complete master. Most of the songs he sang were well known, but there was scarcely a phrase upon which he did not throw a fresh light. He had the remarkable ability wholly to steep his audience (which, by the way, was small, tolerably discerning, and exceedingly enthusiastic) in the atmosphere he created. This faculty was, of course, quite independent of any merely technical accomplishments, such as his excellent diction, his superb phrasing, and so on: for it was that indefinable but absolutely unfailing something which demarks the artist from the singer. One did not always agree with his interpretations, but the least one ever did was to respect them. There were a few songs, such as Duparc's "Le Manoir de Rosemonde," or Gretchaninow's "Triste est le steppe," which, although we know them by heart, came from Mr. Coates with the freshening stab that all pure art brings: I do not think they could possibly be sung with more sincerity and conviction. In this recital there was no song that was not both music and literature (with the possible, but uncertain, exception of M. G. Davidson's "In Fountain Court" and Gerrard Williams' "Love Outwitted"), and it was where the setting and the words were equal that Mr. Coates' greatest triumphs lay. Where the setting predominated, as in Purcell's "What Shall I Do," he indulged in liberties, especially in the matter of *portamento*, a habit that most quickly becomes tiresome. Purcell sung sophisticatedly is an abomination; and though Mr. Coates did not do this, his Purcell made us think of what went before and long for what was coming afterwards. It is quite worth noting that as a final encore he was sufficiently strange, homely, and contented enough to give Balfe's "Come Into the Garden, Maud." For myself, I thought it an unnecessary resuscitation, but Mr. Coates can be forgiven any mortal (or even dead) thing.

Which is the best choir in the South of England is a question upon which much discussion rages and experts alone can decide. But the Philharmonic Choir, which was responsible for some very fine music at the Queen's Hall on June 2, has strong claims. For one thing, it chooses works much more difficult to sing than those with which most choirs are content; for there are few bodies which would venture in one evening upon Gustav Holst's "The Hymn of Jesus," "The Song of the High Hills" of Delius, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. To remark minor faults in the first two of these would be unfair: the music is so strange and so lovely that one is full of nothing but gratitude to the choir for bringing them before the public at all. "The Hymn of Jesus," which is written for two choruses, semi-chorus, orchestra, pianoforte, and organ, is the hymn which, according to Gnostic tradition, the Lord sang in secret to the Holy Apostles. The composer conducted his work, and it was most noble and moving. The presentation did not appear to be so good as the work itself, largely owing to the fact that the composition is made up of elements both too old and too new to be easily sung. There was the additional difficulty (and it was not always overcome) of fitting in with a large orchestra. But the rich antiphonics, some winding "Amens" of the semi-chorus, and a most satisfying *ostinato* in the orchestra created a deep and indeed unforgettable impression. Few other English, or foreign, composers are capable of such stuff as this.

"The Song of the High Hills," which is as individual as the rest of the works of Delius, is conceived in a mood very different from that which inspired "The Hymn of Jesus." The sublimity of Delius is utterly different from the exaltation of Holst; and whereas the appeal that Holst makes is religious in the deepest and least commonly understood sense, Delius attracts all but those nice, rare minds which are unmoved by the sublime. His music here is of quite extraordinary beauty; it is of sheer, ethereal, almost heavenly loveliness. For the choir there are no words, merely vowel sounds; but its work is amazingly important to the whole. That there is a meaning in this is certain, but the desirability of apprehending it is by no means certain; for the whole composition is suffused with that rare ecstasy which if analysed turns out to be at the worst madness and at the best illusion. It would seem that Delius writes as we listen—because neither can help it. His work, conducted by Mr. Albert Coates, was performed most beautifully, and it was the triumph of the evening. In the Choral Symphony the weakest feature was the part-singing of the soloists, Miss Carrie Tubb, Miss Margaret Balfour, Mr. Webster Millar, and Mr. Cecil Canning. It was a great pity that what should have been the best was the worst, but it was obvious that the soloists had not sufficiently rehearsed together. When singing alone Mr. Fanning, an American baritone, was very good, his lack of affectation being very pleasing. As a whole the Symphony was hurried, but in places both the singing of the choir and the playing of the orchestra were extremely good. Mr. Coates showed that he can conduct Beethoven when he likes, but the lateness of the hour appeared to cause him to play this Symphony rather as he liked. However, it was a wonderful evening, for which he was as much as anyone responsible.

I cannot even guess how long the present vogue of Scriabin will endure—I hope for ever, but that is most improbable. However, there were no signs at Miss Lilias Mackinnon's recital of Scriabin at the Queen's Hall on June 4 that there is any slackening of interest in this Russian composer. But it appeared to me that the audience was most enthusiastic in the pieces (chiefly studies) which most resembled Chopin, and that where Scriabin was merely himself a puzzled politeness pervaded the hall. Encores were demanded of the G flat major Prelude in Op. 16, and of the B major and A major studies in Op. 8—pieces which are undeniably beautiful, but which could not have been even thought of had Chopin never lived. However, there is an increasing number of artists both courageous enough and capable enough to play the later works of Scriabin, and when people know these works as well as they know the early ones, they will perceive that Scriabin's reliance on Chopin is no greater than Beethoven's reliance on Haydn, and that he is one of the most vital and original personalities in all music. In this task of education Miss Mackinnon is leading the way in this country (i.e., for Scriabin's pianoforte works: of Mr. Albert Coates' love for Scriabin's orchestral music this is not the place to speak), and she certainly is most fitted for the position. She is playing more beautifully now than ever. In her first recitals an unusual insight into the subtleties of Scriabin was at once noticeable, but there was a slight hardness in expression. At her last recital she showed that she has altered all this, and her playing contained real poetry. She is not a wonderful pianist, but she is a very fine artist indeed. It is, therefore, in no sense of ingratitude that one points out a few minor disagreements with her interpretations, but she seemed to me to expose unduly the melody from its thick harmonic shroud, and in the diabolical (are there two sources of inspiration?) places of things like "Poème Nocturne" (Op. 61) or the Ninth Sonata, she steeped herself too deeply in the pessimism of the music. One can treat Scriabin's mystical pessimism as one treats Thomas Hardy's hopeless pessimism; as a reality it has no value, but as an artistic expression it is of the highest worth. Miss Mackinnon appeared too much to believe in the evil of the music she was playing, and the gaieties and whimsicalities were illumined rather by the light of the moon than by that of the sun. But in spite of tendencies that can only be called crepuscular, Miss Mackinnon gets as near to the heart (or soul, as I ought, in deference to the Theosophists who worship him, to say) of Scriabin as anyone I have heard. Yet one can, without disrespect, suggest that the middle movement of the Gothic sonata is too good a thing to be played, when she is tired and a little careless, as a final encore: a much smaller thing would have done.

ANDANTE.

FUTURE OF PALESTINE
under British Mandate.
A MEETING
WILL BE HELD
in the GREAT HALL at the
CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER
(entrance Gt. Smith Street).
On TUESDAY, JUNE 15th (5.30-6.30 p.m.).
Speakers:
The BISHOP in JERUSALEM.
GENERAL SIR PHILIP CHETWODE, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O. (late G.O.C. 20th Corps in Palestine).

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"DAVID URQUHART: SOME CHAPTERS IN THE LIFE OF A VICTORIAN KNIGHT-ERRANT OF JUSTICE AND LIBERTY." By Gertrude Robinson. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 25s. net.)

II.—"THE SPIRITUAL REBIRTH OF EUROPE." By the Right Reverend Nicholai Velimirovitch. (London: The Faith Press. 1s.)

I.—AN ADVOCATE OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

Miss Robinson does not pretend to give us a Life of David Urquhart—she says so in her opening sentence; and it is further apparent from the sub-title of the book and from the headings of its three parts, which are "The Knight," "How he fought for Justice in England," and "How he went to Rome to bring Justice down from Heaven," that she is definitely working out her impression of him as a modern St. George who spent his life in warfare against the Dragon of injustice, brought about by lawlessness, and that her purpose is to show us the different phases of that life-long struggle.

She is fervent in her desire to show us Urquhart's determination to seek out the truth, to disinter it from the mass of words and generalities under which it is so easily buried. He believed, we are told, that "a man to be right must first cast aside the self he received from his age, and must set his true self to work at the acquisition of knowledge and self-discipline, striving all the time against allowing himself to be infected by the modern spirit and public opinion; when he was himself instructed he must teach others."

To him that secret diplomacy and setting aside of law, which brought about unjust wars, were represented in their worst form by Russia, and in his own country by Palmerston, whose foreign policy—as with everything else that he considered evil—he attributed to Russia's influence.

The good for which he strove seemed, on the other hand, to take tangible form in that mode of life which he had learnt to love and respect in Turkey and the Near East generally—a life which seemed to him to rest on the foundations of courtesy and mutual respect and true, as opposed to apparent, liberty—and which found a counterpart in life under the institutions of mediæval England. David Urquhart gained his intimate knowledge of the Near East at a very early age; when he was twenty-six the singularity of this knowledge led to his being sent to Turkey on a secret mission by Sir Stratford Canning. And when, before he was thirty, he was made Secretary to the Embassy at Constantinople, "Daoud Bey," "with his extraordinary knowledge, his private friendship for the Sultan, his great influence in the Turkish Government, stood forth the most conspicuous figure in Constantinople." Probably the position was too unusual to make an ordinary diplomatic career possible—at any rate, for various reasons, his connection with the Diplomatic Service came to an abrupt end when he was recalled in 1837.

Of the next stage in Urquhart's life—his propaganda work in England and his formation of the Foreign Affairs Committees amongst working men—Miss Robinson writes with feeling and enthusiasm. She is eager to prove that what her hero sought was the great ultimate good of his country and the whole world, not a mere opposition to a Government whose foreign policy he so hated. He taught indefatigably that it is in the power of each individual citizen to save his country, and that for this it is necessary to gain real knowledge of the country and its concerns, and to strive to abolish secrecy in international transactions. It is a stirring and vivid picture that she draws for us of Urquhart's devoted followers, nearly all of whom came from the worst-paid sections of the working classes, and of their magnificent efforts to live up to the almost superhuman standard set for them by their leader. Certainly nothing in the book convinces us more of the spark of true greatness that was in Urquhart than the touching tribute written after his death by one of his disciples and given in the last chapter.

After 1864 Urquhart was obliged, on account of his health, to live abroad, and made his home in the mountains of Savoy. Here he continued his study of International Law, and came in contact with many eminent French Catholics. It seems that gradually the Catholic Church came to stand in his mind for the embodiment of those principles of law and order for which he had always fought, and, as she had never repudiated her right to interfere in affairs of State—the Pope seemed to be the one man who had it in his power to enforce those principles. Fired with enthusiasm, he went to Rome at the time of the Vatican Council to petition Pius IX. to proclaim the ancient Canon Law of the Church as a means of restoring law and justice amongst the nations.

It is obvious that to his biographer this is the culminating point of the narrative, and the note of triumph over the fact that this champion of liberty and truth should have seen in the Head of the Roman Catholic Church the only hope left for the world's peace is unmistakable. It is accentuated by an undercurrent of regret that Urquhart did not see his way to joining the Church of Rome. There is an interesting account of Urquhart's busy life in Rome, before the long-drawn-out delays of the Council were smothered in the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War, and he saw all his hopes frustrated. His last attempt—an endeavour to establish in France a National Tribunal "without whose sanction no war shall be declared and no treaty ratified"—was also doomed to failure.

We feel that in an account of Urquhart's life we should have liked to hear more of his doings in the Near East, of which his knowledge was so extensive and on which his writings are of such real value: more of the part that he played as the champion of the Circassians against the aggression of Russia, when he so gained the love and confidence of the people that many years afterwards they still trusted that Daoud Bey would be their saviour. For this we would willingly have sacrificed some of the many details of Urquhart's activities in Rome.

There is an introduction to the book by Mr. F. F. Urquhart, Fellow of Balliol College. The Appendices are interesting and to the point, particularly one which gives details of a Land Scheme which was successfully worked by one of Urquhart's followers. Miss Robinson has certainly achieved her purpose, and has drawn an inspiring portrait of a man whose life was given unsparingly for the attainment of a very great ideal.

II.—A GREAT SLAV THINKER.

In this small volume are to be found a lecture delivered in King's College, London, two sermons, one of which was preached in St. Paul's Cathedral, and an essay contributed to the *New Europe*. By far the most important of these is the lecture, from the subject of which the book takes its title. Herein the Bishop of Zica analyses with remarkable acumen the prospects of European civilisation. His thesis, which he maintains with striking examples, is that Europe, having put aside the Christian religion as the centre of her civilisation is, if she persists in her present course, doomed. His words in illustration of this statement are profound and convincing. On the question of Russia, the issue of the struggle in which he says will be the issue for Europe, we do not see eye-to-eye with him; but in all his other points he appears to be perfectly sound. His conclusion is worthy of being pondered:—

> And yet, if Europe's fate is not definitely sealed in Heaven, because of Europe's—not crimes, but criminality, i.e., criminal mentality—there is still a gleam of hope for Europe's salvation at the eleventh hour. And this gleam of hope could be justified only by possible signs of the Christian religion being brought back to its central position in the life of European humanity. And this I should call the Spiritual Rebirth of Europe.

Bishop Velimirovitch has the advantage of English theologians and thinkers in the universality of his outlook, but in addition to this he has a rare intensity of vision. This lecture, indeed, is one of the finest addresses given in England by a foreign philosopher—for it is no less than a religious philosopher that he proves himself to be.

The other things in the book consist of "The Principle of the Eastern Orthodox Church," which will not be forgotten at the forthcoming Lambeth Conference, a short and impassioned, rather than reasoned, plea for "The Redemption of St. Sophia," and "Freedom's Reality and Delusions," which is an extension of the thesis contained in the main lecture.

To all those interested in the momentous questions of the future of Europe, the union of Christendom, and like matters, we commend this little book. For in it are some of the acutest criticisms of modern times, made by one who, by virtue of his position and calling, is especially qualified to speak with authority.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. June	1920. May.		1338. Ramadan.	5680. Sivan.
10	28	Thursday	23	24
11	29	Friday	24	25
12	30	Saturday	25	26
13	31	Sunday	26	27
	June.			
14	1	Monday	27	28
15	2	Tuesday	28	29
16	3	Wednesday	29	30

The Yuvaraj of Mysore has arrived from India.

Prince Djelaleddin has arrived at the Berkeley Hotel from Cairo.

The Sirdar of Kapurthala has arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Paris.

Lord Oranmore and Browne has left 12, Cavendish Place, for Dublin.

A. Coopers-Hill Dinner will be held at the Café Monico, Piccadilly Circus, on June 22.

General Deedes will accompany Mr. Herbert Samuel to Palestine as his First Assistant.

The Maharaja of Alwar is staying at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Colonel Sir John Norton-Griffiths, M.P., and Lady Norton-Griffiths have arrived at Claridge's Hotel from their house in Surrey.

It is stated that the Right Rev. Bishop Gwynne will sail from Alexandria for England on June 24 to attend the Lambeth Conference.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, will represent India at the Postal Congress at Madrid in October.

Princess Bibesco, the wife of Prince Bibesco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, gave birth to a daughter on June 5 at their residence in Grosvenor Road.

The 40th annual Burma Dinner will be held at Princes' Galleries, Piccadilly, on Thursday, the 17th inst., at 7 for 7.30 p.m. Mr. Arthur W. Bibby will preside.

Mr. Theodore D. Mosconas, of the Dodecanesian Delegation in Manchester, has been elected member of the Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society, University of Manchester.

Colonel the Earl of Stradbroke and the Countess of Stradbroke are remaining in Egypt until the end of June. They intend to be at 23, Pont Street for the month of July with their family.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (May 22) :—Sir Herbert Dering, who has been on leave of absence in England, returned here with his wife last Tuesday, and resumed his office in the British Legation. Mr. R. Leslie Craigie left with his wife last Wednesday for Berne.

On June 8 a joint meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society and Central Asian Society was held at the School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, E.C.2. Sir Aurel Stein, K.C.I.E., delivered a lecture on "A Chinese Expedition Across the Paniers and Hindukush, A.D. 747," and the Right Hon. the Lord Reay presided.

As a result of the Sudan Civil Service Test examination in Arabic, the examiners placed the probationers in the following classes :—

Class I.—D. Newbold (Oriel, Oxford).

Class II.—J. M. Bruce-Gardyne (Balliol, Oxford); C. Empson* (Magdalene, Cambridge); C. W. Williams (Oriel, Oxford).

Class III.—G. B. Crole (University, Oxford); D. Kennedy-Cooke (Worcester, Oxford); A. S. Redfern (Trinity, Cambridge); A. C. Walker (Caius, Cambridge).

*Mesopotamian Service.

M. Nicolas Titulesco, formerly Finance Minister of Roumania, and now the principal delegate from his country to the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris, has been spending several days in London with the object of discussing with the British Government questions concerning the union of Bessarabia and Roumania.

In Convocation at Oxford University on June 1, the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred on Dr. Temistocle Zammit, C.M.G., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Malta and Curator of the Valetta Museum. In presenting him for the degree, the Public Orator, Dr. Godfrey, referred to his great services to the island of Malta both in the discovery of antiquities and in the detection of the local causes of fever.

Sir Arthur Crosfield, Bart., and Lady Crosfield, after a long stay in Greece, left Athens on May 30 for Venice *en route* to England. Two days previously they had entertained at luncheon on the yacht Narcissus (belonging to M. Embiricos) in Phaleron Bay, M. Venizelos and the members of his Cabinet. Later in the afternoon, with a still larger party on board, which included Lord and Lady Granville, an excursion was made to Sunium.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Council of the Archbishop's Mission to the Assyrian Christians are anxious that a meeting of the friends and supporters of the Mission should be held before the visit to England of Surma Khanum, sister of the late Patriarch, closes. Accordingly a meeting will be held at the Church House on June 14, at three o'clock, when the Archbishop of Canterbury will preside, and Surma Khanim and Dr. Wigram and others will speak.

Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Education in Bucharest for the Rev. Dr. H. B. Gray, of Bury St. Edmunds, and formerly Headmaster of Bradfield College, to make an official educational mission to Roumania, more especially with a view to developing a system of education there on English Public Schools lines. Dr. Gray will leave for Eastern Europe when the journey is possible, having regard to the present railway strike in Roumania.

The arrangements for the Lambeth Conference of Bishops, which will open on July 5 and end on August 7, are now practically complete. The archbishops and bishops who are to be members of the Conference are arriving daily from all parts of the world. Up to the present the list of Indian Bishops is as follows:— Bishop Azariah of Dornakal, Bishop Westcott of Lucknow, Bishop Chatterton of Nagpur, Bishop Fyffe of Rangoon, and Bishop Waller of Tinnevelly.

It is understood that Lord Milner, Sir Henry McMahon, and others interested in Egypt and Palestine, will be present on the platform at the meeting of the Bishop in Jerusalem's Mission on June 15, at Church House, Westminster. The speakers will be the Bishop in Jerusalem and General Sir Philip Chetwode (late G.O.C., 20th Corps in Palestine). There will also be present Mr. G. K. Chesterton, who has lately paid a visit to Palestine and Jerusalem, and who, it is understood, is publishing a book on his experiences, and Mr. E. T. Richmond, whose excavations in the Temple area at Jerusalem since the Armistice have awakened so much interest.

In response to the request of the Greek Government, a service in memory of Dr. Ronald M. Burrows, Principal of King's College, was held on June 6 at the Greek Church in Moscow Road, Bayswater. The Great Archimandrite (Dr. Pagonis) officiated, assisted by two Archimandrites. The Archbishop of Cyprus and Bishop Ridgeway attended the service, and the congregation included the Greek Minister (representing the Greek Government) and the personnel of the Legation, M. Gennadius, Honorary Greek Minister, and Mme. Gennadius, the Minister for Yugoslavia, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Ivan Laichter (representing the Czecho-Slovak Legation), the Greek Consul-General and Miss Stavridi, and the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, together with a large number of prominent members of the Greek colony in London and many representatives of King's College and London University.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Dr. Mastny has been appointed Czecho-Slovak Minister in London.

The Government of India have sanctioned the appointment of Mr. A. E. Ryves, barrister-at-law, the Government Advocate, and Rai Gokul Prasad Bahadur, Advocate, to be additional Judges of the High Court at Allahabad for the next two years.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir John Alexander Strachey Bucknill, K.C., Chief Justice in the Straits Settlements, to be a Puisne Judge of the Patna High Court in the vacancy caused by the death of the late Mr. Justice Atkinson.

OBITUARY.

A correspondent informs us of the death, which took place in Jersey on May 31, of Mrs. Florence Emily Tulloch, widow of Mr. E. W. Spencer Douglas. Mr. Douglas, who died a few years ago, was in the Irrigation Department of the United Provinces, India.

The death is announced, says the *Manchester Guardian*, from Madras of Professor Srinivasa Ramanujam, F.R.S., one of the most brilliant mathematicians of modern India, and the first Indian to be made a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was only thirty-two years of age. His extraordinary talent was discovered by English mathematicians eight years ago. A special scholarship to Cambridge was awarded him by the Madras University, and he entered Trinity College in 1914. He became an exhibitioner of the College in 1917. He was elected to a Fellowship of Trinity in 1918, the year of his being awarded the signal honour of the F.R.S.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The National Congress will meet at Calcutta in August.

The King of the Hellenes has presented the town of Verdun with the Greek War Cross of the First Class.

The King's birthday was celebrated at Jerusalem, where the Governor received the chiefs of all communities.

The Paris-Athens aerial express is now making the journey thrice weekly. Owing to delays at Uskub and Belgrade the journey takes 105 hours.

Reports come from Tabriz that the platoon of Indian troops stationed at the disturbed centre has been withdrawn, and is rejoining headquarters at Kazvin.

A Constantinople telegram reports the arrival on May 30 of the Turkish delegates with the text of the Turkish peace terms and the memoranda of Tewfik Pasha on the subject.

A number of Turks have been arrested in connection with a Nationalist plot against the present Turkish Government, which was hatched at Angora, and worked out in detail at Brusa.

At a meeting in Alexandria of the citizens of Castellorizo residing in that city, in Cairo, Port Said, Ismailieh, and Suez, a protest was placed on record against the recent handing over of the island to Italy.

The War Office state that, in view of the present conditions obtaining in the Eastern theatres of war, no facilities can be given for visits to graves in Gallipoli, Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia.

General Silvestre, the Governor of Melilla, Morocco, has offered to the Spanish Minister of the Interior 6,000 Moors for agricultural work in Andalusia. They are prepared to work eleven hours a day for 4s. and a loaf of bread.

A number of medical men from Belgrade, sent to Berlin, Hamburg, and Vienna to study measures to combat tuberculosis, received such scant courtesy at the hands of the German authorities that they have been obliged to leave Germany.

The Palestine Exhibition, which is to be opened by the Bishop of London at the Central Hall, Westminster, to-day, and remain open for a month, will include numerous special features, such as new films of the Holy Land, costume lectures, collections of oil paintings, and models.

A notice has been published stating that wool and hair from the Sudan exported to foreign countries through Egypt, unless packed in sealed packages and consigned in transit, will be liable to disinfection by the Egyptian authorities before export from Egypt.

The mysterious theft of 60,000,000 Roumanian lei, which took place about a year ago at Spandau Citadel, has now been cleared up, four men who were then in the army and entrusted with the protection of the treasure having been arrested and confessed their guilt.

The Secretary of the European Association, a Calcutta message states, has cabled to the president in London pointing out that the Press, Parliament, and the general body of Europeans in India strongly uphold General Dyer and condemn the action of the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

It is officially announced that the King has been pleased to command that the "India General Service Medal, 1908," in silver, with clasp "Afghanistan, N.W. Frontier, 1919," shall be granted to the troops who took part in operations against Afghanistan in 1919. Officers and men already in possession of the medal will receive the clasp only.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

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(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1920.

COAST-HUNGER IN THE NEAR EAST.

Switzerland is probably the only European country entitled to claim that she has never succumbed to the lure of the sea, and now that the territorial readjustments consequent on the war have increased the number of the inland States of the Continent from two to four, it is devoutly to be hoped that the spectacle of her happy and prosperous condition will not be lost on Austria and Hungary, and will console them for their present coastless condition. If they harbour any designs for getting to the sea they had much better abandon them forthwith, since the Allied Powers are little disposed to consider any modifications of the 1919 settlement at present. The same advice may be proffered to Bulgaria, sore at having been deprived of the second-rate ports on the Ægean which she possessed for a few years, and disposed to resent bitterly the handing over of Thrace to Greece, partly on racial grounds, but partly because she thinks it will have an adverse effect on her commercial future. We doubt whether she need be a prey to any such fears, being firmly persuaded that under the new order of things, many of the ports of Europe are likely to acquire something of an international character. The theory that the trade of a nation is necessarily restricted if it cannot find its outlet in a port within its own territories rests on no substantial basis of fact, and the prosperity of Switzerland alone suffices to dispose of it; but the tendency of trade routes to ignore political frontiers supplies an even better argument against it. Antwerp and Rotterdam will always in a sense be German ports, to the great content of the Belgian and Dutch peoples, and if the natural development of Salonika is not strangled by Greece the city is destined to be a Yugoslav and Bulgarian no less than a Greek port. In the past, we suspect, nations were cut off from the sea less frequently by international influences than by the narrow commercial rivalries of individual ports. Before the war it was common talk that the politicians at Athens—bent on the development of the Piræus—were little disposed to give Salonika a chance, and to-day people in Trieste are saying the same things about Venice, the pampered protégé of the politicians at Rome. If we are not careful we may soon be hearing of the starvation of Fiume in the interests of Trieste, and unless this kind of thing is sternly suppressed by the voice of Europe making itself heard through the League of Nations, the war will have been fought in vain. Our insular position has denied us all opportunities for interfering with the commercial development of our neighbours by obstructing their natural maritime outlets, but we are really the last people in the world to set up as judges in this matter, since in our own country we have allowed local jealousies to deprive many of our great industrial areas of the ports which would best have served their needs: Liverpool watches the growth of Southampton with mixed feelings; Bristol does not rejoice at the prospect of Plymouth coming to the fore; and it may be said that every port authority in the kingdom is as much concerned with obstructing the development of its rivals as with looking after its own business. Have we not recently set up a brand new Ministry of Transport largely with the object of checking this evil tendency?

In considering this question we cannot, of course, disregard international boundaries, and the Peace treaties all serve to remind us that we have not yet emerged from the era of strategic frontiers, but it is surely time that the people of Europe realised that the Continent consists of certain fairly well-defined economic areas which, even if not officially recognised and marked on the new maps, they cannot afford to ignore. The Austro-Hungarian Empire embodied one of these areas, and in Trieste and Fiume it possessed two ports admirably situated to serve the needs of all the provinces of the territories administered respectively from Vienna and Budapest. With the great highway of the Danube to supplement its railway system, the Empire was well provided with communications, but its coastline was confined to the Adriatic, and when with the acquisition of Bosnia and Herzogovina the expansion of the State began to take a southerly direction, Salonika became the goal of her statesmen. The fact that Serbia not only barred the way towards Salonika, but also harboured designs for acquiring it herself very largely explains the persistent hostility of Austria-Hungary towards Serbia before the war. If Russia had not come to the rescue of Serbia in 1914 it is doubtful whether France would have taken any measures to protect her, and in the state of public opinion in this country at the time no government would have run the risk of a war with the Central Powers on her behalf. But for the timely intervention of Russia, Serbia would have been overrun by the Austro-Hungarian armies, and within a few days' march of Salonika they would hardly have stopped at the Greek frontier. From the commercial point of view the instinct which drove the Dual Empire southward in the direction of Salonika was probably a sound one, and Yugoslavia might fairly claim that she is just as much cut off from the sea by the Greek possession of Salonika as she is by the Italian occupation of Fiume. The port of Salonika is the natural outlet for the trade of Yugoslavia in the South as Fiume is in the North, and if this summed up the functions of the two she would have a legitimate grievance in being denied possession of either of them. It may be argued that the question of the ownership of Salonika having been decided after the Balkan war, does not arise in connection with the present settlement, and this might be admitted if this matter of maritime outlets for inland territories could be disposed of by the delimitation of land frontiers; but this is far from being the case, and if we hope for a permanent European peace it behoves us to view the commercial problems of the Continent from an international standpoint, even if our ideas regarding the political future of its states are dominated by the principle of nationality.

From the standpoint of human progress half a dozen small states, each one surrounded by a Chinese Wall of customs houses, each one bent on strangling the commercial development of its neighbours, make up a poor substitute for a great Empire constituting a single homogeneous economic unit. It will only be when Yugoslavia recognizes that Fiume was intended by nature to serve the needs of Hungary as well as her own, and that Greece recognizes that Yugoslavia and Bulgaria have an equal economic claim to her own for the use of Salonika, that these obstacles standing in the way of progress in South-Eastern Europe will be cleared away. The thing can be done if only all the States concerned will loyally co-operate for the common good. There is no need to introduce the League of Nations into the business—ports under international control rarely prosper—and the particular national flag flying over a port serving the needs of several nations is really a matter of no great moment. What is required is that the spirit as well as the letter of the last great European settlement be observed by all the parties concerned, and that with one accord they all agree to cease from obstructing one another's progress. Given the adequate development of the existing ports in the Near East and the improvement of the railways serving them, the ownership of coast lines becomes a matter of secondary importance to the nations concerned. A little intelligent co-operation fortified by mutual goodwill and forbearance would go far to solve a problem needlessly complicated in the past by racial antagonism.

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ALBANIA.

By Lieut.-Col. the Hon. A. H. Herbert, M.P.

To supply a student of THE NEAR EAST with new facts on any of the numerous problems in which it has taken an interest is not easy. I shall therefore confine myself in this article to recapitulating briefly recent events concerning Albania.

In this summary my aim is to be impartial, but in stating the case of a gallant people that has suffered cruelly, complete neutrality on the part of a friend is neither possible nor desirable.

The Turkish Revolution occurred in 1908. It began in Macedonia, at Resna, by the insurrection of 200 Albanians under Niazi Bey.. The Albanians, in growing force, proceeded to occupy Uskub (Skople), and from that town they treated with Yildiz. The revolution was successful, but the Young Turk policy of Ottomanisation failed first of all in Albania. The Albanians were determined to conduct their national affairs in their own way. They were prepared to fight for their land, their language, their schools. In 1910 they attacked the Turks fiercely, and though they were ill-equipped, unorganised, and without modern arms, they fought for three years until they could negotiate advantageously. In 1912 I saw Sienitza occupied by the Albanians. The Young Turk Governor of Berane, a Serbian, Popovitch, was killed passing through, and farther south, at Mitrovitza, the guerilla forces of Issa Boletin faced the Turkish troops, under Torgut Shevket, on a footing of equality. When I passed through, I was the guest of both the Turkish General and the Albanian leader.

Then came the Balkan war. Albania was invaded by the Serbs and Montenegrins in the north, and by the Greeks in the south. These invaders were at first looked on as liberators by the Albanians. Issa Boletin, the Moslem, had a Serbian priest as his comrade in arms. Later, when it became apparent that the Balkan States were actuated by motives that had nothing to do with other peoples' liberty, and that they desired to possess the country, the Albanians turned and fought, though by that time, after their struggle with the Turks, their resources were almost exhausted. The Balkan war ended, and the Ambassadors' Conference took place in London. In this Conference Lord Grey of Fallodon declared that the Albanians had the same right to a national existence as any other Balkan people who had fought for its land and for its independence. A mixed Commission went to Albania to delimit the frontiers. This Commission was composed of French, Russians, British, Italians, Austrians, and Germans.

Here it is well to speak frankly; for if peace is ever to be achieved in Europe, it is essential to recognise the compelling ambitions of the various European states, whether they are our friends or our enemies, for it is upon interests that alliances are built. The Austrians were desirous of a great Albania; the Germans supported the Austrian policy, except in the south, where dynastic reasons made them anxious to see Greece gain territory. The British, having no interest but peace to serve, desired to see the Albanians masters in their own house, and the frontiers settled upon genuine ethnological lines. The Italians largely supported this view. The Russians, answering the call of the blood, worked strenuously to give all that was possible to the Slavs. The French policy, that was, unfortunately, not aloof from French finance, followed the Russian policy, for the French favoured a settlement that would give their friends and customers, the Greeks and the Serbs, great possessions.

A long wrangle ensued.

There had been much destruction in the north, and the Greeks had advanced and burnt many towns and villages in the south. The *régime* of the Prince of Wied, who had been nominated as ruler by the Great Powers, started under impossible auspices. Albania was a State that was mutilated at its birth. The Albanians were left their unproductive mountains and their fastnesses, but their market towns were taken from them. They lost Ipek, Djakova, Prisren, and Dibra.

The contention of the Greeks is that southern Albania is inhabited by a Greek population. They claim the towns of Tepeleni and Liaskoviki, and many villages besides these towns, that are ruins which the traveller can see to-day upon the high road between Valona and Salonika. The fact that these towns were burnt by the Greeks is a confutation of this Greek claim, for though the Balkans have customs that are strange to Europe, they are not sufficiently eccentric to burn their own people's property.

Intrigues of the Powers continued until the Great War broke out, when Prince William of Wied returned to Germany. Albania was then occupied by the Italians in the south and by the Austrians in the north.

On April 25, 1915, the Pact of London was signed. This Pact gave the north of Albania to the Slavs, the south of Albania to the Greeks, Valona to the Italians, and central Albania to Essad Pasha. Essad Pasha is an unlovely figure that has stepped out of the Middle Ages. His patriotism is to his purse. It was he who, after the violent death of a gallant soldier, Hassan Riza Pasha, outside Essad Pasha's house, surrendered Skutari to the Montenegrins. It was he, in co-operation with the envoy of a European State, who helped to destroy the Wied *régime*, and it was he who was the only Albanian beneficiary of the Pact of London. He looked to his county, and not to his country. The Pact of London suited Essad Pasha very well, for it left him a nearly homogeneous Mohammedan population round Tirana and Durazzo. To the north of his county there would be continual trouble, where the Albanian Catholics and Mohammedans would be fighting the Slavs; the south would be in a state of perennial disturbance, owing to the hatred of the Albanians, both Orthodox and Mohammedan, for the Greeks.

The tide of war ebbed and flowed, and at the end of 1915 it ebbed with a vengeance for the Allies. The Serbians retreated across the Albanian passes, to be transported from San Giovanni di Medua to Corfu. It is to the credit of the Albanians—and Essad Pasha, whatever his motives may have been, can claim a good mark—that during this retreat the Serbs were not attacked; but the presence of General Phillips and of Admiral Troubridge, who accompanied the Serbs, reminded the Albanians of Sir Edward Grey's promise, and contributed to the safety of the Serb army.

Meanwhile, the Italians did what was possible for the people in the south. There was much starvation, and many ruined villages, and the Albanians were frateful for this help. General Ferrero, a man of the highest principles, and the most generous heart, won the people by his sympathy and his care for the land. Work was begun upon model farms outside Valona, and a fine road built from Valona to Santiquaranta, and from Valona across the high ranges of the Acroceraunian mountains.

A declaration of General Ferrero confirmed the faith of the people in their national future, and Baron Sonnino stated that Italian policy favoured the independence of Albania. But General Ferrero left, and little more was said about Albanian independence. The

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE
KING OF SPAIN

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relations between the Albanian populace and the Italians grew less friendly, as the suspicions of the former were aroused.

After the Armistice, the Albanians, at a national gathering, elected a Government, and a Delegation went to Paris for the Peace Conference. At the head of this Delegation was the Catholic, Monseigneur Bumci, whilst colleagues of his were the well-known Orthodox physician Dr. Tourtoulis and Mehmed Bey Konitza, a Mohammedan, who, during the war, had represented his country in London.

In the Peace Conference, the Albanians were at the disadvantage of not having a Press or wealth to back their claims. It was certainly a case of "from him who hath not shall be taken." On December 9, 1919, an agreement was concluded, to which President Wilson, Mr. Lloyd George, and M. Clemenceau adhered. This agreement gave the mandate for Albania to the Italians, but it was a mandate in which there were reservations and safeguards. The League of Nations was invoked, and though the eloquence of M. Venizelos had won from the Great Four the mainly Mohammedan town of Argyrocastro, Albania was not dismembered. In the January of this year, however, Mr. Lloyd George and the French Prime Minister proposed the partition of Albania; Scutari and the north to go to the Serbs, Valona and the centre to the Italians, and the south to Greece—in fact, the Pact of London again, but made in peace and not in war time, and made, not before, but after President Wilson's Fourteen Points, and after Mr. Lloyd George's fervent declarations about small nationalities. On President Wilson's objecting to this cynical arrangement, the Prime Ministers of France and England answered in an aggrieved note that their plan would have satisfied all parties, which, if the Albanians were excepted, was the truth, since no one objects to being enriched at the expense of another. The Yugoslavs, however, unexpectedly refused this offer of Skutari, declaring that Albanian nationality and rights should be respected. Thus an edifying spectacle was presented to the world of the Balkans admonishing the Great Powers on a question of political justice.

The Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Dr. Trumbitch, was absent from the Conference of San Remo, and the Albanian question was, consequently, not discussed. The position at the present moment, then, is this: The Pact of London, the promise to partition Albania as Poland was once partitioned, with its certainty of future trouble to all concerned and to many who had no part in it, has been put on paper. The decision taken on December 9, 1919, which maintained the principle of Albanian nationality, while giving a restricted mandate over the country to Italy, under the League of Nations, has also been agreed to by England, France, and America. The Albanians, meanwhile, as far as circumstances allow, have done what they could to work out their own salvation. Their Government has the support of the people, but until this Government is recognised, the country remains in danger. The Yugoslavs are in force to the north, the Greeks in the south, and the Italians occupy the coast towns. Albania can only communicate with the outside world through the medium of interested neighbours.

It is at this critical moment that General Phillips and Mr. Morton Eden have been withdrawn from Albania, and that Great Britain is left without a representative from Patras to Yugoslavia.*

It is safe to say that Albania cannot be politically extinguished; if the victorious Powers were to forget their promises of freedom, which have made the nationalism of small countries burn with a fiercer flame, the neighbouring Balkan States, though enlarged, have been weakened, and can hardly partition the country. Trouble is preparing for them within their own frontiers, and it is not to their interest to swallow what they cannot digest. There is no race that loves its country more passionately than the Albanians, and the thousands of exiled Albanians who mean to return to Albania will bring new knowledge with them from Canada and the United States of America.

* A British Representative is shortly to proceed to Albania.

The arguments in favour of an independent Albania which must weigh with an Englishman are these:—

(1) Albanian independence was solemnly promised, before the war, and this promise was endorsed by a British statesman.

(2) Without the independence and integrity of Albania, peace cannot be maintained in the Balkans, and peace is the main British interest.

(3) Justice is the raw material of peace, and any decision which denies to Albania her independence and her integrity is an injustice, that may be perpetrated, but which cannot be honourably defended.

THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The following names, taken from an extensive list of Birthday Honours, will be of interest to our readers:—

BARONET: Wingate, General Sir Reginald, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., K.C.M.G., D.S.O. For long and distinguished public services.

KNIGHTS: Crum, Walter Erskine, O.B.E., Partner of Messrs. Graham and Company, Calcutta, Bengal. Hayden, Henry Hubert, C.S.I., C.I.E., D.Sc., Director, Geological Survey of India. Ward, Thomas Robert John, C.I.E., M.V.O., Inspector-General of Irrigation, Punjab.

C.B. (MILITARY DIVISION): Richardson, Major-General Charles William Grant, C.S.I., Deputy Quartermaster-General, India. Moberley, Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General), Frederick James, C.S.I., D.S.O., Director of Military Operations, India.

K.C.B. (CIVIL DIVISION): Hurst, Cecil James Barrington, C.B., K.C., Legal Adviser to the Foreign Office.

C.B. (CIVIL DIVISION): Norman, Herman Cameron, C.S.I., C.B.E., British Minister, Teheran.

K.C.S.I.: Barnes, Sir George Stapylton, K.C.B., Ordinary Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council.

C.S.I.: Howley, William John Joseph, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Madras. Maffey, John Loader, C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, Bengal. Payne, Charles Frederick, Indian Civil Service, Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, Bengal. Rieu, Jean Louis, Indian Civil Service, Bombay. Standen, Bertram Prior, C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, Commissioner, Central Provinces and Berar.

C.I.E.: Allen, Charles Turner, Cooper, Allen and Co., Cawnpore, United Provinces.

K.C.M.G.: Archer, Geoffrey Francis, C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Somaliland Protectorate.

C.M.G.: Vansittart, Robert Gilbert, M.V.O., Counsellor of Embassy in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service. Rattigan, William Frank Arthur, First Secretary in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service. Talbot, Commander Gerald, R.N.V.R., O.B.E., Naval Attaché to His Majesty's Legation at Athens. Summers, Colonel Gerald Henry, Deputy Commissioner and Officer Commanding the Troops, Somaliland Protectorate.

IMPERIAL SERVICE ORDER: Mackay, William James, Chief Collector of Customs, Cyprus.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS.

The following are among the decorations and medals awarded by the Allied Powers at various dates to the British Forces for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign: the King has given unrestricted permission in all cases to wear the decorations and medals in question:—

CONFERRED BY THE KING OF THE HELLENES.

ORDER OF THE REDEEMER.

Chevalier.

Temp. Lieut. (temp. Capt.) C. A. Maguire, R. Irish Fus.; Temp. Lieut. S. W. Simmonds, R. Lanc. R.

MEDAL FOR MILITARY MERIT.

3rd Class.

Brev. Maj. (actg. Maj.) G. S. W. Rushbridger, W. Rid. R.

CONFERRED BY THE KING OF ROUMANIA.

ORDER OF THE STAR OF ROUMANIA (WITH SWORDS).

Officer.

Bt. Lt.-Col. (temp. Lt.-Col.) W. H. Gribbon, C.M.G., C.B.E., R. Lanc. R.; Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) R. N. W. Larking, C.B.E., S. Gds. (Res. of Off.); Capt. (Hon. Maj.) C. R. E. Radclyffe, 1st Life Gds. (Res. of Off.).

Chevalier.

Lt. (temp. Capt.) E. Ainger, 3rd Hrs.; Lt. C. F. S. Chichester, 4th Hrs.; Capt. D. C. L. Fitzwilliams, C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C. (T.F.); Lt. J. Foley, R. Innis. Fus. (Spec. Res.); Lt. F. M. Luttman-Johnson, 19th Hrs. (Spec. Res.).

ORDER OF THE CROWN OF ROUMANIA (WITH SWORDS).—Chevalier. Temp. Lt. T. Friar, York. L.I.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The brief announcement of the sudden rise of the Nile at Roseires of more than two metres means for Egyptian cultivators a relief not one whit less than that felt in India when the eagerly awaited news comes of the satisfactory opening of the Monsoon. The rise has enabled the authorities to increase the discharge at Aswan to last year's volume, and this year's crop may be said to be practically assured. Thus Egypt may look forward to yet another year of prosperity.

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I have just received particulars of an important new company which has been formed in Belgrade by the heads of the leading industrial enterprises in Serbia, with the object of assisting businesses, which, as a result of the war, have lost touch with foreign manufacturers and exporters, to purchase machinery and other material necessary for the purposes of reconstruction. At present the company, whose secretary is Dr. Preditch, secretary of the Belgrade Chamber of Industry, will limit its operations to Serbia, but it is proposed eventually to extend its activities to the whole of Yugoslavia. I would suggest that British manufacturers and exporters interested in this market would be advised to send copies of their catalogues to this company (addressed to the Secretary, Industrijska Nabavljacka Zadruga, Industrijska Komara, Belgrade, Serbia), and also, if represented in Yugoslavia, to instruct their agents to enter into communication with it.

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In the first of a series of articles on "The Egyptian Cotton Position," which will be found on page 837, Professor Todd emphasises the extremely unfavourable outlook with regard to the American cotton crop. The comparative failure of this source of supply will mean, among other things, that there will be increased competition for Egyptian cotton, considerable quantities of which have been going to America during the past year. In the circumstances the outlook for Lancashire would appear unpromising, to say the least of it, and it becomes more and more evident that the most determined efforts to increase cotton cultivation within the Empire will be necessary if within a measurable space of time the British cotton industry is not to go short of supplies.

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A very notable improvement is reported in the Yugoslav exchange, which now stands at about 62 dinars to the pound sterling. As in the case of other Near Eastern countries, the high level of the Yugoslav exchange has been an unreal index of the true position. It has been high for the simple reason that an agricultural country which has been a battle-ground and in enemy occupation for several years must naturally for some time be unable to establish credits abroad by means of exports. But a country dependent on agriculture for its wealth may be looked to to make a speedy recovery given favourable conditions and good organisation, as has been the case here. Our Belgrade correspondent emphasises the extremely satisfactory crop prospects, and speaks of the probability of a "bumper" harvest. If this expectation is realised, it will mean that the dinar will advance to very much nearer parity than it is to-day, and it has already made a very notable move in that direction.

***

The importance of this development from the commercial point of view scarcely needs emphasis. The resumption of trade with Yugoslavia as with other Near Eastern countries has been seriously hampered by the adverse movements of the exchanges. With the improvement of the dinar the position is radically altered, and the way is becoming clear for the restoration of commerce. And this brings me to the point which I wish to impress on British traders. Some of them, I have only too good reason to know, have taken up the attitude that trade with certain Near Eastern countries is impossible at the present time because of the exchanges; and, therefore, they refuse to interest themselves in these markets. It is the most short-sighted policy imaginable; for, as I have explained above—I might almost add for the *n*th time—the exchanges do not represent the real position, and in due course there will be the same rapid recovery in all these cases that is now taking place in regard to the dinar. I hope that the lesson of the dinar will be taken to heart, and that we shall hear no more of counsels of needless caution so utterly out of keeping with British commercial tradition.

***

All the commercial nervousness in regard to the exchanges is not on this side, however, judging by what a correspondent tells me regarding the position in another Balkan country, whose exchange at the moment is extremely high. "The faith of the country in the improvement of the exchange," he writes, "has been absolutely pathetic. For the last two years they have been saying it will improve, and it has not. In the hope that it would they have delayed making purchases of Government stores which have been on offer during what, for want of a better term, I will call the demobilisation period, at exceedingly moderate prices—commodities such as boots and sacking, for which the need is very great. While they have been waiting, the other Balkan countries have been buying, and the chance is slipping away."

***

The position with regard to the supply of synthetic dyes for Egypt is discussed in the current issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt. Egypt's pre-war imports amounted to over 500 tons of artificial indigo and about 300 tons of aniline dyes, of which the whole of the former and two-thirds of the latter came from Germany. During the war efforts were made to promote trade in British-made dyes—efforts which were successful, despite freight and other difficulties, the place of the German commodities being taken by United Kingdom products. Our contemporary points out that it had been anticipated, that with the cessation of hostilities the opportunity would have been taken to develop this trade. "Shipments from Continental sources, however, have been arriving, and are freely sold on credit by the agents. The position gained by British products is being prejudiced as a consequence. This is not as it should be. The trade was originally a British one, and was lost by apathy at home. A severe lesson was taught us by the plodding Germans, with their painstaking and sometimes dubious methods, and it behoves us to prevent history repeating itself."

***

The revenue of the Suez Canal Company in 1919 was double that for 1918, the figures being 184,708,395 francs, as against 92,969,910 francs. Transits were much below the pre-war level, and the greatly improved results were due mainly to the increased charges, while the company made a profit on the exchanges of about 28,000,000 francs. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 191.87 francs on the ordinary shares. This is a record distribution, the previous highest having been 165 francs, which was paid for the three years preceding the war.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, May 6.

British Trade in Roumania.

As the value of the leu continues low Roumanian merchants have almost ceased to import goods from Britain, finding it impossible to pay for them in cash. On the other hand, several important contracts have been signed by the Roumanian Government with American firms, payments to be made in Government Treasury Bonds, and extending over a period of several years.

Considering the great natural wealth of Roumania in agricultural products and minerals, which should enable her to recover from the ravages of war more quickly than an industrial country could, it seems a pity that British manufacturers should lose their present opportunity of opening up a market for the agricultural and other machinery which she is obliged to import because of their unwillingness to meet her present financial situation by accepting State Treasury Bonds and allowing a reasonable credit. It is obvious that unless an opening is made and a hold secured now, it will be difficult later on for British firms to compete with Roumania's industrial neighbours, Austria and Germany. Already an ex-Austrian firm, the Ressita Steel Company, has secured the contract for the repair of the Cernavoda Bridge, an important piece of work, and other similar contracts seem to be tending in the same direction.

A contract has recently been signed by the Roumanian War Office with the Société Intercontinentale (late S. W. Hoffmann), in Bucharest, by which this company is authorised to transport goods from Pressburg, Vienna, Budapest, and other Danube ports in some twenty barges of 40 to 60 tons load, belonging to the Roumanian State, which had been removed by the enemy and are now lying up the river at ex-enemy ports. It is reported that considerable quantities of German goods are being imported in this way.

Government Requisition of Seed Corn.

With a view to ensuring a sufficient reserve of seed corn for next autumn's sowings, the Government has recently promulgated a Decree Law requisitioning for this purpose a certain proportion of the coming harvest. The calculation of the required quantities of seed corn will be made by the district officials of the Department of Agriculture, and the crops concerned are those of wheat, barley, rye, and rapeseed. Payments are to be made to the producers in two instalments, i.e., on June 1 and on delivery of the grain, through the "Casa Centrala" of the Popular Banks, and the price to be paid is 12,000 lei per wagon of 10,000 kilos for wheat weighing 74 kilos per hectolitre with 5 per cent. of alien matter; 10,000 lei per wagon for rye weighing 70 kilos per hectolitre; 9,000 lei per wagon of autumn barley; 18,000 lei per wagon of rapeseed "navette" and 20,000 lei per wagon of rapeseed "caizo."

Art. 10 of the law provides that in order to facilitate the importation of machinery utensils and materials necessary for agricultural enterprise (of which there is a great shortage in Roumania to-day) the Agrarian Committee shall be authorised to export 15,000 wagons of maize, barley, and millet from the 1919-1920 harvest. Of this the Agrarian Committee will assign 4,500 wagons for the benefit of the agricultural syndicates, 500 wagons for the vineyard syndicates, and 10,000 wagons for the Central Administration of the Village Co-operatives. The method and conditions of exportation and the kind of goods to be imported and their distribution shall be regulated by the Agrarian Committee.

Art. 11 is obviously designed to encourage the peasants to cultivate their newly acquired lands to the best of their resources, as it provides that in the distribution of machinery, etc., preference shall be given to those who have sown at least one hectare in the autumn. Art. 12 provides that if the autumn sowings attain 80 per cent. of the normal area the maximum price for 1921 will be raised to 15,000 lei per wagon of wheat with corresponding increases for the other crops.

Bucharest, May 28.

Banat Coal.

An extraordinary credit of two million lei has been granted to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, to be used for continuing the exploitation of the coal mines of Cozla and anthracite mines of Baia-Noua, both in the Banat.

The Internal Loan.

The subscription list for the Internal Loan will be closed to-day. The shares have been taken up well, and the Government is so far satisfied with the result. It is expected that the subscriptions will amount to about two milliards of lei.

Transport Agreement with Czecho-Slovakia.

An agreement has been concluded between the railway authorities of Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania to facilitate the transport of goods between the two countries. For the transport of petrol for Czecho-Slovakia to Giurgevo on the Danube (whence it will be carried up the river), the Czecho-Slovaks have put five locomotives at the disposal of the Roumanian railways along with the necessary coal and personnel. These locomotives may also be used for transport between Ploesti, Campina, and Brassov.

Further, the Czecho-Slovaks have put at the Roumanians' disposal the necessary locomotives for three trains per week between Oradea-Mare and Beregszasz on the Czecho-Slovak frontier. From Brasow to Oradea-Mare the trains will run with Roumanian locomotives. Trains coming in from Czecho-Slovakia must contain at least 40 per cent. of goods destined for Roumania. Trains are now running with through first-class carriages from Bucharest to Karlsbad, but there are no wagon-lits.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, May 20.

Improved Position.

The fine weather and warm sun, following upon the wholesome rains of a week or two ago, are having a great effect upon the countryside, and everybody predicts a bumper harvest. The financial measures undertaken by the recent Cabinet, the control of foreign currency, the prohibition of the import of luxuries and restriction of export of money are producing the desired effect, and as a consequence of the brighter outlook and general confidence in the future there is a marked and rapid improvement in the dinar; a week or two ago it was fluctuating about 150 to the £, but has recently improved to 120 and 110, and looks like improving still more. Once it rises beyond 100, the merchant community will be able to make purchases abroad, and a revival of trade may be anticipated.

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BULGARIA.

SOFIA, May 22.

Crop Conditions.

Owing to the abundant rains that have recently fallen, the crops generally are most promising except in the north-western part of Widin district, and in the Shumla, Varna, and Rustchuk districts, where there has been no rain.

Export of Grain.

The Consortium is now making arrangements for the export of the 8,000 wagons of maize which have been sold to Austria. When this is completed, further contracts for the export of grain will be concluded. Since the beginning of last week there has been a considerable rise in the value of the leva.

The Decouvile Railway Project.

The inhabitants of Tatar-Pazardjik have presented a petition asking that Tatar-Pazardjik should be made the station of the projected Decouvile Railway for the Rhodope forest instead of Soraur Bey. It is pointed out that Tatar-Pazardjik has important economic and other advantages over Soraur Bey.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, May 15.

Forest Protection.

Another striking example of the awakening of Cypriots to their own interests is afforded by the action of a group of five villages in the Limassol district, who are submitting through the Commissioner a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies protesting against the alleged excessive felling of trees in the neighbourhood of their villages. These are among the most picturesque in the island. Many of their hill-sides are well clothed with trees. The petitioners complain bitterly of the threatened destruction of a forest which constitutes the beauty of their villages, and contributes to their health.

The havoc wrought in all the Cyprus forests was one of the most lamentable features which the island presented at the time of the British occupation. District Commissioners were urged to stop by every means in their power the denudation of what remained; and a good forest ordinance was passed to supplement the existing Turkish law. But unfortunately the mischief could not be arrested in many areas, e.g., along the military road to Mt. Troodos, and in only too many other places where shady and beautiful wooded slopes were soon swept bare. Ottoman law, as practised in the island, was the cause. One of the first things the British Government had to do was to delimit the State Forests. Once these were marked out, action could be taken for offences within their boundaries. But outside the forests lie vast tracts which come under the category of land called *khali*, within which private property can be held, after cultivation, by title, and much land is so held.

Turkish titles, however, are elastic and illusory. Boundaries only are recognised, not the real extent of the holding. A man, e.g., with a title to five acres might legally claim fifty or much more. The owner can cut trees standing within the boundaries of his title; and thus innumerable trees have disappeared, and lands been laid bare. Now we find villagers protesting against Government fellings! A stranger turn of affairs could hardly be imagined. But villagers are coming to recognise more and more the value of their forests, and some members of Council, especially M. Theodotou, have in late years given praiseworthy support to a strict forest policy. Officials of old days would, indeed, hardly credit the fact that villagers, having presumably found local efforts availing, should now be actually praying the Secretary of State to intervene. Reference is made in a Greek paper to the "Draconian severity" with which Government protected the forests, as contrasted with the action taken in the instance now referred to.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to March 31, 1920 (New Style January 14 to April 13, 1920).

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper & Naxos Emery	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmae.	Drachmae.
Gross receipts, March, 1920	5,332,765	5,989,892
Do. do. 1919.....	3,309,855	5,056,405
Estimated receipts for 3 months (Law of Control)	7,225,000	2,675,000
Actual do. do. 1920	14,520,101	15,818,315
Do. do. do. 1919	10,594,341	10,407,415
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 3 months 1920	+ 7,295,101	+ 13,143,315
1919	+ 3,369,341	+ 7,732,415

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos Emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos Emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmae at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

Plans have been prepared by the Bombay Corporation for the improvement of the housing system and water supply.

Naphtha wells have been discovered near the village of Bonia-vitza, in Pakratz district, Yugoslavia.

Emigration from Malta since the Armistice has increased to an average of 350 persons a month. Of 5,600 emigrants, no fewer than 2,886 were skilled workmen.

Sanction has been given by the Government of India for the construction by the Mysore Darbar of a line of railway on the metre gauge from Nanjangud to Hardan Halli, a distance of 27½ miles.

Indian Treasury bills outstanding on March 31 amounted to Rs53,40,20,000; issued from April 1 to May 15, Rs10,97,28,000; total, Rs64,37,48,000. Discharged from April 1 to May 15, Rs10,49,50,000. Outstanding on May 15, Rs53,87,98,000.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended May 22 amounted to £6,797.

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Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON POSITION.—I.

By John A. Todd, B.L.

Since the date of the writer's previous series of articles in THE NEAR EAST* on the Egyptian cotton crop, the movement of prices of Egyptian cotton has been absolutely unprecedented. At that time the spot price of fully good fair sakel in Liverpool was about 80d. On February 17 it touched 99d., making the premium of Egyptian over American 207 per cent., and on June 2 it was back to 74d., or 160 per cent. premium. In the meantime the Egyptian premium, owing to the relatively greater fall of American, had been as high as 219 per cent. on May 4. During the same period, November futures have fluctuated between 78.75d. and 50d., and the premium over American, which was 240 per cent. in February, is now down to 110 per cent.

In Alexandria the movement has been equally erratic. In February spot reached 187 dollars per kantar, with November futures at 141.50 dollars. Since then spot has fallen to 126 dollars, according to the latest mail advices, and November has been as low as 91.25 dollars.

The following table gives the recent movements of Egyptian prices in Liverpool and Alexandria, with American prices in Liverpool for comparison.

Date.	LIVERPOOL. (pence per lb.)						Date.	ALEXANDRIA. (F.G.F. Sakel).		Premium Spot over Futures.		
	Spot.			November Futures.				Spot.	Nov. Futures			
	F.G.F. Sakel.	Fully Middling American.	Egyptian Prem. %.	Egyptian.	American.	Egyptian Prem. %.		Dollars per Kantar.		Liverpool Egyptian.	Liverpool American.	Alexandria.
1920.												
Feb. 6 ..	82·50	28·97	185	69·20	22·19	212	6	160·00	121·00	19	30	32
,, 13 ..	91·00	30·92	195	73·25	22·20	230	14	*187·00*	140·50	24	39	33
,, 17 ..	*99·00*	*32·29*	207	*78·75*	23·11	*240*	17	—	*141·50*	26	40	—
,, 20 ..	96·00	31·76	203	70·00	22·70	209	20	187·00	140·00	37	40	33
,, 27 ..	92·50	31·02	198	68·00	23·07	195	27	154·00	122·00	36	35	26
Mar. 5 ..	85·50	30·15	183	66·25	22·02	200	5	138·00	114·00	29	37	21
,, 12 ..	87·50	29·65	195	71·00	22·03	222	12	165·00	126·50	23	35	31
,, 19 ..	84·00	29·80	182	68·25	22·53	203	19	165·00	129·00	23	32	28
,, 26 ..	83·00	29·38	183	65·50	22·09	195	25	161·00	124·00	27	33	30
April 1 ..	83·00	28·76	188	68·25	22·74	200	1	160·00	123·00	22	26	30
,, 9 ..	86·00	29·03	196	70·00	23·10	203	8	162·00	132·50	23	26	22
,, 16 ..	86·50	28·66	202	72·75	23·77	206	16	162·00	138·75	19	21	17
,, 23 ..	85·50	27·18	214	73·50	23·02	219	23	—	145·00	16	18	—
,, 30 ..	84·50	27·08	212	69·25	*23·93*	190	30	154·00	132·50	22	13	16
May 4 ..	86·50	27·05	*219*	68·75	23·77	190	4	—	139·25	26	14	—
,, 7 ..	87·00	27·88	212	70·75	23·90	195	7	160·00	138·50	23	16	15
,, 14 ..	83·50	27·65	202	63·60	23·43	172	14	157·00	126·75	32	18	24
,, 21 ..	74·50	27·39	172	50·00	23·12	116	21	126·00	104·50	49	18	21
,, 31 ..	75·50	28·08	169	53·00	23·20	128	31	—	96·75	43	21	—
June 2 ..	74·00	28·45	160	49·25	23·36	110	2	—	91·25	50	22	—

The maxima are printed in italics.

It is obvious that such extreme fluctuations do not represent actual changes in the conditions of supply and demand. They have admittedly been largely the result of speculation, and it is very difficult to say how far the speculative element in the market is likely to give place in the immediate future to true economic forces. These, again, are extremely difficult to estimate.

Poor American Crop Outlook.

As before, it is necessary to base any review of the Egyptian position upon such estimates as can be formed at this stage of the season of the prospects of the coming crop in America. It is becoming every day more certain that the American crop this year is going to be a very great disappointment to those who looked for a rapid recovery of the American supply after the war. It is quite clear now that 1920 is going to be the sixth short crop in succession in America. The acreage, which everyone expected to be considerably above that of last year, in view of the high prices last winter, is now unlikely even to touch the reduced figures of last year. This is mainly due to the very serious diminution of the labour supply available in the Cotton Belt. Labour is scarce everywhere in America, and cotton is feeling the pinch probably worse than anything else, which is only to be expected in the case of a crop that requires so much intensive labour at particular periods of the year. Further, the crop has made just about the worst start on record. The weather during the winter has been so continuously wet as to interfere very seriously with preparation, and the latest reports show that there has been no cessation of this almost continuous downpour, with the result that where cotton had been planted it has not made a good "stand," the seed having simply rotted in the ground. In the earlier districts, where cotton is already up, the labour difficulty and the weather are making it impossible to keep pace with the necessary chopping (thinning out) and cultivation, so that the fields are already becoming foul with grass and weeds, and unless conditions improve very markedly forthwith there is likely to be a serious abandonment even of the reduced acreage planted. In many districts re-sowing has become necessary on a large scale, and the seed supply, owing to the loss of a large proportion of last year's crop by heating during the wet weather, is now extremely scarce and very unsatisfactory in quality. The combined result of these adverse conditions is seen in the first condition report as at May 25, which gives a percentage figure of only 62.4, against the previous lowest on record of 69.5 in 1917.

Egypt is, of course, specially interested in the progress of the staple areas in America, and there the record of the crop up to date is, if anything, worse than elsewhere. In the Mississippi Delta there has been very heavy flooding, with the result that a considerable acreage of the Delta has not yet been planted, on account of water. In the Hartsville (South Carolina) staple area, cotton is reported to be the smallest ever seen at this stage of the season, though in this district conditions otherwise are much less unfavourable than in Mississippi.

In the Western areas of Arizona and California the acreage this year is going to show a very large increase on that of last year; 200,000 acres as against 97,000, which should give a crop of at least twice as much. Unfortunately, however, the crop has made a very bad start here, too. Owing to unfavourable climatic conditions, it is said to be a full month late, and the stand very bad; and it is feared that the yield per acre will be lower than that of last year, when less than 40,000 bales was obtained.

It appears, therefore, that Egyptian cotton has very little to fear this year from American competition. It remains to consider, in a future article, the prospects of the Egyptian crop itself, and the probable effect on prices.

* The articles appeared on January 16, January 29, February 5 and February 12.

The total approximate gross earnings of the State Railways in India from April 1 to 24, amount to Rs.50.88.442 more than the figures for the corresponding period of 1919.

The directors of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company have declared an interim dividend of 15s. per cent. and a bonus of 30s. per cent. on the capital stock in respect of the first half of the year ended March 31, payable July 1, together with the guaranteed interest of £1 15s. per cent. then due, making a total distribution for the half-year of £4 per cent.

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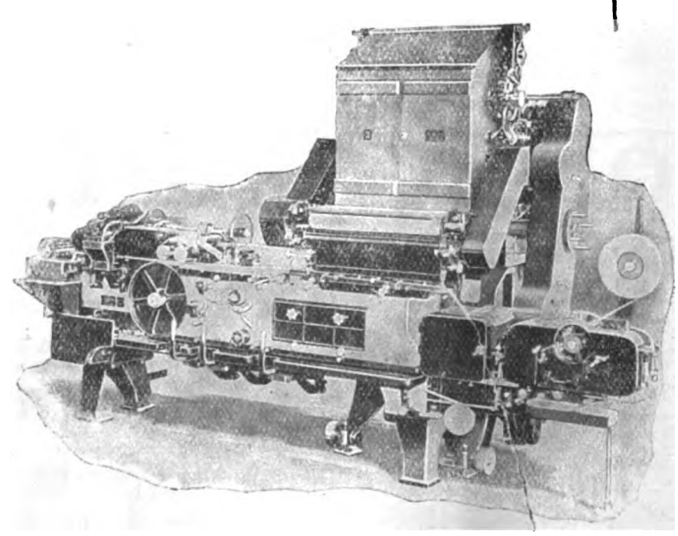

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THE OIL SUPPLIES PROBLEM.

British Empire's Resources.

Professor Sir John Cadman read a paper on "The Oil Resources of the British Empire" before the Indian and Colonial Sections of the Royal Society of Arts on June 4.

Referring to the world's resources of petroleum, Sir John pointed out that the Continent of North America produced to-day over 85 per cent of the world's output of crude oil. The United States at present produced in her own territory nearly 70 per cent. of the world's oil output, while if the quantity produced by the United States in Mexico was added the total United States control in North America was at least 80 per cent of the world's oil supply. The British Empire produced only about 2½ per cent. of the world's supply, or if Persia might be said to be under British influence about 4½ per cent. of the whole. All the newspaper chatter as to the imminence of British domination in oil was shown to be absurd when this tremendous disparity was realised.

They had depended on the United States for oil supplies in the past, and they must continue to draw largely upon her in the future and for the invaluable assistance which they had received from her in war and peace every sane-thinking person could not fail to feel profoundly grateful. It was only too true that the United States was herself consuming ever-increasing quantities of oil, and that her available exportable surplus of oil was dwindling. It had been said that the United States reserves of oil were becoming rapidly exhausted, but it was difficult to accept the very pessimistic reports which had lately been made public. Oil was not a commodity that could be easily measured, and no estimates, however conservative, could be strictly relied upon. They had seen in this country a parallel in the alarming rumours which predicted the early exhaustion of their coal supplies, and they had repeatedly seen how far from the truth the alarmist figures were.

Nevertheless, it was true that the greatest producer of oil to-day was absorbing more and more of her own supply, and it behoved them to look round to see, in the most friendly way, from where they were going to be served when the United States found it difficult to supply them, and they, too, were calling for more and more of this vital product.

It was most unfortunate that the Press of this country and the Press of the United States should at this juncture be hurling wild statements about, many of which were most misleading and inaccurate. It had been stated that Great Britain was developing an oil policy which definitely excluded the foreigner from participating and helping to develop any of the Empire's 2½ per cent. production to-day, and that she was deliberately shutting the door to foreign capitalists. To those statements which had appeared in the Press the following comments might be offered:—

1. Certain requirements as to British directorates and domicile were imposed on petroleum-producing companies in some parts of the British Empire, but there was no general ban on foreigners of the nature alleged. Even where such restrictions were in force American interests were to be found at work—*e.g.*, in Canada the Imperial Oil Company, a direct and very powerful subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company, occupied a commanding position, and in Trinidad an American company, the General Asphalt Company of Philadelphia, controlled one of the principal operating companies. While foreigners were excluded from India, there were no restrictive measures in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, or Egypt.

2. It had been suggested that it was our settled policy to prohibit the sale of British oil companies to foreign interests, and even the transfer of shares in British oil companies to aliens. Any regulations of this kind were war measures of a perfectly natural and legitimate kind, and it was quite inaccurate and misleading to refer to them as part of the permanent policy of His Majesty's Government, and as indicating a determination to exclude foreigners from participation in British oil enterprises.

Again, in regard to Persia, the suggestion that Americans were under any special disability in that country was absolutely incorrect. As the Anglo-Persian Oil Company held the concession, other British and foreign interests were naturally excluded, but there was no truth in the statement that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's rights had been in any way strengthened by the Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1918. The concession was acquired in 1901 through the individual enterprise of Mr. W. K. D'Arcy, and it was equally open to Americans or any other nationals to secure it.

As regards occupied areas, it had, as stated, been the policy of His Majesty's Government to prevent prospecting for minerals by British or foreign companies until the future administration of those territories was settled. When this had been done, rights claimed by American and other nationals would presumably be considered. The restrictions imposed had been considered essential by the Foreign Office to prevent confusion and friction.

Reviewing briefly the present position of the oil supplies of each zone within the Empire, Sir John said that as regards India practically the entire production came from Burmah and Assam, amounting at the present time to about 1,150,000 tons per annum. Production had been fairly constant at this rate for the last six years. Prospecting work had been carried out in the Punjab, and it was claimed that the existence of an oilfield has been definitely proved at Attock. In Egypt the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., had been operating for some time at Hurgada, and the annual production was at the rate of about 250,000 tons of a heavy, crude oil. Several other areas were about to be tested, both in Egypt and Sinai.

The oilfields of Persia were now well known and established, and although only some 1,500,000 tons per annum were being produced, the potential source of this area was prodigious, and a very large output might be expected. Indications of petroleum in Cyprus appeared to be confined to a dark bearing phase of the crystalline limestones, and it seemed doubtful whether oil in commercial quantities would be discovered. There were rocks of suitable age and structure in Malta, and it was probable that test drilling would be undertaken. Very little was definitely known of the prospects of Mesopotamia, although it was believed that the geological conditions were not dissimilar from those of Persia, and that an important source of products might be anticipated from this region. This interesting area was at the moment much in the public eye, and the Government was considering various claims and proposals which naturally made it inopportune to discuss the question now. Surface indications of oil had been found in Palestine, and this territory was likely to come under practical examination at an early date.

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J. E. CORNISH,
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Alexandria, Egypt, June 2, 1920.

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ENGINEERING.

Superiority of British Aeroplanes.

The San Francisco Aeronautical Show served once again to prove the great superiority of British-built aeroplanes over any others. The opening day of the show was marked by the holding of the race for the Del Monte Aero Classic. Enormous interest had been displayed in this event, and there was great speculation as to the type of machine which would most speedily cover the course of 220 miles. A Bristol two-seater tourer, fitted with a 230-240 h.p. Siddeley "Puma" engine, owned by Mr. Menzel, of California, was amongst the competitors. This machine made an excellent start, and from the early stages of the race displayed its superiority over its rivals. Proceeding without a hitch, the course was completed in 102 minutes, an average travelling speed of 129 miles per hour, and it was easily the first home. The machine had recently been acquired by the owner through the New York branch of the Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd.

A New Car.

I am informed that the Mercedes car for this year will only be supplied in one model, of 16-45 h.p. Its specification and equipment includes electric starting and lighting, Silent Knight engine, high-tension ignition, pointed radiator, double cone leather-faced clutch, four forward speeds, water-cooled foot-brake, detachable rims, two spare rims, five tyres, tools, etc.

The sterling quality of the Mercedes is proverbial. Its efficiency and durability are world renowned, while the performance of the Mercedes team in obtaining first, second, and third places in the last Grand Prix is a feat unexampled in a contest requiring vigour, vitality, and reliability under the most exacting conditions.

The concession for Great Britain and the Empire has been secured by a group of well-known Yorkshire business men. Temporary showrooms have been arranged at 21, Mercer Street, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where the sales organisation is in the hands of Mr. A B. E. Cheeseman, A.M.I.M.E., M.I.A.E., F.A.I., who is well known in the motoring world, and was at one time technical manager and engineer to the Automobile Association and Motor Union.

Tractor Trials.

The subject of tractors has always been of interest to British engineers, who were amongst the first to recognise the value of these highly efficient aids to agricultural and general progress. Reference has been made in these columns to the respective performances of various makes and types, from the Austin and Fiat to the lesser-known American productions, and the results of such tests as have been made have been recorded and checked again and again as fresh results from other trials have come in.

An Italian correspondent has just sent me some interesting particulars of some trials which were made a few weeks ago at Nagpur, in India, and as I have not seen a full record of these elsewhere, I may as well quote the exact words of Mr. R. G. Allen the Principal of the Agricultural College at Nagpur. He says:—

"The soils on which the trials were held varied between a medium black to a stiff hard-baled black cotton, and the tests were in consequence of a severe type, particularly in the case of the latter soil. For work on stiff, hard soil in India between the months of January and June it would appear that a tractor of what is termed the medium class, or even heavier class, is essential, and that during the season lighter tractors would be restricted in use to certain soil, types and depths of ploughing when using a 2-3 furrow plough. Though the lighter tractors did reasonably well on medium soil, they barely ploughed to the depth required, which was 7 in. to 8 in., and in the heavier and harder soils they failed as a class to cope with the conditions. Most agricultural tractors have a reserve power, and in these trials it was brought into use, and certainly without this reserve power none of them would have stood the strain for long. The Fiat and Lauson were in a class to themselves, and in the actual trials the Fiat showed up very well. It has a well-finished engine, and, in my opinion, was the best finished of all tractors competing.

"The Lauson has, I think, more reserve power. It took the second position because it was not so well handled, and the ploughs it was drawing were not so suited to the soil conditions, neither were they so well adjusted. It drew three furrows at a slower rate per mile as against two furrows by the Fiat at a slightly quicker speed. In the acre test it was first, but the depth and quality of its ploughing were of a poorer grade. As to suitability of each of these machines for working in India, there was very little to choose between them. So far as belt work was concerned the Fiat was, perhaps, more easily handled and more adaptable. Originally the light tractors were placed in the same class, but as a result of their inability to tackle the third test the judges decided to judge their work principally on the first and second tests. The Fordson was the best handled, and grouping tests one and two together was on the whole ploughing on slightly stiffer plots. In the first test the Austin was on distinctly lighter soil, whilst the Fordson was working on a medium black cotton. In the second test the Fordson had rather the easier plot of the two. On the results of the awards by the judges the Austin performed better than the Fordson; particularly was this apparent on belt work. The Cletrac, I consider, did not do itself justice, and I believe that on looser surfaces and wetter soils it will be found a very useful tractor, especially if provided with a low gear in order to allow of heavy plough work. It suffered from going too fast, and hence not ploughing as well as it might have done.

"It must be realised that the tractor is only a part of the outfit, and that a proper design of plough to deal with the special classes of soil is essential. The difficult soil conditions did not appear to suit the Oliver general-purposes plough, but the Oliver breaker used by the Fordson tractor was much better, whilst the two-furrow 12-in. plough pulled by the Fiat—an International—appeared to be the best suited to the soil. All the ploughs which were used were of the self-lift type. As a result of the trials the judges awarded the Fiat tractor the gold medal and 500 rupees, the Lauson the silver medal and 500 rupees, and the Austin 1,000 rupees, the latter being a special award in the light tractor class."

It is estimated that the Indian wheat crop will amount to 10,095,000 tons.

Extensive coal seams, as well as copper and iron deposits, have been discovered near Néboïan, in Yugoslavia.

The new Industrijska Banka in Spalato is contemplating an increase of its capital from two million to fifty million kronen.

The Bulgarian Direction de Prevoyance has decided to prohibit the export of building materials, copper, bronze, etc., or of old or new articles of these materials. Owing to the present shortage old copper articles are being re-melted for making household utensils.

The Department of Overseas Trade advise that as the direct parcel postage service to Samsoun has been interrupted, United Kingdom firms should address their catalogues to the British Control Officer, Samsoun, under cover to the Commercial Secretary to the British High Commissioner, Constantinople, who will have them forwarded to their destination.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.

The demand for currants of good quality has increased owing to the reduced prices. It is understood that the control will shortly be removed, but it is impossible at present to forecast the effect this may have on prices.

Sultanas are in good demand, and figs are also in fair request.

Sugar.

Home refined continues in active request at Government control rates. The free market has been much more lively, there being a strong demand for manufacturing and preserving purposes. West Indian crystallised has been done at 147s. to 154s., and American granulated and white Java have come to business at 160s.

Coffee.

The market has been rather quiet, but prices have been maintained. East Indian has been done at 147s. to 160s., and Ecuador at 138s. to 160s., while special Costa Rica has realised 157s. An inactive tendency is to be noted as regards futures. July is 108s. 6d., September 106s., December 98s. 9d., and March 99s. 6d.

Oilseeds.

Linseed has been a weak spot, Indian being on offer at 41s. 9d., while La Plata afloat has been done at 37s. 6d. Rapeseed has been quiet, with brown Cawnpore at 36s. Indian cottonseed is steady at 14s. 9d. spot and for June-July, while Egyptian has been done at 19s.

Oilcakes, etc.

Oilcakes have been a brisk feature. Linseed cake has come to business at 410s. to 415s., and soya bean cake at 410s. to 430s., while other kinds in demand have been coconut cake at 240s., cottonseed cake at 260s., and ground-nut cake at 260s. to 270s.

Oils have been quiet, and for the most part featureless. Linseed oil has been done at 91s. spot, while soya oil has come to business at 84s. Turpentine is weaker at 170s. spot, 168s. 6d. for June-August, and 152s. 3d. for July-December.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following are further extracts from the C.E.B. report for March:—

Tobacco.

Darfur Province.—A February report states that 454 kantars of tobacco were sold in El Fasher market during the month.

Dates.

Halfa Province.—A March report states: The flowering of the date trees is late this year, especially the old trees. A greater part of last year's dates sent via Dongola have now arrived in Halfa. There is a large quantity of dates now stored in Halfa for Egyptian Ramadan market.

Live Stock.

Berber Province.—378 cattle and 4,368 sheep and goats were sold in the market, the average prices being P.T.750 and P.T.166.

Darfur Province.—11 horses and 80 head of cattle have been imported from Wadai.

Red Sea Province.—111 cattle and 91 sheep were exported during the month.

Cultivation.

Halfa Province.—Reports from Mahas district show that the ful masri, tirmis and gilban crops have been harvested and are good. There were no pests except a few birds, who did not do much harm. The termis should all be in by the end of April. The sagia cattle have improved a good deal in condition. Reports from Sukkot district are also good. From Halfa district reports are not so good, and birds have done a lot of damage. The area under crop is much less than previous years.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

ALEPPO, May 14.

The crisis continues in our market owing to communications with the interior being impossible in present conditions.

The forecasts of the cereal crops are promising. It is to be hoped that the prohibition on the export of grain abroad will bring about a decrease in the price of certain food products. The yield of butter, wool, sheep skins, etc., is commencing.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended May 15:—The sales this week on our market amount to sixty-three cases at piastres 1,070 to piastres 1,100 per oke for extra selected druggists' qualities, notwithstanding, however, these piastre prices represent a drop of piastres 75 per oke from last week's figures; the sterling value has not changed owing to a heavy drop in the exchange. Above figures therefore represent fully 19s. 6d. to 21s. per lb. c.i.f. To-day's exchange is piastres 410 for cheque per £ sterling and 0.94 dols. for the Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,650 cases, against 375 at same date last year.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended May 29:—We have to report a decline of about 4d. per lb., with sales of 20 cases at 15s. 6d. to 20s. as to quality and strength. Fine manufacturing carahissar of 12 per cent. test can be done now at present exchange at 18s. 9d. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange is 432 piastres per pound sterling for cheque, and 0.89 dollars for one Turkish pound. The arrivals are 1,665 cases, against 662 at same date last year.

H.M. Consul-General at Tripoli reports that, in virtue of a proclamation which has recently been issued, export licences will not in future be granted in respect of local produce—namely, grain, oil, butter, cattle, and sheep.

According to an official statement the losses of the Greek merchant fleet during the war were 227 steamships, with a net tonnage of 301,653 tons, and 300 sailing ships with a net tonnage of 15,271 tons.

The import of motor-cars *de luxe* to Bulgaria has been prohibited.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at March 31, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500
Special Reserve	487,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	20,242,403
Mixed Tribunals	2,674,759
Egyptian Government	9,498,323
Sudan Government	121,091
Bankers' Accounts	1,162,798
Cheques and Bills payable	1,371,601
Sundry other Accounts	1,053,368
	£E40,999,343

		£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		19,322,247
Sundry Securities		342,440
Advances on Merchandise		1,985,786
Advances on Securities		1,331,922
Advances otherwise Secured		1,477,627
Sundry other Advances		1,241,372
Bills of Exchange		10,286,813
Local Bills Discounted		196,866
Buildings and Furniture		226,056
Money at call and at short notice		931,125
Bankers' Accounts		1,009,613
Sundry other Accounts		284,651
Cash:—		
Notes	£E1,917,135	
Gold	21,958	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	423,732	
		2,362,825
		£E40,999,343

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes Issued	57,800,000
	£E57,800,000

		£E.
Gold	£E3,333,190	
*British Treasury Bills	25,566,810	
		28,900,000
Securities:—		
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	436,809	
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	28,463,191	
		28,900,000
		£E57,800,000

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See *Journal Officiel*, 30th October, 1916).

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Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 25.

The Moss Line s.s. Sitra, for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 12.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople and Beyrout, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 15.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Polo, for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 12.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Destro, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 19.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Douro, for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople will close for cargo on June 26.

Olivier's Levant Line s.s. City of Smyrna, for Tangier, Oran, Algiers, Tunis, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, Odessa, Sulina, Galatz and Braila, will close for cargo about the middle of this month.

The Cunard Line s.s. Corby, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 19.

The Anchor Line s.s. Massilia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on June 11, and at Liverpool on June 22.

The Bibby Line s.s. Leicestershire, for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 23.

The Henderson Line s.s. Martaban, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on June 16.

The R.M.S.P. Co.'s s.s. Asra, for Gibraltar and Morocco, will close for cargo in London on June 16.

Notes.

There was launched on May 18, at the Weir shipyard of Messrs. Wm. Gray and Co. (1918), Ltd., for the Ellerman-Hall Line, Ltd., the fine geared turbine steamer City of Adelaide. The new vessel has been built to Lloyd's highest class, her dimensions being:—Length, 451 feet; breadth, 57 feet; and depth, moulded to upper deck, 32 feet 10 inches, her estimated deadweight carrying capacity being, approximately, 10,800 tons. The cargo appliances are of the most modern type. The two forward hatches are worked by four steam winches and six steel tubular derricks supported on tables connected to the mast, and each of these derricks is capable of lifting from 10 to 12 tons. The two after hatches are similarly worked by the same number of winches and derricks, while two Samson posts are fitted on each side of the bridge deck, each with a winch and derrick to lift seven tons for handling cargo amidships. Electric light is being installed throughout the vessel.

The trial trip took place, on June 1, of the s.s. Garmula, built by Palmers Shipbuilding and Iron Co., Ltd., at their Hebburn Yard, originally ordered by the Shipping Controller and taken over by the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. The dimensions of this vessel are: Length 400 ft. between perpendiculars, breadth, moulded, 52 ft., depth, moulded, to upper deck, 31 ft. She carries about 8,200 tons d.w. on a draught of 25 ft. 3 in. She is of the two-deck type, with poop, bridge, and forecastle. The vessel has triple-expansion engines supplied by Palmers Co., the cylinders being 27 in., 44 in., and 73 in., by 48 in stroke, steam being supplied by three single-ended boilers 15.6 diameter by 11 ft. 6 in. long, 180 lb. working pressure, Howden's forced draught, and generally has been completed to comply with the special requirements of the owners for their Eastern trade. The trial was successful in every respect, and the vessel was afterwards handed over to the B.I.S.N. Co., who were represented by Capt. W. M. Isdale.

Earle's Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd., Hull, recently launched from their yard the single-screw steamer Nagpore for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. The dimensions of the vessel are: Length between perpendiculars, 400 ft.; breadth, moulded, 52 ft.; depth, moulded, to upper deck, 31 ft. Her carrying capacity, approximately, is 8,150 tons d.w. on a draught of 25 ft. 3¼ in., and she is built to Lloyd's highest class.

New Bland Steamers.

Our Morocco correspondent writes (May 16):—

The Bland Line have purchased the ex P. and O. mail steamer Isis, of 2,000 tons and 21 knots speed, with accommodation for over 100 first-class passengers, and it is understood that this steamer will be put on the Gibraltar-Casablanca run early in June. This news is very welcome to travellers in Morocco, and the company are to be congratulated on this addition to their fleet. This firm have also bought two other steamers for cargo service with Morocco.

SHIPPING SERVICES TO MOROCCO.

A French company with headquarters in Paris has inaugurated a monthly cargo service in each direction between Casablanca and New York (says H.M. Acting Consul at Casablanca). The itinerary is New York, Casablanca, Tangier, Algiers, Tunis, Marseilles, and back to New York.

A Liverpool company has also established a service direct from Liverpool to Casablanca, and thence home via Gibraltar and Spanish ports. This service will be welcomed, as it will diminish the transhipment of Moroccan cargo at Gibraltar, a custom created by the exigencies of the war, which gave rise to much dissatisfaction in Moroccan commercial circles.

SHIPPING AT MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, May 20.

The latest arrivals have been the Dutch s.s. Agamemnon from Amsterdam, the s.s. Luciline from Cette, the s.s. Brescia from Constantinople, the s.s. Malatian from Alexandria, the s.s. Asturian from Liverpool, the s.s. Maritza from Alexandria, the P. and O. Poona, and the American s.s. Brompton from Newport. The s.s. Alster for Benisaf, H.M.S. Weymouth for sea, the Glengorm for England, the Berbice for Constantinople, H.M.S. Emperor of India, the Ajax, and Monitor H. 18 have just left.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Calcutta Electric Supply.

The report of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation for the year 1919 states that the figures have been adjusted by the auditors in accordance with their views as to the incidence of exchange, instead of being calculated at the rate of 1s. 4d. per rupee adopted in previous years. During the year 31,881,710 units of electrical energy were sold, compared with 30,431,132 units in 1918. The number of houses connected at December 31 last was 10,271, an increase of 374. The profits amount to £237,207, which with the balance brought forward and interest received on money at deposit, etc., makes £298,460. After deducting the interim dividend of 4 per cent., paid on the ordinary shares in November, 1919, dividends paid and accrued on the preference shares, £34,408 which has been placed to the credit of the depreciation and renewals account, the balance of excess profits duty in respect of 1917 and 1918, £27,724, and an estimated liability in respect of 1919 for similar duty of £34,070, also other charges, there remains an available balance of £136,893. The directors recommend that £55,000 be added to the reserve fund, £5,000 to the insurance fund and £5,000 to the retiring gratuity fund, and that a final dividend be paid on the ordinary shares for the second half-year of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year. It is further recommended that, subject to the alteration of the articles of association proposed, one fully paid preference share be issued as a bonus for each ten ordinary shares held, fractions being paid in cash at the rate determined by realisation of the shares in question.

Grand Central (Ceylon) Rubber.

The report of the Grand Central (Ceylon) Rubber Estates for 1919 states that the profit amounted to £244,305, from which £7,678 has been written off for depreciation of buildings and machinery, £1,450 for depreciation of War Loan and Funding Loan, and £6,066 has been added to coast advances reserve, leaving £229,111, plus amount brought forward, £68,740, making available £297,851. The directors recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, leaving to be carried forward £114,101, subject to excess profits duty for the year.

ANCHOR LINE
FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.
LIVERPOOL to BOMBAY.
KARACHI (via Bombay) calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.
LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
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CULTIVATION OF FLAX IN MOROCCO.

Experiments in flax growing which were commenced in the Casablanca district in 1918 proved so encouraging that in 1919 the firm (French) conducting the operations inaugurated a flax-growing farm some forty kilometres south of the port and erected a flax-spinning mill thirteen kilometres from the town (says a British Consular report). At the same time they gave out seed to farmers who were ready to grow flax, making contracts for the purchase of the crops. The results in 1919 again proved encouraging, and it would now appear as if the flax-spinning industry has come to stay. The straw produces 10 per cent. of flax, and the quality of the flax is reported to be on a level with the Russian article.

DYEING INDUSTRY AT FEZ.

At Fez, one of the principal centres of the dyeing industry in Morocco, the colours produced are made chiefly from aniline dyes, which before the war were imported mainly from Germany, but which are at present obtained from a French firm at St. Denis, Paris (says H.M. Acting Consul at Fez). The only other dyes used are cochineal, indigo, madder, and pounded pomegranate peel, which last gives a yellow dye. The colours most used are a deep magenta, deep emerald, bright yellow, orange, and red. Other colours are obtained by mixing these in different proportions. Black is obtained from a mixture of sulphate of iron and crushed pomegranate skins.

Silk and wool are dyed in the same way, but silk requires to be left for a somewhat longer period in the dyeing solution, as wool holds the dye more easily. Leather is also dyed. Silk is imported into this country in hanks, which before being dyed are plunged into a cauldron of boiling soap and water. After being washed, the silk is hung up in the sun to dry. The dyes, which are in the form of crystals or powders, are mixed with water at or near boiling point in small wooden tubs. In some cases lemons or oranges are added. The liquid is then kept at a moderate temperature until it ferments. After being dyed, the silk or wool is dried in the sun.

The dyers belong to a guild, at the head of which is an *amin*, who is an expert in the industry. There are some twenty dyers' shops in Fez, each of which employs three or four persons. The wool used in the manufacture of carpets in Fez under French supervision is all dyed at Casablanca by French chemists.

YUGOSLAV EXPORTS.

H.M. Minister at Belgrade reports the issue of a Decree of the Council of Ministers, laying down new regulations affecting the exportation of goods from the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Under this Decree goods are divided into two categories. The first category consists of eighteen classes of articles of prime necessity, and the export of these is prohibited except in a case of duly declared surplus over the needs of the country. The exportation of such surplus will be confined to the Central Society for Provision and Export, in which the State is to participate to the extent of one-half the shares, and all the members of which are to be nationals of the Kingdom. The second category consists of all other goods, and the exportation of such goods will be permitted to anyone under the conditions of sale for sound currency and the payment of the relevant export tax (which conditions also apply to the export of goods in the first category).

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Textile Factory for Woollen Cloths
(Founded 1888).
Branch
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Telegraphic Address: "Stephanovi, Sofia."

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.
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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The tone of the market has continued irregular, and business has not shown any particular development. In some respects the outlook for producers is not quite so cheerless as a week or two ago, and many people who have anticipated lower values are not disposed to back their views so strongly. It is realised that whatever happens later on the American crop for next season will be comparatively small. There has been some improvement in the demand for Egyptian cotton, chiefly for the Continent. Prices have been rather steadier, but the growth is reported to be doing very well, and there are fears of a further fall in values. A very restricted business has transpired in Egyptian yarns for home use and export. Weak sellers are increasing in number. Now and again producers accept very low offers. Quite a distinct change has come over this section of the market since the beginning of the year. No increased activity can be recorded in piece goods for Egypt and the Near East. It is possible, however, that larger clearances will be effected if arrangements are made for the opening out of business in Russia. Some manufacturers are still being asked by shippers to delay deliveries. An improved inquiry has been met with in cloth for India, but very little fresh business has been booked, the rates quoted being out of the reach of dealers on the other side.

If the Monsoon rains develop on right lines, it is reasonable to expect freer operations before very long. Practically nothing has been done for China. Buyers for South America have been cautious. Home trade buyers have been inclined to adopt a waiting policy. More cases are being mentioned of manufacturers wanting to deliver goods before contract time. American yarns have been in slightly improved request, but trade generally has been slack. Export numbers for most outlets have been inactive.

ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Our market in Egyptian securities has been an improving one this week, and Egypt, besides continuing to purchase Government stocks, has been sending over buying orders for various other descriptions, with the result that we have to record a general improvement in prices practically all along the line.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unified close half a point up at 69, and the 3½ per cent. Pref. have advanced 1¼ points to 57⅞. Turkish Unified are slightly easier at 34½. Greek Government bonds have been in request, and here also there has been a general advance more or less in quotations. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are three points up at 53, the 1890 issue has advanced two points to 55, the 4 per cent. Rentes and Funding have gone up half a point at 38½ and 49 respectively, and the 1902 and 1914 Loans are both one point up at 43 and 51.

In Bank shares Nationals have been in persistent demand and are closing ⅝ higher at 19⅞, whilst Agriculturals have put on a quarter at 4 7-16. Bank of Athens shares are 1-16th easier at 3 3-16, Imperial Ottoman Banks have gone back ¼ to 9½, whilst Land Bank of Egypt are a similar fraction higher at 5½.

In Railways, Delta Light have improved ⅛ to 5⅞, and Piræus Athens 3 per cent. bonds are down one point to 49; but the market is a nominal one.

In Land shares Aboukirs are 1s. 6d. up at 35s. 6d., Béhéras have put on 1½ points at 17, Consolidated are fractionally firmer at 2s. 9d., Delta Lands have jumped up 1s. 3d. to 15s., and Gharbieh Land are ¼ higher at 3⅞. Foreign Trusts have been exceptionally dull and close 1s. down at 13s. 6d. New Egyptians have been in good demand, and are closing a further 1s. up at 36s. Sidi Salem are 3-16 higher at 2 3-16, Sudan Plantations have jumped ⅜ to 4⅜, and Union Foncière are about ¼ up at 4⅞ x.d.

Among the Oils, Anglo-Egyptian B close at 3 1-16, Roumanians at 17s. 6d., and Traians at 8s.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

Egypt.

(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)

Steel Angles.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of mild steel angles, tees, flats, wrought-iron bars, etc., c.i.f. Port Sudan. June 26.

Filing Cards.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 374,000 filing cards. July 1.

Wrapping Paper.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 750 reams thick wrapping paper. July 8.

Iron Safes.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 180 iron safes. July 12.

Rails.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya) invites tenders for the supply of cut rails in accordance with specification and conditions available at Survey Offices, Giza. Contractors are invited to put in their offers for any quantity available for immediate delivery or for delivery during the current financial year. Tenders should show quantity, weight per yard run, rate per ton of 1,000 kilos, period required for delivery, place of delivery, and any other details necessary. March 1, 1921.

The Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invite tenders for the laying of 10 kilometres of railway track, together with fifty steel double-tip wagons. The latest date for receipt of tenders is June 15. (Particulars may be seen at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) (L.)

Greece.

Greece: Ministry of Communications.—Supply of telegraphic materials. (Particulars may be seen at Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) June 20.

Morocco.

Morocco.—His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rabat has forwarded a copy of the specification and general conditions of contract for the supply of 25,000 oak sleepers or other timber of a similar nature to the Service des Chemins de Fer of the French Protectorate. The latest date for receipt of tenders is July 1. Copy of the specification and general conditions, which are in French, may be inspected upon application at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The numbers of 467 Egyptian Government 4 per cent. Irrigation Trust certificates which have been drawn for redemption on July 1 are announced by the Bank of England.

Obligation holders in the Constantinople Telephone Co. who have not already done so are requested to lodge their bonds at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2, in accordance with the scheme of arrangement now in force.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended May 10 amounted to £E11,989, and the total from the commencement of the year amounts to £E46,812. For the corresponding period of 1919 the receipts amounted to £E1,584.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, for the week ended May 19 are:—Cattle markets, £945; general markets, £645; total, £1,590; total for year, £38,512. For the corresponding period of 1919 there were no receipts owing to local disturbances.

The directors of the Indian and General Investment Trust recommend final dividends on the preferred stock at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year to April 30, and on the deferred stock at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for the half-year to April 30, making 10 per cent. for the year.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Hurgada production for week ended May 30, 2,545 tons (last week, 2,407 tons).

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price May 31.	Price June 8.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	36	37
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	27	27
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	62½	62½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	68½	69
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	56½	57⅜
Greek 5%, 1881	50	53
Do. 5%, 1884	50	53
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	38	38½
Do. 5% 1890	53	55
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	48½	49
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	42	43
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	38	38
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	50	51
Do. 5% Currant	91	91
Montenegro 5% Loan	68	68½
Persia 5% 1911	65	64½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	30	30
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	60½	60½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	54½	54½
Do. 4% Unified	35	34½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅞	4 7/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅜
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	63	63
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	65	65
Bank of Abyssinia	32/6	32/6
Bank of Athens	65/-	63/9
Bank of British West Africa	5⅜	5⅞
Bank of Roumania	5 5/16	5 5/16
British Trade Corporation	9	8⅞
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅜	9⅛
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	5⅜	5⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
London County and Westminster	14 13/16	14 13/16
National Bank of Egypt	19¼	19⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	5¾	5⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	7	7
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	12	12
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	32	32
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	24	27
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	55⅜
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	65	65
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	49
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	34/-	35/6
Do. 6% Debs	140½	140½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	75/-	75/-
Béhéra Co.	15½	17
Do. Pref.	3⅜	3⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	1½	1½
Egyptian Consol 5/-	2/7½	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/9xd	15/-
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/6	13/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	3½	3⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	29/-	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	84½	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6¼	6¼
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	35/-	36/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	4	4⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	5	4⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp.	12/6	13/9
Alexandria Water Co.	8⅞	10
Associated Cotton Ginners	25/-	27/6
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	1 1/16 xd	22/6
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	3.6	50/-
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	96⅜	96⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5 5/16	5 5/16
Do. Do. Prefs.	3½	3½
Levant Co. (fully paid)	18/-	17/6
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	18/6	18/6
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99	97
Chinese 4½% 1898	58⅛	57
Do. 5% 1896	74⅜	74½
Argentine 5% 1890	72	73⅜
Do. 5% 1907	83½	83⅜
OIL.		
Algerian	2/9½	3/3
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	3 0	60/7½
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/3	22/4½
Do. 5% Debs.	82½	83
Anglo-Roumanian	6/9	6/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/4½	4/4½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	14/-	14/-
Roumanian	18/9	17/6
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	5/6	5/6
Traian (Roumanian)	8/-	10/6

Tramways Algérien.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Paris on June 14.

Banque de l'Etat du Maroc.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Paris on June 14.

Salonika-Constantinople Railway.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Paris on June 14.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

(Continued.)

BRUSSELS BOURSE.	Price May 24.	Price June 6.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs.	440	373·75
Do. do. Priv.	560	565
Do. do. Cap.	401·25	388
Do. do. Div.	340	279·25
Anglo-Belgian Co.	37·50	36·25
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	238·75	215·25
Do. do. Div.	327·50	320
Caisse Hypothécaire Act	489	489
Do. do. (10 eme p.b.)	75·25	72·875
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs.	335·50	350
Do. do. Priv.	514·75	481·25
Do. do. Div.	175	181
Compagnie Immobiliére Deb.	380	370
Do. do. Cap.	180	175
Do. do. Fond.	255	235
Enterprise and Development Cap.	250	242·50
Do. do. Div.	175	127·50
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv.	—	—
Do. do. Ord.	497·50	497·50
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	212·50	212·50
Do. do. Div.	195	195
Salonika-Constantinople Railway	280	280
Salonika-Monastir Railway	200	150
Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894	290	150
Do. do. 4%, 1895	190	150
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv.	105	115
Do. do. Div.	185	185
Tramways du Caire Priv.	457·50	452·50
Do. do. Jouiss	691·25	691 25
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	272·50	260
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div.	40	40

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	May 25.	June 8.
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	59	58½
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	60	59

* Redeemable.

CORPORATION STOCKS.		
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	83½	83½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	70	69½
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	67½	66¼
BANKS.		
Chartered of India	73	73½
Eastern	7½	6⅜
Mercantile of India A	26	25
National of India	53⅛	51½
MINES.		
Balaghat Gold Mining	7/6	8/9
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	13/4½	11/3
Burma Corp.	9⅛	9
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	5/3	21
Champion Reef Gold	3/1½	3/0⅜
Mysore Gold Mining	15/-	17/3
Nundydroog	13/-	13/-
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	15/-	14/4½
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	21/10½	21/6
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.		
Assam Oil	28/9	35/7½
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	36/3	35/3
Brit. Burmah	98⅜	95½
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	15¼	17
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	18/9	18/9
Do. 5% Cum. 2nd Pref.	9⅛	9 1/16
RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	55	55½
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	131	130
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	48½	49
Bengal-Nagpur	112⅝	111½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	100⅝	102¼
Burma Railways	105	104
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	12	12
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	11⅜	11⅜
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	11⅞	11¾
Madras and S. Mahratta	112½	112¾
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	121	121
Nizam's Guaranteed State	72	72½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	56/3	51/4½
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	20/3	19/6
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	76½	75
Do. Deferred	460	445½
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	60	60
Bengal United Tea Ord.	15⅞	15⅞
British Indian Tea Ord.	7⅞	7⅞
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	15	15
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	10/3	10/6
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	56/-	52/6
Consolidated Estates	36/3	38/6
Darjeeling Co.	19/10½	21/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	60/-	38/9
Dooars Tea Ord.	50/-	49/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	18/3	18/3
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	63/1½	28/9
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	30/9	30/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.	22/6	22/6
Jhanzie Tea Association	9½	9
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	19⅝	19
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	14/9	15/4½
Lanka Plantations Ord.	22/-	22/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	21/3	21/3
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	36/10½	38/9
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	12⅝	12½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	32/3	32/6

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	May 1. Rs.	May 8. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	59⅛	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	303	303
Bank of Bengal	1690	1750
Bank of Bombay	2200	2200
Bank of Madras	1600	1600
Bank of India	135	135
Tata Industrial Bank	60	52
COAL.		
Baraboni	14ex	14½ex
Bengal	796	804
Burrakur	49⅛	48½
East Indian	38⅜	38½
Equitable	44⅝	46½
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	68	68
Standard	73½	77
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	600	600
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	3890	3740
Bowreah	1275	1400
Buckingham	2500	2500
Carnatic	1000	1000
Cawnpore	195ex	195ex
Century	1360	1320
Central India	5475	5460
	2737½	2730
Elgin	175	175
Gold Mohur	400	400
	200	200
Khatau Makanji	850ex	850ex
Muir	350	350
New Ring	1100	1211½
Phœnix	1307½	1225ex
Svadeshi	5060	5760
JUTE.		
Alliance	725	695
Barnagore	182	182
Budge Budge	671	650
Clive	352	340
Dalhousie	580	580
Delta	670	690
Fort Gloster	1130	1130
Gourepore	1500	1300
Howrah	50½	44⅝
Kamarhatty	960	948
Kanknarrah	764	754
Khardah	640	630
Kinnison	1327	1335
National	430	430
Standard	763	760
Union	970	970
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	102	103
Bengal Timber Trading	865	865
Burn and Co.	300	300
Carew and Co.	96	96
Cawnpore Sugar	403	405
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	400	400
Howrah Oil Mills	38	39½
India General Steam	126½	130
Indian Iron and Steel	140	140
	103	97
Marshall Sons and Co.	123	102ex
Titaghur Paper	420	419½

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Anglo-American Nile Steam	£4½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£1½
Banque d'Orient	Fr. 84ex.
Béhéra Ord.	L.E. 15½
" Priv.	£3½
Bonded Stores	£20½
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Fr. 265
Building Lands of Egypt	£⅛
Cairo Heliopolis Railway	£11⅝
Cassa di Sconto	Fr. 92
" " Priv.	Fr 117
Ciments d'Egypte Priv.	Fr. 70
" " Div.	Fr. 32
Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte	£1⅛
Consolidated Land	P.T. 13
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 613
" Fondateur	8000
" 1886 Oblig.	350
" 1903 "	258½
" 1911 "	260
Crown Brewery Priv.	Fr. 425
" " Div.	Fr. 400
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fr. 96
" " Jouissance	Fr. 116
Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord.	29/-
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£6
Filature Nationale d'Egypte	£2⅝
Frig. orifique d'Egypte	L.E. 2⅜
Gabbari Lands	L.E. ¼
Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des.	£6½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	108/-
" " " Ord.	£3½
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" " Fondateur	£81
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CITY OF KARACHI	5,675	July 20	Calcutta
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No. 476.—Vol. XVII. Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.] THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1920. (Annual Subscription, By post, £1 7s. 6d. (Home) and £1 10s. 0d. (Abroad).) Price 6d. Postage, ½d. Foreign, 1½d

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(See Page 860.)

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 476.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Albanian question has entered on a new phase within the past week. The Shkipetars are a fine people, with many virtues; but among those virtues patience was never reckoned the foremost; and it is perhaps rather surprising that they should have held themselves in so long in face of provocation offered and of temptations to which they have been exposed. They have pleaded hard for a hearing by the Peace Council, and, being a simple folk in matters political and diplomatic, they have probably continued to believe that in view of all the professions of respect for nationalities they would certainly secure justice in the long run. The belief has, however, been strained severely by recent developments; and though, on the authority of a statement by Mr. Cecil Harmsworth in the House of Commons, we are able to say that "the Supreme Council will continue their efforts to secure the proper settlement of the Albanian question," the Albanians, or a considerable section of them, have apparently decided to act on their own behalf. The principle which guides them is quite clear: they are determined that Albania shall be for the Albanians, and they are prepared to fight anybody, Greek, Serbian, or Italian, who wishes to annex Albanian territory.

The Italian attitude towards Albania was described in the article which the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., contributed to THE NEAR EAST last week, and it need not be dealt with here. In fairness to the Italian people, however, it may be remarked that many of them disapprove of this official attitude. The Albanians, who dislike it intensely, last week rose against the "invaders," drove them out of several positions, and, according to one account, appear to have pressed their initial advantage so strongly that the Italians had to withdraw their troops from Valona, and to hand over the defence of that port to their navy. The latter report is probably untrue, but it appears to be a fact that the Albanians, who are reported to be well provided with light guns and ammunition, have got decidedly the best of the encounter so far. Italy, with plenty of other pre-occupations, may feel disposed to regret her Albanian adventure; but while it may be impossible to sympathise with her in this matter, it is necessary to bear in mind that those who countenanced her in the adventure must share with her any disgrace attaching to it.

Last Saturday Mr. Herbert Samuel was appointed High Commissioner for Palestine, and was at the same time knighted by the King. He has made a statement to the Press regarding the general principles which he will follow in administering the country. The fulfilment of most of the promises therein given should undoubtedly make for the welfare and prosperity of the land and its inhabitants, and if trouble comes it will be due to causes too deep-seated to be got rid of by any mere surface treatment. It would be unfair to expect the new High Commissioner to make any pronouncement on these very delicate questions before he has studied them on the spot; and, indeed, even after study on the spot, promises will avail nothing. The troubles will have to be treated firmly and with extraordinary tact. And it will be by his handling of them that Sir Herbert Samuel —and Great Britain's exercise of her mandatory powers —will be judged.

In the House of Lords last Thursday, Lord Sydenham asked for information about Montenegro, the position of Montenegrins abroad who might wish to return to their country, and the relations between Serbs and Montenegrins. He also moved: "That it is necessary that the Serbian troops should be withdrawn in order that a free vote of the Montenegrin people as to their future form of government may be obtained." Lord Curzon, who replied, refused to take a gloomy view of the case, and went near to suggesting that if Montenegro was in fact in an unsettled state, her people rather liked it. In a country where conditions were as unstable as in Montenegro, he remarked, the number of ex-Ministers bore a considerable ratio to the entire population, and it was useless to expect the spirit of tolerance prevailing in more advanced communities. But it would be unfair to describe local disorders as a state of war between two peoples. Unfortunately, his lordship had to admit that as Great Britain has no representative in Montenegro, reports and details do not come direct to the Foreign Office; but he could not agree that the situation was growing worse. On the contrary, he was of opinion that the position was perceptively ameliorated.

One of the details that had evidently not found its way to the Foreign Office was information whether ex-Ministers and members of the late Montenegrin Parliament were still detained in their own country by the Serbians; for Lord Curzon could give no specific information on this head. As to the presence of Serbian troops, however, his statement was reassuring to a certain extent, for he declared that his information went to show that the forces in Montenegro were "chiefly Montenegrins in agreement with the population among whom they were." But by far the most satisfactory point in his speech was the definite statement that what the British Government wished to secure was that when

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the Constituent Assembly was summoned, Montenegrins should have free votes to decide their own issues. It also desired to see free elections in the country; and if it were suggested that the presence of Allied officers would result in the elections being free, Lord Curzon added, he would be ready to make such a proposal. If these things be secured, there would be no further ground for the uneasiness that has undoubtedly existed lest the future of the little country should be decided in some hole-and-corner fashion; and if Montenegro freely decided to throw in its lot with Yugoslavia, it would be a poor friend indeed who sought to hold her back. King Nicholas, unless our memory plays us false, has indicated that he personally is willing to become a loyal Yugoslav. We may, therefore, join Lord Curzon in hoping that by a mutual display of goodwill it will be possible to secure a solution representing the dominant feeling of the Montenegrin people.

Telegrams received from Egypt last week announced that the two men who attempted the assassination of Shafik Pasha had been sentenced to death, but added that the sentence had been commuted to hard labour for life. Three days after the announcement of this leniency came news of yet another outrage of a similar character, a bomb having been thrown at Tewfik Nessim Pasha, the Prime Minister, by a young Egyptian, who is said to be an employee of the Health Department. The attempt bears a striking resemblance to those others which have been made upon Ministers so frequently of late, and it is impossible to avoid the suspicion that it must have been inspired and directed from the same centre. Two points to note in this instance are: the youthfulness of the assailant, who is said to be only eighteen, and the powerful character of the bomb used. The chauffeur and several passers-by were injured by the explosion, and the car was riddled by missiles, but fortunately the Prime Minister was unharmed. It is much to be regretted that leading Egyptians of all shades of opinion do not unite in publicly denouncing these methods of terrorism.

The Shammar Arabs, one of the two great tribes who move northward into Mesopotamia in the season—the other being the Anazeh—are a force to reckon with in that region, as anyone who has seen one of their far-stretching camps, or come across them on the move from one camping-ground to another, will readily agree. For many years under Turkish rule they enjoyed a certain amount of official favour, and their sheikhs were often ready to co-operate with the Vali of Baghdad if called upon to do so. In the war, it seems, they showed more loyalty to the Turkish cause than many of their brethren, and it is possible that some of that loyalty still survives. More probably since the occupation of Mesopotamia they have found some of their privileges curtailed and much of their importance vanished. At any rate, they have been restive, and it is now announced that a band of some 300 of them on June 3 attacked Tel Afar, forty miles west of Mosul, sacked the Government offices, and killed all the Government officials. Three officers and a private thus lost their lives, and the following day the crews of two armoured cars that visited the place met a similar fate. From the disjointed reports available, it appears that there has also been fighting at other points, notably at Hammam Ali (below Mosul, on the Tigris) and in the neighbourhood of Kalat Sherghat. At the former place the Arab losses are estimated at 100; and a punitive force is reported to have reached Tel Afar.

The situation in Persia is discussed in our leading article. The Persian appeal that the League of Nations should intervene in regard to the Bolshevist invasion of Persian territory was considered at a meeting of the Council of the League held at St. James's Palace on Monday. The proceedings were private, but it is understood that after the Persian Foreign Minister had placed his country's case before the Council, it was found that the representatives held somewhat divergent views, and that it became necessary to arrange for special meetings between some of them. The result of this meeting, it was announced, would be made known at a public meeting of the League to be held on Wednesday.

The Amritsar business is apparently destined to drag on for some time, for the Commons debate, originally fixed for last week, has been postponed indefinitely, while the Lords have not yet been able to select the day for what is likely to be the more important discussion of the two. The delay is, of course, justified by the fact that General Dyer has been permitted to present a written statement to the Army Council; not even the most extreme partisan would suggest that sufficient time should not be allowed for the preparation of such a document, and Ministers must obviously consider it before they can decide on their attitude towards the criticisms they will have to face from both sides. It is clearly unfair, therefore, to suggest, as has been done in some quarters, that Mr. Montagu is deliberately evading the issue; probably he is as anxious as anyone else to get the whole thing out of the way, but in any case the postponement of the debate cannot be laid to his account.

A nice constitutional point was raised in the course of the conversation on this topic in the House of Lords, the Earl of Midleton asking for an assurance that no vital decision would be taken before the debate; while Lord Curzon, speaking for the Government, insisted that it would be not only undesirable, but unfair, to have a discussion while the case was still undecided. This dictum may perhaps suggest to some readers the leading case of the King's Messenger: "He's in prison now, being punished, and the trial doesn't even begin till next Wednesday"; but from the strictly constitutional standpoint Lord Curzon is doubtless correct. The Government must decide, and if Parliament dislikes the decision, it can turn the Government out. The fact that there is no risk of the Government being turned out on a particular issue does not affect the case, but it may serve as a reminder of the magnitude of the responsibility which falls upon Ministers even in the most democratic country in the world.

The University of Cambridge is certainly to be congratulated on the choice of Lord Meston to deliver the annual Rede Lecture, and his discourse on "India at the Crossways" was worthy of the occasion and the lecturer. It has, however, been very badly reported in the daily Press, and we have not the space necessary for an adequate summary of his compact and closely reasoned pronouncement, so that we can only advise our readers to wait for its publication and obtain copies for themselves. An idea of its quality can perhaps be formed from his happy illustration of the hard fact that democracy has come to India in a hurry; six centuries elapsed between Runnymede and the first Reform Bill, but in India, as he said, the same amount of ground has been covered in about fifty years. For the "unchanging East" that is tolerably quick work, and there is always some risk when an elephant gets into a hurry; but risk and disaster are very different things, and the lesson suggested by his comparison is not the desirability of a sudden halt, but the need of wise and far-seeing guidance from above.

An illustration of the rate at which matters move in India nowadays may be found in the present perplexities of the great landholders. A few months ago they seemed to be quietly confident of their ability to control their tenants' votes; they are now getting distinctly anxious on this score, and there is increasing doubt regarding the strength of their position in the new provincial legislatures. Political organisers are, of course, at work among the tenants who will shortly be enfranchised, and they are finding that in India, as elsewhere, peasants prefer economics to politics; the offer of such boons as compulsory education leaves them cold, but suggestions regarding rents and tenures at once incite their interest, so it is possible that, even in this year's elections, the agrarian question will take a prominent place, and it is quite certain to become more and more prominent as time goes on. That means that the power of the landholders is already doomed, though it may be impossible to predict the date of its demise.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

Levy on War Profits.

On Tuesday last the Government definitely turned down the proposed levy on war profits, and the profiteers slept soundly in their beds for the first time for weeks. Mr. Chamberlain spoke well, but rather in the manner of a man who was convinced against his will; and undoubtedly a levy on war profits would have simplified his next Budget. As things are, it leaves him with the extremely serious problem of the floating debt as a permanent menace; and he cannot fail to recognise that a continuance of the Excess Profits Duty cannot be relied on indefinitely, for the simple reason that if we once encounter a period of bad trade, excess profits will vanish altogether.

Fortunately we need not anticipate lean years for the present. The City is apprehensive—it always is—but the last trade figures have broken all records, both for import and export, and Mr. Kahn, the American banker, who has just gone back to the United States, has told his countrymen that the trade future of England is assured. It is quite true that business men have noticed a slackening off of the demand in certain branches of home commerce, more particularly in clothes and food, during the last few weeks, and this has led to a certain amount of shaking-out of stocks and a slight tendency to falling prices in a few classes of goods, but on the whole demand continues steady, and the general trend of prices is still upward.

While the demand for houses continues, indeed, prices cannot fall, and that particular trade must continue active for years, for factories as well as houses are wanted in many parts of the country. The demand for higher wages still continues; there is trouble among the provincial printers this week, and the coffin-makers have secured another advance. Those who complain of the high cost of living will not even be able to console themselves with the reflection that it is cheaper to die in future.

Dear Sugar.

Young England has a grievance, for the price of sugar is up again, and will apparently increase still further. The trouble is that Central Europe is not growing sugar-beet, the Americans are eating more sugar than ever (owing to prohibition), and the Cuban planters are taking advantage of the occasion to profiteer. It is useless to complain; we brought our trouble on ourselves by our Free Trade and bounty-fed sugar policy before the war, and the sins of the fathers are visited on the children, who promptly retaliate on their parents by asking for more pocket-money on the unassailable ground that "you say yourself that everything is so dear nowadays."

Foreign Policy.

The Government's foreign policy, especially in regard to France, is causing a good deal of apprehension. There is a certain amount of strain between the two Governments, and its effect has not been lessened by some rather hasty journalistic writing on both sides of the Channel. It is felt that Mr. Lloyd George or Lord Curzon might with advantage make a statement in Parliament; for while one recognises that the Governments cannot always see precisely eye to eye on every question, the last thing that anybody wants is for the long and tried friendship between the two countries to be affected.

More particularly is this the case in view of the results of the German elections, which have undoubtedly rendered the position of the existing Government at Berlin a very difficult one, and strengthened the extremists and reactionaries there. The corner-stone of our foreign policy is, and must remain, friendship with France.

Oxford in Lincolnshire?

An extraordinary rumour, which it is not necessary to believe implicitly, has been spread about by one of the University correspondents. There have been some rather serious town-and-gown squabbles at Oxford recently, and in consequence it has been suggested that the authorities have been considering the removal of the University. It has even been hinted that they have pitched upon Stamford, an obscure town in Lincolnshire, as a likely spot to pitch their tent. Fortunately there is no thought of Cambridge migrating to Wigan.

The New Bishops.

Whatever may be the troubles of Oxford at home, she at least seems able to secure preferment for her sons. Of the four new Bishops whose appointment is announced, not one comes from Cambridge or even Dublin; yet Cambridge rather prides itself on its divinity, which is mainly of the Broad Church variety. Only one of the four Bishops is well known to the general public, and that is Dr. Hensley Henson, who is translated from Hereford to Durham, where he was Dean until two years ago. He has now received preferment successively from Lord Salisbury, Mr. Asquith, and Mr. Lloyd George—a notable record for a man still under sixty. Durham is, of course, one of the few great prizes of the Church, and the new Bishop is very popular in the diocese. His plain-spokenness, which has not always been relished by his fellow-Bishops, is appreciated in the North Country.

County Cricket.

This year's cricket is on a distinctly higher level than that of last season, and by 1921 we shall be approaching the pre-war standard of play. At the moment the chances of the championship seem to be equally divided between Yorkshire and Kent, for neither county has yet been defeated, and both teams are easily superior to the rest of the competitors. It is not so much that they have any outstanding players, so far as one can see, but they seem to have a higher general level, and both pay great attention to keenness in the field. Many a county with admirable batting and first-rate bowling has lost the championship in the past because it has forgotten that fielding is at least as important as the more showy parts of the game, and in this respect history seems to be repeating itself.

Another New Port.

The idea has been mooted of developing Langstone Harbour, which lies between Portsmouth and Chichester, into a first-class port. Langstone Harbour is said to be practically the same size as Portsmouth Harbour, with a large area of mud flats adjacent, and the scheme is understood to present no particular engineering difficulties.

All the way along this coast are opportunities for shipping development, for the land is broken in many places. It was in this neighbourhood that the Romans made one of their first centres, building Chichester as a fortress guarding the end of Stane Street, which runs direct to London through Billingshurst, and eventually through Tooting and the Kennington Road and Newington Butts. There is a harbour at Chichester, which has been the site of a cathedral since the original church at Selsey was washed away by the sea; but the harbour, as befits a cathedral city, is a sleepy place, and the haunt of wild birds rather than ships, while Chichester itself has no trade. But a hundred years ago there used to be a great deal of smuggling in those waters.

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The Week's Book.

Undoubtedly the book of the week is the conclusion of the "Life of Disraeli," the fifth and sixth volumes of which have been completed by Mr. G. E. Buckle, late Editor of *The Times*, and are published to-day. The work is very full and frank, and contains both the intimate letters and the official correspondence of Disraeli and Queen Victoria. It will be particularly interesting to readers of this paper, since it throws a flood of light on Russian and British policy towards Turkey between 1874 and 1880, and deals at length with the acquisition of Cyprus.

It is noteworthy that Queen Victoria, whose letters to her Prime Minister are extremely outspoken, had no great opinion of the Christians of the Near East, and it is clear that their main supporters in England were the High Church party, headed by Liddon. Neither the Queen nor Disraeli, as belonging to the extreme Low Church wing, had any sympathy with the attempts of the High Churchmen to come to an understanding with the Orthodox Church, and Disraeli had other reasons for disliking the Ritualists and High Churchmen. In fact, he writes to Lord Salisbury in 1875: "Can you recommend me a High Churchman for a Dean who isn't a damned fool?" Mr. Buckle unfortunately does not make it clear whether Lord Salisbury answered in the affirmative.

One curious point that emerges from the book is the revelation that Bismarck proposed a treaty of alliance with England in 1880. He had been immensely impressed by Disraeli at Berlin in 1878, and Disraeli received the proposal with interest, but when he discovered that it might be used as a handle by the ambitious Prussians against France he dropped it. He thought, quite correctly, that good relations with France were more important than a treaty of alliance with Germany; and by that time Queen Victoria had been cured of her early German predilections by Bismarck.

Much personal interest attaches to the private life of the statesman. It appears that he proposed marriage to a lady when he was seventy and a Prime Minister; she refused him, but they kept up a constant correspondence, and these intimate letters, which he wrote her from day to day, throw a great deal of light on the current gossip and party politics of the day. OCELLUS.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

On June 9 the Palestine Exploration Fund held its annual general meeting at No. 2, Hinde Street, London, W.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, the Chairman (Commander D. G. Hogarth) mentioned the losses which the Fund had sustained by death and resignation. Among these was that of the late Professor Leonard W. King, Assistant Keeper of the Department of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Fund. Professor King, he said, had been taken rather suddenly ill in 1918. The illness continued, but hopes were entertained of his recovery. But in the summer of 1919 a turn for the worse was taken, and Professor King passed away. No greater loss could have been sustained by the society or by Oriental studies in this country: he had been their one absolutely reliable cuneiformist—the one person who could deal with the extraordinarily difficult subject of Babylonian and Assyrian documents. His reputation was great not only in this country, but also on the Continent of Europe and in America. Other losses were those of Mr. J. D. Crase (Hon. Secretary), Sir Edwin Pears, Sir William Ewart, Mr. Joseph Offord and the Rev. Dr. Howard Bliss. Besides these, Mr. Walter Morrison (Treasurer) and the Rev. Dr. Horton (Executive Committee) had resigned.

The report was adopted, Commander D. G. Hogarth, Sir Charles Close, and Dr. E. W. G. Masterman being afterwards elected to the offices of Chairman of the Executive Committee, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary respectively.

In moving the election of the General Committee—which was the business that followed—Sir Herbert Samuel referred to his appointment as High Commissioner for Palestine. He said that a British Administration would profoundly affect the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and, he trusted, wholly for the better. It would be the duty of an enlightened and progressive Administration to give the utmost facilities for archæological research. There would be a Department of Archæology, but, for sordid reasons of pounds, shillings, and pence, it would probably be a very small one, and the Fund, so far from running the danger of being ousted and superseded by an arrogant Administration, would, on the contrary, find itself looked to by the Administration to continue its work with even greater activity than before

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 31.

The Nile Projects Commission.

The Nile Projects Commission commenced its public hearings last Tuesday for the purpose of hearing the charges brought by Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Ralston Kennedy against the Ministry of Public Works in regard to the data on which the irrigation projects on the Upper Nile have been based. The Commission, which consists of Messrs. S. J. Gebbie, Simpson and Cory, is sitting with a judge (Mr. G. A. Booth) of the Mixed Courts, who is directing the public hearing. Sir William Willcocks and Col. Kennedy are conducting their own case. Mr. Maxwell is representing the Ministry of Public Works, while Judge Wasey Sterry, Legal Secretary, is watching in the interests of the Sudan Government.

During the three days on which the Commission has sat this week there has been a very good attendance, the Egyptian element in the audience becoming more prominent as the hearing progressed. After the usual preliminaries and an explanation from Judge Booth on the main lines of the procedure which will be followed, Col. Kennedy made a formal protest regarding the competence of the Commission, and also regarding its terms of reference, of which the Commission merely took note. He then protested that whereas the charges made by Sir William Willcocks and himself have been brought against Sir Murdoch MacDonald, the answer is being made by the Ministry of Public Works. The Commission over-ruled this objection, since it considered that it had not any jurisdiction to inquire into charges against individuals, and that it could only take cognisance of these charges in so far as it was necessary in order to deal with the criticisms of the projects in question.

So far the Commission has only dealt with the first charge made by Sir William Willcocks, with which the first three charges of Col. Kennedy correspond. This charge is that gauge-readings at Sennar between December, 1913, and February, 1914, have been altered so as to give an apparently increased volume in the river at that period, and that an important document in connection with the Blue Nile projects has been lost. It is impossible in the short space available to give any clear and concise account of what has so far transpired. A good deal of time has been taken up with discussions of procedure; the Government has called several witnesses —mostly native, it is interesting to note—to prove the manner in which the river gauges are recorded, and to explain various points on which Sir William Willcocks and Col. Kennedy have based their charges; while several members and ex-members of the Sudan Government have been called to answer the statements made by the accusing parties with regard to the alleged missing Blue Nile memorandum. To the ordinary looker-on it would seem as if a good deal of time is being wasted over the elucidation of what would appear to be relatively minor points; but as the accusing parties have based their charges partly on these points, I suppose this importance must be given to them, and all these discussions are necessary, although at times some of them appear to be capable of such very obvious explanation.

Three sittings have now been devoted to the first charge, and in connection with it we have yet to hear the technical experts presented by the Government. As usually happens in such cases, it is to be expected that when these witnesses are put in the box a gladiatorial fight will take place between them and Sir William Willcocks and Col. Kennedy, and it looks very much as if the public hearing will be prolonged to a very great length unless some means is found of expediting the remaining charges. This week's hearing has had one very interesting feature, viz., the excellent manner in which the Egyptian witnesses have given their evidence and have stood their cross-examination.

The Death of Commodore Groves.

A very sad accident took place on Thursday last on the aerodrome at Heliopolis. Air-Commodore Groves had decided to fly with Flying Officer Bird in a Bristol aeroplane to Kantara. He took off very well, but when he was about 150 ft. up the engine failed. Commodore Groves turned in order to come to earth, but the machine got out of control, and as he was not high enough up in order to regain control it crashed. Help was available at once, and when the two pilots were extricated from the wreckage Lieut. Bird was found to be dead, and the Commodore was so grievously injured that he died two hours later. The funeral took place on Friday afternoon, and was a very impressive one. The two coffins, covered with the Union Jack and with wreaths, were conveyed on a trailer drawn by a motor tender. The chief mourners consisted of the Air Force staff, with whom was Lewa Castle Smith Pasha, representing the Sultan; Col. J. K. Watson, representing the High Commissioner; Lieut.-General Sir Walter Congreve, Sir Paul Harvey, and Col. G. S. Liddle, representing the Ministry of Communications. The Munster Regiment provided the firing party and the band, while detachments from all the regiments at present in Cairo and a representative delegation of the Middle East Air Force completed the procession. At the graveside there were also a large number of Army nurses and personal friends.

Air-Commodore Groves will be a serious loss to the Air Ministry in general and to the Middle East Air Force in particular. He had a most brilliant career in the Navy before the War and in the Air Force since, and was indeed regarded as one of the most capable and reliable men in his profession. He only came to Egypt last September in order to fill the post of Chief of Staff to Air-Marshal Salmond, for whom he has acted during most of the time; but in that short period his energy and his personality have worked wonders with the Air Force, and go where one will, amongst the mechanics as well as amongst his fellow officers, one hears nothing but expressions of sincere regret at his sad death, of intense admiration for his courage, and of personal affection for him.

The Political Situation.

I do not find that the news of Zaghloul Pasha's latest move towards London has created much surprise here. The fact that Adly Pasha Yeghen intended to discuss the situation with him and try to bring about a rapprochement with the British Government had somewhat prepared the more instructed and intelligent section of the community, while Zaghloul Pasha himself had in his interviews and letters given more than one hint of some such development which those who run could read. The idea of negotiating with the British Government at the present juncture does not, of course, please the ultra-Extremists or those who have a direct interest in the prolongation of the agitation, but when the time comes it will be found that these opponents of any compromise whatsoever will not carry much weight, for generally speaking the Egyptian public is weary of the state of affairs which has existed since November, 1918, and which has brought the country no material benefit.

The main discussion I find at present centres round the point as to whether Zaghloul Pasha is going to London as the recognised representative of the Egyptian nation or whether he will be heard merely as representing a particular element of the Egyptian population. Whether it is in the one capacity or in the other will in the end make little difference, for if, as is hoped, after he has been heard in London, an agreement on the Egyptian situation is reached, there is every reason to expect that, apart from the student element which as ever will be the one disturbing—but not determining—factor in the situation, the settlement will be thankfully received.

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PORT SAID, May 28.

Empire Day.

Empire Day here was a great success. The arrangements were in the hands of a committee of the residents, who received great help from both the naval and military authorities, the former represented by the captain, officers and crew of H.M.S. Calypso, which had replaced H.M.S. Ceres two days previously. The Sporting Club ground, kindly lent for the occasion, was gaily decorated, and a course for the races was marked out. The proceedings were opened by a ceremonial hoisting of the flag, which was followed by ten girls carrying flags representing different parts of the Empire, saluting Britannia, who was seated on a platform under the flag. After a speech by the British Consul, Senior Chaplain Day gave a very fine address on the Empire and its responsibilities for the individual. Tea was then served, and afterwards some most successful children's sports were held, in which children of all ages up to sixty and over thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The band of H.M.S. Calypso played selections during the afternoon, and at the conclusion Mrs. Freeman, the wife of the British Consul, distributed the prizes.

Sale of Work.

A most successful sale of work in aid of the English Church funds was held in the garden of the Port House a fortnight ago. The feature of the afternoon was a pastoral play performed by the children, with fairies, brownies, toadstools, and a witch all complete. It was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody. The amount raised was about £E113. This does not necessarily mean that people are getting more religious here, but simply in the afternoon's entertainment they got a good run for their money.

Moral Port Said.

Papers out from home seem to be quoting a certain Brigadier-General J. H. Bateson, a Wesleyan chaplain, to the effect that he knows all the vice shops in the East, but that he has found more filth in Port Said in an hour than in all the rest put together. One can only surmise that this worthy chaplain spent that hour in a frantic search for what most decent people do not look for. Port Said, no doubt, has its plague spots, being the supply created by the demand. But anyone who really knows Port Said can say that it compares favourably with any other place in the East.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, June 2.

The Improving Outlook.

The Coalition Cabinet is settling down to its work, and there is a general feeling of confidence and optimism throughout the country. It is generally believed that M. Vesnitch is succeeding in driving his very mixed team with success and tact. The chief point at issue appears to be the draft constitution to be submitted to the Constituent Assembly, but we may feel hopeful that the ship will not be wrecked upon this rock. The general feeling of optimism is increased by the really excellent prospects of the harvest; reports from the fat lands of the Banat give glowing accounts, and in old Serbia there is every reason to anticipate a "bumper." Both the grape and plum crops are exceedingly promising, though the owners of plum-orchards are handicapped by the shortage of drying plant and vessels for distilling *rakia*, or plum-brandy. The whole situation is reflected in the recovery of the dinar, which had improved from 105 to the £ before the Orthodox Whitsun, and jumped 25 points when the banks reopened after the holidays, and then in two days to 63. This is, of course, an enormous benefit to Serbs, and especially to importers; but many will be hit who were compelled to buy foreign manufactures and pay when the dinar was at its lowest ebb. The foreign colony will naturally feel the difference, especially if prices do not fall quickly in proportion to the exchange.

A marked decline in prices is noticeable: sugar has fallen to 25 dinars per kilo retail—bad enough in all conscience, but better than 30 and 35; flour is down a dinar a kilo; bread is still very dear, as the millers hold big stocks; meat is falling. There is as yet no sign of improvement in imported goods, such as paper; an ordinary packet of common foolscap, for instance, costs no less than 70 dinars to-day. Nor is there any sign of reduction in rents. The authorities are taking a firm stand in this respect, to prevent profiteering, and visitors are allowed only a week to stay, unless they can show good reason to satisfy the authorities. One of the causes of the scarcity of lodgings is the great quantity of Russian refugees. It is said that there are about 30,000 Russians at present in Yugoslavia.

Smokers are far from content, for the price of tobacco and cigarettes has gone up 50 per cent.

The Scottish Women's Hospital.

The Scottish Women's Hospital is now wound up, and very many grateful Serbs have said good-bye to the lady doctors and sisters who have tended them so devotedly all through the war. The decision to wind up was received with very great regret throughout Serbia, and as much by the staff as by anybody. They had been through much together, and it was hard to break up an association of five years or more. Several of the sisters and staff have joined some of the American units which are doing such good work at Chachak, Krushevats, and elsewhere, but the doctors have either gone or are about to go. They will be missed, indeed, not only by their innumerable grateful patients, but by their friends in the social world.

An Anglo-Serbian Hospital.

There still remains the Anglo-Serbian Children's Hospital, which now occupies the premises which were formerly the headquarters of the British Naval Brigade. This admirable institution is doing splendid work, and has a summer camp in the charming glades of the Koshutniak forest at Topchider. The hospital has felt the cost of living and the scarcity of funds, and so an entertainment was recently organised for its benefit. In connection with which great credit is due to the energy and organising power of Mrs. Clarke, who took the lead, which the entire British colony supported. The colony is not numerous, but has revealed a surprisingly high average of talent, both dramatic and musical.

The concert was contributed by Serbian as well as British talent. It is impossible to single out individuals among this galaxy of talent; but the names of Mlle. Hrististch, with her charming rendering of eighteenth century Italian songs; M. Mokranjac, with his 'cello solo; of Mr. Knight, who gave us the benefit of his experience in organising the divisional entertainments in France; and of M. Holub, with a highly pyrotechnic violin solo, cannot be passed over; while Mme. Anchier-Casteran revealed the possibilities of that beautiful but unfamiliar instrument, the harp. His numerous Salonika friends were glad to welcome M. Miat Miatovitch, whose tenor voice, once the delight of the mess and camp fire, has now won him recognition at the Albert Hall. A charming item was a ballet by a young English dancer who made her *début* under these not unromantic circumstances in her butterfly dance, supported by a ballet of little English and Serbian girls, a very picture of charm and grace. More will be heard of "Rowena," her interpretation of a Spanish dance, and a cymbal dance in Oriental costume showed not only training but talent.

The concert was followed by a farce executed by six prominent members of the British colony, who revealed a degree of dramatic talent quite unexpected, and enormously amused the Serbian contingent in the audience, for whose benefit a synopsis in Serbian was printed on the programme, explaining the Englishman's eccentricity of attaching even more importance to his daily bath than to the two prime factors in our character, according to general Continental belief—to wit, Time and Money.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 20.

Aviation.

An aeroplane competition will take place at Bucharest on June 1 between fifty of the pupils of the Army School of Aeronautics.

A squadron of six army aeroplanes recently made a speed trial from Bucharest to Craiova, and covered the distance of about 200 kilometres in 1 hr. and 10 mins.

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Storm in Moldavia.

A severe storm raged in Moldavia on May 12, in consequence of which the telegraph and telephone wires were destroyed in several places, and communications with Moldavia and the Bukovina were temporarily interrupted.

M. Marghiloman on the Political Situation.

It must be admitted even by those who disagree with his politics and deplore his Germanophil tendencies that M. Marghiloman is one of the ablest politicians and most eloquent speakers among Roumanian public men at the present time. At a recent meeting of the Progressive Conservatives in Bucharest he said that the two burning questions of the moment were the peasant question and the question of administration. On the latter subject he planted his arrows most dexterously in each of the rival parties. He emphasised the importance of proceeding as rapidly as possible with the distribution of the expropriated land to the peasants as well as with the payments for the land expropriated, so that every one may know where he stands and be able to get to work—the all-important thing for the country. He deprecated the confusion of ideas which he said existed in this country between Socialists and workmen. "Socialism," he said, "is a political doctrine, whereas the interests of the workers are of a professional order. It is true that to-day we often see the workers led by the Socialists. The fault lies with the various Governments who have been in power during the last few years. Our workmen are not legally organised so as to be able to defend their professional interests. When we have a legislation which will permit the workmen to have legal syndicates competent to intervene in the conflicts between them and their employers, syndicates conducted by recognised persons and able to accept responsibility, syndicates entrusted with work of social and mutual benefit which will raise them in their own esteem and in that of the workers, then we shall have emancipated the working-classes from the tyranny of socialism. I should see no objection, gentlemen, to our working-classes remaining under the moral guidance of Socialism if Socialism in this country were really a doctrine. But unhappily our Socialism is lacking in culture, and as it is not a product of original reflection, nor the outcome of the exigencies of local circumstances, it is but a pale imitation of Socialism abroad, and as is always the case, the less men are educated, the more exaggerated are their imitations; we therefore see our Socialism adopting the most anarchical and the most extravagant ideas, without perhaps understanding the ends to which they will lead."

"Hero Day."

May 20 has been decreed a national holiday, to be called "Hero Day," in memory of those fallen in the war. An impressive service was held to-day at a military burying ground near the end of the Chaussée, where were assembled large numbers and the pupils of all the State schools in Bucharest. After the service the priests led a funeral procession down the Calea Victoriei to the statue of Michael the Hero, the school children following in groups, carrying flags and singing national songs; then came the Boy Scouts, and the regular troops brought up the rear. The procession took more than an hour to pass, but the children at least seemed to be enjoying it, and flowers were thrown to them and to the soldiers as they passed. The private schools assembled at two other cemeteries on the outskirts of the town, where requiem services were also held.

May 28.

The Elections.

The Parliamentary Elections which began on Wednesday, May 26, mark an important epoch in the political history of Roumania. The Parliament about to be elected will have a very hard task before it. As was pointed out in my letter a fortnight ago, Roumania, before the outbreak of the war, had just succeeded in attaining a degree of prosperity unknown in her history, and now it would be difficult to exaggerate the difficulties under which she is labouring, both because of the general disorganisation of her transport, commerce, and agriculture resulting from the war, and because the conditions of peace have doubled her territory and introduced into the administration of the country many new problems, material and moral. The populations of the annexed territories, though Roumanian by race, have lived for centuries under a different political régime, different laws, and a foreign currency, and it will be no simple matter to reorganise the whole country so as to meet the present needs. The question of the minority populations presents a further problem, and to all these considerations must be added the social unrest caused by the influence of Socialist propaganda upon the working classes, and the very high price of living which now weighs so heavily upon the middle and lower classes.

The peasants, however, who form a large majority of the population do not seem at all inclined to be led into communistic agitations. They are peace loving, have few wants, and have been greatly enriched by the redistribution of land under the Expropriation of Land Law; and though they are now taking more interest in politics they have not at recent by-elections shown any Socialist tendencies whatever. Nor do they on the whole adhere to any of the old political parties, but they appear rather to be warm supporters of General Averescu, whom they call "the great General."

It is still too soon to make any confident predictions, but on the whole the position seems to favour the election of a strong Government which should be competent to tackle the hard task of reorganisation.

Provincial Tour of the King and Queen.

The King and Queen returned on the 26th inst. from their tour of the provinces of Bukovina and Bessarabia, having been everywhere received with the greatest enthusiasm. It has only now been made known publicly that the Queen met with an accident at the beginning of her tour which threatened to have serious results. On the arrival of their Majesties at Suceava quantities of flowers were thrown to them, and one large bouquet, probably mounted on wire, struck the Queen full in the face, so injuring her right eye that she was unable to appear at any public functions on the following day. Her Majesty, however, would not consent to return to Bucharest, and insisted upon carrying out her programme. Her eye is now quite well again.

Lady Muriel Paget in Bucharest.

Lady Muriel Paget's Mission to Czecho-Slovakia is probably well known already both in England and the Balkan States. Under this organisation 100 Baby Welfare centres are already at work in Czecho-Slovakia; one has been opened at Dvinsk in Poland also, and Lady Paget is now arranging to send 30 workers to Roumania. The Mission is working under the auspices of the League of Nations Red Cross, one of the main aims of which at present is to combat the spread of epidemics in the half-starved countries of Eastern Europe.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 5.

Criticisms of San Remo.

I append below the views of some intellectuals of this country upon the decision of San Remo.

The Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, says:—The Ægean Sea coast was wrested from us on the strength of the Neuilly Peace Treaty. To-day it is awarded to the weakest State in the Balkan Peninsula. But from this national disaster Bulgaria may extract a precious lesson, and will shortly be able to gain in a peaceful way what she lost through the madness of war.

M. Ivan Eustatieff Gueshoff, the leader of the Conservative or Narodniak Party, emphasises the fact that when Bulgaria was under a foreign yoke she was united, but when she gained her freedom her national unity began to break. In those times of bondage moderation and wisdom distinguished the champions of the spiritual regeneration of Bulgaria. This veteran statesman ascribed the catastrophe to the absence of these two high moral principles in the government of the country.

M. Mouchanoff, a leading Democrat, says the Entente Powers have not fulfilled their promises to bless the world with a peace based upon the principles of justice and of nationality. Bulgaria's peace is a complete negation of these humane principles. By being deprived of the Ægean Sea coast of Thrace, which is so indispensable to her economic progress, she suffers a most cruel injustice. Thousands of Bulgarians are abandoning their father-

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land, and are leaving their fields and homes to fate. The policy of the victors follows the well-trodden road in its disregard of justice and equity, and in its devotion to self-interest. But from the vanquished nations will arise a generation which will reorganise the world upon the eternally young principles of right, justice, and humanity. In this triumph Bulgaria will play her part.

M. Pastouchoff, a leader of the Moderate Socialists, says:—By this decision of the Thracian question the Entente tramples upon President Wilson's principles, and the international treaties in their hands are only scraps of paper. Its imperialism is as bad as the Germans' before the war, threatening in the same way the peaceful development of the world. The fate of Thrace is connected with Asia Minor and the hidden struggle between England, France, and Italy for the partition of the booty. Owing to the policy of the Entente the causes of conflict are increasing rather than diminishing, and the future of the Balkans again becomes insecure. The Bulgarian Government should abstain from all actions which may hinder that peaceful development which Bulgaria so much needs.

M. Kosturkoff, the Radical leader, says that the responsibility for the decisions of the Paris Conference lies upon the American President, who proclaimed as his motto the self-determination of the peoples. The present terms, by which a great part of the Bulgarian race is thrown into the bondage of three hostile States, is a false solution of the Balkan problem.

Dr. Moutatoff, a leading Progressive, says:—For three years we Thracians and Macedonians lived united. After that we were beaten, and lost, first, Macedonia, then the Dobruja, and now Thrace. But we will drink the bitter cup to the dregs, and ever remembering our legacy from the past, will surely regain, by peaceful means, these provinces lost in an unwise struggle.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 15.

The Tram Strike.

The dispute mentioned in my earlier letter has been settled by the intervention of the Grand Vizier, and the men's demands have been granted almost integrally. There were scenes of great enthusiasm when the result was announced to the strikers, but the public, although delighted at first, has discovered a drop of bitterness in the cup, for fares are to be increased 25 per cent. But, after all, the public here is already exploited to such an extent that the new imposition is a mere trifle.

ALBANIA.

June 4.

The General Situation.

It is claimed here in Albania that the country has not, within the memory of man been so happy as it now is. The southern regions are—*pace* the Greek Press campaign to prove the contrary—very glad to be united again with the rest of Albania.

On May 27 the French evacuated the Pogradetz district, handing over the military and civil administration to the Albanian authorities, and the following day Kortcha (Koritza) was similarly evacuated. Thus the Albania of 1913 is united for the first time. There had been rumours that the Greeks were assembling forces at Florina, to seize Kortcha on the departure of the French, and that the Serbs had similar intentions regarding Pogradetz. These rumours excited the Albanians, who made ready for a prolonged struggle, but happily nothing of the kind expected took place.

It will be remembered that the French found themselves in Kortcha at the beginning of 1915, and that General Sarrail created there the Albanian Republic. Since then the town has been under a mixed, or rather a purely Albanian, administration; for the officials, judges, and police were Albanian, and Albanian was the language used. At the last there were twenty-one French officers in the region and 700 French colonial troops. The administration was quite satisfactory, and the local finances show a balance on the right side of five million francs—which has not yet been handed over to the Albanian exchequer.

Administration of Evacuated Areas.

The central government at Tirana has had the happy inspiration of entrusting the administration of Kortcha and Argyrokastro to Christian prefects: Dr. Constantine Kota at the former place, and M. Nicholas Tromara, ex-President of the pan-Albanian society "Vatra" of America, at Argyrokastro.

At Kortcha there is an armed force of 2,200 men, with a large number of volunteers, and at Argyrokastro there are 2,000 men and 250 volunteers, known as the "National Guard." Further forces are being raised by enrolment of men chosen by ballot.

Finances.

The Government has claimed, and is awaiting the handing over of, 4,300,000 francs from the treasuries of Argyrokastro and Agia Taranta. The Consulta has not yet replied to the demand. Meanwhile, in view of the success of the two-million-franc loan, the Government proposes a further internal loan of ten million francs, which, it is believed, would be very easily covered. Should that be so, the nation would have given conclusive proof of its faith in the Government.

Lack of Communications.

One of the country's greatest difficulties lies in the lack of means of communication. Turkey made no roads in Albania, and the only road worthy of the name in independent Albania is that from Saranta to Kortcha, which passes through Leskoviki and Kolonia; and the southern part of this road lies in territory occupied by the Greeks since 1912. During their occupation the Austrians constructed a narrow-gauge railway from Scutari to Berat; but they destroyed it on their retreat, and the old stone bridges, dating back many centuries, met a similar fate. Thus the country is now almost without any means of communication. What is almost worse, the Austrians and the Italians carried off practically all the telegraphic apparatus, and it has been only with the utmost difficulty that the authorities have now re-established communications to some extent. We are, however, promised improved postal and telegraphic services shortly. Yugoslavia, Greece and Italy refuse to assist in the matter, and things are rendered still worse by the lack of a constant service of boats. These conditions naturally render communications with the outside world extremely difficult.

MALTA.

VALETTA, May 20.

More Petitioning.

A petition signed by practically 700 men of business has been presented to the Governor as a protest against the proposed new taxes. There can be but little doubt that, for the size of the Island, its limited resources and its critical economic condition, the time has come when some drastic reform in taxation must be made. The precise nature of this reform is a difficult thing for our politicians to determine. The above petition lays down specific objections against the liquor taxes, those on medicines, cigarettes, sugar and wheat. It is pointed out that in all these cases it is the poor who will feel the pinch the most keenly; and herein lies the strength of the argument against these taxes. The petitioners advocate a tax of one per cent. on the value of land after sundry deductions. But it is not made clear what approximate sum such a tax would realise, if adopted. The usual official stereotyped reply has been received that the communication will receive attention. Till this is issued we must simply wait—and grumble.

A Gift.

The Secretary of State has decided to hand over to the civil authorities the Auberge d'Italie, which is to be converted into a public museum. This is a much appreciated gift, as the present Museum is too cramped to exhibit adequately the many historic antiquities, the number of which, by the way, is increasing at a rapid rate.

Reparation.

An echo of the local riots of June last comes forward in the form of assessed damages. Although these are not as high as the claims put forward, they are very tangible. The looting of the offices of the *Daily Malta Chronicle* means practically £10,000, and there are altogether fourteen claims, some of which will be naturally very heavy. The few who danced to the tune little thought how high the pipers' fees might prove.

Personal.

Colonel Henry W. Engerer has retired from the position of Superintendent of Posts owing to ill-health.

Lieut. Edward de Visme Drummond, R.N., of H.M.S. Emperor of India, died after an illness of but a few hours. Being one of the most popular officers on the ship, his sudden loss has been very keenly felt.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

CHRISTIAN CROSSES AT JERUSALEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Archdeacon Beresford Potter writes in your issue of May 13 "that the Zionists in Jerusalem are objecting to the crosses on our soldiers' graves, and that the crosses are either being removed, or that such a thing is in the air."

I wish to give the most emphatic denial to this false and malicious statement. No Jews, whether Zionists or not, have ever raised the slightest objection, or could think of raising any objection, to the crosses on Christian graves. I passed the cemetery yesterday—the crosses have not been removed, nor do we Jews know anything about their removal being in the air. I have never heard of anyone, Jew or not, making any such suggestion.

I trust that the Archdeacon will reprove his correspondents, and that he himself will refrain from making statements of this kind in the Press without full inquiry.

—I am, etc., M. D. EDER,
Zionist Commission.

Jerusalem, May 31, 1920.

ALBANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST"

Sir,—With reference to Lieut-Col. the Hon. A. H. Herbert's most interesting article on Albania, may I be permitted to point out that the hatred now existing between Albanians and Greeks is partly due to agents of foreign propagandas during the last forty years? I cannot deny the fact that the reciprocal feelings and sentiments of the Albanians and Greeks are now very much like those cherished of old between the Highlanders and the Lowlanders of Scotland. But, if we go back as far as 1880, the then leading Albanian chieftains, both of South and North Albania, saw clearly that their only hope of escaping Charybdis and Scylla was by a close alliance with Greece. Nor, speaking Greek as most of them do even to-day, had they any objection to the Hellenisation of Albania, or, indeed, to its more or less complete absorption by Greece in the future. They only asked that such an offensive and defensive alliance, as they believed to be no less necessary for Greece than it was for themselves, be not jeopardised by any immediately attempted or forcible annexations. In other words, the Albanian leaders were in favour of a federal Union under the suzerainty of the late King George of Greece, and the most curious thing to be noted was that both Greeks and Albanians were looking forward to Great Britain, the then only disinterested Power in the Balkans, to act as the intermediary between the two nations.

Forty years passed since, and the friendly sentiments have been changed into a bitter enmity and a mutual suspicion between the two branches of the great Pelasgic family. Greeks, however, looked always with sympathy upon the Albanian difficulties in 1913 because they also passed through the same chaotic ordeal in the early decades of the establishment of the young Hellenic Kingdom. We have a proverb in Greek: "Blood cannot be changed into water," and this applies to the Greco-Albanian differences. Albanian blood runs profusely in the veins of most of the leading families of the Greek aristocracy. The heroes of the Greek War of Independence, who are worshipped in the hearts of every Greek, were nearly all of Albanian descent, and the Fustanella, the kilt of the Greek highlander, came over to Greece from the Shkipetarland.

There is yet time; next year Hellenism will joyfully celebrate the centenary of the War of Independence, in which Albanians took a prominent part and gave a willing hand to the Greeks against the Turks, and the Greco-Albanian Confederation may then take place instead of the present sharpening of knives for a fratricidal struggle between the two sister nations. I understand from a reliable source that Admiral Coundouriotis and General Danglis (ex-members of the Salonica Triumvirate), who are of Albanian blood, are in favour of such a Greco-Albanian confederation, and that M. Venizelos shares their opinion. This mutual understanding would simplify the differences of the two countries, but will Great Britain now step in as the negotiator of this Confederation once that we know very well the dislike of both Greeks and Albanians of any interference of a well-known Adriatic Power into their private affairs?—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester,
June 10.

GOVERNMENT AND MISSION HOSPITALS.

The Government of India have granted, says the *C.M.S. Gleaner* for June, a valuable concession to mission hospitals in India and Burma—namely, the purchase of medical stores at the rates prescribed for Government institutions. This concession will mean a great saving in time and money, and medical missionaries will be able to take advantage of the efforts now being made by Government experts to develop local manufactures.

Refractory tribes in Morocco have surrendered and have agreed to accept the conditions imposed on them by the French authorities.

Gibraltar residents are feeling acutely the present scarcity of passenger accommodation in liners bound for England. Many Service men have found a difficulty in getting home with their families even in Government transports.

THE EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY.

Under the auspices of the Egypt Exploration Society, on May 28, Professor B. P. Grenfell, F.B.A., lectured on "The Present Position of Papyrology." The lecturer had recently returned from Egypt, which country he had visited in order to work at Oxyrhynchus papyri in the Cairo Museum, and to purchase papyri for English museums.

Among his remarks were the following:—

Egypt, after its conquest by Alexander the Great, was no longer isolated, but connected with the main stream of European culture until the invasion of the Arabs. For nearly a thousand years Greek was the principal language spoken. In the competition of various nations during the last thirty years to obtain Greek papyri the largest share of the prizes has fallen to this country, the chief collections being at the British Museum, which has the best literary papyri, Oxford, Manchester, and Dublin. At Queen's College, Oxford, is the collection of unpublished papyri from the excavations of Professors Grenfell and Hunt, and of Mr. J. M. Johnson at various sites in Middle Egypt. The Oxyrhynchus series has reached Part XIV., which was issued in April, 1920, and contains non-literary documents, including several interesting private letters of the third century. Part XV. will consist of literary texts, among which are some lyric fragments (Sappho, Alcæus and Pindar), elegiacs by Callimachus, epigrams intended to be sung to the accompaniment of a flute, fragments of an history describing the battle of Issus, short lives of celebrated literary persons, early papyri of Sophocles' "Trachiniæ," Theocritus "Idyll 22," and Aratus, and in the theological section a fragment of the Greek original of the "Apology" of Aristides, and a remarkably early liturgical extract (about A.D. 300) with musical notation. There are still many literary fragments in the unopened boxes of papyri from Oxyrhynchus, and of the non-literary documents much less than half has been published.

Next in importance to the British collections come the German, of which the largest is at Berlin. In 1919 was issued a most valuable papyrus of A.D. 150 containing the official rules for guiding the Idiologos, one of the chief revenue officials, in the performance of his duties. The Austrian collection at Vienna, though large, has not been made accessible, nor has the publication of it been placed on a satisfactory basis.

The principal French collection of papyri at Lille was not injured in the war, and the publication of it is about to be resumed. Italy is making progress with the editing of the Herculaneum papyri, and has flourishing schools of papyrology at Florence and Milan. The Societa Italiana per la Ricerca dei Papiri is about to issue Volume VI. of its series, completing the publication of the Florentine section of the third century B.C. Zeno papyri.

America has not yet obtained very many papyri, but has recently acquired an important early papyrus book containing the minor Prophets in the Septuagint.

In the literature of papyrology, apart from the publication of texts, British scholars have made valuable contributions with regard to palæography and the relation of papyri to the New Testament; but it has been mainly left to others, principally German and French scholars, to utilise the evidence of papyri for historical purposes.

The destruction of ancient town ruins in Egypt for the sake of the nitrous earth is going on more actively than ever, and the chief sources of papyri are now nearly, or in some cases quite, exhausted. The outlook for further excavations in search of papyri is not encouraging, but papyri can still be bought from dealers in antiquities.

A serious fire has destroyed the machinery in the spinning room of the Keshoram cotton mills at Calcutta, involving a loss of five lakhs of rupees (nominally £50,000).

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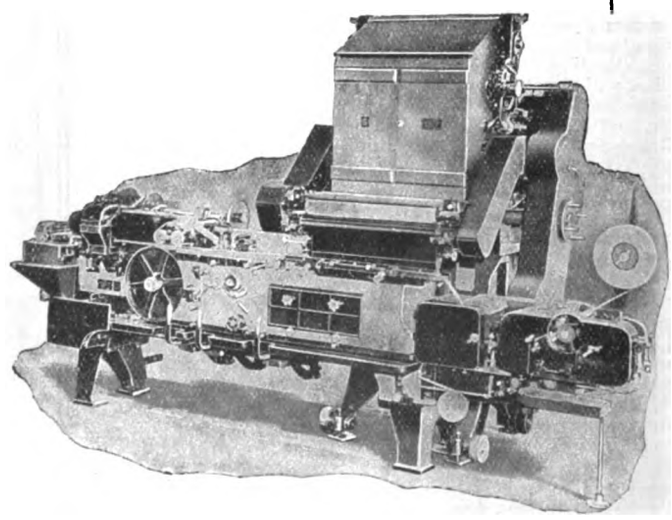

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Unredeemed Greek.

Under the above title the Constantinople correspondent of the *Morning Post* has, on June 14, some interesting notes. He says:—

The Greek has a smile on his face these days. He was always the most cocksure of the peoples in the Near East—not to say, the cockiest. He had a moment of depression, it is true, when he more or less blundered into Smyrna, and when nasty persons spread exaggerated tales about this. But it soon passed. He has one philosopher's stone which he never fails to rub when anything unpleasant comes in his way, and that is the name of Venizelos. It is impossible to go to any meeting, gathering, or theatrical representation at which he is on his own account without hearing something in the way of vociferant panegyric of his chief. Probably no other Premier in the world has such a position or is acclaimed exactly so; and this, as the Greek himself will be the first to point out, really shows the main weakness which threatens the future of expanding Greece.

He proceeds to show the unredeemed Greek as a dreamer, and concludes:—

Yet the Greek has shown himself extraordinarily practical; without losing his dreams, without for a moment believing that they can ever be permanently pushed aside, he accepts the decisions that he shall now be "redeemed" just up to such and such a point as the Allies determine. He has not the smallest hesitation about his rights or his abilities, and all the uncomplimentary remarks which other people make about him (saying that he is unproductive, unsound, scampy, and the rest) leave him quite cold. For, as he himself says: Put a Greek on a table and upset the table (plus the Greek) topside over, and the Greek will land on his feet. Yet though he thus flatters himself, he is also extraordinarily susceptible to the flattery of others, and if you call yourself a Philhellene you can almost get free lodging for a year and free drinks at every moment of the day, not to speak of the decorations which will be pinned upon your breast.

All this has its amusing side, as it has also its very moving side, for there is truly in the hearts of these men who look back to Athens a true passion of patriotism and resurrection. Far more so than among the Armenians—and it is not for profit and not for exploitation, but for the full re-establishment of the link with home. It is a sentiment which, so strong is it, cannot be neglected in forecasting the statesmanship of the future, for there is no doubt that Greece is, under the settlement, the dominant factor of force in the Near East and the instrument of execution.

The Middle East.

In the *Sunday Times* of May 30 Colonel T. E. Lawrence writes on "The Middle East." He commences by referring to the high reputation held by Great Britain at the time of the Armistice, since when, however, he says, "disillusionment has come upon these peoples of the East." He proceeds to comment upon the delay in framing the Peace Treaty with Turkey:—

The terms of the Turkish Treaty are admitted as impossible by those who had a hand in framing them. No account was taken of the actual conditions of the former Turkish Empire, or of the military and financial strengths of the countries devouring it. Each party making the terms considered only what it could take, or rather what would be most difficult for her neighbours to take or to refuse her, and the document is not the constitution of a new Asia, but a confession, almost an advertisement, of the greeds of the conquerors. No single clause of it will stand the test of three years' practice and it will only be happier than the German Treaty in that it will not be revised—it will be forgotten.

A good way to see how much ground we have lost by our jealousies and false-playings in Asia is to compare our friendly reputation in the end of 1918 in Persia, Caucasus, Turkey, Mesopotamia, Arabia, Syria, and Egypt with our position there today. Persia awaked one morning to read in the Press that her Shah and his Ministers had concluded an agreement with Great Britain which gave us as much of the independence and control of their country as we liked to take. They were informed that we meant to be generous, and not to eat our cake; but meanwhile we infringed her neutrality towards Russia by using Persia as base for two expeditions—one against Russian Turkestan, one against the Caspian. In each expedition are a half-dozen battalions of mixed troops. Lord Curzon assured his colleagues that these two brigades were holding Persia quiet, and stemming the Bolshevik flood into Asia. They must be remarkable brigades! Recently the Bolsheviks began to come: then he informed the Persian Government that we had no obligation or intention to defend it. . . . .

Meanwhile in Persia our shares fell in value. The Court party, which had signed the Anglo-Persian agreement so irresponsibly, was despised by every good Persian. The Shah left hurriedly for Europe, and is not yet back in his former country. The "Young Persians" (for Persia is a country politically advanced, in which much guild-organisation persists) found no countenance in the British Government, and were driven to seek help from Russia, their old and inveterate enemy. Russia imposes as a condition of her alliance that the two British military adventures cease. If we can evacuate these handfuls of troops back to our own areas, through five hundred miles of wild country without railways, rivers, or fit roads, we will have reason to be grateful to the forbearance of the Persian people.

Of the Caucasus, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, and Arabia, much the same thing is said. Col. Lawrence's concluding statement is: "It was not for such policies I fought."

THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

OMAR KHAYYAM.

Is Romance dead? According to the sensational Press it is very much alive; but, then, the cheap-and-nasty papers are given to referring to sordid murders or suicides, to almost equally sordid divorce cases, and to the very vulgar elopements of mendacious suburban young women with young bounders of foreign extraction as "romances"; so perhaps we had better ignore their guidance in the matter. It seems to me that, taking into account the time it lasted and the wide area over which it extended, the late war produced comparatively few romantic stories, and that of those few the Sea and its servants accounted for by far the greater portion. And now that we have gone back to the "piping times of Peace"—more or less!—it is still to the Sea that we must look for most of the light and colour that still loom up from time to time in the grey, prosaic life of to-day.

***

These reflections have come to me as a result of reading recently two items of sea news. The first reported the arrival in the Downs of a "large, four-masted, double-funnelled steamer, the Gul-Djemal," which, I need hardly add, is a Turkish name. And—here is a surprise—the steamer is Turkish, too; though formerly she was a White Star liner (the Germanic). She was bound from Alexandria to Hamburg, when the Admiralty interrupted her voyage off Deal; and—here is another and greater surprise—she is reported to have had "a Turkish captain in command and a crew of 150 Turks." I suspect that not one of the 150 was a *genuine* Turk; but, even so, the idea of a "Turkish" steamer of any size actually finding its way out of the Mediterranean under the guidance of a Turkish skipper takes my breath away. For was it not a Turkish captain who reported: "Malta *mafeesh*" (There is no Malta), after hunting for weeks for that island? I almost find it in my heart to hope that the Gul-Djemal may continue to fly the Turkish flag. But ——.

***

The second sea story that has captured my interest is that of the Russian Volunteer steamer Orel, which lately turned up at Calcutta, with some 300 cadets of the Vladivostok Naval College on board. She had been used as a transport during the war, and when she went to Calcutta she was still under the command of Captain Kititsin of the Russian Navy. She left Vladivostok just two hours before the Bolshevists arrived, and had since been cargo-carrying to pay expenses. The cadets, said the captain, had been drafted on board to save them from the Bolshevists; and I think they owe him a heavy debt of gratitude. To me, the story seems to be a true romance, full of the spirit of courage and adventure, and I wish the Orel, her captain, and his cadets the best of luck.

CORSAIR.

At the request of the military authorities in Mesopotamia, the Y.M.C.A. are making full arrangements for the recreation of troops going up to the summer hill station.

Armenia has established a Consulate at Antwerp.

A Supplement to a recent *Gazette* announces a list of ladies, officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who have been brought to notice for services rendered in connection with the war in Egypt, East Africa, Italy, Mesopotamia, Salonika, India, Sudan, Central Kurdistan, and Northern Turkana.

Four Turkish Nationalists who had conspired to murder the Grand Vizier and provoke an outbreak at Constantinople have been executed.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

The Glastonbury Players.

The "Old Vic" is the one theatre in England in which nothing, whether music or drama, of inferior value is produced. Its standard of excellent intentions is universally recognised. I do not say that the presentation of works is always as good at this theatre as the works themselves—that is scarcely possible in the present commercialised condition of British art—but whatever the "Old Vic" intends to do is meritorious. When it was decided to bring the Glastonbury Festival Players to London there was, therefore, only one theatre to which they could fittingly come. For it is precisely in this matter of good intentions that these players most resemble the "Old Vic." These people are attempting at their school in Glastonbury to reawaken in the English people interest in all that is beautiful in art, in music, drama, dancing, and so forth. With this end they are reviving old English masques, and are presenting what they consider the best of modern English works. It is a most worthy ambition.

The visit to London interested the capital enormously, even though it was, judged absolutely, a failure. Hundreds of musicians flocked last week to see the chief event of the Festival, "The Immortal Hour," a music-drama by Rutland Boughton. And although it was poorly staged, poorly sung, badly acted, and badly played by the orchestra, I have heard no one deny the original loveliness of the music. The libretto of "The Immortal Hour" is adapted from the play of poems of Fiona Macleod; it is a legendary tale full of Irish symbolism. Though poetically conceived, Fiona Macleod's work is not poetry; but Rutland Boughton's work is both musically and dramatically conceived, and is music of most striking and haunting beauty. It deserved a much better presentation. On it should be expended, indeed, such genius as the Irish Players used to put into their productions. I know of no English work where with such simple material so many colours, such certain atmosphere, and such direct loveliness are obtained. It is a marvellous work.

Not much need be said of the players and singers themselves, seeing that it is the aims and not the agents of the Glastonbury School that matter. Mr. Clive Carey, for whom generally I have great respect, was in the part of Dalua, a shadow-god: but it sounded and looked as if he were singing rather through a fog than through shadows. Mr. Johnstone-Douglas (whose excellent possibilities I have noted before in this column) spoiled some fine singing by most *gauche* acting. He was Eochaidh, King of Ireland, but the uncertain way in which he stumbled about made one think he was a mere eccentric lord of London who had just celebrated his promotion to the peerage. Miss Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, as Etain, a lost færy-maiden, sang very sweetly, but it was a monotonous sweetness, so that it was too easy to mistake her for a human being. And Mr. Arthur Jordan, as Midir, a prince of færy, found the possession of legs and arms a great encumbrance. His good voice suffered, moreover, from insensitive phrasing. But despite all these things, the peculiar qualities of "The Immortal Hour" were fully recognised. Its genius will survive the most inadequate of performances and all the fads and fancies of the age.

The chief work in the remainder of the programme (which lasted three nights and was repeated three times) was "Venus and Adonis," a masque by John Blow, the teacher of our greatest composer, Henry Purcell. The wealth of invention in this old work is amazing. There is, of course, no realistic portrayal of the characters, and the artificiality of the whole thing is, owing to the purity of the music, mostly delightful. There are, however, places in this masque where a too facile use of the idiom of the time becomes a little monotonous. It was these bare patches that made impossible the arousing of any emotions, and even in the last (and the best performed) act, "The Death of Adonis," one did not feel the sting of mortality at all, so conventional was its treatment. But the masque, better performed, is well worth reviving.

The dancing of these players is on a low level. There is but one who really has grace and originality, Miss Laura Wilson; and only one who shows signs of promise, Miss Ruby Boughton. In modern works this deficiency does not matter overmuch, but in music of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, where the dance is of as much import as the words, it is a most serious disadvantage. No doubt it is an extremely difficult thing to find dances and steps fit for this music, but the present condition of the Players' dancing is inexcusably juvenile.

The smaller items included dances from the Fitzwilliam Virginals Book, Purcell, Adela Maddison, and Ethel Smyth (the last two being unworthy of such company), and some choral dances by Rutland Boughton and Napier Miles. They were unequally done, the enforced and deliberate simplicity of the settings being sometimes convincing and sometimes irritating. The "natural" method of treating music has its disadvantages as well as its merits.

However, my sympathies are all with the Glastonbury Players. It is easy to scoff at little movements like theirs, and to point out the impossibility of their founding a school of opera in England. But they have already accomplished something: their director, Mr. Rutland Boughton, is a man of proved genius, and there is no question of their zeal for both old and new. Whether they will succeed in their aim of making England once more the leading musical nation in Europe I cannot say. The musical genius of this people, which has been allowed to stagnate for two centuries, is alternately undermined by commercialism and nourished by such sects of people as the Glastonbury Players. It is a question of transferring the power of the first to the uses of the second.

At the Wigmore Hall on June 8 we had another Serbian violinist (M. Yovanovitch Bratza, whose playing I have already noted, being the first) making his first appearance in England. His name is Zlatko Balokovitch. A player of the rugged type, he has gifts that are not inconsiderable. His technique is by no means flawless, and his intonation is easily improvable, but he infuses a good deal of feeling and some spirituality into his playing. His opening piece, Saint-Saëns' Concerto in B minor (No. 3), is tawdry stuff, and the violinist and (especially) his accompanist, M. Vjekoslav Kraus, were quite merciless in emphasizing its deficiencies. The fascination of this concerto for foreign fiddlers is not easy to understand. M. Balokovitch proceeded to Bach's "Chaconne," and both because of the fineness of the music and because of the absence of his accompanist, his playing was much better. It was not a perfect performance, the difficulties being surmounted too slowly, but it was quite sufficient to stamp M. Balokovitch as a violinist of insight. Then were played a "Psalm" by Peter Konjovitch; "The Dance of the Widows," by Kosta Manojlovitch, and a "Danse Serbe," by Miloje Molojevitch. Of these "The Dance of the Widows" was by far the most attractive, the obscure atmosphere being most faithfully suggested by M. Balokovitch. (Yugoslavia must abound in pieces of equal merit with this, and one could wish that Yugoslav artists would more commonly perform their native music.) The other two pieces, though written in a mode foreign to English ears, did not appear to be distinguished compositions. In the audience, it may be noted, were many of M. Balokovitch's fellow-countrymen.

With the playing of Mr. Walter Rummel, who gave a pianoforte recital at the Æolian Hall on June 9, I was greatly disappointed. He has been acclaimed by French critics as one of the finest of British pianists, but this is not the case. Much as I admire the French, I must admit that their musical critics are a strangely errant crowd. Mr. Rummel's playing was extraordinary. He commenced with four of Bach's Choral Preludes, for which he had made a pianoforte arrangement. The first was quite unbearably noisy, the second ("Mortify us by Thy grace") was perfect, the third scarcely tolerable, and the fourth again beautiful. What Mr. Rummel can do was shown by the second Prelude; it was played with a soft restraint that made its serene loveliness a thing of great joy. But what Mr. Rummel chooses most often to do was shown by the inclement vigour with which he assailed Schubert's "Wanderer" Fantasia. This sonata is not a very notable work at any time, but in this pianist's hands it sounded like hell let loose with but a very occasional glimpse of heaven between the crashes. (As a matter of fact, much more than half the disaster was due to a wrong use of the pedal.) When Mr. Rummel played Chopin he gave further proof that he has individuality, if that word may be applied to those who have the confidence in such a thing as the Polonaise in E flat to give notes their wrong time-value. If Mr. Rummel were younger one might say that he is full of possibilities, but one cannot now say that. In pieces where there are no passages above a *forte* he is a refined and really beautiful player; but where this is not the case one's thoughts are concentrated upon the endurance of the instrument he is using.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"SOME SOURCES OF HUMAN HISTORY." By W. M. Flinders Petrie, LL.D., F.R.S., etc. (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1919. 5s. net).
II.—"THE PORTRAIT OF A SCHOLAR and OTHER ESSAYS WRITTEN IN MACEDONIA, 1916-1918." By R. W. Chapman. (The Oxford University Press. 5s. 6d. net.)

I.—LANDMARKS IN THE WORLD'S ANNALS.

Until recent years the average school history was little better than a dreary record of human ignorance, ferocity, and folly. Its compiler failed to realise that the course of events is determined by a never-varying interaction between the brain of mankind and the physical environment. What men have done men will do; a knowledge of the past gives us the key to future happenings. The new Orientation is admirably illustrated by Professor Flinders Petrie's latest literary feat. Under the modest title, "Some Sources of Human History," he has followed the sagging course of civilisation for 650,000 years. His book reveals the effects on climate, geology, and life of changes in the elevation of the globe's surface. For ages unnumbered its level sunk progressively; the belt of Polar cold extended far southwards, and men vegetated in "thrilling regions of thick-ribbed ice." Then came an æon of gradual up-thrust, which gave a semi-tropical climate to our northern hemisphere. Not less startling were the changes wrought in the world's geography. In prehistoric times India formed part of Africa; a lost continent stretched far into the Atlantic; Great Britain was itself continental, and its present coast-line eastwards was not reached till 1,600 B.C. Considerations of space have doubtless precluded Professor Flinders Petrie from describing the vast migration of mankind caused by alterations in the globular crust. Prior to the third millennium B.C. the Aral and Caspian Seas formed part of the Polar ocean, and the adjacent plains of Central Asia were inhabited by a congeries of races termed "Aryan," who lived luxuriously by agriculture and stock-raising. Owing to an upheaval of the world's surface, their rich pastures became a trackless desert, the rivers which irrigated them shrunk enormously in volume, and the northern ocean receded for 2,000 miles. Driven by dessication from their ancient habitat, the Aryans invaded Europe and India in successive swarms.

Professor Flinders Petrie proceeds to sketch the evolution of human society, as shown by its arts, crafts, and literature, but judiciously avoids discussing the momentous influence of organised religions. Especially interesting is his account of the process which converted habit into custom, and clarified custom into law. Legislators of our day might obtain many useful hints from the code of Hammurabi, who reigned over the Middle East from 2,130 to 2,088 B.C. It proves that commercialism is not a modern development, and that many characteristics of twentieth-century civilisation were known in Western Asia 4,000 years ago. If, for instance, an agent cheated his employer, he was mulcted in thrice the amount of his defalcations, and if a robber escaped capture, the city in which he had operated had to make all losses good. Builders were held strictly responsible for defective work, and shipwrights for damage to cargo due to scamped construction. He who reclaimed waste land lived rent free for three years, while a heavy fine was imposed on a cultivator who neglected or misused an irrigating channel. Hammurabi's provisions affecting family life were equally admirable. No child could be disinherited without a judge's approval; a wife's dowry was settled on her children, and if she had none, it reverted to her father's family. Of the laws promulgated by Moelmud, who flourished 2,500 years later in Wales, Professor Flinders Petrie writes:—

Across all the turmoil of past centuries comes this account of the indispensable matters of society: (1) Good sense, (2) justice, (3) brotherly affection between country and country, between man and his country, and between man and man; where these are wanting it is hardly possible to guard against convulsions in the State caused by quarrels and injustice.

It is significant of the age of transition in which our lot is cast that a book published by the venerable Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge should tacitly ignore the Mosaic account of Creation, which, within living memory, was accepted as gospel truth. Despite inevitable *lacunæ* in his narrative, Professor Flinders Petrie has done well in placing the results of modern research in so attractive a form; and his bird's-eye view of human history might be studied with great advantage in our secondary schools.

F. H. S.

II.—A SCHOLAR IN MACEDONIA.

This book is a collection of essays which, excellent in themselves, are the more remarkable in consideration of the circumstances in which they were written. One would not imagine that fragrant thoughts and scholarly phrases would spring to the mind in camps, dug-outs, and troop-trains in Macedonia; but to Mr. Chapman this fortune came.

Most of these essays concern the bones of letters, such as "Textual Criticism," "The Art of Quotation," "The Decay of Syntax," but they are nevertheless very delightful reading. The author has a rare choiceness both of matter and of manner, and though his work is steeped in academicism, it is of the liberal if not creative kind. There is a tendency in modern times to forget that Oxford and Cambridge exist, to despise learning for its own sake; but so long as academicism can produce such books as this, that loose tendency will never become a wide habit. To produce good English prose from such places as Snevce, Bralo, Kalinova and so on, is a feat of which any one might be proud. These essays are not the work of imagination: they are rather the discreet display of knowledge. Only once does the author let his fancy play, and that is in a charming essay on "Silver Spoons," an essay which is based upon, or at least is ended by, the wistful statement that "there are no spoons in Macedonia."

We shall not quarrel with this correct author, even though he does commit himself to "I doubt if" and "None are," for he has afforded much enjoyment. The quiet taste of an ordered mind is a most refreshing thing to encounter in these days. It may be added that the Oxford University Press have done their work according to their best traditions—that is to say, the book is beautifully printed.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Mons, Anzac and Kut." By an M.P. (London: Arnold. 14s.)
"Patrick Shaw-Stewart." By Ronald Knox. (London: Collins. 8s net.)
"In a Bengal Backwater." By J. Hamilton. (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co. Rs.4.8.)
"Madeline of the Desert." By Arthur Weigall. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 7s. net.)
"Crater's Gold." By Philip Curtis.
"The Forbidden Trail." By Honoré Willsie.
"The Mills of the Gods." By Elizabeth Robins. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. each.)

Cambridge University Press

A History of Persian Literature under Tartar Dominion (A.D. 1265-1502).

By E. G. BROWNE, M.A., M.B., F.B.A., F.R.C.P., Sir Thomas Adams's Professor of Arabic and Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge. Demy 8vo. With 12 illustrations. 35s net.

The present work is in fact, if not in name and form, a continuation of the same author's *Literary History of Persia* (2 vols.), previously published. In this volume the Author has been able to reproduce in many cases the original Persian texts on which his translations are based.

The Day of the Crescent.

Glimpses of Old Turkey. By G. E. HUBBARD, lately H.M. Vice-Consul for the Vilayet of Mosul. Demy 8vo. With 16 illustrations. 15s net.

Turkey in defeat contrasts with Turkey triumphant, and this picture of the golden age of Turkey should be of special interest at the present time. The book appeals to the sense we all possess for the exotic and picturesque, and throws fresh light on the history and character of the Turks.

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Initia Amharica.

An introduction to spoken Amharic. By C. H. ARMBRUSTER, M.A., H.M. Consul for North-West Ethiopia.

Part III., Amharic-English Vocabulary, Vol. I. (H—S.).

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A Manual of the Bengali Language.

By J. D. ANDERSON, Litt. D., Lecturer on Bengali in the University of Cambridge. Crown 8vo. 7s 6d net. Cambridge Guides to Modern Languages.

Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4: C. F. Clay, Manager.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. June 17	1920. June. 4	Thursday	1338. Ramadan. 30 Shawal	5680. Tamuz. 1
18	5	Friday	1	2
19	6	Saturday.....	2	3
20	7	Sunday	3	4
21	8	Monday	4	5
22	9	Tuesday	5	6
23	10	Wednesday	6	7

Prince Carol of Roumania left Hong-Kong for Canton on June 11.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer is leaving Malta for Greece on six weeks' leave.

Prince and Princess Jean Ghyka of Roumania have arrived in London from Paris.

The King and Queen received the Raja of Pudukota and the Rani Tondiman on June 8.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania visited the King and Queen on June 13, and remained to luncheon.

Prince Jemil Toussoun and Prince Mohammed Sabit have arrived at the Carlton Hotel from Cairo.

The Hon. Montague Waldegrave is at present in Serbia studying the opportunities of Y.M.C.A. work in that field.

The annual dinner of the Egyptian Army Dinner Club will take place this year at Claridge's Hotel on July 20.

Suleiman Pasha, Egyptian Minister of Agriculture, and Midhat Pasha, Governor of Cairo, arrived at Venice on June 6.

Captain George Panas, upon his appointment as Greek Naval Attaché, had the honour of being received by the King on June 8.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (May 22):—The Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. Bevan, is to act as Commissioner of Famagusta.

It is stated by the *Jewish Chronicle* that Lord Allenby has subscribed £1,000 to the Palestine Restoration Fund of the Zionist Organisation.

M. Nastas Ilitch, First Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has left London to take up an appointment at the Foreign Office in Belgrade.

General Lyautey, French High Commissioner in Morocco, has received from the King of the Hejaz a piece of the Holy Carpet, which honour is usually reserved exclusively for Mussulman sovereigns.

The Hon. Mrs. Hamilton Smith, wife of the Hon. F. Hamilton Smith, eldest son of the Right Hon. Lord Colwyn, was presented on June 10 by Lady Elmslie Carr at the Court held at Buckingham Palace.

The Jam Sahib of Nawanagar was received by his Majesty on June 8, when the King invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Military Division.

Sir George Lloyd, Governor of Bombay, and Lady Lloyd left Poona on June 8 for Ootacamund, Sir George having been medically advised to undergo a course of treatment at the Pasteur Institute at Coonoor, as he has contracted rabies.

Viscount and Viscountess Bryce were among the passengers who arrived at Southampton on June 12 from South America by the R.M.S.P. Avon.

M. Venizelos arrived in London from Paris on June 14. On the following day he attended the wedding of Commander Talbot, Naval Attaché of the British Legation in Athens.

DR. HOWARD BLISS.

(By Our Beyrout Correspondent.)

The American College, first known as the Syrian Protestant College, has just sustained an irreparable loss in the premature death of its president, Dr. Howard Bliss. He and his father before him, the elder and the younger Bliss, had left so deeply the imprint of their outstanding personality on this grand monument of education in the East that it has become identified with their life and work. The old spirit of the college died with Daniel Bliss, its founder and first president, and its younger spirit has just passed away with Howard Bliss, its second president. It is strange how father and son fitted in, each so happily, with the spirit of his time. The elder Bliss, with his grand Puritan simplicity, his quiet but impressive manner, and his silent power of organisation, was the very man to lay the foundations of the college and build up its solid framework at an epoch when Syria was just beginning to shed its primitive shell and emerge into the new order of the Western world. The thirst for knowledge was then so great that it transcended even the Syrian's religious sense, which was then as unsophisticated as it was narrow. On the advent of the son Syria, especially Beyrout, had already made a long stride along the path of modern progress. The spread of education and freer intercourse with the fast evolving West had led to a broadening of the national mind and to an awakening of racial consciousness. The college roll was growing larger every year, and its multitude of students were recruited from the far-flung corners of the Middle East. In order to weld together that strange medley of races and creeds, a high ideal conforming to the aspirations of every race and to the noble essence of every belief was required, and the younger Bliss, with the vision of a leader, presented to the stirring souls of his young army this ideal embodied in the college as their Alma Mater. At the risk of offending the principles of the trustees, who originally endowed the college as a Protestant institution, he preached the religion of Christ as that of higher humanity wherein all the religions, with what is best in them, meet. Greeks and Syrians, Arabs, Egyptians and Persians, even some Indians; Christians and Moslems, Jews and Druses, all made a harmonious mosaic in this grand temple of education, all met as brothers in the sporting field and in the class room, and all sang with one spirit the college song.

This extreme breadth of mind, combined with diplomatic skill and a personal charm of manner, won him the confidence of the authorities, and that popularity stood him in such great stead during the war that he was enabled not only to carry on the work of the college under the most trying of circumstances but to make of it also a sort of haven of refuge, a centre of mercy. He worked with such untiring zeal, and such burning devotion and self-sacrifice, that he finally succumbed a victim to duty. The college was to him the one high goal of his life. It is said that a year before his death his doctor told him, once, that if he were to go on working in the way he did he would be risking his life. "It would not matter," he replied, "if the college cause were to be furthered thereby."

The deceased was an orator of distinction, and had he chosen for his vocation politics instead of theology he might have been one of the great politicians of his time.

He was born in the Lebanon in the year 1860, and was sent by his father to the States to complete his education at Amherst College, where he took his B.A. degree in 1882. After a further two years' college course he entered the Union Theological Seminary, where his power as a preacher revealed itself. The Faculty then asked him to go at its expense to Europe to take higher courses in some of its universities, among which were those of Oxford and Berlin. He then returned in 1889 to Brooklyn, where he assisted the famous preacher Lyman Abbott in the ministry of one of its leading churches. In 1890 he was ordained, and in 1902 the title of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him by the New York University.

He was a friend of President Woodrow Wilson, who honoured him with his confidence and esteem by asking him to make a statement on the political problem in Syria before the Peace Conference.

This deeply lamented friend of Syria leaves a widow and two sons and three daughters, one of whom is married to Mr. Dodge, son of the millionaire benefactor, and one of the trustees of the college.

ESSAD PASHA TOPTANI.

Essad Pasha, who had been living in Paris for some little time, was shot dead in that city on June 13 as he was leaving his hotel. His assailant, who gives his name as Aveni Rustem, is a young Albanian, and though he denies that his action was prompted by any political motive, his denial is not generally received. Essad Pasha, who was head of the Toptani family, of Tirana, had had an adventurous and remarkable career. Not all the incidents in that career were regarded as being entirely to his credit, but during the war he stood staunchly on the Entente side, and fulfilled his obligations honourably, and he had latterly felt deeply aggrieved by the treatment he had received from the Allies and the Peace Conference.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report :—

PERSIA. MIDDLE EAST (June 1). INDIA: Census Report.—Amritsar Disturbances (Hunter Report). PERSIA. PEACE TREATIES: Armenia.—Turkey (June 2).

PERSIA. MIDDLE EAST. EGYPT (MILNER REPORT). INDIA: Amritsar Disturbances (General Dyer). PEACE TREATIES: Mesopotamia.—Mandatory Territories (Administration). INDIA: Waziristan Casualties (Transport Facilities) (June 3).

INDIA: Income Tax (June 4).

PEACE TREATIES: Mesopotamia.—Palestine. Armenia. ARABIA. LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Persia. SMYRNA (CAPITULATIONS). EGYPT (MILNER COMMISSION). INDIA: Gazetted Officers (Retirement).—Army Officers' Pre-War Pensions.—Punjab (Lord Hunter's Committee).—Military Operations, Afghanistan and Waziristan (Medal).—Afghanistan (Mussoorie Conference). ALBANIA. PERSIA (June 7).

ARABIA. INDIA: General Dyer. BRITISH ARMY: Troops in Mesopotamia and Persia. INDIA: Government of India Bill (Transferred Subjects).—Punjab (Arms Act) (June 8).

INDIA: General Dyer.—Hospital Transport.—Army Uniforms.—Officers' Pensions. PEACE TREATIES: Armenia. BRITISH ARMY: Medical Boards, Egypt. INDIA: Hunter Commission Report (Acting Deputy Commissioner, Gugranwalla). CEYLON (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM). PERSIA (SOVIET DETACHMENTS). (June 9.)

MIDDLE EAST. INDIA: Lord Hunter's Commission. DISTURBANCES (JERUSALEM). MR. JABOTINSKY. MONTENEGRO. (June 10.)

INDIA: Army, Warrant Rank. (June 11.)

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A council meeting of the above Society was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, on May 26, Mr. S. G. Hough (vice-president) being in the chair. There were also present Messrs. E. R. Calthrop, H. V. Musgrave Clark, A. Stanley Cochrane, C. W. Laird, Capt. J. Hamilton Leigh, Major G. B. Ollivant, and the secretary, the Rev. D. B. Montefiore (Islip).

The following new members were elected:—Calmady-Hamlyn, Miss S.; Bidlake Vean, Bridestorne, Devon; Illingworth, Thomas; Ellerslie, Brownswood Park, Willesden; Perkins, Miss M. Puggie Stone House, Changford, Devon.

Entries for the Arab Horse Stud-Book, Vol. II., and also for the Arab-bred Register, were accepted.

The Council had the honour of receiving letters from His Majesty the King, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, graciously accepting copies of the Arab Horse Stud-Book, Vol. I.

After dealing with correspondence the Council adjourned until the next meeting on October 27 at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

PALESTINE IN LONDON.

At the Central Hall, Westminster, an exhibition, which was opened on June 10, and is lasting until July 7, is being held to demonstrate to the British public the life and customs of Palestine. The exhibition is thoroughly well organised, and the utmost care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the representation of Palestine life. Lectures are given daily on "Life Scenes in the Holy Land." The New pictures, illustrative of Palestine life, are excellent. The stands, which contain such things as a raised map of Palestine, the Palestine garden and water-wheel, agricultural implements, and Herod's Temple, to name but a few of the most interesting exhibits, are tastefully arranged, and cannot fail to give the onlooker a vivid impression of conditions in the Holy Land. All those attracted by one of the most fascinating of all lands should visit "Palestine in London," which will undoubtedly arouse much interest. The exhibition is organised by the Society for Promoting Christianity Among the Jews.

NILE PROJECTS COMMISSION.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports (June 14):—After protracted public sittings the Nile Projects Commission has found that the charges of falsification of figures and suppression of documents brought by Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy against the Ministry of Public Works here are unfounded.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

All the bank clerks who had been on strike at Alexandria resumed work on June 12.

Italian seamen are opposing the dispatch of reinforcements to Albania.

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the Chief Scout, has received a message of greeting from the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of Erivan, the capital of the Republic of Armenia.

The Postmaster-General announces that goods can no longer be accepted for transmission by letter post to Teheran and other places in the north of Persia, and the parcel post to Northern Persia has not yet been reopened.

Part of the Bombay Institute of Science has been loaned by the Government for the convenience of travellers passing through Bombay. Accommodation is thereby provided for 400 travellers a day.

Mustapha Kemal's delegates, who intended to proceed to Europe to submit the Nationalists' claims to the Peace Conference, have been refused permission to embark by the Italian authorities at Adalia, and have been compelled to abandon their

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

"EASTAPROX, LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO

(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1920.

THE BOLSHEVIST MENACE TO PERSIA.

The Prime Minister has been at great pains to defend the new policy towards Soviet Russia which he has initiated by negotiating in London with M. Krassin. He has not had an easy task, though he has a singularly docile House of Commons to deal with, and there are many of his fellow-countrymen outside the House to whom so rapid a change of front would still remain intensely repugnant, even if it could be justified on grounds of material expediency. To those who, like ourselves, are specially interested in the restoration of peace in the Near and Middle East, his defence would carry more conviction if he were able to convey some reasonable assurance that a *modus vivendi* with Soviet Russia would mean a cessation of aggressive Bolshevist activities in regions where they are obviously and indeed avowedly directed to the subversion of British influence and British interests. Whilst M. Krassin is being received and treated with every mark of courtesy and goodwill by British Ministers and inspired organs are prompted to give him excellent certificates of character, and he himself proceeds to open spacious premises for the transaction of business, as if every cloud had already been dispelled on the horizon of Anglo-Russian relations, the Moscow wireless continues to report the triumphant invasion of Persia by Bolshevist forces that take their orders from the Soviet Government. Whether these reports are entirely accurate we have no means of knowing, but some of the details at least may for the present, we hope, be dismissed as imaginary embellishments. We do not, for instance, believe for a moment that Resht has been evacuated by the British because "the Indian troops were opposed to fighting against the revolutionaries," or that "a considerable part of the Indian troops" went over to the well-known revolutionary Persian leader, Mirza Kutchuk, who, we are told, has dutifully notified the "revolution" to his employers in Moscow. But that Lenin and Trotsky should use the Moscow wireless in order to disseminate these stories throughout the world, including the very restless world of the Orient, affords, we fear, a much more significant illustration of the real aims of Soviet Russia than the mellifluous accents which M. Krassin has been instructed to lavish on British Ministers in the seclusion of Downing Street.

For the situation in Persia is just as much the touchstone to-day of our relations with Soviet Russia as it was in former days of our relations with Tsarist Russia. Our interests in Persia now, as then, are concerned solely with the maintenance or re-establishment under a stable government and administration of settled conditions which shall enable the resumption of commercial intercourse and the development of the natural resources of a country adjacent not only to our Indian Empire but to those regions of the old Ottoman Empire for whose first steps towards future independence we are about to make ourselves responsible by accepting mandatory authority in Mesopotamia. Our greatest stumbling-block formerly was the ambitious policy of Tsarist Russia, and we had ultimately to make considerable sacrifices in order to avert the mere danger of conflict. During the war Anglo-Indian forces and, until the Russian revolution, Russian forces had to be moved into Persian territory in order to preserve Persia, who was powerless to defend her own neutrality, on the one hand, in the south, from the depredations of mercenary bands raised by German and Austrian emissaries, and, on the other hand, in the north, from the invading armies of Turkey. When the Russian forces melted away after the downfall of the Tsar, Anglo-Indian troops were forced to take over the defence of the western provinces of Persia against the Turks from Mesopotamia right up to the Caspian. But as soon as the war was over, and Russia for the time being off the stage, the British Government hastened to show that this country remained, as it had always wished to remain, entirely free from any territorial ambitions or even from any craving for political supremacy by concluding with the Persian Government an agreement that recognised the complete integrity and independence of Persia, whilst promising her whatever assistance she might need to put her house in order; and as a further proof of good faith they undertook to communicate that agreement to the League of Nations. Since then Bolshevist Russia, after having spread chaos throughout the Asiatic dominions of the Tsarist Empire and helped to stir up war between Afghanistan and India, has turned her destructive energies on to Persia, and has recently descended on to the Persian shores of the Caspian. She appears to be far more determined than Tsarist Russia ever was to defeat any policy of peace, and unfortunately she is in many ways better equipped to do so. For she is not restrained by any international engagements or by any of the decencies which an organised Government knows it can only violate at its peril. Nor can we close our eyes to the fact that, especially in Northern Persia, there is a strong Turkish or semi-Turkish element which, in spite of the fundamental antagonism between Bolshevism and the first principles of Islam, is ready to make common cause with every enemy of England in the name of Turkish Nationalism, or that throughout Persia the oppression and corruption practised for generations past by many of the indigenous ruling classes as well as the predatory instincts of many turbulent tribes have brought the prestige of the Shah's Government terribly low, and created conditions of popular distress and distrust in which revolution, from whatever quarter it comes, finds ready aiders and abettors.

It is difficult to believe that the dangers of the present situation, to which events have been visibly working up for many months past, have taken British Ministers by surprise. Yet had they foreseen it, would they have ventured to remove from the Teheran Legation, even for the benefit of Mesopotamia, a Minister who had acquired an influence with Persians of all classes, which no British representative has for many years past possessed, and transferred the reins from Sir Percy Cox to a new Minister, who, however able he may be, has no experience whatever of the country and the people? We do not envy Mr. Norman his job, nor the young Shah, who has just returned to his capital. For only some 200 miles of relatively good road, with merely a couple of rather difficult mountain passes, and a very small British force to defend them, even if they were instructed to defend them, separate Teheran from the Bolshevist invaders, whose operations have already far transcended the alleged purpose of their landing at Enzeli—viz., the capture of Denikin's helpless fleet. Lord Curzon knows Persia, and with the help of a map he can surely enlighten even Mr. Lloyd George's ignorance of geography. Not so many months ago he was ready enough to discourse eloquently on the beneficent policy embodied in the Anglo-Persian Agreement. Can he not be moved to speak with the same pertinence as to the bearings of the Anglo-Persian Agreement upon the untoward developments which are now taking place? We are quite aware that there is nothing in that agreement that formally binds Great Britain to defend Persia even against Bolshevist aggression, but the British people—and the Persians, too—are surely entitled to know whether the British Government are taking any steps, and if so, what steps, to preserve the integrity and independence of a country upon which we have recently lavished so many assurances of friendship, from dangers that threaten in a very acute form not only its own peaceful existence, but our interests and position throughout the East. We believe even that, if M. Krassin is in earnest, his mission would be far more likely to lead to a satisfactory issue if the British Prime Minister were to intimate at once, and quite clearly, through him to the ruling powers at Moscow, that their conversations could not proceed any further

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until orders were sent out and carried into execution for the withdrawal of all Soviet forces, regular and irregular, from Persian territory. Such an intimation would at the same time be a suitable reply to the preposterous message which Lenin has just sent to the British working classes with the undisguised purpose of stirring them up to rebellion against the very Government with whom he professes his anxiety to negotiate in a friendly spirit through M. Krassin.

MESOPOTAMIAN HUMOURS.

By the Rev. W. A. Wigram.

A sight to make surrounding nations stare,
A kingdom trusted to a schoolboy's care!

So wrote an enemy of the younger Pitt at the commencement of one of the longest and most successful administrations in English history. It was a tremendous experiment, and it worked well. Something of the same sort was done in Mesopotamia in the early days of the occupation and administration; there were, indeed, older men at the top, but, speaking broadly, the work of administering the kingdom of the Khalifs, of Nebuchadnezzar, and of Tiglath-pileser, was in the hands of youths who, when the war began, were learning the first outlines of the great art of ruling men as prefects at school, and who had matured their powers as subaltern officers during the Great War. And for the result? Let us pray that Allah, in his mercy, will inspire the big-wigs at home to keep their hands off it, and to let those who have learnt to know and like the people rule them with the promptness and humorous tolerance which make the Oriental forgive almost any number of blunders in those whom he sees to be honest in intention. Naturally, things were done which would make the hair of any code-worshipping administrator to rise upon his head, but they were done with the absolute approval of those who were most affected. Once, for instance, when coming out of the Government *serai* of a certain provincial capital, we found the square before it packed with serried rows of donkeys, guarded by a few rather disconsolate Arabs. "What on earth is this?" we enquired of H. E. the local Governor. "Are you raising a regiment of cavalry, or anything interesting of that sort?" "No, those are my plunder, not my army," said the Governor, and he detailed how a certain tribe of Arabs had carried off nine horses, property of King George. Wherefore he had impounded all the donkeys belonging to that tribe in the town, and they were to work on the new roads till such time as the horses came back. "I think I am ahead on that deal," said authority. In due course the stolen goods were returned, and the donkeys restored to a tribe who quite understood and approved the notion of communal responsibility, and who would have understood nothing else.

When British rule was new, it was, of course, an unheard-of thing that any conquering power should listen to a complaint against its own men, but when it was found that accusations were heard and cases tried, complaints came in in sufficient numbers to be a nuisance. Surely the shade of Haroun-al-Rashid must have chuckled in Paradise when he heard of the measures taken to stop it; for an order went out that any charge against any British soldier of any rank would be heard and investigated most strictly, but any proved false accuser would be taken to the market and flogged forthwith. It is said that a certain archbishop fled from the face of the Governor when asked if he was ready to have his complaint enquired into on those lines!

Mesopotamia, however, if the most ancient of lands, seemed to be anxious to prove itself up-to-date, and so produced that which is a weariness to flesh and spirit alike at home—an education problem. It was the Yezidis, those ancient and most respectable "devil-worshippers" of the Mosul district, and Jebel Sinjar, who produced this diversion, and it came of the attempt to introduce schools among them.

A deputation of their most venerable ecclesiastics (for this rather peculiar church has an elaborate and complicated hierarchy) came in to Mosul to protest their loyalty but the impossibility of obeying this particular command. King George had no more loyal subjects than they, they said, but when it came to learning to read and write, they must represent, in all humility, that the Devil had told them that they musn't!

This problem was handed over to the writer, with the suggestion: "This comes into your province, Padre. I was brought up to believe that the Devil rather encouraged access to the Tree of Knowledge than otherwise. Now, perhaps you will explain to me why the devil does the Devil forbid it now?" The only suggested explanation was a rather mundane one—viz., that the clergy (who have pushed division of labour to the point of having one grade of the hierarchy whose exclusive business it is to say the prayers, so that nobody else need trouble to do so at all) felt that the key to knowledge was also the key to power, and did not fancy sharing it with the laity. Anyhow, the Governor declared that he was not going to be beaten by the Devil, and ordered the institution of a school in the Sinjar hills. It was started, and seemed to be in the way to succeed, for the younger men, at any rate, were alive to the charms of progress, but when it was just getting into its stride there came an earthquake! "There," said the older men, "we told you so," and, in fact, both sides declared that the Devil was in the business, though they drew different conclusions about his presence.

That a little raiding and "dacoity" should still go on in the land is only human nature. Marsh Arabs have been bad boys since the days of Sennacherib, at any rate, and his complaints of their misbehaviour, recorded in cuneiform, read much like those of a Civil Commissioner of to-day. Incidentally, it is worth noting that the tactics employed by the king against them had a strong family resemblance to those of General Townshend at the battle of Kurnah in 1914.

If, however, the Arab is feloniously inclined by nature, even if he is learning better in these days, the trader in the land sometimes tries that tender plant, Arab virtue, rather severely in his confidence in the British Government and its justice. A case was known at Mosul of a caravan of traders which turned up in a most injured frame of mind, minus all its donkeys, which had gone amissing one night.

"Well, how did it happen?" said authority; "some of you were sitting up on the watch to look after the beasts, I suppose?" "Oh, no, sahib! Is it not the British Government now, Allah be praised? We all went to sleep!" A generous suggestion was made, to the effect that if the Government would get back the goods, and pay full compensation, they might be allowed to keep the donkeys as their share!

On another occasion, an A.P.O. of Mosul district turned up triumphant with the captive of his own bow and spear. He had seen a man on the highway carrying a rifle, against strict standing orders to the contrary and had called on him to come up and give an account of himself. The Kurd, however, had taken cover on the other side of the road and opened fire, on which the A.P.O. followed suit. Finally, the fellow had been driven to surrender (his position being made untenable by a masterly flank movement executed by the Sikh orderly), and then had explained that it was all a mistake. He had thought that the officer was a German, and that it was no more than his duty to kill him! Meantime, it was delightful to see the attitude taken up by the country people while the combatants were shooting at one another from opposite sides of the King's highway. They continued to stroll casually along it on their way to market, hardly even walking faster when they entered the field of fire! Two gentlemen had a difference, and were settling it in a manner entirely lawful and laudable, but what had that to do with quiet folk?

In spite of his ingenious defence, the criminal retired into Mosul prison for a period, where it is to be feared that he will not get the indulgence accorded to a brother criminal at an outlying post. In this case, the A.P.O. was seeking to influence the Arabs by means of the educative influence of polo, and, be it remarked *en*

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passant, that the scheme was an excellent one, and the Arabs take to it as kindly as King Yunan in the "Arabian Nights." Unluckily, however, it became needful for the polo enthusiast, in his capacity as judge, to send the best native player to the local prison, on account of a slight misunderstanding connected with sheep that got into a fold that was not theirs. However, shall a great educational movement be delayed for a trifle like that? What is the use of being a Governor if you cannot arrange things better? Therefore, on polo mornings the criminal's horse came round to the prison, and he came out to play, he being captain of one side, and the judge of the other. The game over, the two had a drink together, and the criminal went back to prison till next time.

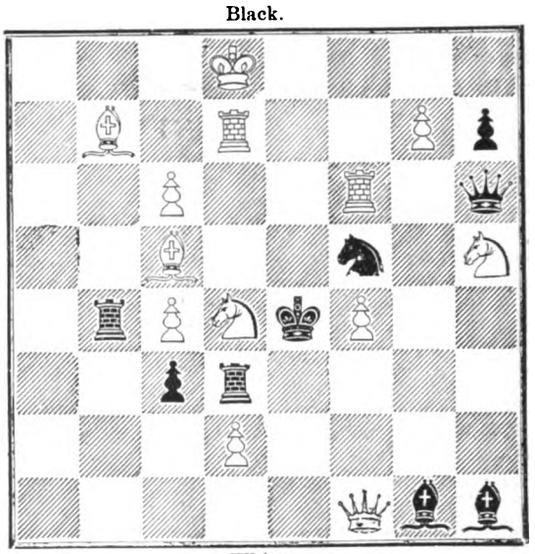
Some few misunderstandings have arisen, no doubt, and the matter of the new streets in Mosul was one of them. Turks, or maybe Germans, had begun the driving of wide thoroughfares through the tangled heart of the old city, but had left the work half-done at the end of the war. British authority continued it, but whereas their predecessors had declined to pay any compensation for a destroyed house, the British promised to do so for every house that they pulled down. What the Turks had done before their arrival, however, was declared to be "not on our neck." The position was quite reasonable to a Western, but to the Oriental it put a high premium on ingenious perjury, and the number of false claims (backed with most solemn oaths) that came in wore out the patience of junior officials. At last, in one case of a scandalously false and perjured claim—it was the third or fourth that this applicant had brought in—the British official scrawled on the document, "give the bearer thirty of the best," and sent the applicant off to the police-station with it. He solemnly presented the document, hoping that the "thirty" referred at the least to pounds sterling, but found that it was to be interpreted "lashes," which he duly received. To do the rascal justice, he bore no malice; he had tried to score off the Government, and had been scored off himself, and to "do" the Government is an Oriental's notion of sport. In fact, he regarded the chaff he incurred from his friends as a far worse infliction that the sticks he ate. However, two days later, there was another order. The owners of *all* destroyed houses were to receive compensation. So our too-ingenious friend was summoned again to the *serai*, and on going with some natural trepidation, found that he was now to receive many rupees for the very thing that he had been soundly beaten for demanding a few days before. "Who *can* understand the ways of the English? At the least, one could comprehend the licking I got for trying to cheat, but why should they give me money after?" Truly, one's sympathies are with the puzzled Oriental.

Among the administrators whom we set to manage this land, by no means the worst are those drawn from the ranks and from among the N.C.O.'s. The power of "Sergeant What's-his-name" in that direction is a thing known of old, and many a "Tommy" in these days has shown that he is the possessor of the same gift. One genius indeed (a driver in the M.T. corps) turned his gift to private profit. He set up as a doctor, and treated all who came to him with such striking results, that when at last a "pukka" medico came to the district, no man would have anything but the "same good medicine that the Kamon gave (Kamon—*i.e.*, "Come on" is the local name for the British soldier). The doctor had to put his professional pride in his pocket, and ask his amateur colleague what he had been giving. The M.T. man had no wish to make a secret of it; he had been giving every man who came to him table-spoon doses of the lubricating oil of his motor lorry, arguing that what would lubricate the interior of the engine would do the same for the interior of a man.

Mesopotamia will settle its own problems, under the British subaltern and the British private, provided always that a petition is granted, which might profitably be added to the Litany for local use: "From the mean white, and from Whitehall, good Lord deliver us."

CHESS.

Problem No 20.
Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem by Frank Janet, New York, took the first prize for two-movers in the Victory Tournament of the British Chess Problem Society.

Has analysis all but spoilt chess? The point is raised by a correspondent who argues that, judging by present conditions, in another twenty years the real play will not commence until about the third hour, and that then, thanks to the unwearied efforts of the analysts, it will be possible to foresee the result. That, of course, is an exaggerated view; but at the same time, I cannot believe that chess has benefited by the publication of innumerable treatises on the openings. The result has been to handicap all those who have no leisure to study the openings, and to place a premium on "cramming." Despite all that has been done so far, however, those who have a gift for the game can still get their own back by leaving the openings in the first few moves, and then it is more than amusing to see what happens when those who depend on the text-books find themselves left entirely to their own resources.

For myself, I must confess that as a general rule I always select both for White and Black a series of opening moves which will take my opponent out of the "book" as quickly as possible. For White the simplest thing is to play some form of the Queen's Opening, which up to the present, despite what the experts say, has very largely defied analysis; while for Black, one at least of the irregular replies gives the second player considerable freedom from analysis.

It is only in recent years that analysis has made any real headway, and it must be confessed that once it began to make progress its strides have been extremely rapid. The complaint is not seldom heard that modern tournaments fail to produce games equal in brilliance to those of the last century and the early years of the present one. Undoubtedly that is the case, and the only reason for it is to be found in the fact that modern lines of play leave little or no scope for it. A Morphy has no place in "book" chess. To-day one wins in the end game, not by a continuation in the middle game. It is more certain, but romance has passed from the game

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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It has been found impossible to extend the Simplon-Orient Express's route beyond Belgrade at present on account of the unsatisfactory condition of the line between Belgrade and Constantinople, but a connection is established between Belgrade and Sofia by a service of three trains each week. One estimate puts the time at three months that will be required before conditions are satisfactory enough to warrant running the express through. It is stated, however, that should the new service run smoothly a much earlier date may be looked for. In this connection it may be noted that a Bulgarian contemporary announces that the first through Orient Express will leave Paris on July 1. The re-establishment of the through service is a boon for which all who have business relations which necessitate travel to the Near East are eagerly waiting, for the substitute routes that have had to be followed have proved far from attractive alternatives, to say nothing of the additional time that has had to be devoted to journeys.

***

I am informed that a leading British firm at Casablanca is contemplating opening showrooms for the display of British commodities, provided it is assured of the co-operation of commercial circles here. There is no doubt that this project would prove most beneficial to the development of British trade with Morocco, and I trust that United Kingdom firms will not be slow in giving this undertaking their support.

***

The announcement this week that the great carpet manufacturing business of Tabriz, which until the war was carried on by Germans, has been purchased by a British firm, is excellent hearing, and Mr. V. Behar, governing director of Messrs. Cardinal and Harford, Limited, of High Holborn, is to be heartily congratulated in bringing off such a notable coup on behalf of his firm. The property, which is stated to have changed hands at over £500,000, was acquired in the face of keen competition on the part of American and European business firms, and thus provides gratifying proof that the old spirit of commercial enterprise which placed this country in the leading position in the past is still very much alive among us to-day. Besides the chief factory at Tabriz, the business has centres at Teheran, Hamadan, Tiflis and elsewhere, and the employees number some 30,000 hands. Messrs. Cardinal and Harford intend to send out 1,000 British workpeople as soon as possible, and propose to introduce new methods. The question of transport is also to receive attention, and the camel, it is interesting to note, is to be replaced by the motor-car, Persia, as a writer of recent articles in our columns pointed out, presenting favourable conditions in certain regions for that form of transport.

***

Trials of tractors and motor-ploughs are to be held in Egypt in January, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, and it is to be hoped that British manufacturers will not fail to take advantage of this excellent opportunity of introducing their machines to this market. Purely an agricultural country, the efforts now being made to extend the area under cultivation promises a great opening for machines of a suitable type. Firms taking part in the trials should note that it is absolutely essential to send out experts who can do full justice to their exhibits.

***

I see that the Agricultural Department of India is also proposing to hold tractor trials on a large scale next year. At the recent trials at Nagpur, reference to which was made in these columns last week, the practicability of utilising tractors in the difficult conditions in India was fully demonstrated, and already a number of tractors are in use there. Unfortunately the market has hitherto not received much attention on the part of British firms, while foreign makers have, on the other hand, been assiduous in cultivating it, and in consequence have received a number of orders. The forthcoming trials should enable British firms to recover the lost ground, and to establish a firm footing in a large and growing market for these machines.

The continued low value of the leu, coupled with a lack of accommodation on the part of British traders, has given our commercial rivals a considerable advantage in Roumania at the present time. British firms want payment in cash, and as this cannot be effected at the present rates of exchange, the result has been that imports from Great Britain have practically ceased. On the other hand, American firms, our Correspondent points out, have obtained a number of important contracts, as they are willing to take payment in the form of Government Treasury Bonds extending over a period of several years. Is there any reason why British firms should not do likewise, except an innate conservatism which keeps them to methods which may have been adequate in pre-war days, but will not meet the situation now?

***

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that it is what happens now that matters. If British firms meet the requirements of the market now, then they will be in a satisfactory position when normal competition returns; but if, on the other hand, they will not go out of their way to make concessions, then their chance of obtaining a footing in the market later on will be far from good, for there is bound to be very serious competition on the part of Germany and Austria. The Roumanian market, I would once again impress upon British traders, offers special opportunities for the development of British business enterprise, for the people are keenly desirous of establishing close relations with us, and, provided they are afforded adequate facilities, there is no doubt that British goods will be given the preference.

***

Exceptionally good results were obtained by the New Egyptian Company during the past year. The gross profits were almost doubled at £143,523, as against £79,456, while the expenditure amounted to £36,477, leaving a net profit for the year of £106,745. At this week's general meeting the chairman emphasised the strength of the company's position, pointing out that the balance-sheet showed an excess of assets over liabilities of £279,500, equal to 12s. 6d. per share, and that this was arrived at by taking the lands at cost—namely, £49 15s. 7d. per feddan. He went on to mention that recently the company sold 240 feddans at over £245 per feddan, and that as much as £256 had been secured for a small area.

***

There was a very considerable expansion of the profits of the Burmah Oil Company in the past year. The net profits amounted to £4,654,000, as against £3,420,124 in 1918, and £2,858,063 in 1917, and this it is proposed to utilise to pay a final dividend of 8s. per share, which, with the interim distribution, makes the rate for the year 50 per cent., free of tax. In addition to this, shareholders are to receive a substantial bonus, as there is to be a share distribution on the basis of four new shares for every five already held.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

Cairo, May 24.

Favourable Financial Outlook.

The finance accounts for February, just issued, reveal some remarkable figures. The total revenue for the eleven months amounts to £E28,859,650, as compared with £E24,703,335, and the striking feature about this figure is that it exceeds the total budgetted for the complete year. On the other hand expenditure amounts to £E24,397,130, as against £E20,711,651 at the end of February, 1919, and already there is a surplus of £E4,462,530, which it may be anticipated will be increased to £E5,000,000 when the March account is published.

Compared with the corresponding period of 1919 the main increases are Customs, £E1,931,701; tobacco dues, £E958,504; judicial fees, £E271,307; domains receipts, £E292,724; ghaffir cess, £E212,706; interest on funds, £E137,076; extraordinary receipts, £E295,755. Almost every head of revenue exceeds the total budgetted for the complete year, the chief examples being Customs, £E5,824,863, against £E4,200,000; tobacco dues, £E2,969,019, against £E2,350,000; domains receipts, £E1,208,059, against £E856,000; and ghaffir cess, £E1,040,659, against £E855,000. The only noteworthy exception is interest on funds, which amounts to only £E510,639, compared with an estimated £E2,026,000, but as this item includes profit on the bank note issue there is reason to expect that the final account will show a substantial increase on the present figure.

Cairo, May 31.

Great Trade Expansion.

The Customs returns for the first quarter of the current year reveal what can but be regarded as phenomenal figures. During the period imports amounted to £E20,545,180, against £E10,380,815, and exports to £E50,555,666, against £E15,833,856 at the end of March, 1919. In other words, imports have doubled and exports more than trebled, and the figures for the first quarter of this year are not far short of those for the whole of last year.

Under imports the more important items are:—Preserved fish, £E178,406; boots and shoes, £E123,776; flour, £E323,797; fruits, £E418,894; coffee, £E478,265; vegetable oils, £E272,527; petroleum, £E604,541; oil-fuel, £E154,926; coal, £E614,124; construction wood, £E425,763; chemical manure, £E415,706; household soap, £E168,422; cotton yarn, £E481,681; cotton textiles, £E5,853,756 (about treble the value in the first quarter of 1919 and a little more than double the quantity); woollen textiles, £E789,642; silk yarn, £E234,509; silk textiles, £E517,264; sacks, £E279,055; manufactured iron and steel, £E754,782; and tobacco, £E789,261.

Most of these items show a considerable increase in value over the corresponding quarter of last year. It is to be foreseen, however, that during the coming month textiles, which represent practically half of the first quarter's imports, as against less than one-third at the end of March, 1919, will show a considerable reduction, as the country is at present overstocked with Manchester goods and similar articles, and local prices are dropping.

Under exports, cotton, of course, bulks largest as usual, and accounts for £E47,378,456, or about 90 per cent. of the total. The rise in the price of cotton can be seen from the fact that whereas the increase in value has risen by 250 per cent., that in quantity has risen by barely 40 per cent. Other important items under exports have been eggs, £E274,632; hides and skins, £E294,336; cotton seed, £E838,459; cotton cake, £E213,433; sugar, £E324,993; cigarettes, £E266,570.

As regards the share taken by foreign countries, under imports the United Kingdom slightly increased its share, rising from 40 per cent. to just under 50 per cent., Italy increased from £E364,000 to £E1,470,000, China from £E314,000 to £E530,000, Japan from £E453,000 to £E827,000, and the United States from £E471,000 to £E1,127,000.

Under exports, for once in the way, Great Britain has taken second place, the United States heading the list with £E21,199,000, as against our £E19,460,000. As can be seen these two countries have absorbed four-fifths of the exports, the only other important items being France with £E3,575,000 and Italy with £E1,878,000. All these figures for all practical purposes represent cotton.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan was quite brisk during the quarter. Imports from the Sudan amounted to £E956,882 and exports to the Sudan to £E1,015,001, against £E538,663 and £E744,285 respectively during the corresponding period of the previous year. The principal imports into Egypt were livestock, £E313,580; sesame, £E272,566; ground nuts, £E90,711; charcoal, £E31,976; gum, £E17,388; while the main exports to the Sudan were rice, £E10,042; flour, £E23,589; sugar, £E242,500; groceries, £E101,808; cotton textiles, £E231,168; and sacks, £E70,051.

Port Said, May 28.

Shipping News.

Shipping, which has been very slack lately, is showing signs of renewed activity. Among several noteworthy ships which have lately passed the Canal may be mentioned the Cap Polonio, which up to date is the biggest ship that has passed through the Canal. The famous yacht Sunbeam, in which Lord Brassey circumnavigated the globe, has also passed through here. She now belongs to the Pangbourne Nautical Training College.

Passages home, or indeed anywhere, are still almost impossible to get, and people are spending their leave and also their money in Port Said, waiting in the ofttimes vain hope of a berth on a steamer.

Attempts are being made to raise the Italian warship which sank some months ago near the southern entrance of the Canal owing to a boiler explosion. Two large cylinders have recently arrived, which will be used to try to float her into shallow water, where she can be repaired.

Nothing is being done yet to raise the several torpedoed vessels lying in the shallow water off Port Said, and possibly those responsible think the expense now would be more than the value of the vessels if raised. The wreck of the Tiber, which was loaded with cases of benzine, and blew up while being towed down the harbour, is now practically cleared away, and no longer interferes with navigation. The Proton, which was loaded with ammunition (with hay on deck to keep it warm, which caught fire), and was sunk at her moorings at the entrance to the Canal just in time to save Port Said from the fate of Halifax, is still there, no attempt having been made as yet to get her up or remove her.

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ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 20.

Petrol Production.

The following figures have recently been published in the *Moniteur du Petrole Roumain*, showing the total production of petrol for the first three months of this year: January, 69,987 tons; February, 66,339 tons; March, 79,096 tons. The apparent drop in February is really only due to the fact that there are fewer days in that month, as the average daily production amounts to some 2,000 tons.

Exports.

According to the same official organ the export of petroleum and petroleum products in 1919 was as follows:—Benzine, 2,298 tons; lamp oil, 26,281 tons; gas oil, 5,568 tons; residues, 1,200 tons; crude oil, 3,600 tons; total, 38,947 tons. Against this the export in 1913 was 1,036,446 tons, *i.e.*, almost a million tons more.

The whole of the above export was transported by way of the Danube out of the country, none of it having been shipped from Constantza. The largest quantities went to Czecho-Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

Condition of Pipe Lines.

In an article in the *Moniteur du Petrole*, M. Corneliu Tordceanu, director of the pipe-line service, gives an interesting account of the working of the conduits, and suggests a future programme. He says that although the pipe lines are not doing anything like their normal work, it is really surprising that they have not broken down altogether, for in their present condition they would not have been passed as fit for transporting the oil in normal times. Nevertheless, between March 10 and September 1, 1919, 5,470 wagons were pumped to Giurgevo, *i.e.*, about 33 wagons per day, or 1,442,540 kilometric tons per month; and from September 1, 1919, till March 8, 1920, 8,618 wagons were pumped from Baicoi to Giurgevo and 3,733 wagons from Baicoi to Constantza, *i.e.*, about 2,060 wagons per month or 70 wagons per day, which is double the amount for the former period.

Maize for Czecho-Slovakia.

It is reported that the Roumanian Government is treating with the Government of Czecho-Slovakia for the export of 1,000 wagons of maize in exchange for other commodities exportable from that kingdom.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, June 6.

Save Railway Bridge.

The replacement of the temporary railway bridge over the Save by the permanent steel structure from the Reshitsa Steel Works is now complete, and in future trains will be able to cross the bridge at normal speed.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, May 22.

The Crops.

Good cereal returns are now assured; but considerable damage has been caused to wheat in several places by further violent hailstorms. All tithe will be taken in kind, except in a few hill villages; and all must be delivered at the different Government stores by September 30. The yield of potatoes has been good in most parts of the island, and there has been but little disease. Permission has been given to export certain quantities during the whole month of June, preference being given to actual growers. The quantity allowed for export in the Nicosia district is 250 tons. A mere fraction of what might be profitably grown, especially in the east of the island, is cultivated. The wheat pest (*Tinea temperatella*), which has so long been a trouble, still clings to the west of the island. Native agriculturists make practically no attempts to deal with it, always regarding all measures to fight both animal and vegetable disease as work for the Government. One landowner has made a successful practice of sowing rye after a fallow year in affected areas; but the Cypriot farmer will seldom follow even a manifestly good lead. Rye might be a profitable rotation crop, but Government efforts to introduce it have failed. Even its name was not known in Cyprus before the present generation.

Mail Service to Egypt.

The Government has entered into an agreement with the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company under which the present mail service to Egypt is to remain in force till December 31. There is thus no improvement in the tri-monthly despatches and arrivals of mails. Passenger communication with Egypt is now curtailed, and owing to the great difficulties as to accommodation it is well this should be so. By a recent order no person in Cyprus can proceed to Egypt unless domiciled there, or well-to-do, or joining a family with a view to taking up definite employment.

Scarcity of Money.

Both in towns and villages a lack of money is being felt, which some attribute to the heavy payments for imported wheat and flour. Others refer to the reckless spending of money on articles of luxury by those of all classes who have made money during the war. In Cyprus, as usual, the first impulse and inclination is to blame the administration. The Government is accused of neglecting its duty in failing to import sufficient flour long ago when prices were comparatively low. Also it should have restricted the importation of all needless luxuries, which it is urged to do forthwith, while vigorous anti-profiteering measures, as well as control of prices, should be enforced.

Fire at Tobacco Factory.

The inhabitants of Nicosia were alarmed a few days ago, about midnight, by the ringing of church bells and shouts, to find that a fire had broken out in the large tobacco factory of M. Vergópoulos. Thousands soon collected about the place. Fortunately, through the exertions of the police, aided by some municipal employees, the fire was extinguished in about half an hour. Had it spread to neighbouring bazaars the consequences would have no doubt been very serious.

The cigarette factory is widely known for the excellence of its cigarettes, which have been snt to all parts of the world, H.M. King Edward VII. being among the patrons.

ICE AND REFRIGERATING MACHINES FOR YUGOSLAVIA.

Ice and refrigerating machines are in great demand in Yugoslavia, especially this year, as the winter was a very mild one, and but little natural ice could be obtained from the rivers and pools. Not only are many brewers compelled to obtain refrigerators and ice machines, but it is proposed to set up abattoirs for export at Novi Sad (Neusatz), Lubljana (Laibach) and other places. There are now works in Yugoslavia able to put in such plants. At the present moment some of the breweries are very much in need of ice machines, and any price demanded is paid. Before the war German industry was well established in this region, nearly all the ice and refrigeration plants being supplied by German makers.

This year's Greek citrus fruit crop is estimated at 302,000,000 oranges and 53,000,000 mandarins.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways Ltd., for the ten days ended May 20 amounted to £E12,072. total for year £E58.884. For the corresponding period of 1919 the receipts amounted to £E6,142, total for year £51,158.

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON POSITION.—II.

By John A. Todd, B.L.

The history of the Egyptian crop during the war has been, in many respects, very unfortunate. From the time of the British occupation until 1914 the acreage under cotton had been showing a steady increase, due largely to the continued extension of irrigation facilities. At the outbreak of the war further schemes of drainage and irrigation were on foot which would have still further extended the maximum area possible, while at the same time remedying the harm that had been done in the lower parts of the Delta by over-watering. The prospects of an increased Egyptian supply were therefore very promising, and the only adverse factor in the situation was the appearance of pink boll-worm, which from about 1912 threatened to reduce the average yield per acre materially.

The war played havoc with these prospects of improvement, and materially aggravated the difficulty of dealing with the new insect pest. In Egypt, as everywhere else, there was, of course, a substantial reduction of the acreage in 1915, due to the war slump in prices; but a fair recovery was made in 1916, which, however, was nullified by the fact that the yield per acre that year was the lowest on record. In 1917 the area was again slightly better, and as the average yield per acre was considerably higher the crop came out about 82 per cent. of the pre-war maximum. In the following year, however, owing to the necessity for the extended cultivation of cereals, legislative restriction of the area had to be enforced, and as the average yield per acre was again lower, though not so bad as in 1916, the crop was the lowest on record for many years, being well below even that of 1909.

On the cessation of hostilities it was hoped that the acreage would at once return to pre-war dimensions, but this hope was only partly realised. Nevertheless, the season started off with high hopes of a good crop, estimates being placed as high as 6¼ or even 6½ million kantars; but, as has so often happened in Egypt, the optimists have not been justified, and the actual crop looks more like 5,750,000 to-day. Even this will give an average yield slightly better than 1918, though by no means so good as pre-war records. The following table gives the history of the crop in detail during the war period and since:—

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRICES OF THE EGYPTIAN CROP, 1913-1920

Season.	Acreage.	Per cent on 1913.	Crop.	Yield per acre.	Liverpool prices (pence per lb.)		
					Lowest.	Highest.	Average.
	Feddans.		Kantars.	Lb.	F. G. F. Brown.		
1913-1914 ...	1,723,094	—	7,684,172	444	8·15	10·45	9·44
1914-1915	1,755,270	102	6,490,221	369	6·20	8·30	7·34
1915-1916	1,186,004	69	4,806,331	406	7·50	11·90	10·42
1916-1917	1,655,512	96	5,111,080	310	11·60	31·50	21·56
1917-1918	1,677,310	97	6,307,618	375	28·56*	35·50	30·97
1918-1919	1,361,000	79	4,820,660	354	26·59*	30·19	27·85
1919-1920	1,573,662	91	5,750,000	365	29·50*	99·00	(to date)
1920-1921	*1,900,000*	*110*	*7,600,000*	*400*	—	—	—

The figures in italics are estimates. * Sakel.

With regard to the prospects of the coming season, the enormous prices received for Egyptian cotton during the past winter have naturally resulted in every effort being made to increase the area under cotton this year. Estimates of the probable increase of area vary from 12½ to 25 per cent., and it appears certain that the area this year will break all previous records. The question of the probable amount of the crop therefore depends on the average yield per acre that may be expected, and this depends mainly on two factors—the water supply and the pink boll-worm.

The situation with regard to the water supply is rather problematical. The supply of water depends on the storage capacity available, on the height of the 1919 flood, and the expected date of arrival of the 1920 flood. A great deal has been said about water scarcity, and it is very probable that with so large an area as is expected the water supply this summer will be strained to its utmost capacity, with the result that considerable areas at the tail-ends of the canals are likely to be short of water. It is easy, however, to make too much of the question of the water supply in Egypt, for the fact remains that during the years detailed in the above table, the best crops have been those in the years when the flood was lowest. The reports of water shortage may, therefore, be discounted to some extent.

With regard to pink boll-worm, the situation is perhaps less satisfactory. Up till last year, the work which had been done in combating the pest had been distinctly successful, and there was reason to hope that, while the pink boll-worm would never be eradicated, the damage done by it would be considerably reduced. Unfortunately, however, there are two reasons for fearing that this expectation may not be fully realised. The first is that owing to the disturbed state of the country it will be more difficult to enforce the regulations for dealing with pink boll-worm, such as the early pulling up of the cotton sticks in autumn, the careful destruction of infested bolls, the fumigation of seed at the ginneries, and the prevention of the escape of the moth in spring. The second is that there has been during the past year a noted tendency for the ginneries which were largely owned by Europeans to pass into the hands of natives, who have selected this channel of investment for part of the fortunes they have made out of the high price of cotton; and it must be regarded as probable that under their new native owners the regulations regarding the handling of seed in the ginneries will be less carefully enforced. It is, therefore, necessary to take into account the probability that the pink boll-worm damage this season will not continue the downward tendency which had resulted from the work of the last few years.

With regard to the quality of the coming crop there are also certain considerations to be noted. In Egypt a great deal depends on the seed supply, and there has been a very marked change during the war in the general distribution of the principal varieties of cotton grown. Before the war the old Brown Egyptian cotton (Affifi) formed the bulk of the Delta crop, but during the war Sakel practically swept everything before it, and had become the main variety throughout all parts of the Delta. Sakel, however, had one disadvantage. The average yield per acre was distinctly less than that of Ashmouni, or Upper Egyptian cotton, with the result that even with the high prices realised for good Sakel, the Upper Egyptian grower sometimes made more money out of his crop than those in the Delta. This has accentuated the tendency to introduce Upper Egyptian cotton into the Delta, which had even before the war given some trouble. Some of the ginners in the Delta were not above buying Ashmouni in Upper Egypt and bringing it down to the Delta to be mixed at the ginneries with Delta cotton. The result was that both the lint and seed of the two varieties became hopelessly mixed, and to prevent this legislation was introduced some years ago making it illegal to move unginned Ashmouni from Upper to Lower Egypt. If now a tendency develops to grow Ashmouni in Lower Egypt, there will be no possible way of preventing its mixture with Delta cotton, with the inevitable result of deterioration of the Delta varieties.

In this connection it is also to be noted that two new varieties have lately been propagated—(1) Zagora, in Upper Egypt, and (2) Pillion, in Lower Egypt. Zagora seems to be, on the whole, an improvement on the old Ashmouni; but Pillion, while it has the advantage of a heavier yield, is distinctly inferior to Sakel in length of staple. It seems, however, to be catching on very fast, and there is a possibility that it may drive Sakel out of the field, in the same way as Sakel a few years ago superseded Affifi, and with a much less desirable result. In the old days Lancashire protested that they did not want the whole of Egypt turned over to long-staple cotton such as Sakel, because the quantity of such cotton that they could use was very small. During the war, however, they found under the spur of necessity that they could do very well with a large supply of Sakel. If now that supply begins to diminish in favour of a cotton which is even shorter than the old Affifi, the disturbance to the fine cotton industry in Lancashire may be very awkward. It must be kept in view, however, that a large part of the demand for Egyptian cotton is now for tyre fabric purposes, and this new shorter cotton might prove perfectly suitable for that. It would, however, only be taken by them at a price, and Egyptian growers might find the price a great deal less satisfactory than what they used to get for Sakel.

Again, it must be remembered that the demand for Sakel is likely in the near future to be much keener than formerly, because of the failure of the Florida and Georgia Sea Island crops. These crops have now almost disappeared. In pre-war times the total American Sea Island crop has often exceeded 100,000 bales; last year it was not 7,000, and this year there will be practically none at all. Under these conditions the world will be dependent for its really fine cotton supply on the very small Sea Island crop of the West Indies, say, 7,500 bales, and the best varieties of Egyptian cotton. Should the tendency develop in Egypt for these finest varieties to disappear or to diminish seriously in quantity, it may create a very serious situation for the higher end of the fine cotton industry in Lancashire.

FLAX CULTIVATION IN MOROCCO.

According to the *Action Commerciale*, the cultivation of flax in Morocco is yielding excellent results, and it is possible to foresee that in the near future Morocco will replace Russia as the principal source of supply of French flax spinners.

The first attempts at cultivation were made in 1917 by Boutemy Defives and Co., and 500 hectares were sown in 1919. The crop is of good quality, equal to the flax produced in France, and the land which could be utilised is enormous in extent.

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THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF ARMENIA.—II.

By G. J. Agababian, E.N.S.M. (Paris), Chief of the Department of Mines of the Armenian Republic.

In 1917, in the course of a geological expedition in Turkish Armenia, I visited forty-three mineral areas in the vilayets of Erzerum and Van, fifteen of which contained coal, ten lignite, one peat, five oil, two rock salt, five salt springs, two carbonate of soda, two copper, and one lead.

Between 1915 and 1918 some of the twenty-five coal and lignite deposits mentioned were worked regularly to supply the needs of the Russian Army. They were those of Mollah Soulaiman (lignite), which is connected by a branch railway with the Karakilisse-Chahtakhti railway, Pagadjouk and Kirchavan (lignite), four or five miles from the Erzerum-Sarikamish railway, Sivichli (lignite), two and a-half miles from Erzerum; Kukurtli (coal), on a branch line connection with the Erzerum-Mamakhatoun railway, which is now under construction; Vartik (coal), five miles from the same railway; Medjidié (coal), ten miles from Erzinghian; Kissik (coal), two and a-half miles from Khnis-Kala.

The 450 deposits to which I have referred constitute, according to the figures of the Mines' Administration, the total mineral resources of Russian Armenia. A valuation of this mineral domain would necessitate first of all an estimate of the value of each of the deposits—at present almost totally unexplored. Although it is practically impossible to obtain this, some idea may be gained by an examination of (1) the separate estimates of the Mines' Administration; (2) industrial statistics, and (3) information derived from geological surveys of the country.

The Mines' Administration has published the following figures concerning the eleven iron-ore and rock-salt deposits:

A.—Iron Ore.—1.—Karhat or Dachkessan, magnetic iron ore, averages 65 per cent. iron; quantity explored, 13,500,000 tons. 2.—Deposit near Nusgher, titanic iron ore, averages 50 per cent. ore; quantity explored, 100,000 tons. 3.—Tchatak, Olegist iron (Fe_2O_3), averages 53 per cent.; quantity explored, 1,000,000 tons; total 14,600,000 tons.

B.—Rock Salt.—The estimated deposits of the following mines (in tons) are:—Koghp, 51,640,000; Nakhitchevan, 5,380,000; Souste, 4,300,000; Olti, 46,000; Kaghisvan, 2,114,000; Todan, 1,550,000; Akh Tchai, 1,446,000; Boulanuk, 1,030,000; total, 67,506,000 tons.

C.—Aluminium (alunite).—The outcrops at Pib or Zaglik run to a length of four miles, their widths being about seven yards; average, 37.58 per cent. of alumine (Al_2O_3).

D.—Carbonate of Soda.—The lake of Van (the surface of which exceeds 3,600 square kilometres, and which in places is more than 1,200 ft. deep) contains about 20 grams of carbonate of soda per litre (1¾ pints). This would give 72,000,000 tons of salt for a depth of one metre below the surface of the lake.

The output figures given above are important indications concerning the 22 deposits to which they apply. It must be remembered furthermore that: (1) The production recorded is the result of very moderate financial and technical efforts disproportionate to the possibilities of the mines. (2) The twenty-two deposits exploited do not constitute even 5 per cent. of the total number of the known deposits of Russian Armenia. (3) The present industry, limited to the copper, rock salt, and iron pyrites categories, furnishes no indication as to the twenty-three other categories of deposits, including those the ancient exploitation of which made the renown and prosperity of the country, such as gold, silver, iron, etc.

A geological survey of the country and of its mineral wealth facilitates a general estimate of the resources, and if less precise than the official statistics, is of a wider import.

The geological constitution of Armenia is characterised by an abundance of volcanic rocks and by a predominance of tertiary rock soil. Its tectonic is the consequence of the remarkable intersection of the two zones of feeble resistance: (1) The Alpine and (2) the Ural. The mountains of the Lebanon and of the East Coast of Africa mark the direction. The position may be compared to that of Central America. Armenia forms a horst amid great depressions, and a theatre of disjunctive dislocations and volcanic activity, the beginning of which goes back to the secondary though the maximum of intensity coincides with the tertiary epoch.

Theoretically there is a close connection between these phenomena and the metal deposits that justifies the classing of Armenia among the young countries of the tertiary mineralisation. The importance of this mineralisation may be judged by its large share in the world's metal production.

By a happy coincidence, the tertiary sedimentary series of Armenia comprises large salt formations extending from Tortoum to Lake Urmiah. It includes the salt springs and rock salt beds of the vilayet of Erzerum, as well as the lakes of Van and Artchac, in Turkish Armenia, and the salt pits of Nakhitchevan, Koghp, Kaghisvan, and Olti, in Russian Armenia.

The same sedimentary series comprises a coal formation which we have traced from Erzinghian to Ach Kala, and a lignite formation from Erzerum to the former Russian frontier, a total length of 220 miles, in the basins of the Arax and the Euphrates.

The above indications as to the mineral resources of Armenia, especially in metal, salt, and coal, suffice to prove the immense possibilities of the country if properly developed in accordance with the requirements of modern industry.

OPENING OF AGADIR HARBOUR.

The opening to commerce of the port of Agadir is expected to take place in January next year. In the meantime communications with Marrakesh will soon be possible via Imintanout, whilst the track between Mogador and Agadir will be improved.

The port now approaching completion is a lighter port of some 10 acres, which can receive small steamers, and is so planned as to be capable of eventual conversion into an important port (says the Acting British Consul at Casablanca). The depth of water close in shore at Agadir is, with the exception of Saffi, the greatest on the Atlantic coast of Morocco. Agadir, like Saffi, is exposed to south-westerly gales, but good protection to shipping is afforded from the north and east.

Plans for procuring a water supply are on the point of being put into execution. As regards the future of Agadir and its hinterland, there can be little doubt that the improvement of agricultural methods, the cultivation of new products, such as, for instance, cotton, and the exploitation of mineral deposits in the Anti-Atlas and Atlas ranges, will combine to make the port an important one, while much of the commerce of Mogador may be expected to be transferred to the new outlet.

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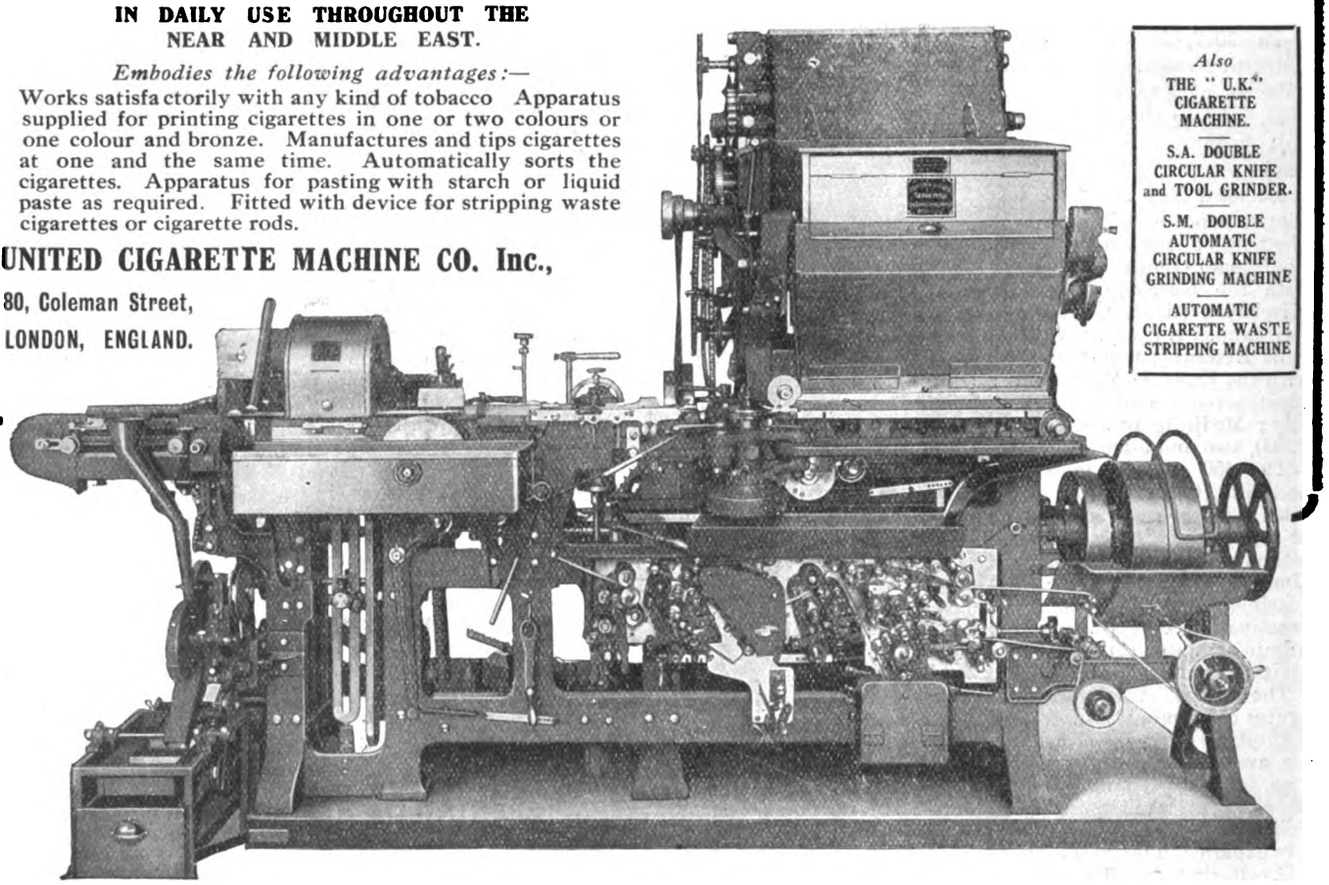

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ENGINEERING.

Diesel Oil Engines.

There seems a strong probability of early development in connection with Diesel oil engines of the marine type. Some time ago it was known that reversing could be effected by moving the cams operating the spray and scavenging valves through a common angle. One cam-shaft running along the tops of the working cylinders operates all the valves; there is one cam for each spray and scavenging valve, and the cam-shaft is shifted for reversing through an angle of 30 degrees. A year or so ago the method was adopted of moving the cam-shaft automatically by a slip coupling having an angle of that number of degrees between the jaws, so that when the engine starts in the reverse direction the crank-shaft revolves 30 degrees before the cam-shaft starts, that is when the timing becomes right for the new direction of rotation. Two separate cams operated the air starting valves, one for ahead and the other for astern, and the direction of rotation of the engine is determined by bringing into action the proper cam, which in turn times the starting valve. Mr. J. W. Anderson, who had made a special study of the subject, recently pointed out that this automatic reversing mechanism may, and frequently does, fail to work when the engine is operated at low speeds, because then the engine does not turn exactly uniformly, and since the slip clutch is of the friction type, with jaws to limit the extreme travel to an angle of 30 degrees, and since the cam-shaft and its parts have inertia of their own, this slip clutch fails to hold the cam-shaft in exact relation to the crank-shaft. This naturally upsets the timing of the valves, which in the case of the spray valve is of importance.

As he pointed out, generally speaking stationary engines and marine engines with clutches between the engine and propeller are fitted with starting valves on only half of the working cylinders. This means that while the engine is being turned over by starting air on part of the cylinders, the others are being warmed up by the compression, and even under very adverse conditions they soon reach such a temperature that ignition is obtained. In the case of reversing engines the handling gear is sometimes modified to cause the starting air to be turned on and off the cylinders in groups.

The question of manœuvring is principally one of obtaining sufficient starting air capacity, either by carrying a large number of flasks or, better still, in the case of a large ship, by having an auxiliary compressor unit of good capacity. While the ship is manœuvring the compressor unit is kept running all the time and pumps into the starting flasks. With such a provision an engine can be reversed repeatedly with only a small starting flask capacity. In the case of small powers it is much more economical and convenient to use a clutch between the engine and propeller and to employ a non-reversing engine which is kept running all the time.

It is often said that it is impossible to slow down a Diesel engine materially. This is true, as Mr. Anderson admits, to a certain extent with the ordinary type of construction, but with proper modifications any Diesel engine can be made to slow down and operate as easily at the lower as at the higher speeds. The solution of the problem, he says, consists in having a regular enough turning moment to keep the engine running fairly smoothly and to obtain definite and regular ignitions in the cylinders. The case is much simpler for a large heavy engine which has a big mass in the moving parts, and where there are a large number of cylinders, say at least six for a two-cycle engine and eight for a four-cycle engine, than it is for a small light engine. In the propulsion of a ship the power drops off very rapidly as the revolutions are reduced, and therefore at very low speeds the power is so small that when divided up among all of the cylinders in the engine there is not enough fuel injected into each cylinder to give regular ignitions. This can be remedied in a large measure by cutting out half of the number of cylinders. The load per cylinder will then be more than doubled, and the engine will run with very light loads at low revolutions. In the view of the authority quoted the advisability of fitting some sort of gear for controlling the timing and lift of the spray valve depends upon the type of the engine and the place where it is going to be installed. Without such gear an engine can be slowed down to about half speed without difficulty, hence for installations of small power in ships having a maximum speed of ten knots or thereabouts it is unnecessary, because half speed then means little more than steerage-way. On the other hand, in larger vessels having a higher maximum speed it is very desirable to be able to slow the engine down to quarter speed or less, and then the installation of such a gear becomes almost a necessity. The whole subject is very interesting and more may be said regarding it at an early date.

A Big Amalgamation.

More than usual interest is attached to the amalgamation of the three famous motor engineering firms, the Sunbeam Co. and Messrs. Talbot and Darracq. The name of the new organisation will be S.T.D. Motors, Ltd., using the initials of Sunbeam and Talbot, as well as that of the parent company, Messrs. A. Darracq and Co. (1905), Ltd. Probably the Sunbeam cars will continue to be made at the well-known Wolverhampton works, which are so adequately equipped in all that is best and most modern in machine tools, and which possess so expert a staff. It is certain that three of the Darracq directors will join the Sunbeam board, but I should say it is extremely unlikely that any alteration will be made in the working arrangements of the old company. The growth of the Darracq concern, whose name dates back to the oldest days of motoring, has been remarkable, and it would be a bold man who would venture the opinion that it is now completed. It will be remembered that the company acquired the Clement-Talbot interests last year, and as it already possessed the controlling interest in the Darracq Motor Engineering Co., and also in the Société Anonyme Darracq, which owns large works in France, it held a strong position as regards the internal combustion engine side of the business. Two years ago it acquired a controlling interest in the well-known hydraulic engineers and air compressor makers, Heenan and Froude, of Worcester, who were largely specialising in the production of refrigerating plant, and since that date it has purchased the business of Jonas Whitehead and Sons, of Leeds, who are amongst the leading manufacturers of springs for almost every purpose. It would appear that the concern should be almost, if not entirely, self-supporting, and quantity production at a low price may be expected, provided the new organisation is not hampered by labour troubles.

Shop Lighting.

Apropos of my recent notes on electrical subjects, a correspondent sends me the following letter, which presents several points likely to be of interest to readers during the coming months. He says:—

A tour of the shops reveals astonishing differences in the use made of artificial light. The movement towards earlier closing may perhaps account for some of the indifference displayed to the subject of window lighting, but it is an open question whether it would not be advantageous to make any further restriction of shopping hours at the beginning rather than at the end of the day. Certainly the display made by shops after dusk is a powerful attraction, and brings business to many trades which, not catering for absolute necessities, must make their appeal to a large section of the public after working hours.

The poor results achieved in so many examples of shop lighting seem due rather to lack of advice than means. The medium generally employed, electricity, lends itself to any scheme, whether correct illumination or frank advertisement is sought,

(*Continued on page 879.*)

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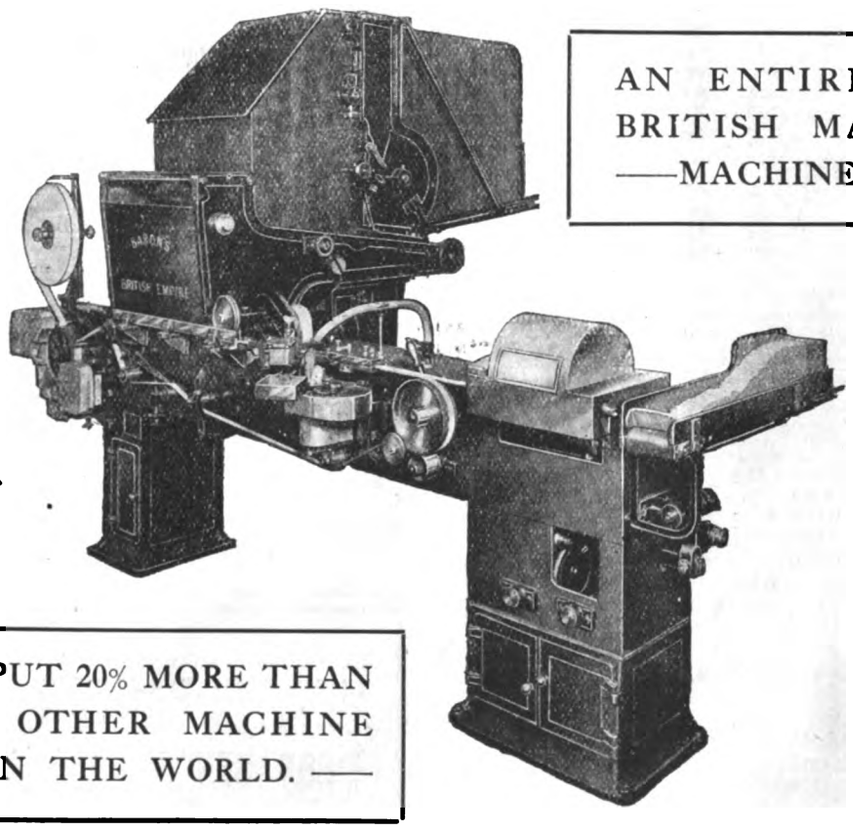

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MAKES cigarettes any length, oval or round, long or short, large or small. It will print in two colours or one colour and bronze. The Machine **makes 650 cigarettes per minute.** The power required to drive it is ¾-h.p. The frame is very rigid and there are no small intricate parts. Where practicable ball bearings have been used to ensure easy running and minimum of noise. The machine is fitted with an Automatic Feeding Device specially constructed so as not to break the tobacco. A small Stripping Device is attached to the Machine for tearing up imperfect cigarettes and separating the tobacco from the paper, the tobacco can therefore be used again immediately. Any metallic substances that may find their way into the tobacco are taken out when passing through the feeder. The simplicity of working the Baron "British Empire" Machine is no less wonderful than its great speed. Consequently any man of ordinary intelligence is capable of operating it after a very short trial. To facilitate replacement, all parts of the Machine are interchangeable and numbered. The Machine can be quickly changed from one size of cigarette to another. The cigarettes made on the Baron "British Empire" Machine cannot be equalled owing to the even distribution of the tobacco, the smallness of the lap and perfection of finish. The cost of production is reduced to a minimum. The Machine will make up any kind of tobacco. Until the arrival of the Baron "British Empire," it was impossible to make on a high-speed machine a very narrow and smooth lap on a cigarette. This the Baron "British Empire" does. The Baron "British Empire" represents all the latest improvements in Cigarette Machines; it is the most perfect in construction, and in the quality and quantity of work it produces it cannot be equalled. The Machine is L shape. It is packed in two cases, the gross weight for shipment being 35 cwt.

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and in most cases the large stores and multiple shops show an appreciation of its possibilities which suggests that the work has been done by experts, but it is too often obvious that the very facilities offered by the electric lamp to the window dresser have only been taken advantage of to the abuse of the simplest principles of good lighting. Contracting firms who sell and fit electrical apparatus are much to blame for this state of affairs, and indeed sometimes show an inability to light their own windows correctly or seize the opportunity presented of showing their wares as they should be used by their customers.

Inspection of the best shopping thoroughfares of the West End of London reveals an almost entire absence of electrical window displays of any value and none devoted to the interest of the retail shopkeeper. Those who wish to keep their installations up to date are expected to take the initiative and, penetrating into more or less gloomy showrooms, to inquire for appliances of the existence of which they may be unaware. If successful in finding them they will possibly be asked to judge of their effect amongst a heterogeneous collection intended for every class of use to which electric lighting can be put. The same reproach may be made against the electrical traders in regard to fittings intended for the home. They are able to offer a variety of pieces of apparatus of attractive appearance and great usefulness, but few venture beyond a timid window display of unpriced goods, which, even if new and attractive, suggest to the unanitiated a discouraging rarity and expensiveness.

The electrical retail trade has not yet learned the first lessons in salesmanship; most of its shops present either a medley of apparatus mixed with cable and tubing, in which the user takes no interest, or else offers a prospect of brass-plated emptiness suggestive of the tailor who is so high class that his prices may not be known and his goods inspected only by those who will venture within.

The average electrical contractor has for so long been accustomed to send his clients to the manufacturers' or factors' showrooms to choose fittings that he has not awakened to the possibilities of a direct counter trade or realised how much business, both on apparatus and in wiring, awaits the electric shop which shows the passer-by attractive appliances in use, and so creates in his mind a desire which did not exist. The sale of electrical apparatus is so bound up with wiring alterations and extensions that it would be a pity were it to fall entirely into the hands of hardware retailers and house furnishers, who, however, may at any time become alive to its possibilities, and by business-like window displays secure much trade to which the electrical firms are properly entitled.

A little examination of the "single purpose" displays made by leading firms in the photographic, office equipment and certain other trades at once suggests possibilities for those who sell the more portable and attractive electrical appliances, such as kettles, flatirons, small cooking pots and pans. Given the courage to concentrate on a good stock of a few lines and to enlist the aid of the skilled window dresser, always with the proviso that figures of selling price and cost of operation at the local rate for electricity be marked plainly, then the electric shop may take its proper place amongst the features of our trading thoroughfares, and incidentally become a powerful business-getter for every branch of the industry.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Production for week ended June 7 was:—Hurgada, 2,856 tons (last week, 2,545 tons); Gemsah, nil (same).

British Burmah Petroleum.—Total production of crude oil by this and the Rangoon Oil Company amounted to 65,652 barrels for May.

A building society has been founded at Ragusa with a capital of 5,000,000 kronen.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended May 29 amounted to £8.757.

The directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. announce that the transfer register of Debenture stock will be closed from June 17 to 30 inclusive.

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Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 2.

The Johnston Line s.s. Ponadon, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 18.

The Cunard Line s.s. Coya, to Piræus, Constantinople, Galatz, and Batoum, via Antwerp, will close for cargo in London on June 19.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Limited) s.s. Destro, to Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 26.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Limited) s.s. Douro, for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople, will close for cargo on June 26.

The Anchor Line s.s. Massilia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 22.

The Bibby Line s.s. Leicestershire, for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Liverpool on June 23.

The Harrison Line s.s. Astronomer, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 3.

The Henderson Line s.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Glasgow on June 21 and at Birkenhead on June 30.

The Clan Line s.s. Clan MacBride, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta, will close for cargo at Glasgow on June 24 and at Birkenhead on July 1.

The R.M.S.P. Co.'s s.s. Staffa, for Gibraltar and Morocco, will leave London on June 30.

The Power Line s.s. Petworth, for Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi and Mogador, will leave London on June 25.

New Ellerman and Bucknall Line Service.

The Ellerman and Bucknall Steamship Co., Ltd., announce that they are inaugurating a regular monthly service from Montreal to Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Singapore and Java, with the title of the Ellerman and Bucknall Canadian, Indian and Java service. The arrangements are so far advanced that the company's steamer Katuna is to load at Montreal in the second half of next month, the agents at that port being the New Zealand Shipping Co., who, jointly with the Shaw, Savill and Albion Co., now maintain a service to Australia.

Negotiations for the new Eastern service have been proceeding for some time, and although a similar service, under the auspices of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd., has recently been announced, no date has yet been fixed for its commencement. The s.s. Katuna will therefore be the first to load on the new route.

COMMERCIAL CARS, LIMITED.

In order to cope with the large volume of business arising from the unprecedented demand for "Commer Cars," Messrs. Commercial Cars, Ltd., have opened offices in London, and all business connected with home and export sales hitherto dealt with at Luton will now be transacted at the new address. To ensure immediate attention any communications relating to sales matters should be addressed to Commercial Cars, Limited, Ulster Chambers, 168, Regent Street, London, W.1.

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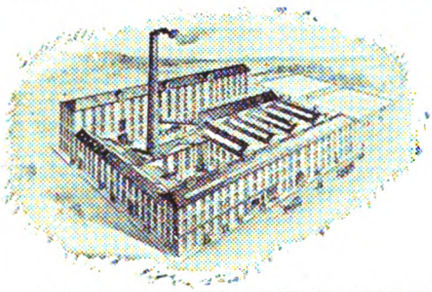
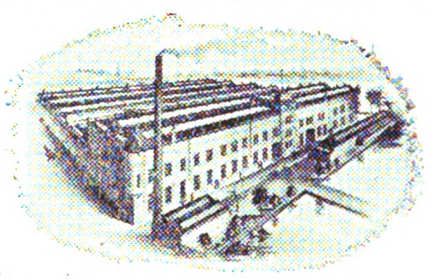
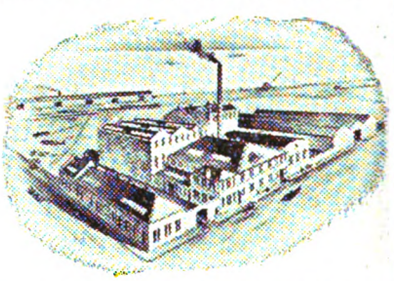

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COMPANY MEETING.

NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of the New Egyptian Co., Limited, was held on June 14 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Arthur A. Baumann, the chairman, presiding.

The London manager and secretary (Mr. Thomas Day, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I will now take the balance-sheet, and the total assets, taken at or under cost, amount to £917,747. Our liabilities amount to £638,246, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of £279,500, which is equal to 12s. 6d. per share. This result is taking the lands at cost—namely, £49 15s. 7d. per feddan. It is inconceivable, to my mind, that agricultural lands in the delta of Egypt can ever fall below £100 per feddan, but if you value them at £150 per feddan it is very much less than we have been selling at during the past year. If you value them at £150 per feddan the value of the shares will work out at £2 13s. 6d. Recently, notwithstanding the sudden fall in the price of cotton, the company sold 240 feddans at over £245 per feddan, and as much as £256 per feddan has been secured for a small area. As stated in the report, 714 feddans were sold at an average of over £167 per feddan, but the deeds not having been signed by December 31 they have been carried forward. From January 1 to March 31—that is, after the close of the financial year—deeds have been signed for 762 feddans, sold for £157,435, or £206 12s. per feddan. In addition there is a large number of sales accepted, but not passed. The gross profits, made up of revenue from the company's lands, profit on sales of land, sundry profits and interest, amount to £143,523, compared with £79,456 the year before. The total expenditure, including debenture interest, amounts to £36,777, leaving a net profit for the year of £106,745. Adding the balance of profit brought forward, £46,200, you get a final balance at the credit of profit and loss account amounting to £152,946. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on December 13 last, absorbing £16,739, leaving us a balance to deal with to-day of £136,207, and we now propose that a final dividend of 20 per cent. be paid on the present issue of 500,000 shares, less income-tax, which will absorb, after providing for the tax, £75,000, leaving a balance, which we propose to carry forward, of £61,207.

During the last two years, particularly during the last year, there has been a steady buying of the shares of the New Egyptian Company by residents in Egypt. It being the fact that a large amount of share capital has been bought by the Egyptians, it is only natural, and, indeed, it was inevitable, that the Egyptian shareholders should expect and request that the control of the company should be transferred from London to Egypt. I have received, not wholly unexpectedly, a letter from shareholders in Egypt holding 50,000 shares in the company, or 10 per cent. of the capital, which I will now read to you:—

"We, the undersigned, who are entitled to the number of shares in the New Egyptian Company, Ltd., which are set opposite to our respective names in the schedule hereto, are desirous that the constitution of the New Egyptian Company, Ltd., shall be modified in such manner that the business of the company shall in future be carried on and managed by a board of directors in Egypt, and that such board of directors in Egypt shall be affected only by resolutions of general meetings held in Egypt, and shall have full powers vested in them so as to enable them to exercise all the powers of the company requisite for carrying on the business of the company in Egypt. We therefore beg to request you to give this matter your consideration and to convene extraordinary general meetings of the shareholders of the New Egyptian Company, Ltd., for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing such special or other resolutions as may be necessary in order to effect the result above specified. The course we have proposed would necessitate the dissolution or reconstitution of the board of directors of the company in London, as the only functions to be performed there would be of an administrative character in complying with the requirements of the English Companies Acts, including share register and transfer work, and in payment of dividends remitted from Egypt for payment to shareholders resident in England. In these circumstances we consider that the present directors of the company should be reasonably compensated for their loss of office, and in convening the extraordinary general meetings of the company above-mentioned we should desire that resolutions should be submitted which would enable the shareholders to authorise such compensation to be paid."

We have consulted counsel with regard to altering the articles of association, and we propose to summon an extraordinary general meeting towards the end of July for the purpose of submitting to the shareholders, if they so decide, resolutions for carrying out those alterations.

He then moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and that a dividend of 20 per cent. or 3s. per share less income tax be paid. The resolution was seconded by Sir Ernest Spencer, and was carried unanimously. The retiring directors were re-elected, the auditors re-appointed, and after a vote of thanks to the chairman and staff the meeting terminated.

The directors of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, after placing, as usual, £35,000 to sinking fund, have declared an interim dividend for the half-year to March 31 last of 4 per cent., with a bonus of 1 per cent., or 5 per cent. in all, on the ordinary stock, both less tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, payable July 26.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.

Trade in currants has further improved, and during the week considerable business has been done. The chief demand is for lower grade fruit, the price of the better qualities having a restrictive effect.

Sultanas are in good request at high rates, and figs, also, are in fair demand.

Sugar.

A quiet tone has characterised the market in free sugar. West Indian crystallised has been done at from 150s. to 155s. American granulated is quoted at 160s., and white Java at a similar figure. Home refined is in good request at the official prices.

Coffee.

Supplies are more than adequate to meet the present demand, and prices are lower on balance. Costa Rica has been done round about 158s., while Indian has come to business between 140s. and 168s. Imports during May amounted to 130,033 cwt. as against 175,560 cwt. in the corresponding month last year. The futures market has been quiet, and quotations have been lower.

Oilseeds.

The market has been inactive and dull. Indian linseed has been on offer at 39s. 9d. Rapeseed has been quiet, with Toria at 38s. Ferozepore at 38s., and Brown Cawnpore at 35s. Indian cotton-seed has come to business at 12s. 6d.

Oilcakes, etc.

There is not much demand for oilcakes at present, and prices are lower on balance. Linseed cake is quoted at about 20s. 6d., and palm kernel meal at 8s.

Oils have been quiet. Linseed oil has come to business at 82s. spot, 79s. 3d. June-August, and 77s. 9d. September-December. Egyptian deodorised cotton oil is 100s., and the crude quality 72s. Turpentine is firm at 170s. spot, and 169s. June-August.

LANCASHIRE COTTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

There have been no indications of increased activity in the market during the past week. Both spinners and manufacturers have had a very poor tale to tell. Ground continues to be lost in all sections, and, owing to lack of support, producers are more prepared to meet buyers in price when definite business is put before them. Rates in Egyptian cotton continue to decline, and if crop reports continue healthy this tendency is bound to go on. Lancashire spinners are still disposed to purchase very sparingly, although rather more inquiry has been mentioned for the United States. In Egyptian yarns quotations have been very irregular when tested. It is said, however, that in certain counts and qualities more trade may come round before very long. Of course, spinners are prepared to accept much less money than two or three months ago. According to letters and telegrams from Egypt, stocks of cloth are fairly substantial, and dealers are not in want of fresh supplies. Buying, therefore, has been restricted to sorting-up lots. Very little trade has been about for the Levant, and the political situation in the Near East still causes anxiety. The amount of practicable demand in piece goods for India has not improved. Bids in grey shirtings for Calcutta have been over 30 per cent. too low. Makers of dhooties are pressing for orders. Shippers to China continue to look on. Miscellaneous fabrics have attracted some attention for South America. More looms are being stopped in Blackburn and Burnley for want of orders. American yarns have continued slow, but producers of favourite marks are keeping their end up fairly well. There has been no activity in shipping counts.

It is reported that natural gas in considerable volume has been discovered near Boniavitza, in Yugoslavia.

Banque Franco-Serbe.

Capital Frs. 20,000,000.

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Every possible facility is offered to British Travellers and Merchants at the Bank's Offices in Serbia (*i.e.*, the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes). British parties travelling to these parts should see that their letters of credit are made payable at the Bank's Branches, where every assistance will be rendered to them.

Drafts issued. Bills negotiated. Advances made upon Documentary Bills. Telegraphic Address: "Francoserb, Stock, London." Telephone Number: 1110 London Wall.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price June 8.	Price June 14.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	37	35
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	27	27
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	62½	60
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	69	69
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	57½	57½
Greek 5%, 1881	53	54
Do. 5%, 1884	53	54
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	38½	39
Do. 5% 1890	55	56
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	49	49
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	43	43½
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	38	38
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	51	51
Do. 5% Currant	91	91
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	8⅜	66
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	30	30
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	60½	60½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	54⅜	54⅜
Do. 4% Unified	34⅜	34
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4 7/16	4 7/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅜
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	63	63
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	65	65
Bank of Abyssinia	32/6	1½
Bank of Athens	63/9	3½
Bank of British West Africa	5⅛	5⅛
Bank of Roumania	5⅝	5⅝
British Trade Corporation	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅛	9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	5⅛	5
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
London County and Westminster	14 13/16	14⅞
National Bank of Egypt	19⅜	19⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	5⅞	5⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	7	9½
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	12	14
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	32	34
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	27	30
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55⅜	29½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	65	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	49	50⅜
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	35/6	35/-
Do. 6% Debs	140½	140½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	75/-	75/-
Béhéra Co.	17	16
Do. Pref.	3⅜	3⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	1½	1½
Egyptian Consol 5/-	2/9	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	15/-	14/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	13/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	3⅜	3½
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	29/-	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	84½	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6½	6½
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	36/-	34/6
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	4⅜	4½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	4⅞	4⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp.	3/16	3/16
Alexandria Water Co.	8⅞	8⅞
Associated Cotton Ginners	25/-	25/-
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	50/-
Do. Markets Ord.	1½ xd	1½ xd
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2⅜	2⅜
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	96⅜	96⅜
Khediv al Mail Ord.	5 1/16	5 1/16
Do. Do. Prefs.	3½	3½
Levant Co. (fully paid)	17/6	17/7½
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	18/6	18/-
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	97	96⅜
Chinese 4½% 1898	57	57½
Do. 5% 1896	74½	72½
Argentine 5% 1890	73⅜	72½
Do. 5% 1907	83½	84½
OIL.		
Algerian	3/3	3/3
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	60/7½	£3
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/4½	2 2/3
Do. 5% Debs.	83	81½
Anglo-Roumanian	6/9	6/11½
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/4½	4/-
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	14/-	14/-
Roumanian	17/6	17/9
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	5/6	5/6
Trajan (Roumanian)	8/-	7/-

The directors of the Calcutta Tramways Co. recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 6s. 6d. per share, free of tax, making 10 per cent. for 1919, payable June 22.

The directors of the British India Tea Co. have declared a final dividend of 7 per cent., less tax, making 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended April 30, payable July 7.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

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Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Bombay, Baroda Railway.

The report of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway for the year ended March 31 states that the gross earnings totalled Rs9,58,51,374 against Rs9,58,01,450 previous year, and working expenses Rs5,33,09,234, leaving net earnings Rs4,25,42,140, compared with Rs5,33,48,843 previous year. The share of surplus earnings accruing to the company in addition to the guaranteed interest amounts, after allowing for Indian taxation and also the amount due in respect of advances for capital expenditure made from the provident fund, to approximately Rs11,15,000. The balance now available is Rs9,75,000, which will produce about £101,000, subject to English income-tax and excess profits duty. The directors recommend a final dividend of 2 per cent., together with a bonus of 1 per cent., making, including the guaranteed interest for the half-year of 1½ per cent., 7 per cent. on the capital stock for the year, against 6½ per cent. for each of the two previous years. The balance, about £5,000, remaining after payment of income tax will be carried forward.

Mortgage Co. of Egypt.

The report of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 states that after providing for interest on the 4½ per cent. first charge Debentures and on temporary loans, and applying a sum of £1,854 12s. 6d. in writing down the value of the freehold premises of the company in Cairo, the accounts show a profit for the year of £117,488 16s. 1d. Deducting the amount of the dividend paid and accrued on the 5 per cent. Preferred shares to March 31, 1920, viz., £50,000, there remains a balance of £67,488 16s. 1d.; adding the amount brought forward from last year's account £35,450 6s. 2d., there is available for distribution a total sum of £102,939 2s. 3d., which the directors propose to allocate as follows: (1) To payment of a dividend of 12 per cent., being 3s. per share, on the amount paid up on the ordinary shares £30,000, (2) to general reserve £20,000, £50,000; leaving a balance to be carried forward to the next account of £52,939 2s. 3d. Since the date of the directors' last report, the very high price of cotton and other produce has brought increased prosperity to Egyptian agriculture. This is reflected in the balance sheet by a further reduction in the instalments in arrear, from £171,163 to £111,158, and in the amount invested in first mortgages, from £2,756,380 to £2,589,083. The decline in mortgage investments is common to all companies of a similar nature in Egypt. The directors are glad to report that all the properties acquired by foreclosure have, with one very small exception, been disposed of, the aggregate sale price being substantially in excess of the total amount of the company's claims against those properties. It will be noticed in the balance sheet that during the period under review the company has purchased and cancelled £594,700 of its 4½ per cent. first mortgage Debentures; up to June 11, 1920, a further £36,380 Debentures were purchased and cancelled. H.E. V. Harari Pacha, C.M.G., Brig.-Gen. the Hon. Everard Baring, C.V.O., and Mr. Edward W. P. Foster, C.M.G., directors of the company, retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., the auditors, retire, and offer themselves for re-appointment. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.4, June 24, 2.30 p.m.

Bengal's foreign trade returns for the past official year have reached the unprecedented total of 231 crores of rupees £231,000,000, at the rate of 2s. to the rupee).

It is announced that a civic union has been formed at Agram in order to carry on work in the event of any strike. Similar unions are being instituted in other Croatian towns.

A company is being formed in Prague with the title "The Czecho-Slovak Hellenic Joint Stock Company for Trade and Industry," for the promotion of business relations between Czecho-Slovakia and Greece.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended June 2 were:—Cattle markets £866, general markets £713, total £1,579; total for year £41,658. For the corresponding period of 1919 there were no receipts owing to local disturbances.

ON CHANGE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Apart from a certain amount of activity in Government stocks there has been exceedingly little doing this week, and, generally speaking, the tendency has been dull, and in many instances there has been a sagging in prices. Among Government stocks both Egyptian Unifieds and the 3½ per cent. Prefs. have been in persistent demand, and close unchanged after having been dealt in to a certain extent at a somewhat higher level. City of Alexandria Bonds have dropped 2½ points to 60, and Turkish Unifieds are a ½ point down at 34; but Greek Bonds show a further advance in the old loans. The 1881, 1884, and 1890 issues have all improved 1 point to 54 and 56 respectively, the Rente Loan is ½ a point up at 39; and a similar fraction has been gained by the 1902 issue.

In Bank shares National Bank of Egypt and Agricultural Bank have been dealt in to a fair extent; but, whilst the latter have kept firm, the shares of the National Banks close ½ a point down at 19⅜. Agricultural Bank Prefs. have dropped 1-16 to 5 5-16, Bank of Abyssinias are ⅛ lower at 1½, and Ionian Banks have dropped ½ a point to 5. On the other hand, Bank of Athens shares have improved 1-16 to 3¼.

In Railways, Delta Lights have dropped ⅛ to 5⅜.

Amongst Land shares the tendency has been downwards. Aboukirs have lost 6d. at 35s., Béhéras are down £1 at 16 nominal, and the Prefs are ¼ easier at 3½. Consolidated Lands are exceptionally 3d. higher at 3s. Delta Lands have lost 6d. at 14s. 6d. New Egyptians have dropped 1s. 6d. to 34s. 6d., Sidi Salems 1-16 to 2⅛, Sudan Plantations ⅛ to 4¼, and Union Foncières ⅛, also, to 4¾. Gharbieh Lands are a similar fraction down to 3¼.

Amongst miscellaneous descriptions Salt and Sodas have dropped ⅛ to 2⅜, and Morums Stores are 6d. lower at 18s.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B have shed 1-32 at 3, Roumanians are exceptionally 3d. firmer at 17s. 9d., and Traians are 1s. lower at 7s.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97⅛	97 7/16
Athens	Drachmae to £	25·22½	33·00-33·50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	—	56-96
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·11¾-2·0¼
Bucharest	Lei to £	25·22½	185-190
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·11¾-2.0¼
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	415-435*
New York	Dollars to £	4·86¾	3·93-3·94
Sofia	Levas to £	25·22	330*
Teheran	Krans to £	50	26

* Approximate.

This week's Indian cable states that:—Rain has fallen fairly generally in Orissa, Hyderabad, Central Provinces, East Rajputana and Sind. Local elsewhere. Monsoon not yet established. The wheat forecast is:—29,864,000 acres, yield 10,095,000 tons, as against 23,566,000 acres, and 7,407,000 tons for 1919. Rape and mustard forecast is:—6,016,000 acres, yield 1,174,000 tons; as against 4,833,000 acres and 758,000 tons. Linseed forecast is:—3,101,000 acres, yield 433,000 tons, as against 1,972,000 acres, and 229,000 tons. General crop conditions good, but more rain required in Bengal. Preparation of land and early sowings started in Assam, cotton and jute; in Punjab cotton. Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good Broach July-August Rs. 422. Piece-goods market steady with poor demand. Calcutta jute market very quiet with prices unchanged. Heavy goods very quiet with no large business.

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Manager, A. G. M. Dickson.

London Manager, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

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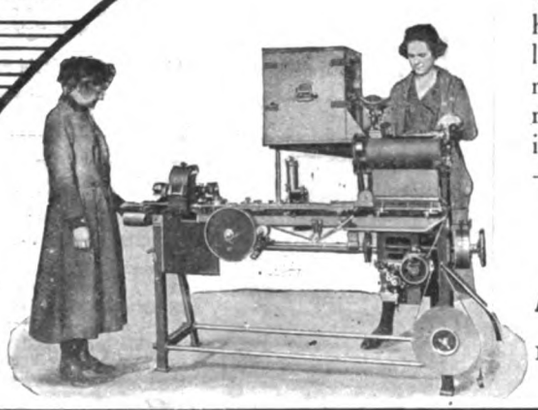

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No. 477.—Vol. XVII. THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1920.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Last week a deputation from the League to Abolish War was received by Mr. Lloyd George. The situation would have been piquant had not the circumstances that gave rise to it been so serious; for, as far as it is possible to understand the subject from the published reports, what the deputation urged was that the League of Nations should be placed in a position to make war effectively, as a step presumably towards the abolishment of war. The proposal is not so Gilbertian as it appears, but judging from the reception accorded to the deputation by the Prime Minister, Mr. Balfour, and Lord Curzon, it seems improbable that it will find favour with politicians or statesmen just yet. What the deputation asked for, in effect, was an International Police Force. Mr. Lloyd George, in his reply, admitted that such a force was a possible ideal, but was sure it was not now a practicable one. The Powers that have available forces are so absorbed in other duties (he said) that they cannot support the decisions of the League, while the Power that has the means and is free from entanglement, the Power that seemed at one time to have all the enthusiasm, has withdrawn. The Prime Minister concluded with the declaration that before we could have a standing International Army, he felt that there must first be international contributions levied upon States for specific purposes.

Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P., and Bishop Gore, who were the chief speakers on behalf of the deputation, dwelt upon the humiliation and pathos of the position of the League of Nations in relation to the offer of the Armenian Mandate. The Prime Minister urged once more that nothing was left undone that could have been done; the United States being "out," there were only three Powers left to call upon—France, Great Britain, and Italy. But France "has not got the force available to hold her own in Syria and in Cilicia"; Great Britain is "full up. We have got Constantinople, Mesopotamia, Palestine . . . . and to a certain extent we have difficulties in Persia"; and "Italy has her difficulties, too, which are as much as she can manage." A little later, replying to Mr. Barnes, who raised the question of the Dardanelles, Mr. Lloyd George remarked that at the present moment the obligation of keeping "that place" free is practically upon us, France and Italy, who supply a certain number of troops, not having kept their quota. In view of the increasing uneasiness in this country regarding the situation in the Near and Middle East and the extent of our commitments in those regions, it is rather surprising that these remarks of the Prime Minister have not attracted wider attention.

To take the second point first, it would be interesting to be told *why* "France and Italy . . . have not kept their quota." Is it entirely because of their "difficulties" elsewhere—in Cilicia and Albania, it is to be supposed—or is it because they do not entirely approve of the Eastern settlement—or proposed settlement? If they have not fulfilled their promises, or carried out their share of a bargain, why were we not told at once, and why is not Parliament given an opportunity to express an opinion on the matter? It would be useless to tell the average Briton to-day that Parliament could make a worse muddle of the business than the Big Four or Three or whoever is responsible for allowing things to drift to the present state: he simply would not believe it. We do not think he would blame Mr. Lloyd George for speaking plainly on the subject. On the contrary, what he would and does resent is hearing his own country always blamed for the shortcomings of others; and he would like to know why Great Britain should be, apparently, expected to do all the unpleasant work in the Near East.

For the rest, it is becoming every day more clear that our own difficulties in Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Persia—to say nothing of Constantinople—are likely to prove very serious ones, and to require more forethought and care in handling than they appear to have received up to the present. If we have to shoulder responsibilities in regard to the Dardanelles which should by rights be shared by others, our ability to do justice to Mesopotamia is obviously reduced, while Persia's chances of help in her troubles are also further jeopardised. But our responsibility for Palestine and Mesopotamia is certainly greater than our responsibility for Constantinople, and it is possible to argue that the same is the case with regard to Persia. It is right that Great Britain should do all she can to help her Allies, but it is no less right that they should help her; and if their united efforts are not equal to any particular task, it would be wise for them not to attempt it, and certainly not to announce their intention of performing it. If, however, they find themselves in a false position, the only wise thing for them to do is to get out of it without further delay, rather than follow the Micawberish policy of waiting for something to turn up to get them out of their trouble.

On the same day that he assisted Mr. Lloyd George in receiving the deputation from the League to Abolish War, Lord Curzon presided over a meeting of the

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League of Nations at which the decision of the Council of the League upon the appeal addressed to it by Prince Firouz was announced. The net result appears to be that the League had tendered its sympathy to the Persian Government in its difficult position, and had expressed its approval of the course pursued by Persia in entering upon a discussion with the Soviet authorities—thus anticipating, the Council remarks, the action which it would have recommended had it been called upon to advise. The Council felt that it was only right and proper to await the further progress of the communications thus opened, and it requested the Persian representatives to keep it informed of developments. It must be admitted that it is very difficult to see what other course the League could have followed, and it is, of course, permissible to hope that the Soviet authorities may give some weight to the opinions expressed and the views advanced. We suspect, nevertheless, that the Persians must have felt a good deal of sympathy with the L.A.W. deputation's point of view.

It is clear in view of the foregoing that to expect the League of Nations to intervene effectively in the adjustments and settlements that must be attempted in the Near East forthwith would be to expect the impossible. During the first two months of its existence the League has done some good work and, as Mr. Balfour said in the House of Commons last week, many people will think it has done more than might reasonably have been expected of it. But, things being as they are, it seems certain that the Persian problem, the Armenian problem, and all the other problems of the Near and Middle East, must be solved without the aid of either America or the League of Nations; though President Wilson has accepted the task of settling the Armenian frontiers. This means, in practice, that the work will have to be done by France, Italy, and Great Britain. But Italy not only has her hands full but, we are told, is in serious financial difficulties; and it looks, therefore, as if France and Britain must in the long run be left to bear the brunt of the burden between them. If that be so it surely behoves them to take stock of the position afresh and, resolutely putting aside false pride and the blandishments of all advisees who have axes of their own to grind, to readjust their policy in accordance with the facts of to-day.

The most urgent question is that of the enforcement of the terms of the Turkish Peace Treaty, if they are to be enforced, or their revision, if they are to be revised. It is almost incredible that any uncertainty regarding these two points can exist at this late hour; but such is actually the case: the former alternative has been under discussion at Hythe and Boulogne within the past few days, and the latter has been raised, first in Paris last week, and latterly in London this week. Nor have the official statements on the subject been reassuring. In regard to measures for enforcing the Treaty, we are told that M. Venizelos has offered the armed forces of Greece —upon conditions, if any, unknown at the time of writing—that he obtained the approval of M. Millerand and Mr. Lloyd George for his plan, and that Marshal Foch and Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson withheld their blessing from it. If the latter statement is correct, we can only deplore the rashness of the politicians. Both in France and in this country it is earnestly hoped that no action to enforce the terms will become necessary.

Whatever may be decided as to enforcing the Peace terms offered, it is certain that something must be done, and quickly, to show Mustapha Kemal and his supporters that they cannot with impunity attack Allied troops. A French battalion on the march has been surrounded by the Turks some twelve miles from Adana and forced to surrender, owing to lack of ammunition; and at Ismid a British outpost of Punjabis was attacked on June 15, and, being compelled to withdraw, was treacherously fired on in spite of the Nationalist commander's promise not to interfere with the retirement. Over thirty men were wounded and the intelligence officer was taken prisoner. Reinforcements were at once dispatched, and our warships were able to give the Nationalists something to think of; but the fact that such an attack can have been made so near Constantinople is in itself significant of the growing confidence of the Turkish Nationalists—who now appear to number nearly all the Turks outside Constantinople. It is understood that the Boulogne Conference discussed the situation thus created, and that the Allied Prime Ministers believe that the action decided upon will prove adequate to the occasion.

In referring last week to Sir Herbert Samuel's appointment as High Commissioner for Palestine we referred to the difficulties that will confront him on his arrival in the country. One of these was touched on by the Bishop of Jerusalem in a speech which he delivered at the Church House last week, when he told his audience that whereas after the taking of Jerusalem the people were so grateful to us that we could have done anything with them, they are to-day asking why we had not left them to the Turks rather than hand them over to the Jews. Bishop McInnes has won for himself in the Near East a reputation for breadth of view and charity, and as his good faith cannot be impugned his statements cannot be disposed of by asserting that they are due to fanaticism or any political motive; nor is it possible to argue that his view is based on inadequate opportunities of studying the situation for himself. Moreover, what he says is supported by the testimony of many travellers returned from the Holy Land, who agree that while the British Jews there conduct themselves as a rule both wisely and decorously, Jews from other countries too often show an overbearing and intolerant spirit.

This may be very natural; for persecution is apt to beget a similar spirit in the persecuted; but it cannot and will not be tolerated in Palestine under British administration; and the sooner this is made clear the better it will be for everybody concerned. Sir Herbert Samuel, we are sure, will lose no time in grappling with the evil, and Jews throughout the world can do much to render his task easier for him, if they will make it clear that they disapprove such things as the Bishop in Jerusalem denounced. In any case, it must be proved to the Mohammedans and Christians of the country that their rights and liberties are not to be curtailed in any way so long as Great Britain has any responsibility for their well-being, and that even if any section of the Jewish immigrants should wish to ignore those rights they will not be allowed to do so. Lord Allenby's name, we are informed, has been very freely made use of by the more truculent of the Jews, who claim that they have his special favour and support. That should be stopped at once.

There are storm clouds over Syria as well as over Anatolia, and though they are less black, they are undoubtedly highly charged with electricity. The Emir Faisal, it is announced, will not come to Europe, and it is reported that anti-French feeling is now stronger than it has been at any time since the Armistice, chiefly as a result of the change in French policy towards Turkey, which is regarded as favouring the Turk at the expense of the Arab. As a matter of fact the long period that has elapsed since the signing of the Armistice has given every chance for the growth of national feeling in Syria and Arabia as well as in Turkey, and the state of uncertainty regarding the future of all this region has still further helped this growth. Other causes have contributed to the same end, and whereas almost any settlement arranged by the Allies soon after the Armistice would have been accepted without any serious opposition, serious opposition is now likely to be offered to almost any settlement suggested. Probably the best course to follow in regard to the Arab problems that confront us and the French would be for us both to appoint one or two representatives who know the Arabs and are known to them to work out with representatives of all the Arab interests an entirely new scheme, which the politicians of Paris and London should agree in advance to accept.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

Government and Economy.

The critics of the Government are to unite this week in a series of debates, or attacks, on the extravagance of Whitehall. The Opposition have a good case, and they are rather pleased at having discovered the obvious a year after the *Daily Mail*, but they may easily spoil it by exaggeration. Mr. Lloyd George is not, and never has been, an economist of the old school; Mr. Churchill simply does not know the meaning of the word, and the minor lights of the Cabinet are all ready to imitate the Prime Minister and the Secretary for War and Air, or, as somebody once called him, the Secretary for Earth and Heaven.

But it must be remembered that the bulk of the expenditure of which complaint is made is an indirect legacy of the war, and could only have been avoided at the cost of some risk to the Government's general policy, during the railway strike and in Ireland and elsewhere. This, with the exception of Mesopotamia, is not really in question, and those who do not attack the policy can, therefore, hardly attack the cost of the policy. "Mespot.," for some reason which escapes me, comes into a different category. Once a blessed word, it now seems to irritate the critics to madness, and the mere suggestion that that country may be worth developing excites instant wrath.

With all respect to the critics, they are on a wrong tack. The real mistake of the Government is not the development of a Middle Eastern policy, but its failure to cut down the expenditure at home on "the new Civil Service." Nobody would be a penny the worse if the Labour Exchanges and several other departments were abolished altogether, and the Exchequer would be a good many millions better off. It is here that Mr. Austen Chamberlain has failed, and his failure is creating a difficult situation. If the Opposition had any real weight, they would hammer away at this until they scored a victory that would raise them considerably in the eyes of the public; but they are an invertebrate crowd:—

> "Strange to tell, among that earthen lot
> Some could articulate, while others not."

Never was there so tame and feeble an Opposition, and its futility is the real cause of much of the Government's slackness.

An Autumn Session.

What the debates lack in quality, however, they will gain in quantity. It is announced that the House will rise as near the end of July as circumstances permit, and reassemble some time in October for an autumnal session. The Government have done their best to avoid it, but these bad habits, once formed, can hardly be shaken off. The continuous sittings of Parliament are steadily making it more difficult for the old type of country gentleman and independent business man to give effective service to the Commons, and the professional politicians are taking their places.

In many ways the change is unfortunate, for the professional politician looks on politics as a game to which a sufficient number of prizes must be attached to make it worth playing; and since he must keep his seat or drop out of the running, he is amenable to any sectional pressure, and his course is apt to become a strange and wonderful series of zig-zags.

Over-Taxation.

Mr. McKenna, who has been little in the public eye since he left the Exchequer for the management of a bank, has given it as his opinion that the country is overtaxed. His speech, which was delivered at a meeting of the National Union of Manufacturers, was evidently carefully prepared, and it has had a distinct influence on public opinion. When taxation is too heavy it tends to lessen enterprise because it cripples the finance on which industry depends. It is always difficult for the layman to decide when the line between under and over-taxation is passed, since the ordinary man naturally regards all taxation as excessive, and a form of public robbery by the State; but a banker's opinion is usually of value.

Incidentally, Mr. McKenna wants the Excess Profits Duty abolished. As this was his own war baby, this appears at first sight to be a form of filicide, but it is the fact that when he introduced it he expressly declared it to be a temporary expedient. The trouble with the excess profits is not so much the principle as the amount. If it were reduced to 20 or 25 per cent. probably few business men would object to it seriously, but 60 per cent. is declared to be intolerable. The fact that Mr. Austen Chamberlain, while officially unyielding, is making small concessions here and there as to the incidence of the duty is, however, regarded as of hopeful augury. Little real reduction is anticipated this year, but it is very doubtful if the 1921 Budget will maintain the present high rate. On the other hand, any reduction in the E.P.D. is likely to mean an increase of the present small tax on the profits of companies; and while the Government is thus between the devil and the deep sea, the advocates of the capital tax continue to preach their favoured solution of all our economic ills.

The Louth Election.

The Government was heavily defeated in the Louth by-election. The result came as a great surprise, for while the Independent Liberals had a good local man, the Coalition candidate was Mr. C. Turnour, an authority on agriculture, and to all appearance an ideal member for a purely agricultural division. But the electors thought otherwise. All sorts of reasons have been given for the defeat, including the inevitable one of administrative extravagance; but the most likely conjecture is that the agricultural interest declines Lord Lee's policy at the Board of Agriculture.

Lord Lee, who came into prominence by his generous gift of Chequers to the nation, is a very forcible person, and he not only wants to get things done, but intends to get them done. He realises that it is dangerous for England, with a steadily increasing population, to depend for so much of her food on imported corn, and he is forcing Legislation through Parliament to ensure larger crops on our own acres. The Radicals, who have never liked the farmer, have said as much against it on Free Trade principles as they dared, but we all remember the war bread of 1918 and the Cuban sugar profiteers of 1920 too well to object seriously to anybody who really wants to make the country more productive.

But the farmers hate the idea, for the simple reason that the farmer is an individualist, and he hates any form of State control. Also he argues that arable costs more to farm in the shape of labour than pasture, and that labour costs more now than before. With low wages, he says, he would not mind arable farming, but with high wages he cannot take the risk. All of which is no doubt true except the last; for with low wages he still objected to arable, and with high wages he gets high prices.

Probably the real truth of the matter is that there are not really three cuts from the agricultural joint—for landowner, farmer and labourer—and that the whole land system wants reforming. Until we look on a farm as a food factory, and run it on business lines, we shall not get things on a satisfactory footing. I suppose the average farmer and landowner would say this is Bolshevism, but as a matter of fact I heard the argument from a duke before Bolshevism was born.

Two New Judges.

The pressure of legal work, more particularly in the Divorce Court, has become so great that two new judges have been appointed. There has been some criticism on the score of expense, but this argument is not conclusive, for the delay in trying cases amounts in some cases almost to a denial of justice. But in order to reduce the pressure on the taxpayer court fees are to be raised, despite the old dictum that expensive law is no law at all. But although Lord Birkenhead is understood to be contemplating the reform of our legal system, and has confessed that he would like to abolish the present wasteful judicial circuits, he has not yet been able to carry his reforms into practice. Even the Long Vacation remains—the Long Vacation.

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Promotions and Rumours.

Gossip has been busy with rumours of new promotions. Sir Gordon Hewart could have had one of the new judgeships if he wanted, but he did not want. Sir Ernest Pollock, who was mentioned for the Speakership, was also favoured as a judge. Sir E. Marshall Hall, a popular member of the House of Commons and the Bar, is also discussed; his promotion would be deplored by every murderer, for he has established a sort of prescriptive right to defend the accused in murder trials, and whether murderers would appreciate him so much on the Bench as at the Bar is very doubtful. Sir Leslie Scott's name has been urged by the Bar itself, and his promotion would be extremely popular, not only because he would make a good judge, but because he has an enormous practice, and the briefs would be divided up among the less fortunate. As the Bar is in such a condition of genteel destitution that it even looks upon Fleet Street as prosperous, the removal of a great advocate would be a matter of professional thanksgiving. But the most extraordinary rumour of the week is that Lord Birkenhead desires to become Viceroy of India! We shall be told next that Lord Curzon is to be the next Pope.

Ascot.

There never were such frocks—what there was of them—as at Ascot last week: also there never were such thunderstorms. The meeting was a triumphant success, and although the puritans were shocked at the jollity and the economists at the extravagance, most people enjoyed themselves. But it was very curious to see the *nouveaux riches* there; they felt it was the right thing to go, and they were very visible and audible. Their manners were painfully correct and proper, and I fancy some of them had studied the Books of Etiquette: they knew exactly what to do, but they were not quite so sure of the right time to do it. But they learn so fast that by Goodwood they will be quite proficient, and before they cross over to Cowes they will almost have grown an aristocratic ancestry.

Keble Jubilee.

Keble College, Oxford, celebrates its Jubilee this week. The youngest of the Oxford colleges, it seems to have specialised in the production of bishops, twenty of its students having reached the bench in fifty years. The present Bishops of London, Southwark, Stepney, Kensington, Winchester and the Primus of Scotland are all Keble men; the Bishop of Winchester was its first Warden.

Golf Streets.

The borough council of Acton, West London, is adopting golf terms for the names of its new streets, and has already put up the names of Long Drive and Brassey Avenue. This does not argue much originality, and one hopes the fashion will not spread to other sports or localities. Foozle Terrace is not very attractive, and if our local authorities discover tennis, Love—Fifteen Road would be too suggestive of super-bigamy for most ordinary householders.

But there is a story that once when a town council, which shall be nameless, was in a difficulty over the names of its new garden suburb, somebody of a literary turn suggested that they should call the roads after great writers. The chairman was commissioned to find out the names of the greatest British authors, and after visiting an adjacent library, he returned with the names of Liddell and Scott, Crockford and Kelly, which were faithfully adopted by the municipal fathers.

The Week's Books.

The place of honour must be given this week to Mr. John Masefield's "Enslaved, and Other Poems" (Heinemann), and a single quotation will give some idea of its beauty:—

"So, one by one, Time took them to his keeping,
Those broken lanterns that had held his fire;
Dust went to dust, and flesh had time for sleeping,
And soul the stag escaped the hound desire."

Those who recognise in these lines the authentic note of true spiritual vision will add the new Masefield to "The Everlasting Mercy" and other prized volumes: those who can see nothing here had better go and read Mrs. Hemans, for that is about their true level. Mr. Masefield had already "made his name," as the saying goes; but with this volume I think he passes definitely from the rank of mere achievement into the line of great English poets.

Mention should also be made of "The Elfin Artist" (Blackwood), by Alfred Noyes. It would be absurd, and unjust to Mr. Noyes, to compare him with Mr. Masefield; his verses are pleasant, occasionally a little strident, and they may be read with enjoyment. Perhaps it is my own fault that I cannot see greatness in them.

Mr. H. G. Wells, who began his career as a serious writer with "Mankind in the Making," has again surveyed the earth, and in his "Outline of History" (Newnes) has written its record from the time it left the sun till our own day. It is an astonishing achievement, and if he is more appreciative of the greatness of the mastodon than of the littleness of Ancient Greece, it is idle to complain. Personally, I prefer the "History of Mr. Polly" to Mr. Wells on the Roman Empire, but even while dissenting from some of his judgments, I admire the force and vigour of the earlier part of this work and respect the originality of its latter pages. The illustrations are magnificent, but they make the book a little heavy.

I was recommended to read "The Group Mind" (Cambridge University Press), by Mr. W. McDougall, who is Reader in Mental Philosophy at Oxford University. But I was frankly disappointed, both with the author's grasp of the subject of racial psychology, and his singularly inconclusive survey of facts.

The Bampton Lectures are generally good reading, and Canon Headlam's "Doctrine of the Church and Christian Reunion" (John Murray), which formed the subject of these lectures last year, give a scholarly and impartial survey of the whole subject. Dr. Headlam recognises that reunion between the Anglican and Roman Churches is impossible, but I gather that he is rather more hopeful of better relations between Anglicans and Nonconformists.

Despite the shortage of paper, new novels pour from the press—among them a new melodramatic masterpiece, "The Top of the World," by Miss Ethel Dell, who sells by the hundred thousand to a public which loves dark and brutal villains and willowy and winsome heroines. It is the fashion to laugh at Miss Dell for drawing impossible people; but whether my tastes are those of the back-kitchen or not, her characters do not seem more impossible to me than those of Meredith in a different genre, and frankly I would sooner read her than Henry James, and although her sentiment makes me laugh, it does not make me feel bilious, like Mrs. Barclay She does not pose, like Hall Caine; and if she sometimes murders her characters rather unexpectedly, at least she does not murder the English language.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, June 6.

Political Hopes and Fears.

There is trepidation among a section of the native population over the visit of the head of the Egyptian Delegation to London; and there is expectation among the foreign communities, and particularly among the British. Among the Zaghloulists there is considerable satisfaction; for they realise that the postponement of the Milner Commission's report pending the negotiations in London infers the possibility of a settlement—and a settlement is what they are ardently hoping for. The Extremists are wroth, but hardly as indignant as they make themselves out to be. They are gradually realising that the Big Stick as a political weapon may develop the properties of a boomerang, and they are solacing one another with the assertion that it may be better to accept what Saad Zagloul can get now, and trust the future to bring them the rest.

The Nile Projects Commission.

To-day's was the eighth sitting of the Nile Projects Commission. Last week's sittings were occupied chiefly with the evidence for the defence against the first charges, which allege wilful suppression of public documents. The document over which there has been most wrangling is one called the Blue Nile Memorandum, which the defence at the outset would not admit. It was a typewritten document of two pages, and was stated to have been sent to the Governor-General of the Sudan (Sir Reginald Wingate) in February, 1914, by Sir Murdoch MacDonald; and a copy was later forwarded to Colonel Kennedy by Sir Reginald Wingate. Colonel Kennedy produced the second page, and stated that the first page was not available. Counsel for the defence objected to the admission of part of a document, but on the evidence of Colonel Kennedy that the missing page contained nothing relevant except the figures in the bottom line the Commission admitted the document. The evidence of Mr. Burnett, Director of Works in the Sudan, and the successor of Colonel Kennedy to that post, seemed typical of the prevailing confusion concerning what is undoubtedly a most important document. "I left the Sudan to come and give evidence in this case," he said, "firmly believing that no such document existed. Now I am rather mystified." Subsequently, native officials were called to prove that they had received the gauge readings in question in 1914, and had entered them in the gauge-books as soon as received. The last three days have been occupied with the statement for the prosecution on the next series of charges, which are really technical arguments concerning the amount of water at certain places in the Nile, notably at Sennar, in 1914. Sir William Willcocks says there could not have been as much water as was alleged; and produces his observations over the last twenty years in support of his contention. The Public Works Ministry say that since 1914 there has been some natural phenomenon at work which has caused the gauges to record larger discharges at the places mentioned. Briefly, the issue has got down to this: incorrect figures have been published; the prosecution say they were published purposely, and in bad faith: the defence submit that the incorrect publication is an honest mistake. The Commission is going into the physical data to solve the matter.

The King's Birthday.

Last Thursday, the King's birthday, there was very little business doing in town during the day, but the official celebration was in the evening at the Residency. By half-past nine the road to the Residency was like the approach to the course at Epsom on a big race-day. Motor-cars and carriages were lined up almost back into the city proper, and many visitors had to get out and walk along a street or two before they came to the detachment of Indian Lancers which lined the immediate approach to the gates. The guests were received by Viscount and Viscountess Allenby, and then were able to wander out to the enticing lawns, where the band of the XIth Hussars—the best band in Egypt—was stationed in a corner, playing selections that set many a young visitor's feet twitching. There were two buffets, innumerable seats, and a large crowd. Towards half-past ten the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby came out on to the lawns, and mingled with their guests, who included representatives from the Government and official departments, the higher military officers, representatives from the Consulates, and the leading commercial men of the city. To my mind it was the most representative gathering assembled in Cairo during the last few years. It was a quiet ceremony, as all formal functions usually are, but the evening was so oppressive that most guests were quite content to sit out in the cool air, enjoy cool drinks or ices, and listen to the band.

New British Hospital for Cairo.

Considerable interest has been aroused in Cairo by the publication recently of a report by a committee appointed by the High Commissioner some months ago to inquire into the proposal to erect a new British hospital in Cairo. The present British hospital, known as the Anglo-American Hospital, is situated on the far side of the Nile, adjacent to the Gezira Sporting Club. For various reasons it has not been a success, but the root of all the trouble lies in its distance from the city proper and its resultant comparative inaccessibility, as no tram goes near it and the expense of a carriage to it is too much to be borne frequently by the poorer classes of the community. The Committee has recommended that an attempt should be made to raise about £E60,000 for another hospital to be built in Cairo; but adds that the local subscription of anything like that amount would be most improbable, and suggests that an appeal should be made to wealthy philanthropists at home for assistance. There is a feeling that the Committee is correct in assuming that such a sum could not be subscribed here, but there is also a fairly wide opinion that the scheme as propounded is too ambitious. In a quiet spot in the centre of the city there is a hospital known as the Deaconesses' Hospital, and I understand that it would be possible to secure this institution. If so, the place is one that could be adapted to meet the needs of British and American residents here, and would in every way fulfil the requirements that it is sought to provide for with the proposed new institution. The cost of acquiring and adapting it would be comparatively small; and with the amount of money available this certainly seems to be a preferable scheme to the expensive one mooted by the Committee.

Syrians and French.

Some perturbation has been caused among a section of the Syrian community in Egypt by the report, published by the Italian telegraphic agency, that General Gouraud, Governor-General of Syria, had counselled his Government to evacuate the country. This agency has so often distinguished itself by the setting free of *canards* that its news on this occasion has been received with some degree of scepticism. I have no doubt, however, that, if General Gouraud had his own way, Beyrout would soon see the last of French officials and troops. It is an open secret that he has on more than one occasion expressed himself as being thoroughly dissatisfied with his task, rendered highly ungrateful by the attitude of open hostility to the French displayed by a large portion of the population. The French Government has, it appears, recently despatched a delegation to Syria to inquire into the present situation there, and the results of its investigations will be awaited with considerable interest by the local Syrian community.

A Day of Prayer.

Friday last was a day of prayer throughout Egypt. Those in the counsels of the Nationalist movement had argued that, as victory to the Allies in the late war followed on their repeated public prayers to the Almighty, it would be well, now that their Delegation is engaged in negotiations with the British Government,

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to offer up public prayers for the success of these negotiations in all the mosques and Coptic churches of Egypt. A special invocation was composed for the occasion, of which the following is a translation:—

O God, Conqueror of emperors, Humbler of the mighty, Helper of the helpless, Support of the weak and sole Substance of their strength, Inspirer of the strong with Thy fear and reverence, between whose creatures none other judgeth: This is Thy Egypt who sons are taking refuge in Thee, whose inhabitants have fled to Thee, followers of the Crescent and of the Cross, far and near, young and old, men and women, hastening to Thy venerated Churches, which Thou has raised to Thine own Holiness, wending to Thy revered Mosques, the doors of which Thou hast opened to Thine own Honour. In these we beseech Thee, by Jesus the Spirit of Truth, and Mohammed the Prophet of Truthfulness, and Moses who fled from slavery; we implore Thee by the Holy Month and those who keep its fast; by its illumined nights and those who watch thereon; and by this universal prayer of Copts and Moslems in this valley, to emancipate us from all save Thy guardianship, to humble us to no servitude save Thy Providence, to commit us to no rule save Thy Rule and Governance.

O God, our people and their people have called upon each other to take wise action and final decision in regard to our just plea. Give us, therefore, O God, our rights in full, and make our Delegation in their country Thine own Delegation, and our forces, whose only armour is the Truth, Thy forces; and invest them, O God, with success and right guidance and protect them with Thy Mighty Support. Establish, O God, our representatives in a true position, and overshadow them with Thy widespread Shade, and be Thou our Guardian with no limit to Thy Guardianship. Glory to Thee, O measurelessly Generous and Bountiful, Thou to Whom the whole matter doth return, Whose Command cannot be gainsaid. Cause that people to be our Allies, not our opponents, and make the thoughtful of them think of us as Thou dost. From Thee we ask for our diadem, and from Thee we beg for our throne, and by Thee we claim our complete independence. Therefore do Thou put the reins into our hands, and invest us with the governance. Make the Truth our leader, and perfect to us the joy in that beyond which we desire naught beside, nor doth aught else exist to desire. Suffer us not, O God, to commit injustice nor aggression, but register us amongst the well-doers on the Earth, not the evil-doers thereon, nor those who have gone astray. Amen.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, June 13.

Politics and the Exchange.

The sudden drop in the value of foreign money was followed by a sharp reaction, as the rise in the dinar was too sudden and too great to be natural. It was rumoured that one speculator lost a couple of millions and shot himself as a consequence, but of course, Serbs, on the whole, were delighted to see their money better than the lira, and expected to see it equal to the French franc before long. In a couple of days, however, it dropped again, not quite to the figure of the previous week, but near it; but it has been rising again more steadily and is certainly improving. In spite of a cold snap, the prospects of the harvest are very good indeed, and travellers report brilliant prospects from the fat lands of the Banat and Bachka.

One of the contributory causes is the relief at the end of the political squabbles, of which even the politicians themselves had had enough, and confident hope that the Coalition Government, under M. Vesnitch's suave direction, will carry the country through to the general elections for the Constituent Assembly. The Government is hard at work, and it is hoped that the new electoral law and unification of the system throughout the new provinces will be complete by the autumn, and that we may see the elections by October.

Although everybody earnestly desires and hopes that the Cabinet will hold together, there has been a dangerous incident that may lead to the resignation of one or perhaps even two Ministers. This is the affair of the Central Association. During the winter the export of goods was permitted only under license, and there was a good deal of abuse under the system. The Radical Government, and the Coalition afterwards, abolished the system, and proposed to form a Central Association which would do all the exporting; in this association the Government would find half the capital and certain agricultural and co-operative associations and banks the rest. Of the profits, one-quarter was to go to the benefit of war-invalids and a quarter to establish agricultural credits, one-eighth to the Government and three-eighths to form depots of supplies. In order to reduce the prices of necessary commodities, pending the actual formation of the Central Association, the economic-financial committee of the Cabinet granted some of the founding institutions provisional permission to act as though the institution was actually in working order. This gave occasion to certain parties to make political capital, describing this as an abuse of privilege and accusing the authorities of being directly interested; and a handle was given to these charges by some indiscretions committed by some of the institutions, although it is extremely improbable that the authorities were aware of, much less privy to, these indiscretions. However, it led to questions in the House, and it is likely that the Ministers concerned may be obliged to resign. It is unfortunate for the gentlemen in question, but would be still more unfortunate if it led to a split in the Coalition. It seems, however, that this disaster will be avoided, and the incident localised.

A Waiters' Strike.

Belgrade has been suffering for some time from a strike of hotel and restaurant waiters. The waiters of half the leading hotels struck, and those of the other half were promptly locked out. The proprietors are prepared for a battle, and at once imported strike-breakers from all sides; consequently, most of those serving in the best restaurants are Slovenes, Russians, Croats, and so on, supported by a number of enterprising students. The strikers ask a 50 per cent. rise in their share of the turnover, and certain advantages for the kitchen staff; but there is more in it than this, for the proprietors explain that the men were earning from 50 to 100 dinars a day and getting breakfast, dinner, and supper into the bargain, which is very respectable pay. The waiters make no reference to tips in their manifesto, and there is a general belief that the knights of the napkin were one of the most flourishing communities in Belgrade, so they will have little sympathy from the public. The real point at issue is the recognition of the men's union, and it is said that most of them are anxious to return to work, but their leaders will not let them.

News of Fiume.

A native of Fiume, a representative business man, and a director of important works there, has come to Belgrade on business. He states that people in Fiume think that d'Annunzio is certainly crazy, and will be heartily relieved to be rid of him. He complains that the egregious poet is very polite to him as compensation for the fact that he helps himself freely to the products of his works, but never pays for it, as he has no money. He states that the Fiumians do not want to belong either to Yugoslavia or to Italy. "If we go to Italy," he says, "Fiume will decay and wither as Trieste has done as the result of its unnatural mesalliance. The bulk of our business is with Yugoslavia, but we wish to be independent and free." This is interesting, as authentic news from the scene of d'Annunzio's tragi-comedy is difficult to obtain.

Bad Time for Brigands.

One manifestation of the aftermath of war in the Balkans is the appearance of a number of brigands. Some of these, in the wilder districts, are merely Albanian mountaineers, whose hobby is raiding the villages of the plains and cattle-lifting; others are Serbs who took to the mountains when the enemy occupied the country, and have stayed there ever since, having meanwhile lost everything they had, and others are demoralised soldiers who have nothing left to lose. These ruffians, when enough facts are proved against them, are proclaimed as outlaws, with a heavy price on their heads. In consequence of the energetic measures undertaken by the Minister of the Interior, a large number have recently been captured.

The train service in Serbia has been greatly improved. The daily through train Nish-Salonika now leaves at 6 p.m. instead of in the early morning, and there is usually a through coach to Athens on it. It is hoped that the sleeping-car service to Salonika and Constantinople will shortly be restored.

Personalia.

H.R.H. the Crown Prince-Regent has been visiting Serajevo, where the Bosniaks gave him an enthusiastic

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reception. His Royal Highness spent several days resting, in strict incognito, at the famous baths of Ilidzhe.

The concert recently given by the British colony in aid of the Anglo-Serbian Children's Hospital is reported to have realised over twenty thousand dinars. This very gratifying result is due to the unselfish efforts of all participants, and reflects great credit on the energy of Mrs. J. B. Clarke, who spared no effort, no pains, in organising what resulted in a very successful production.

Lieut.-Colonel E. C. Fitzwilliams, C.M.G., formerly O.C. British Adriatic Mission, which contributed so largely to save the broken Serbian army at Skadar, Durazzo and Valona, shipping them to Corfu and Bizerta for rest and reconstruction in 1915-16, has been visiting some of his old friends now restored to their homes in Belgrade. Colonel Fitzwilliams has now left for Vienna.

Dr. Seton Watson has had an enthusiastic reception in Zagreb, and is expected shortly in Belgrade.

GREECE.

ATHENS, June 6.

The Re-enactment of Martial Law.

The sitting of the Chamber on May 3, two days before the date originally fixed for the departure of M. Venizelos to sign the Treaty of Peace with Turkey in Paris, was full of surprises. A Bill was introduced by the Minister of Justice dealing with offences against the safety of the realm, with special reference to attempts to challenge the position of King Alexander by an agitation for the return of ex-King Constantine. After M. Tsirimokos had explained the position which had caused the Government to frame the measure and had justified its provisions, the Bill was roundly denounced by M. Pope, an Independent, who characterised it as a further addition to the absolutist decrees of Bavarian (King Otho's) days. He was immediately followed by the Prime Minister, who appeared to have been so impressed with M. Pope's remarks that he admitted that certain clauses were a mistake, and announced that the Bill would be withdrawn for further consideration.

M. Venizelos added, however, that it was easier for him to refrain from pressing the Bill, as he was obliged to ask the Chamber for its assent to the re-imposition of martial law. He went on to explain that, on his return to Greece a few weeks ago with the text of the Treaty of Peace, he had hoped that his opponents would appreciate the extent of Greece's great success and reserve their criticisms on domestic affairs. But as soon as martial law was withdrawn the agitation for the return of ex-King Constantine was started. M. Venizelos proceeded to analyse at some length the "Constantine question," of which there are three aspects—the constitutional, the political, and the international aspect. Examining the matter from each of these standpoints the Prime Minister declared emphatically that there could be no question of the return of ex-King Constantine. His abdication was a constitutional proceeding—the contention that he had avoided the use of the word in order to make a revision of the step possible was a quibble which might be advanced in some lower court of law, but could not be sustained by self-respecting politicians in the Chamber—the accession of King Alexander had been in accordance with the Constitution. The ex-King's recall would mean an upheaval of the established order, and an agitation to this end constituted a political offence. Finally, the ex-King's return would be an outrage upon the Entente Powers, who had accepted his assurance that ex-King Constantine was "finished," and that if any responsible politician proposed his return the answer of Greece was certain and sound. In the course of his speech M. Venizelos also repudiated the idea that the next Chamber would be in any sense a constituent assembly with the right to consider the question of the deposed King; it would be revisionary and would be called upon to justify certain acts of the Government.

The Political Situation.

The Opposition—in which term their press must be included—have themselves to thank for the re-introduction of martial law. With the removal of restrictions on the liberty of speech and of the press political animosities found vent in a press campaign of considerable virulence, and it must be supposed that the Government realised late in the day that time had brought little or no balm to the feelings which manifested themselves in the first week of December, 1916. It is unnecessary to explain this bitterness, and it is impossible to state with any degree of certainty the extent to which the people as a whole is actuated by it. Political differences are always exploited acrimoniously in this part of the world. The case for a strictly constitutional Opposition in Greece at the present moment would be that elections ought to be held at once as the present Chamber, which was elected in 1915, dissolved by King Constantine and then reinstated by M. Venizelos, has outlived its constitutional term and is kept in existence by special decrees. But in view of the fact that M. Venizelos has been away from the country for eighteen months or more, that peace with Turkey has not yet been signed, and that the Greek army is still in the field in Thrace and in Asia Minor, the Government can make out a good case for postponing the elections. Obviously, however, it is a long cry from a difference of opinion as to the holding of elections to the enforcement of martial law, and one wonders whether the bulk of the people are not far more exercised over the cost of living and the prospect of a bad crop season owing to the late rains than over the questions which are made to loom large in political discussions. Certainly, if there were any ground of unrest to be worked upon, the Opposition cannot blame the Government for coming to the conclusion that they would stick at nothing in order to gain their ends.

Hence the return to martial law. It would seem to be the Government's intention to keep it in force until the elections, which cannot well take place before September. Without martial law it is feared that passions may be worked up until there would be the probability of bloodshed, and M. Venizelos held that a measure that saved the lives of five or, may be, a hundred Greeks, required no further justification. He is anxious, moreover, that the violence of the Opposition press should not be misunderstood abroad and be thought to reflect the views of the people as a whole.

The Government is strengthened in its attitude by the fact that apart from the complaint about the postponement of the elections the Opposition have no policy of their own and no leader. They are officially represented by a body known as "The Sixteen," from the number of signatories—ex-Ministers and diplomatists—of a manifesto to the people of Greece against the Government. But, so far as one is aware, it is not contended that the Sixteen are held together by anything more substantial than common antipathy to the Prime Minister, that they have any constructive programme, or that they could form from among their number a Ministry with any prospect of carrying on the Government of the country, in spite of the individual talent that there is to be found in their ranks. Undoubtedly the political bitterness existing is a misfortune for Greece; but it must be remembered that M. Venizelos's long absence from the country has severely handicapped him. With the possibility of further delay in the signature of the Turkish Treaty some time must elapse before the full effect of the magnetism of his personality can be exercised in his own country.

The Prime Minister left Athens on June 5 for Paris. He will probably take advantage of any delay in the signature of the Peace Treaty to visit London again.

MESOPOTAMIA.

BAGHDAD, May 10.

The Mandate for Mesopotamia.

The official announcement which reached here a few days ago in the news cables that the Supreme Council, during its sitting at San Remo, had decided to entrust the mandate for Mesopotamia to Great Britain was the most welcome news that has been published here since the Armistice, both to the British community and to the local inhabitants, except for the small minority of the latter who are still

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inclined to support the lost cause of the Turk. There had been good ground for a long time past for regarding the decision as inevitable, but the long delay in the definite pronouncement had naturally caused uncertainty and restlessness in certain quarters, and had given rise to many constantly changing rumours in the bazaars and coffee shops. That the San Remo Conference evidently saw considerable progress towards a Turkish settlement, and particularly that it brought to an end the long and weary period of waiting for a definite decision on the question of the Mesopotamian and other mandates are matters for great satisfaction and relief in this country. That the British Administration in Mesopotamia has the highest possible conception of the duties of the mandatory Power under the League of Nations is indicated by the message to the people of Mesopotamia contained in the form of a leading article published in the *Baghdad Times* and other Government organs, vernacular and English, just after the arrival of the news from San Remo. In case you have not already received the article from any other source, I quote it below :—

The inhabitants of Mesopotamia may rest assured that the British Government has not accepted the allotted task without full realisation of the responsibility it implies. The position of mandatory makes high demands upon any Power which strives to fulfil the intentions of the League of Nations under which it works. The ideal at which it must aim is the creation of a healthy body politic, guided and controlled by healthy public opinion. Care for the material prosperity of the mandated country would not alone suffice for the attainment of this end. It is the duty of the mandatory Power to act the part of a wise and far-seeing guardian who makes provision for the training of his charge with a view to fitting him to take his place in the world of men. Mesopotamia has suffered under centuries of misrule during which the versatility of her people and the productivity of her lands have been checked or stayed. The memorials of her past, strewn over the length and breadth of Mesopotamia, bear witness to the civilisation which was created by the ancestors of the existing population out of resources which have not diminished. It is the creative power of the people which has been held in abeyance by the lethargy and indifference of their rulers.

Reconstruction will not be the work of a day, but with a race such as the Arabs, quick to learn and eager to seek advantage of the attainments of science, progress should be rapid. Already the signs of revival are everywhere apparent; security has replaced disorder, the barren waste blossoms into fertility, the poor man is safe from oppression and the rich enjoys his wealth in peace. Such results could not have been accomplished without the help and co-operation of the people themselves, and it is upon this spirit of co-operation that the British Government relies. The establishment of civil administration will give an ever widening field to native energies, while the diffusion of education will enable the inhabitants of Mesopotamia to profit by the opportunities which the future holds in store. And as the guardian rejoices over the growth of his ward into sane and independent manhood, so will the guardian Power see with satisfaction the development of political institutions which shall be sound and free.

The supporters of the lost cause of the Turks, to whom I have already referred, replied to this by posting up a number of seditious notices in the bazaar, but they were soon torn down by the police, and the incident may be regarded as of little significance.

The Visit of H.I.M. the Shah.

Great preparations are being made in Baghdad, as well as in Korbellah and Nejef, for the reception of the Shah of Persia, who is expected here about the 20th inst. The intimation has been received here with much pleasure, particularly by the Persians—nearly 80,000—resident in the country, and his Majesty is assured of a very cordial reception. It is very desirable that he should be able to examine conditions in Mesopotamia, and learn something at first hand of the improvements in communications and in other directions that have been made during the past few years in the country. The trade relations between Mesopotamia and Persia are of rapidly growing importance. This has been brought about as much by Anglo-Persian friendship and the better communications in Persia and Mesopotamia as by the stoppage of Persian trade with Russia. Since trade through the Caucasus has been closed, a greatly increased proportion of Persia's exports and imports have passed through Mesopotamia, and Customs statistics show that since 1914 Persia's imports from the British Empire and India, which go by way of Busreh and Baghdad, have considerably more than doubled. Good progress has already been made with the arrangements for the wagon train ferry at Baghdad, which is shortly to be ready, and will complete the through railway connection between Busreh and the Persian border. This and the extension of the railway to Teheran is calculated within the next few years to give a further fillip to the growth of trade and other relations between Mesopotamia and Persia. Our Royal visitor will, therefore, have the opportunity of studying various questions of practical concern to his country's welfare during his stay here, which is sure to be full of interesting events.

The Racing Season.

In spite of the rising temperature, racing has continued well into May in more than one centre in Mesopotamia; but I believe to-day, which brings the May meeting at Amarah to a close, will see the last of the sport in the country until next autumn, except at Busreh, where they have decided to continue the meetings during the hot weather. This is a good indication of the popularity which racing has gained during the British occupation among the local population of Mesopotamia, who are now in various centres actively co-operating with British officers in its management. Arabs and Britons are at one in their enthusiasm for a good horse, and their association in connection with racing is one of the various influences tending to foster friendly relations between the two communities. The racing has in all cases proved a decided success financially as well as from the sporting and social standpoints.

The New Baghdad and the Baghdad Sporting Club.

The Baghdad April meeting, which was the most successful yet held in the country, was the last to take place on the present race-course in the grounds of the Baghdad Sporting Club to the north of the city. At a general meeting of the members of the club, under the presidency of Major-General Leslie a few days ago, it was decided to leave the present premises and to re-establish the Sporting Club at Hinaidi, some four miles to the south of the city, on the left bank of the Tigris, on a site conveniently situated between the new civil lines and the proposed new cantonment. Considerable progress has been made with the new civil lines, which are being constructed of mud brick, and about a dozen houses are already occupied by officers of the civil administration. The plans for the new cantonment have not yet been definitely settled, but as soon as possible in order, among other things, to relieve the difficulties of the housing question in Baghdad, all military departments, as well as civil officials, will move to their new quarters to the south of Baghdad, and very few of them will be left residing in the city. The Sporting Club could hardly continue to exist six or seven miles away from where nearly all those eligible for membership live. The move is, therefore, inevitable, but there will be some pangs of regret at leaving the old home of the club, which has become a very pleasant retreat, and has seen many exciting and enjoyable sports tourneys. The present club-house will not be disturbed until October next, and in the meantime the laying out of the new grounds at Hinaidi will be proceeded with.

Public Libraries.

Mesopotamia was so backward educationally as well as in every other way during the Turkish régime that it is not surprising to learn that in those days such institutions as public libraries were unknown in the country. No Arabian Carnegie has yet come forward to devote his surplus millions to supplying them, but—better still—people in Busreh and Baghdad have been persuaded to start public libraries for themselves. Both Busreh and Baghdad now possess a public library, managed by a Committee of the local population. Both the libraries owe their foundation to the lead given and the energetic work of Mrs. Forbes, the wife of Mr. H. F. Forbes, C.I.E., I.C.S., President of the Court of Appeal. About a year ago she gave an excellent start to the Tajaddad (Rennaisance) Library at Busreh. She got together a committee of local people, and helped them in the local collections of money for the purchase of books and the lease of a house. Many books were also presented, and the library was opened with a reading-room well stocked with periodicals and a nucleus of some thousands of standard works in Arabic, English, and other languages, and with a comfortable money balance in hand. Mrs. Forbes shortly afterwards came to Baghdad, upon her husband's transfer here, and initiated a movement for the provision of a library on lines similar to those on which she founded the Tajaddad Library. The Baghdad Public Library was opened at the end of last month in a temporary home in a garden in the neighbourhood of New Street. This library also has an excellent nucleus of books, and a considerable sum of money to tide it over the early period of its career. The library has been called the Salam (Peace) Library, this name having been chosen some time ago when the Committee trusted that the opening of the library might coincide with the celebrations on the occasion of the final peace with Turkey. We can only express the pious hope that the too-optimistic calculations on this score will not prove a very long way out. The extent of the support gained by Mrs. Forbes in starting the libraries is sufficient indication that there is a demand for them already, and as the schemes at present being organised by the Department of Education bear fruit, the libraries should grow in importance and popularity.

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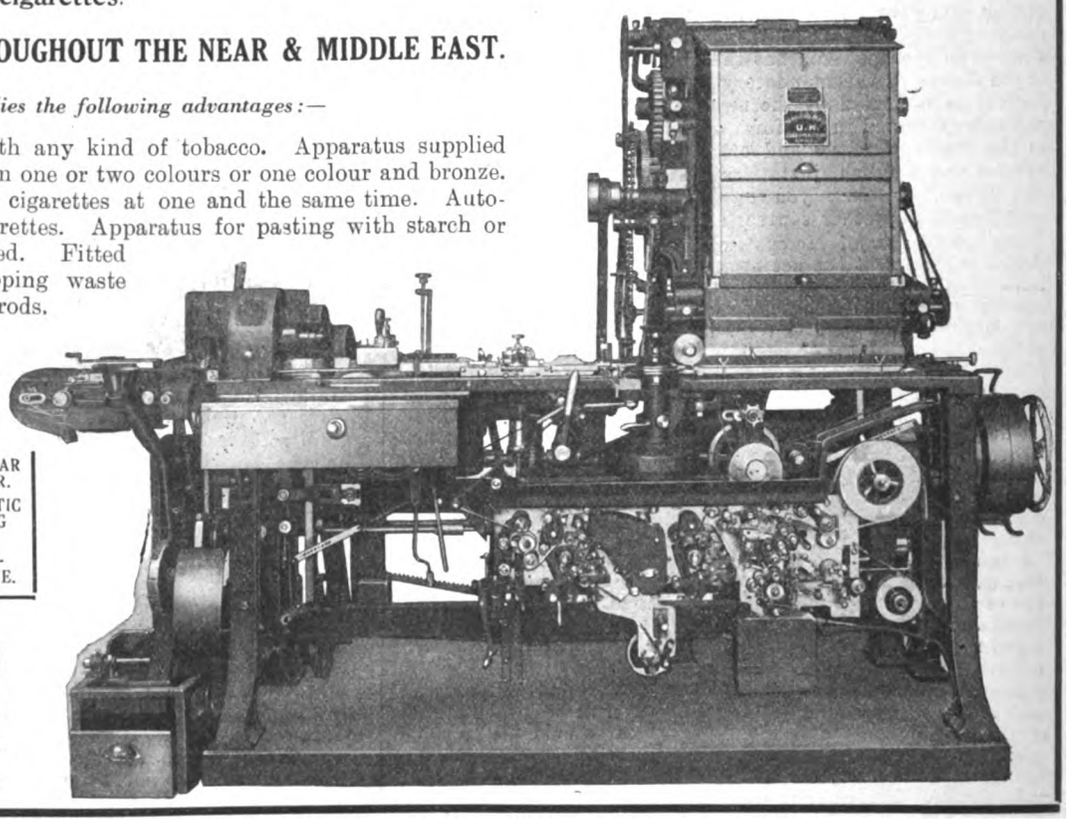

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Boy Scouts of Baghdad.

The Boy Scout movement is flourishing in Baghdad, and at their annual display, held a few days ago, over 2,000 people were present. As a social event the gathering was remarkable, for it was equally well attended by the Notables of Baghdad and by the British community, military and civil. The trophies (including a flag presented by the Beckenham Boy Scouts in 1918) were distributed to the members of the various troops by Maj.-Gen. Leslie. The movement was inaugurated in Baghdad in May, 1918, and there are now 18 troops in the city and suburbs, with a total of 650 scouts and 80 wolf cubs, a very creditable record of progress for the first two years. The movement is warmly supported by the Department of Education, and should lead the coming generation to take to more healthy ways of spending their leisure time than are to be found in the coffee shop and theatre, to the attractions of which many Baghdadis are apt to confine their ideas of recreation.

ALBANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The Anti-Italian Movement.

The Anti-Italian movement in Albania is the logical result of the Italian conduct and Albanian psychology. The Italians behaved as if they were in a conquered country, regardless of hurting the national spirit of the Albanians, and I have referred in previous letters to the very incorrect attitude of Col. Castoldi, who, at Durazzo, proclaimed himself as the Commissaire Royal for Albania, but to whom the Government at Tirana refused recognition in that capacity. Moreover, the Albanians have had enough of being treated as pariahs, and have decided not to allow foreigners to encroach on the rights of their country. The movement is, therefore, national and spontaneous, and without any prompting from outside. Moreover, there cannot be any question of Greek or Serbian assistance, for Greece was on the point of attacking Albania over the question of Koritza (Kortcha), and the Serbians are no less disliked by the Albanians on account of their attempts to overthrow the movement at Tirana by the assistance which they lent to Halit Lleshi, the creature of Essad Toptani. By its purely national policy the Albanian Government has earned the enmity of the Italians and of the Serbians. The reports of Greek and Serbian intrigues are the invention of the Italian agencies, which seek to throw discredit on Albania.

After the return of the Albanian gendarmerie from Argyrokastro, Permetti, Leshkevik, and Delvina, a League was formed to bring about the union of the rest of Albania with the Government at Tirana; there were, in fact, only Valona, Tepleni, and Himara which still remained under Italian military and civil administration. The headquarters of this league was at Valona, and its supporters were in touch with the Nationalists and the chief, Salih Budka, who is in command of the volunteers, with the National Guard, organised by the pan-Albanian Society "Vatra," of America. But there was no intention to attack the Italian army; the aim of the league was simply to ask from the Italians authority to effect the administrative union of all the country.

Unhappily, the Italian military authorities had become very sensitive, and, getting wind of the state of affairs, they arrested and deported to Italy the leaders of the Valona league—fifteen notables of the district. At the same time, they announced that they would never withdraw the garrisons from Albania, and that Italy would never give up Valona or its hinterland.

The reports are still very conflicting, but it seems to be certain that the first incidents took place at Himara and Tepleni. In a very short time the Albanians were before Valona, and, but for the warships, they would have taken the town without difficulty. The garrison at Tepleni surrendered after four days, not in consequence of lack of water, as the Italian agencies stated, but because the soldiers refused to fight for a cause which they themselves regarded as unjust.

The Italians wreaked their vengeance on the inoffensive and peaceful population. The entire population of Valona has been interned, that is to say, penned in like sheep, on the desert island of Sasseno, where there are neither houses nor any water fit to drink. Moreover, guns from the warships have been landed for use against the villages around Valona, some of which have been almost totally destroyed.

Italian Troops Refuse to Attack Albania.

If the military authorities and the Consulta show an arrogant and merciless spirit towards Albania, the Italian people themselves have some sympathy for this country and its inhabitants. In Albania the Italian soldiers have always behaved well and humanely, and have complained of their Government which persisted in keeping them far from their homes and their families, in spite of the Peace. It may be said that no Italian soldier has behaved badly towards the Albanians except in obedience to the orders of his superiors and against his own wishes. The anti-militarist manifestation in Italy will support this statement.

In short, the anti-Italian movement is the result of the Nationalist movement, which is making itself felt in Albania just now by efforts to realise administrative and national unity and to assure the independence and absolute sovereignty of Albania. But it is not to be denied that the Imperialist Italian authorities have seized upon this pretext of the awakening of nationalist sentiment to act against the Albanians and to attempt to overthrow the Government at Tirana—which they were not able to do by supporting the Essadist movement of Kroya-Tirana at the end of last April. The support which Colonel Castoldi lent to Osman Hali and his followers, happily without any effect, is still remembered.

The Assassination of Essad Pasha.

The removal of Essad Pasha from the various rivals to power has produced perceptible amelioration of the Albanian situation. Essad was widely mistrusted as the head of the reactionary party, and he was always found leading retrograde movements in Albania. He was disliked as the blind instrument of Greek, Serbian and Italian intrigue; for he himself had no ambitions for his country. Those who will regret him are MM. Pashitch, Venizelos, and the Italians.

MOROCCO.

Tangier, June 9.

An "At Home."

With two popular and successful fêtes within ten days, the British Colony at Tangier hardly recognises itself, and is wondering what really has happened. Mr. A. J. Clark Kerr, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires, who is not only doing excellent work in the interests of British trade but is also bent on making the colony feel that it *is* British, invited every British resident in or visiting Tangier to an "At Home" at his private residence on the evening of June 3 to celebrate the King's birthday. Mr. Clark Kerr received his guests, and then "Here's a Health unto His Majesty" was splendidly rendered. Several British solos were sung, supper was served, and dancing commenced with a Scotch reel to appropriate airs played by two pipers brought over by Mr. Clark Kerr from Gibraltar specially for the occasion. After the reel dancing became general, and was kept up with great vigour. The gathering closed with the singing of the National Anthem, three cheers for Mr. Clark Kerr, and "For he's a jolly good fellow," which were given with all the greater enthusiasm as the host had expressed a wish against speeches or votes of thanks.

MALTA.

Valetta, May 20.

Tardiness.

Malta gets self-government as regards local affairs at the beginning of next year, but with the present year well gone there has been practically nothing done. The general public are emphatic in demanding that the articles of the Constitution shall be subjected to inspection, and, if necessary, criticism before the affair is promulgated. This is reasonable, for very much depends on the exact wording of the new Act, whilst the position of Malta is unique, for it will be seen that many occasions are bound to arise where Imperial and local interests clash. A thorough perusal of the various articles may help to avoid this; at all events, it cannot but be a foolish policy for the Powers that be to adopt a *sub rosa* attitude, which, if followed, might handicap the self-government from the very start.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

APPEAL OF THE ALBANIANS IN ROUMANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST"

Sir,—If anyone has doubted that the Albanian nation wished freedom and independence, the recent action of the Albanians, weary of waiting for justice from the Powers, ought to have convinced him. Further proof of the fact I have just received in the form of the following appeal of a large number of Albanians in Bucharest, which, by the way, was one of the first towns in which, during Turkish times, the Albanians were permitted to publish books and papers. The appeal, which has been sent to the Powers, states:—

Alarmed up to the point of despair by the recent plans for settling the Adriatic question, we, the thousands of Albanians who are settled in Roumania, together with the refugees who have fled thither from their native land and who represent the sorrow and the cry of revolt of the Albanians, united, at a meeting, protest with our utmost energy against the enslavement of the Albanian State, the independence of which has been recognised by the Treaty of London and guaranteed by the Great Powers. Our soul's filled with pain, we protest against the violation of the desire for life and liberty which the Albanians have shown for so many centuries.

In the name of your glorious dead, by whose sides the sons of Albania have generously poured forth their blood in the mountains of Albania and of Macedonia; in the name of the great principles which you inscribed upon the standards with which you entered into war and around which you united the despair and the ardent love of liberty of the whole world: in the name of the justice and liberty which the heads of the Allied Governments and their political men have solemnly promised to the oppressed, we implore Allied diplomacy not to destroy the oldest ethnical group in the Balkans at the very moment when so many peoples of Europe, and even of Asia, are recovering their liberty and independence.

We desire absolute independence and the complete integrity of the territories which we have contrived to keep up till to-day in spite of the most cruel tyranny of the Ottomans. Centuries of fire and blood have passed over the Albanian nation, which has nevertheless remained alive and has ceaselessly aspired to freedom. This gives us the right to hope for its vitality and its future conservation; above all, to-day, when the Albanian national consciousness has penetrated every corner where an Albanian dwells, and when from the four corners of the world the wind of democracy blows for complete liberty. Under the domination of the Turks we resisted bravely, and shed our blood when arms were used against us. We ask for liberty, both for our repose and for our honest labour in the fields and mountains of our holy fatherland, where lie the bones of our ancestors who fell in the fight for freedom.

Their sons will know how to be faithful to the appeal of their forefathers, and, whosoever may be the oppressors, they will revive the heroic days of old, and will submit to no foreign domination.

Signed by
ARCHIN H. CEALAMANI, President.
STAVRI LUNESY, Secretary.

Bucharest.

Like the Italians of the Risorgimento, the Greeks in 1820, the Serbs under the leadership of old Black George in the early days of the 19th century, the Albanians are now fighting for freedom and their national existence, fighting to save their country from being torn to pieces as was Poland. Let us hope that the sympathy and aid given to the above countries may not now be grudged to Albania.—I am, etc.,

M. E. DURHAM.

June 17, 1920.

AMERICA AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I recently wrote in the *New York Times* an appeal to the American people to support their President and realise their obligations in Europe. My letter was inserted under a heading which showed sympathy with the object in view.

I wish to ask permission, through your columns, to appeal to Englishmen not to hinder this object by unfair and untrue representations of American conduct and American ideals. A member of a Russian Mission, whom I met on the Pacific, said to me: "We Europeans have a completely wrong idea of the American people. We think them dollar-worshipping, materialistic, selfish. This is true of another nation. It is not true of America." That opinion, after a considerable residence in U.S., I entirely endorse. Is there any European country which has favoured as purely an idealist policy as that of President Wilson? Is it fair to expect a great nation of 110 millions to have somewhat the same kind of representation in the League of Nations as a British colony of 7 or 4 or 1½ million inhabitants.

Is it an altogether idealistic policy to ask America to take over the control of thorny Armenia, while England takes over German S. West Africa, German East Africa, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Cyprus, Palestine, and New Guinea.

If we accuse America of dollar worship, is she altogether wrong in charging us with land worship.

What I plead for is a fair view of ourselves and of others, in order to gain the inestimable advantage of a brotherly feeling towards our cousins in the West.—I am, etc.

BERESFORD POTTER.

Rake Manor, Milford, Surrey, June 13.

"OXFORD IN LINCOLNSHIRE?"

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The following citations from Maxwell Lyte's "History of the University of Oxford" will explain the somewhat laboured humour of the *Observer* to your contributor (see THE NEAR EAST, June 17, page 851). Page 134:—

"There were grave troubles at Oxford in 1334. . . . Many of the more studious clerks, chiefly Northerners, resolved to quit Oxford for ever, and betook themselves to Stamford, where there were already some flourishing schools." The emigrant students were compelled to return. "At Oxford the memory of the secession of 1334 was preserved even longer in an oath that was administered to all candidates for a degree." . . . . "Having been retained in the Laudian code of 1636, it received fresh sanction in 1800, and was not expunged from the statute-book of the University until 1827."—I am, etc.,

E. A. BARBER.

BULGARIA'S PENANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I read your excellent editorial on Bulgaria in your issue of March 13. I am very much pleased with your spirit of fairness. After all, those who encourage the Balkan peoples to hate one another by taking sides with them violently are not the best friends of the Balkan peoples themselves.

It is very unfortunate, as you state, that the practical and hard-working Bulgarian people should have gambled so long for a dream, which it had learned to dream first from her liberator, Russia, and, later, from her military teacher, Germany. Mistakes, even if they are very serious, should now be forgotten. Serbia, Greece, and Roumania, the victors, should be the first to extend a friendly hand to Bulgaria, and grant to her every possible commercial facility, and give her evidences of their sincere desire for amity and neighbourly collaboration in their common efforts to redeem the long-tried Balkans from those age-long bloodsheds and rancorous hatreds which have ruined the marvellous civilisations of the ancient and the Byzantine Greeks.

Truly, the Bulgarians cannot so soon renounce their dreams of conquest, nor can the Serbians cast into oblivion their suffering during the war. But the duty of those who are neither Bulgarians, nor Serbians, nor Greeks is to impress upon these peoples that their salvation lies only in their determination to forget the past and endeavour to live in harmony with one another.

I am very glad that your editorial, far from taking sides with one of the Balkan peoples, is fair to all.

I hope that all enlightened Britons will follow your example, and that the policy of all of us, Britons and Americans, interested in the Near East, shall be no longer "Pro-Bulgarian," "Pro-Serbian," "Pro-Greek," nor "Pro-Roumanian," but "Pro-Balkan."

I am, etc.,

N. J. CASSAVETES,
Vice-President, League of Friends of Greece in America.
7, Water Street, Rooms 509, 510, Boston, Mass., June 1, 1920.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is with the greatest interest that we Bulgarians have read your article of May 13 entitled "Bulgaria's Penance." It is always well to know what other people think of you, and England is one of the countries for whose good opinion we really do care.

Your mention of the pro-Bulgarian movement in your land is very unexpected news for us, and how could we have known of it? What has England done just now to show us that her people sympathise with us, understand us, and want to help us? Once upon a time great Gladstone raised his voice in defence of our cause; then his countrymen seconded him, and we had a real proof of English goodwill. Now, as you say, we have still friends in England—the much-respected Mr. Bourchier, the brothers Buxton, and others. Well, they have repeatedly said that Macedonians, Dobroujans, and Thracians are Bulgarians by language, religion, and political conviction. Why has not English goodwill made a move for the plebiscite we so earnestly desired in those countries? Why?

However this may be, if there really be a pro-Bulgarian sentiment on your side, it shall be a comfort to us the day we know more of it. For the present we wish to thank you for the few good words you have said in our behalf, for having called us good soldiers, hard workers and sportsmen, and for the expression "We cannot help liking an enemy who accepts defeat like a gentleman, and who pays the price of it without whining."

Now, please allow me, though "only a girl," to take up some of the points of your article and tell you how we feel about them. First of all, we do not consider ourselves defeated—nay, impartial history will prove one day that had it not been for Mr. Wilson's fourteen points, his promise of plebiscites in all disputable lands, just treatment between the enemies, and no war indemnities whatever, we might have continued fighting with the same success as before. But we believed

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in this promise of impartial judgment, and saw ourselves robbed of lands that illustrious foreigners had a few years before proclaimed Bulgarian. Thrace, which was given to us by the London Treaty of 1913, Dobrouja, which the Roumanians themselves declared unnecessary to their State not long ago, Macedonia, which has cost us so many sacrifices and has made us the "thorn in the flesh of all our neighbours," and Tzaribrod—they have all been taken away from us as a punishment for our crimes.

And what has our crime been, please? Had the Great Powers, had all the other fighting countries a better excuse for taking part in the war than we? Had they unfortunate brothers under the yoke of others crying to them for help? Had they poor, restless refugees within their boundaries telling them for ever: "Now is the moment for you to act; strike, and we shall be free!" France was the only one among them who led a war of liberation; but France has refused us her sympathy and support because we dared fight against her. And we fought against her, we fought against England and Russia, not because we had "succumbed to the lure of a great Bulgaria to be fashioned out of the territories of our neighbours," but because we wanted to give freedom and a peaceful life to our oppressed countrymen in Dobrouja and Macedonia, because the hardships and persecutions they were submitted to were felt here as only people of one family can feel the misfortune of its different members, and because as long as there was suffering and tears in those lands we could not go on living quietly and enjoying our own freedom. With that aim in view we had no choice but take the side of those States who promised us the annexation of above lands. And the refugees from Macedonia, Dobrouja, and Thrace, who now flee from their new masters and seek refuge in "defeated" and diminished Bulgaria are sufficient proof of our having fought for a noble ideal.

Bulgaria has been most severely and unjustly treated at the Peace Conference. She has been treated like an innocent person accused of the basest crime, with no right to have lawyers and defenders, with no right to ask revision of his sentence, like a person whom bad-wishers-judges have condemned to death with no pity for his youth, his bravery, and his self-sacrifice.

Such is Bulgaria's short history. Had we been bad soldiers and cunning diplomats, we might have had to-day all the lands we wanted and twice as many we never thought of before; but as it is we must try to hold our heads up and believe in a brighter future.

If England's people really feel for us, let us have a proof. Friendship is best known in misfortune.—I am, etc.,

SONYA KRAEVA.

Sofia, June 12, 1920 (Guerlovo St. 9).

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Armenia.

The *Manchester Guardian* of June 15 deals in a leading article with "The Fate of Armenia." Circumstances have formed the Armenian people, it says, into two compartments—the Republic of Erivan and the scattered people of Cilicia. It comments upon what it calls the "abandonment" of Cilicia by the French, and proceeds:—

Whatever consideration the Cilician Armenians may receive from Mustapha Kemal, they are likely to owe more to the Russians and their own compatriots in Erivan than to any other cause. This little Republic, overcrowded by refugees from other provinces, harassed by the two republics on its northern and eastern borders, threatened by the Turkish Nationalists from the south, and hampered by the refusal of Allied assistance, has lived precariously under the imminent threat of annihilation. Despairing of the Allies, it has turned to Russia and made an arrangement which for the time being protects it against the Turks. The British Armenian Committee have addressed a memorandum to the Foreign Office in which the plight of the Republic is described and an appeal is made for help. They make the astonishing statement that "until recently, in spite of all promises, aeroplanes, arms, etc., bought by the Armenian Government were being held up by the British authorities at Batoum." This embargo, which merely illustrates the perversity of our policy in the Middle East, has now been removed, but the Committee still have to plead for the same facilities for receiving military stores which have been given to Georgia and Azerbaijan. We do not know whether the Government will consider the negotiations which have passed with Russia too great a blot on the Armenian character to allow of any privilege. But our statesmen may reflect that Armenia is situated between Mustapha Kemal and the Bolsheviks. The Allies, who at one time might easily have rescued the people and set them on their feet, neglected their duty, and, as we have shown, have now abandoned their compatriots in Cilicia. What are the Armenians of Erivan expected to do? It is not a question of Bolshevism or anti-Bolshevism. It is a question of throats cut or whole. The Allies have left them no choice but to seek what safety they can from whomsoever they may induce to protect them. What are we throwing away politically in the meantime, what avenues we are opening for Russia and what we are closing for ourselves in the Middle East, it is for those who fostered our anti-Russian and Laodicean Turkish policy to reflect. The best thing we can now do for these regions is to complete a general understanding with Russia which may keep Turkish barbarity within limits and preserve respect for the life and freedom of the little cluster of republics that have arisen out of the old empires.

Great Britain and the East.

The *Daily Express* of June 16 lays down in forcible terms its policy in connection with British commitments abroad. After commenting upon what it calls the "death" of the League of Nations, it states its policy:—

We must withdraw at once from every field on which our resources may be squandered and our strength dissipated. Where we have trading rights, as in the Persian and Mesopotamian oilfields, we must secure the due observance of our rights. For the rest, we cannot afford to meddle in affairs which do not concern us or to play God's providence to all the peoples upon earth. Our armies and detachments, our fleets and gunboats, should be withdrawn from all lands that lie outside the British Empire. We should have no commitments or entanglements in Europe or Asia outside our just concerns. The Foreign Office should be instructed to establish and maintain one simple policy—that we will trade with all who wish to trade with us, so long as they deal with us fairly and honestly, that we shall make no inquest into forms of government or national rivalries, that revolutions and petty wars in distant corners shall not concern us. We ought to abandon the "mandate" for Mesopotamia as America refused a mandate for Armenia, to leave Syria exclusively to France, and to refuse any responsibility for Palestine. We ought to cancel, even at the eleventh hour, the despatch of Sir Herbert Samuel as High Commissioner for Palestine and to revoke all interest in the tribal rivalries of Arabia. Within the fixed borders of the British Empire we have all that we can do. In the barren wastes outside we dissipate our fortunes and jeopardise our life.

Persia and Mesopotamia.

The *Irish Times* of June 17 lays great stress on the necessity of caution in regard to the British mandate for Mesopotamia. It points out the complication that arises from the proximity of Persia to Mesopotamia. It says:—

Lord Curzon's recent agreement with Persia and the Russo-Persian Convention are quite incompatible, and the Bolsheviks are very anxious to obtain the privileges which the latter conferred upon the Tsar's régime. Here, then, is the situation which may confront British statesmanship before very long: Asia Minor will be dominated by Young Turks; Kurdistan will be, as it now is, a hot-bed of bitter Anglophobia; Azerbaijan and Persia will be either Bolshevist States or closely allied with the Moscow Soviet—a distinction with a very small difference; all the hostile elements in Mesopotamia and Mosul will be encouraged to harass British authority in those lands; Afghanistan and India will watch our prestige in the Middle East retreating down the Tigris and Euphrates, to be drowned in the Persian Gulf. The picture is sombre, but its pessimism is not unjustified. Unless we are prepared to garrison Mesopotamia—and incidentally Persia—with large and well-equipped British armies for an indefinite period, we shall be forced to quit. Therefore the British public should make up its mind. Delay is highly dangerous. The success or failure of British policy in Mesopotamia will determine to a large degree the future of our Mahommedan Empire. The issues involved are supremely important, and should be treated with infinite care.

The Near East.

The *Daily Herald* of June 18, in a leading article under the above title, says that the statesmen of the Entente Powers, in drawing up their peace treaties, took no thought of the inhabitants of the lands which they were "plundering." But, it states, a devastating thing has happened—the Near Eastern peoples have begun to speak:—

That startling revelation, that Arabs and Turks and Syrians and Armenians are human beings with human wills, in no way inclined to be the complacent puppets of three old gentlemen in a far-away city, has blown the Near-Eastern settlement sky-high. The Big Three may wander from San Remo to Spa, or, appropriately enough, to Jericho; but they are not going to settle the Near East. The Near East intends to settle itself. Those disconcerting Russians have seen this while the British and French were playing their complicated map games. They persist in regarding the Near and Middle East as the dwelling-place of peoples, not as a Tom Tiddler's ground for financiers. They come with the friendly counsel of neighbours, not with the designs of plunderers. That is why they are already succeeding. If the Big Three would quietly tear up their treaties and withdraw their troops, the Near East would settle itself. But if they persist in trying to impose their treaties and their armies upon unwilling peoples, they will provoke an upheaval which will destroy more than, even now, they imagine.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Upon the possibilities of Mr. Arnold Bax I have remarked before in this column. He is certainly a composer of genius, even if of unequal and fickle genius. At the Wigmore Hall, on June 15, Miss Harriet Cohen and Mr. John Coates gave a quite representative selection of his pianoforte works and songs, and from this recital, which was very worthily done by both artists, it is not difficult to point out the good and the weak points of Mr. Bax. His prime distinction is the richness of his imagination. Now on his original Celtic genius he has superimposed the imaginative technique of the Russians and the French. Where this imposition is unnoticeable his work is of very high order. But, although his imagination rarely fails, the *cadre* within which he attempts to force it is often insufficiently elastic to allow it full scope, and sometimes the imagination overflows its frame and becomes a rather chaotic mass of notes. An example of the first is "The Slave Girl," where the Russian technique, while of superficial effectiveness, cramps him; and an example of the second is his Sonata, where, side by side with passages of great and quite original beauty, there are places where the words appear to have no meaning. (This sonata, by the way, which was very warmly received by the audience, seemed to me to need two things, decision and excision.) But some of the pieces which Miss Cohen played were very fine music—such as "What the Minstrel told us" and "Nereid." There is a delightful elusiveness in these compositions which Miss Cohen most admirably suggested. (Without doubt she is an artist, whose temperament, moreover, seemed peculiarly apt for the coloured works of Mr. Bax.) The same achievements and limitations that can be seen in his pianoforte pieces are present in Mr. Bax's songs. The mixture of his styles, which is bearable and sometimes effective in his other compositions, often causes confusion in his songs; in things like "Christmas Carol," and a "Roundel" of Chaucer, for instance, a style which is perfectly suited to the words is suddenly and with disastrous results forsaken. In other things, like "The Enchanted Fiddler," "Far in a Western Brookland," and "Ideala," his imagination is consistently expressed, with the consequence, I should say, that they are songs for all time.

Miss Jelly d'Aranyi, who gave a sonata recital with Mrs. Ethel Hobday, at the Wigmore Hall, on June 17, is one of the best fiddlers in this country. Technically speaking she is almost irreproachable, but she has also interpretative gifts of uncommon merit. Her temperament, which is of the warm, passionate sort, was not particularly well suited to the rather cold, dispassionate playing of Mrs. Hobday. This difference in the styles (and also the fact that the atmosphere of this evening was very bad for the playing of a stringed instrument) made the start of the first Sonata—Mozart's in B flat—a little uncertain. But it was not long before Miss d'Aranyi, bowing with most admirable restraint, achieved a fine *ensemble* with Mrs. Hobday, and the two gave a most graceful and charming performance of this sonata. In César Franck's Sonata in A major Miss d'Aranyi's emotional abilities were allowed a larger scope, and she infused very deep feeling into her version; but Mrs. Hobday, whose soundness is best exemplified in classical music, rather overdid her part, almost making the violinist force her tone. The best performance was that of Beethoven's Sonata in C minor, in which both artists played with a finish and breadth that were magnificent: it was so good indeed that one could never have guessed the sex of the artists

Pianoforte quartets are not often satisfactory, for the differences between the pianist and the first violin in regard to leadership are difficult to overcome. But whatever obstacles exist in this combination have been surmounted by the Elzy Pianoforte Quartet, whom I heard at the Æolian Hall on June 18. They are fortunate in possessing a pianist (Mrs. Herbert Withers) of genius, but the three string players are also very good. The Quartet with which they commenced—a fresh, but scarcely individual work by Herbert Howells—sufficed to show that they have common feeling and refined, unselfish instincts. They also played Bridge's "Phantasy" Quartet—a pleasing effort, with some rankly bad patches—and Chausson's Quartet in A major. Apart from climaxes, in which they were sometimes inclined to be loose or weak, they were good in every particular. Their tone and their craftsmanship are especially sound, and they certainly have a future before them. At this concert Miss Dilys Jones sang half a dozen good songs, but the diversion she caused from the quartet playing was hardly necessary. At present she has more of the vices than the virtues of natural singing: possibilities she possesses (she already has taste and manner), but they will never develop without serious training. A cultured voice is as nothing to a cultivated one.

ANDANTE.

THE ZIONISTS IN PALESTINE.

Speaking at a meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission, held on June 15 in the Church House, the Bishop in Jerusalem said that he was endeavouring to be a link between the Church in Jerusalem and the Church throughout the world. After referring to the efforts to promote the cause of reunion with the Eastern Churches that had done so much in Jerusalem in the days of Turkish rule, he expressed the hope that the Moslems and Jews might be included in something more than the friendly relations with himself that already existed.

The most interesting part of his lordship's speech was that dealing with Zionism as he sees it on the spot. There was serious danger, he said, just now lest an enduring conflict be begun between those who were being encouraged to settle in Palestine as their national home and those who actually lived in the country, and had lived there for centuries. The present population of Palestine from Dan to Beersheba was 670,000. Of these some 540,000 were Mohammedan, while the Christians and Jews numbered about 65,000. Thus the Jews now resident in Palestine were less than 10 per cent. of the entire population. Most of those Jews were what might be called orthodox or religious Hebrews. Many of them had belonged to Palestine for generations. Zionists were only a certain proportion, though a rapidly increasing proportion, of the thirteen million Jews who were found throughout the world. There were, however, many thousands of devout and religious Jews all over the world who did not support Zionism, and who did not believe that it could ever prosper as a State if it entirely ignored that which was the glory of the ancient Jewish State—religion.

The Bishop went on to say that there was no doubt whatever that Jews could help enormously in the development and regeneration of Palestine. Many of their notable qualifications were just what was required. When Mr. Balfour's Declaration was first made most of the people in the country accepted it quite placidly. Everyone admitted that the coming in of the Jews in reasonable numbers would be heartily welcomed and very useful. But what was the position now? There had been a startling and deplorable change during the past eighteen months. There was now intense and unanimous opposition not only on the part of Christians and Mohammedans, but also on the part of many Orthodox Jews who lived in the country. He was forced wholly and most explicitly to combat the Zionist statement that the people did not mind their coming, or that the number who objected was very small indeed. The opposition was not only very widespread, but just now was very intense. Of the 670,000 people who lived in the country, he would not be the least surprised if more than 600,000 were to vote solidly against Zionism coming in as they saw it and understood it to be. Zionists said that this opposition was due to intrigue and misunderstanding; but he was prepared to say that it was largely due to the behaviour of Zionists. They had not been able to control all their members, and some had behaved and spoken as if the country was already theirs. They had talked freely of what they should do to the holy places. For instance, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre: should they burn it or raze it to the ground? He was very glad that Sir Herbert Samuel had said that the holy places should remain in the hands of the religious bodies to which they belonged; and he believed that he was strong enough to see that policy enforced. The plans for immigration were on a very large scale—the idea being, apparently, to equalise the native population in numbers, and then demand full control of the government. Up to the present very few of the immigrants were of reputable character. They were mostly Russians, Poles, and Roumanians, and many were thoroughly Bolshevistic in their ideas. They had declared that it would be necessary for owners of property to have only a quarter of what they owned now, and articles in the Hebrew Press had been highly inflammatory. The attempt to intimidate the inhabitants had led to a deplorable state of things, and the general attitude which the Zionists had taken up had turned the acceptance of Mr. Balfour's statement by the inhabitants into strong hosility. The British had gone as far as they could in giving privileges to the Zionists. Their growing power and influence had encouraged them to claim far more than a national home; they spoke of the day when the government of the country would be entirely in their hands. By what right and according to what rules of justice did the British Government contemplate handing over the destinies of Palestine to a people who never ruled there for more than five hundred years, and that was three thousand years ago?

The loss of British prestige had been enormous. After the taking of Jerusalem our nation could have done anything with the people, so grateful were they. As he went through Palestine he found the same thing being said everywhere: "We had such ideals of your British Government. Now we wish you had never come here. Why did you not leave us to the Turks? They would never have left us to the Jews." All this had been brought about by the injudicious action of Zionism, by the ill-advised behaviour of its members, by the definitely Bolshevist, and in many cases anti-British, attitude of some of them, and by the intolerance of many of its followers. Britain had not yet taken in the seriousness of the position. It would be said that he was anti-Semitic and opposed to the movement. This he repudiated, for he believed that the Jews would once again be the means of a blessing to all nations. The remedy lay with the Zionists themselves. He had had a talk with Sir Herbert Samuel, and that had been very reassuring, but he had made the foregoing remarks after much consideration.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"EASTERN NIGHTS AND FLIGHTS." By "Contact" (Alan Bott). (London: Blackwood's. 7s. 6d. net).

II.—"STUDIES IN JEWISH NATIONALISM." By Leon Simon, with an Introduction by Alfred E. Zimmern. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 6s. net).

I.—A NEW ARABIAN NIGHTS.

Few of the many volumes of adventure that are published in this country of adventurers are remembered for long, and those that outlive their period of publication are scarcely ever among the "best sellers" of the year, but this book is an exception. A war book it is certainly not, neither is it a mere record of escapes and escapades, still less a chronicle of captivity. These features are indeed present and deftly portrayed, but that which gives the book its enduring value, apart from its subject matter and apart form its literary quality (which is of a very high order) is the characterisation. There is the whole pageant of the gorgeous and the squalid East in its pages. From the Syrian-Græcian-Jewish interpreter who introduced himself as "George, translator of English. I am friend of English, honest to God," to "Michael Ivanovitch Titoff, some time chief engineer of the tramp steamer Batoum," who helped the escapers and "proved to the dissatisfaction of Captain White and myself that he was a thief, a mean blackguard, a cunning liar, a cringing coward, a rat, and an altogether despicable cheat. Otherwise he was not a bad sort of fellow" . . . the conspirators and rogues who crowd its pages are intimate, human, real, touched in with a skill and sympathy that make them live

Realising that only from Constantinople could a successful escape from Turkey be arranged, the author feigned mental derangement, and persuaded a Turkish doctor to send him to hospital in the capital. There he met Captain Tom White, with whom he was eventually to escape. This latter, for purposes of escape, had managed to malinger with "tubercular disease of the ankle" induced by the heroic application of hot poultices until his ankle had acquired a very ominous appearance. . . . From that time the story mounts in a crescendo of excitement. Captain White escaped by jumping from a train during a collision, and Captain Bott followed him soon afterwards by bolting from a café near Galata Bridge, with the help of a Greek waitress. For weeks the escaped pair lived in Constantinople in disguise, waiting for their ship to sail, and experiencing all the terrors of suspense and all the agonies of blackmail, to say nothing of mere physical discomforts. Finally, in the ballast tanks of the Batoum they crouched trembling in the darkness during the police inspection, listened to the noises of the engine-room, the creaking of the anchor chain, and at long last to the churning of the screw as their ship steamed up the Bosphorus. The officers and men of the crew were all rogues, engaged in smuggling opium, cocaine, leather and human contraband to the Ukraine. The experience of the captain of the Batoum, who was taking a passportless woman to Odessa, must be mentioned among a host of other entertaining stories. He had hidden this woman in a deep locker in his chartroom. Into the same locker the kitchen wench, unbeknown to him, had stowed a gentleman friend—a grimy deserter from the Turkish army, with untrimmed beard and odorous clothes. When the Batoum was beyond the Bosphorus and all danger of a search, the captain opened the locker to release his friend. He inserted his arm, and jumped with fright when, instead of a woman, he produced a coal-blackened man! . . . Arrived in Odessa, Captain Bott and his companion obtained false passports with the help of a Russian lady, and lived in the working-class quarter. Odessa was then occupied by German and Austrian troops, but the Ukrainian Bolshevists had hidden a store of arms in cellars and garrets, and there were street disorders every evening. After an exciting fortnight in these surroundings the two escaped prisoners hid in an Ukrainian Red Cross ship, and so reached Varna on the Bulgarian coast, a few days after the British had occupied that port. There, looking like a "third-class scarecrow," Captain Bott reported for duty and gave some very valuable information to the authorities about the enemy-occupied Ukraine.

The last chapter, "A Postscript from Damascus," gives some extraordinarily apt sketches of the cities of the Near and Middle East. Thus Port Said is "a dull heat-heavy hell," from which one "gladly glides down the turquoise-toned canal" to Suez, "a harbour-landlady for squat-sailed dancing dhows." . . . Captain Bott pays tribute also to a noble Englishwoman who risked her life and liberty in helping her countrymen to escape from Constantinople, and who afterwards married one of the officers she had befriended. Truth is stranger than fiction; no novel could provide happier endings or more enthralling reading than "Eastern Nights and Flights." "Time, the greatest of romantics," the author tells us, "has nearly persuaded me that I enjoyed it all." . . . And time, for the reader, will pass all too quickly in Captain Bott's company, for this is one of the most delightful books of the year.

II.—"WHAT WILL HE DO WITH IT?"

The Christian and the Agnostic inquirer who may read these nine restrained and clearly reasoned essays will obtain a very fair insight into the aspirations of modern Zionism. The author, when a Balliol scholar (1902) and the most brilliant classic of his year, carried off the Ireland Scholarship. He seems here not only to call a warning to the more extravagant Zionists, but to insist that the God of Jew, Christian, and Moslem is, to all thinking members of these faiths, a universal God—one and the same—"Hear, O Israel, the Lord thy God is one"—differently interpreted and conceived. The Jewish Jehovah, says Mr. Simon, was of course originally a tribal god, like Baal or Chemosh; from tribal He became national, and now is admittedly universal. He then insists on the difference between the religion of the French, Germans, and English as something forced upon these peoples from the outside, and so foreign to their national instincts and usages that they have never yet wholly conformed to the priestly dogmas—and that of the Jewish people, who, on the contrary, had their religion of themselves or from within; in other words, that their knowledge of a One and Universal Omnipotent and His Law was given them by Him. That they did not obey, that they backslided and still backslide, does not alter the contention that He was not forced upon them through foreign channels. He is not only their National God, but also the Universal God. This very plain English we have here ventured to paraphrase; but the most muddle-headed Christian Sectary from Cromwell to Ignatius Loyola would have to admit that it is a very logical foundation for a claim to a national Jewish homeland, which, indicates Mr. Simon, is his conception of honest Zionism—that and nothing more. Very dispassionately and forgivingly the author handles anti-Semitism in its differing phases in Eastern and Western Europe, and the sum of his nine essays amounts to a contention that a Palestinian Jewish homeland acknowledged by the justice of mankind is the surest means for abating anti-Semitism and the shortcomings of the Jews themselves, which have admittedly at times occasioned it.

In Mr. Leon Simon modern Jewry possesses a very able pleader at the bar.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Our Smallest Ally: A Brief Account of the Assyrian Nation in the Great War," by W. A. Wigram, D.D. (London: S.P.C.K. 1s. 6d. net.)

"The Memoirs of Ismail Kemal Bey." Edited by Somerville Story, with a preface by W. Morton Fullerton. (London: Constable and Co. 18s. net.)

"The Secret Corps: A Tale of 'Intelligence' on all Fronts." By Captain Ferdinand Tuohy. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Diplomatic Reminiscences, 1911-1917." By A. Nekludoff. Translated from the French by Alexandra Paget. (London: John Murray. 21s. net.)

"The Influence of Animism on Islam." By Samuel M. Zwemer. Illustrated. (New York: The Macmillan Co. $2.00.)

"Serbian and Macedonian Folk-Songs." Vol. I. Collected and transcribed by Richard J. C. Chanter. (London: Carey and Co. 4s. net.)

"Letters of Travel (1892-1913)." By Rudyard Kipling. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1920. June	1920. June.		1338. Shawal	5680. Tamuz.
24	11	Thursday	7	8
25	12	Friday	8	9
26	13	Saturday.....	9	10
27	14	Sunday	10	11
28	15	Monday	11	12
29	16	Tuesday	12	13
30	17	Wednesday	13	14

Monsignor Poli, the Bishop of Allahabad, was received by the Pope on June 14.

The annual dinner of the Sikh Brigade will take place at the Trocadero on July 7.

The Pope on June 15 received in private audience Monsignor Barlassina, the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Major Morrison Bell, M.P., has returned to London from Malta.

Lady Hermione Buxton has returned to 41, Buckingham Palace Mansions, after spending the spring in Abyssinia.

M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister for Crown Lands, leaves London this week for Bucharest.

Mr. T. B. Hohler, British High Commissioner in Hungary, has arrived at 4, Albemarle Street.

Mr. Alfred Silley has recently returned to this country after a short stay in Constantinople.

M. Constantin Constantinesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on Monday from Paris.

Mr. H. H. Sartorius has arrived at Brown's Hotel from the American Legation, Athens, on his way to Warsaw, where he has been appointed Third Secretary.

Durham University has decided to confer the honorary degree of D.C.L. on Sir Theodore Morrison, Principal of Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

On his forthcoming visit to Agram and Laibach the Prince Regent of Serbia will be accompanied by M. Vesnitch, the Premier, and three other Ministers of State.

The 40th annual Burma dinner was held on June 17 at the Prince's Restaurant, Piccadilly, Mr. A. W. Bibby, of the Bibby Steamship Company, Ltd., presiding. Among those present were Sir George Buchanan, Sir F. W. R. Fryer, Sir Charles Addis, and Sir G. B. Bell.

The anniversary meeting of the Central Asian Society took place on June 23, Lord Carnock, P.C., presiding. After the reception of the Council's report for 1919-20 and the election of members of Council for the ensuing session, Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby read a paper on "The Highways of Central Arabia."

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—"The Lily of Life," a play written by the Queen of Roumania, is to be performed at the Paris Opera on July 1. Not more than one performance will be given. Queen Marie will probably arrive in France towards the end of June, and is expected to be present at the representation of her play.

Sir Herbert Samuel, first British Governor of Palestine, left London on Monday morning for the Holy Land. In a final message Sir Herbert said: "We are engaged in a high enterprise, and efforts and sacrifices will not be lacking to carry it to a successful issue. With unity among those who care for the development of Palestine, and goodwill of the Arab and Christian population, I hope to secure a future for Palestine which will not be wholly unworthy of the greatness of its past." Lady Samuel will go out later.

An informal reception was given by the Union of East and West on June 17 at the house of Mrs. Geoffrey Lubbock in Lennox Gardens to meet Indian gentlemen now in London. The company included the Princess of Monaco, the Marchioness of Bath, Lady Louise Loder, Sir Rabindranath Tagore and his son, Lord Sinha, the Countess of Coventry, Lady Beecham, Sir Jagadis and Lady Bose, Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, Sir Krishna Gupta, Sir William and Lady Barrett, Lady Waterhouse, Mr. Charles Roberts and Miss Roberts, Sir Sankaram Nair, Miss Woodhull, the Hon. Mr. Kasim, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Sen, Mrs. Kingscote, Miss Nesta Coventry, Miss Clarissa Miles, Mrs. Constance Villiers-Stuart, Dr. F. W. Thomas, and Mr. J. N. Das Gupta.

Professor E. G. Browne has presented to the Cambridge University Library a portrait of Emir Faisal, son of the Emir of Nejd, who visited Cambridge last November with his two cousins and three attendants. This was presumably the first time that any Emir of Nejd has visited England.

Commander Gerald Francis Talbot, C.M.G., O.B.E., R.N.V.R., late Naval Attaché at Athens, youngest son of the late Colonel Gerald Francis Talbot and of Mrs. Talbot, Grey Lodge, Bidborough, Kent, was married on June 15, at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, to Mme. Hélène Labouchere, widow of Captain Charles Labouchere, Army of France, of 50, Avenue du Président Wilson, Paris. M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, who made a special journey from Athens to attend the ceremony, was accompanied by the Greek Minister, M. Demetrius Caclamanos, Mr. M. Embiricos, Captain Tsateonas, and Mr. K. P. Tsolainos, and others at the church included Prince and Princess D'Obolensky, Mrs. Gerald F. Talbot, Major Bertram and Mrs. and Miss Talbot, Mr. Ernest and Mrs. Sotham, Earl Brownlow and Mrs. Adelbert Cust, Mr. Humphrey Talbot, Major-General and the Hon. Mrs. George Leveson-Gower and Miss Leveson-Gower, Sir Reginald and the Hon. Lady Talbot, Mrs. Algernon Talbot and Miss Talbot, Sir John and Lady Thornycroft, Rear-Admiral Sir Douglas Brownrigg, Sir John and Lady Stavridi, Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield, Commander Howard, R.N., Captain and Mrs. Panas, Major Venizelos, and several of the *personnel* of the Greek Legation. The Greek Government presented the bridegroom with a table service of centrepiece and tray, and massive candelabra, as well as a set of dessert plates, and M. Venizelos gave an antique ivory chess set.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. M. B. Gavrilovitch has been appointed Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

It is announced from Princeton (New Jersey) that Professor E. Capps, of the Department of Greek of Princeton University, has been appointed United States Minister to Greece.

The King has given unrestricted permission to the undermentioned to wear the following decoration conferred by the Sultan of Egypt:—

ORDER OF THE NILE.

Capt. R. F. Thom, R.N.; Capt. A. G. Alston, C.M.G., R.N.

OBITUARY.

At St. Malo, France, on June 17, the death took place of Mr William James David Ansell, I.S.O., late Chief Collector of Customs, Cyprus, and of St. Martin's, Jersey, member of the Constitutional Club, Royal Colonial Institute, and a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society.

The death is announced of Mme. Anna Raffi, widow of the Armenian writer. Mme. Raffi had lived in this country for over a quarter of a century, and devoted her energies to the publication of her husband's literary work. She died at the age of 72, as the result of an accident.

LORD WOLSELEY'S STATUE.

The Duke of Connaught will unveil to-morrow an equestrian statue of Field Marshal Lord Wolseley, which has been erected by public subscription on the Horse Guards Parade. The statue, which has been placed in the recess of the Horse Guards building to the north of the central archway, is from the design of Sir William Goscombe John, R.A., and is cast from the metal of guns taken in Lord Wolseley's campaigns. It is mounted on a pedestal of Portland stone which stands on a granite base of two steps. This has been designed by Mr. R. J. Allison (chief architect), and the work of erection executed by the Office of Works. On the front of the pedestal is the single name "Wolseley," and on the back of it is the following inscription:—

"Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley, K.P., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., 1833-1913. Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, 1895-1900. Burmah 1852-3, Crimea 1854-5, Indian Mutiny 1857-9, China 1860-1, Red River 1870, Ashanti 1873-4, South Africa 1879, Egypt 1882, Soudan 1884-5.

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NEW ROUMANIAN CABINET.

BUCHAREST, June 21.—The new Ministry has been formed as follows:—

Premier	General AVARESCU
Foreign Affairs	M. TAKE JONESCU
Interior	M. ARGETOYANU
War	General RASCANU
Public Instruction	M. NEGULESCU
Fine Arts	M. OCTAIRAN GOGA
Communications	General VALECANU
Public Works	M. GRECEANU
Finance	M. TITULESCU
Agriculture	M. CUDALCU
Labour	M. FRANCOU JASI
Justice	M. CANTACUZENE
Industry and Commerce	M. OCTAIRAN TASLAVANU
Reconstruction and Food Supply	M. ANASTASIU
Bukovina	Baron STARCEA
Transylvania	M. MOSCONY
Bessarabia	M. SERGEIE
State and Agriculture	M. GAROFLID.

—*Reuter.*

AN APPEAL.

We have received the following appeal addressed to all free and democratic people of Europe and America from M. Athanas Dontcheff, a Bulgarian prisoner of war, writing on behalf of his 11,750 comrades still detained in Greece as hostages of war since the Armistice of 1918, according to the clauses of which they were temporarily handed over to the Allies for repairing the lines of communication in Macedonia:—

"Free brothers! We turn our voice to you to beg your support for our liberation to return back to our homes. It is enough all that long time of imprisonment and punishment we have had until now. Have we not already redeemed by our sufferings, being far away from our families during so many months after the war, all our human sins? It is twenty months that we remain hostages of war. We live a deplorable life. We have no news whatever from home, not knowing how are our mothers, fathers, wives, and children. Our life is miserable; every elapsed day kills our feeling, and one day, when we return back home—if that ever happens—we shall be almost all sick and invalided people. A great many of us, not cared for, have died on the Greek islands. Nobody has shown a sign of sympathy with us. What is it for that we are to be held responsible in prison for such a long time after the peace has been signed and all other prisoners of war all over Europe long ago released?

A last appeal to the free people of Europe. Shall we not get your voice of protest in favour of our being released? Shall we have still to suffer? Is there left in Europe any sympathy and human feeling for us living dead—the hostages of war?"

NEWS IN BRIEF.

General Gouraud's deferred visit to Egypt is expected to take place in about a week.

It has been established that damage amounting to £90.000 was done during the riots in Jerusalem last April

A daily service of omnibuses from Tangier to Tetuan has been inaugurated, for the first time giving the public facilities for communication between Tangier and the interior.

To prevent the waste of the coal wealth of India the creation of a controlling authority is recommended by a Committee appointed by the Government of India.

It is announced from Paris that at a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chamber on June 12 it was decided to appoint a delegation to carry out investigations in Constantinople, Syria, and Cilicia.

It has been announced that the formation of a Revolutionary Committee had taken place in Western Thrace, and a manifesto has been issued by the Turco-Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee.

The room at the British Museum containing Phœnician antiquities, antiquities from Carthage, etc., and the room containing Himyaritic, Palmyrene, and other inscriptions was opened to visitors on June 21, and remains open.

Reports received at Belgrade state that vessels laden with war material are constantly arriving at Budapest *viâ* the Danube, and the Allied Military Commission has asked the Supreme Council to give it control over the Danube shipping so as to prevent the arming of Hungary.

Under date of June 20, Reuter's Belgrade correspondent reports:—"The Serbian official agency states that the Italian troops having withdrawn from Antivari and Dulcigno and the whole Montenegrin coast, Serbian troops immediately occupied the evacuated districts. The Italian troops have finally left Montenegro, and there are now no foreign troops in the country."

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

"EASTAPROX, LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO

(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1920.

INDIA: A NATION?

As the time draws near for the first elections under the new Indian constitution, and practical politicians devote increased energy to the details of organisation and campaigning, the detached observer finds himself less and less disposed to plunge into the burning questions of the moment, matters of franchises, or constituencies, or qualifications, and concentrates his attention on the wider aspects of this, perhaps, the greatest constitutional enterprise undertaken in the whole course of history. We have set out to transform India from a Dependency into one of the free nations of the Empire; what auguries can we draw of the result? Shall we succeed in conferring on India that effective national unity towards which she has always tended, but which, unaided, she has never been able to achieve? Will existing cleavages prove fatal? Will new cleavages develop to imperil the attempt? Such are the great questions underlying the work on which the Empire is engaged. The most important factor in the problem is unquestionably the existence of a fundamental unity of outlook, perceptible throughout the length and breadth of the country, obscured sometimes, but never wholly destroyed, by the temporary predominance of local or sectarian ideals, and justifying the use of the word India in a sense which is not merely geographical. Recognition of this underlying unity was perhaps the most striking feature of the lecture delivered last week by Sir Valentine Chirol in commemoration of the life and work of Sir George Birdwood, but it is no new discovery, for it has been seen, or at least felt, by every Englishman who, like Sir George Birdwood himself, has penetrated below the surface of Indian life; it is something entirely different from the superficial unanimity of expression forced upon Indian politicians by the experience of the last few years, and already disintegrating under the breath of a new reality; its very depth is a guarantee of its stability, and, in the widest sense, it constitutes the foundation on which we have to build. Our task is to bring this unity to the light; to make Indians in the mass conscious that it is there; and to enable the world to realise that, amidst the infinite diversity of race and language, religion and culture, there is this distinctive characteristic which brings all Indians together and separates them from other nations. When that fact is fully recognised on both sides, the Indian nation will at last be a reality.

Of the existing obstacles to its realisation, by far the greatest is the cleavage between Hinduism and Islam. We are not speaking now of concrete differences of creed, but rather of the difference in mentality, of which accepted beliefs form only a part. The frame of mind consistent with the strict Moslem creed is in fact very different from that in which Hinduism finds congenial soil, and if the two religions were adequately represented by their professional exponents, we should be forced to the conclusion that national unity is definitely and permanently impossible. On both sides, however, changes have taken place, which make it possible to hope for an eventual concordat. The recent revival of Hinduism has been accompanied by a certain adjustment of Orientation. The old creed, based doubtless on many centuries of stern experience, taught that life is in its essence evil, and that escape from it is the sole hope for the individual. In the conditions resulting from British rule, many classes have begun to realise that life is worth living for itself, and the gradual spread of this attitude is bound to bring the community as a whole more nearly into line with men of other ways of thought. Indian Moslems, on their part, have moved some distance from the strictest interpretation of their creed; taken in the mass, they are now hesitating between the national and the sectarian ideal, and there is little doubt that while the latter still preponderates, the vision of a united India is gaining ground among the classes from which future leaders will be drawn. The struggle is by no means over; various incidents have occurred in recent years to suggest the possibility of a revival of militant orthodoxy among the rank and file, while it must be anticipated that the outrageous agitation conducted on the question of the Khalifate has operated to put back the clock. Notwithstanding these considerations, we incline to the belief that the national ideal will ultimately win, and that a time will come when the phrase Indian Moslems can be discarded, and the members of the community can be described with justice as Moslem Indians. Taking into account, therefore, the changes in the attitude of both parties, we are justified in expecting that a gradual approximation will result, and that, given wise and cautious leadership on either side, the religious cleavage may eventually be eliminated from the political field.

Apart from this momentous question, no very serious obstacle to national unity is apparent at the moment, but some observers discern the possibility of an even greater danger in the future through the growth of racial and regional patriotism, a development which might conceivably split all India into fragments once again. In attempting to estimate the future play of these forces, it is essential to realise that all the internal influences of the last sixty years have worked strongly in favour of national unification. Legislation applied equally throughout the country, the English language as the only passport to responsible office or to the fruits of Western culture, most of all, perhaps, the growing pressure of administrative uniformity, these forces in particular have combined to bring home to Indians the conception of a single nation. The educated classes have been quick to develop this conception in the favourable conditions furnished by cheap and speedy means of communication; its realisation has been accepted, perhaps without sufficient consideration, in the Press and on the platform as an accomplished fact; and the unanimity of politicians sufficed at one time to mislead even the central administration, which proceeded on the assumption that racial and regional patriotism did not exist, and that the boundaries of provinces could be adjusted to meet the convenience of the changing times. The agitation evoked by the partition of Bengal destroyed that false impression once for all, and at the same time gave a marked impetus to the expression of similar aspirations in other parts of India; to-day no one questions the unity of Bengal, while from East and West alike we have insistent demands for the adjustment of provincial boundaries on racial lines. Now it is quite certain that the growth of such aspirations will be fostered by the provisions of the new constitution. Under the highly centralised régime of to-day, a province has machinery, but not a policy; from next year onwards each province will have to develop a policy of its own, and the real strain will come when a policy is developed at variance with that of neighbouring administrations or of the central Government itself. Decentralisation is the note of the new India, but in the historical period administrative decentralisation has ordinarily been the prelude to political disruption, and the great question which has to be decided is whether the strength of the forces making for unification will suffice to overcome the new centrifugal impetus. It is a question on which prophecy would be wholly out of place, and if we insist on its importance, our object is to impress on the Indian statesmen of to-day and to-morrow the magnitude of the responsibility which rests upon them. It is certain that the disruptive forces will increase in strength; the demands of racial or regional particularism may at any moment break all bounds; and it will indeed be a statesman's task to harmonise such local aspirations with the permanent and vital interests of India as a whole.

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AUSTRALIA AND THE MANDATE FOR ARMENIA.

By Estelle Blyth.

This is the day of the rebirth of little nations. We have seen Belgium, Serbia, and Poland stripped and tortured, sold into slavery, bleeding and hurt unto death; and yet out of the ashes of each a little winged life is slowly rising in radiant promise for the future. The tragedy of Armenia has been a longer and a sadder one even than these; for generations she has endured sufferings that would have exterminated a people less virile and tenacious in character. The Armenians are pre-eminently a combatant race. Their country, with its great mountains, its mighty rivers and vast inland lakes, and the rigours of its climate, has bred men whose national characteristics have been moulded and stimulated by incessant conflict with nature for a livelihood and with man for the right to live. They are hardy both in mind and body, fiercely independent at heart, passionately conservative in all matters affecting national life and thought—and this after centuries of alien rule.

An Armenian writer has called Armenia "the mountainous island," as, owing to the fact that it lies between the seas and the immense plains of Mesopotamia, it looks like an immense island. Its rugged mountain chains make both for protection and for insularity, but its position in relation to other countries has rendered impossible the preservation of its integrity as an independent kingdom. A sea-island can isolate itself provided it has a navy, but can never be isolated against its will. A land-island cannot maintain either its isolation or its integrity; the mountains that hem it in are no harder to overcome than to defend, and may betray either side.

Much of the ancient Empire of Armenia is now distributed amongst Russia, Turkey, and Persia, those powerful surrounding oceans which have encroached upon the inland isle. In ancient times its independence was more easily ensured by the difficulty of access by an invading army, and by the almost impossibility of such an army maintaining open communications through regions whose natural and climatic inhospitality was intensified by proud, hostile, and relentless inhabitants. So it was that when from time to time Armenia's independence was overthrown, it was repeatedly recovered up to the Middle Ages, though with varying boundary-lines. When Armenia became a regular trade route between East and West, however, its isolation was subtly undermined; by its growing economic dependence upon other lands it opened the door to influences too many and too strong for any one nation to control. The ancient geographers distinguished a greater Armenia, as expressed in the larger and eastern portion limited by Mesopotamia, Assyria, and the Caspian Sea, from a Lesser Armenia, west of the Euphrates. This Lesser Armenia is now included in what is known as Turkish Armenia, which has also closed upon the vilayets of Van, Bitlis, Dersim, and Erzerum, together with portions of the vilayets of Diarbekr and Kharput. Russian Armenia is the north-eastern portion of old Greater Armenia, with Erivan, Elisabetpol, and Kars, and part of Tiflis, all once a portion of Persian Armenia; while to Persia now belong the south-eastern angle of Greater Armenia and the province of Azerbaijan. The history of these altered and readjusted boundaries is that of the religious strife, political greed, and racial enmity which have torn and distracted Asia from the dawn of the ages onwards, rendering her both the sport and the prey of human passions.

The Armenian question of modern times was born of a good impulse, and nursed by selfishness and jealousy of the Great Powers. By the Treaty of San Stefano Turkey engaged to Russia to carry out reforms in the "provinces inhabited by Armenians, and to guarantee their security against Kurds and Circassians." This was superseded by the Treaty of Berlin, Turkey renewing her promises to six signatory Powers; it was, of course, much easier for Turkey to play a good game with six cards instead of one. Unfortunately, Russia helped Turkey, whether ignorantly or not, by her severity to the Armenians after the assassination of Alexander II. The Armenian language was discouraged, Armenian schools were forcibly shut down, and there was much religious coercion. The Armenians then essayed to start a national independence movement with the help of the Turkish Armenians, which led to much revolutionary propaganda and talk, much bitterness and futile nationalism, to the endless spinning of webs of intrigue (in which the Armenian is a past-master), and to small blazes here and there. Turkey took advantage of their restlessness, and struck down rebellion with a heavy hand, being ably supported and assisted in all punitive measures by the Kurds, who were exceedingly jealous of the sympathy for Armenia manifested by Europe. And so it began, that ghastly tale of Armenian struggles for independence which, under the Turkish lash, became a struggle for bare survival—disturbances, riots, intrigues, risings, on Armenia's side, and on Turkey's the massacres.

No race has suffered such terrible and incessant martyrdom. The sufferings of Jewry pale in comparison. The Armenians are the most tragic, the most mysterious people in the world. There seems no reason to our eyes why they, as a race, should have been singled out for such appalling suffering throughout so many centuries; there is no great stain upon their history while they were yet a kingdom. The Jews rejected the Messiah because He came in the form of a servant. "Not this Man but Barabbas!" they cried, and "His blood be on us and on our children!" Judaism to-day is not a religious force; it is an extinct volcano. Neither is Zionism a religious movement, but a political. But the case of Armenia is utterly different. With many unlovely qualities, as well as many that are admirable, the Armenians are first and foremost a people animated by a vital religious spirit. They have lost their independence as a people, but they have kept their national Church intact; it is separate, distinct, national; it acknowledges no foreign head, it brooks no foreign control; it adheres to its own laws of government without interference or assistance from outside; perhaps of all the Eastern Churches it is the most virile.

The future of Armenia is still in the balance, owing to the distracted state of Europe and America's unwillingness to undertake any outside obligations. As soon as the terms of the Turkish Peace Treaty begin to be *felt* by Turkey much of Armenia's trouble will automatically be eased; but she is not strong enough to stand alone, surrounded as she is by powerful and antagonistic neighbours who dread her love of intrigue. The natural protectress of Armenia is Russia, who has always been regarded by Turkey's Christian subjects as their champion; but Russia is unable to assume the responsibility she would never have shirked under normal conditions. Possibly if some Power would undertake the Armenian Mandate for the next ten or fifteen years, Russia by then would be able to take over the charge. It was hoped that America would have stood sponsor to Armenia during her time of

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KING OF SPAIN

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weakness, but it now seems certain that America will not share the white man's burden in Europe. Deeply disappointing as her aloofness is to those who hoped for her as a comrade in peace as well as in war, and heavily as the extra burden falls on England and France (already so weighted with responsibility), we must not therefore judge her too harshly. She stands to-day at the cross-roads, facing as grave a spiritual peril as any she has had to meet in all her history; will she repudiate the spirit of the Great Charter of Liberty from which she, too, derives the inspiration of her freedom? "To no man will we *deny* or *delay* justice."

Sympathy for America, however, will not settle the question of the Armenian Mandate. It is very unlikely that Armenia would settle down under a Roman Catholic power; there would be constant friction, and worse, between subordinates on both sides. Religion looms so terribly large in the forefront of Eastern politics. France is likely to have her hands overfull in Syria; England is heavily burdened with world-wide obligations, and fresh, though uncoveted, responsibilities in Africa and the East.

But why not Australia, that great self-governing Dominion, equally a signatory of the League of Nations with England and France? There is, perhaps, no country in the world so strong and lusty, so eager of achievement, possessed of such a vital instinct for freedom. Indeed, the instinct is so strong that in individuals it will often escape as licence, but Australia is young, and she will grow up straight of back and limb. To govern and guard Armenia will be no easy task; outside pressure there will always be, and also intrigue from within; but Australia has a clear head and a certain hardness of character which would carry her far in such a task. The East worships strength, and not in this generation will the fighting fame of Australia be forgotten—Gallipoli, France, Palestine! Again, Australia is singularly sound at heart; in an age when the foulness of Bolshevism has crept like an infection from one country to another, Australia has kept freer, perhaps, than any other country. Her anxiety in former years over Japanese proximity to her inviolate shores, and the presence of many Syrian strangers within her gates, have given her training and understanding in Eastern affairs. It may be urged that the occasional indiscipline or lawlessness of her magnificent fighters would weaken her as a Mandatory Power. It is improbable. Responsibility is a great teacher. Why should we fear that Australia, who has shown herself so prodigal of life, and talent, and wealth in the war, would suddenly turn selfish and so fail as a Mandatory Power? No one can deny that she has all the elements of true greatness, for whose ripening only time is necessary. The debates in the Federal Parliament are informed by an infinitely wider spirit than is the average in the American Senate. Australia's generosity, her fierce instinct of freedom, personal and national, would give her a most sympathetic understanding of Armenia's unique difficulties; and she, too, would gain by contact with a people who have preserved their faith and ancient ideals undimmed through centuries of unparalleled suffering.

This is but the outline of a scheme which others are better qualified to fill in and amplify. In assuming the task, Australia at least would be unfettered by old-world prejudice and jealousy. In accepting Australia's protection, Armenia would find herself allied to one who will eventually take rank as one of the great world Powers. Left to herself, Armenia, in her weakness and misery, becomes a centre of danger to both East and West, however unwillingly; for the land that was once the trade-route between the two hemispheres may also, if unguarded, become a highway for triumphant Bolshevism.

A message from Temesvar reports an explosion at the dynamite depot of a mine just as the miners were leaving the shaft. One hundred and seventy-three bodies have already been recovered.

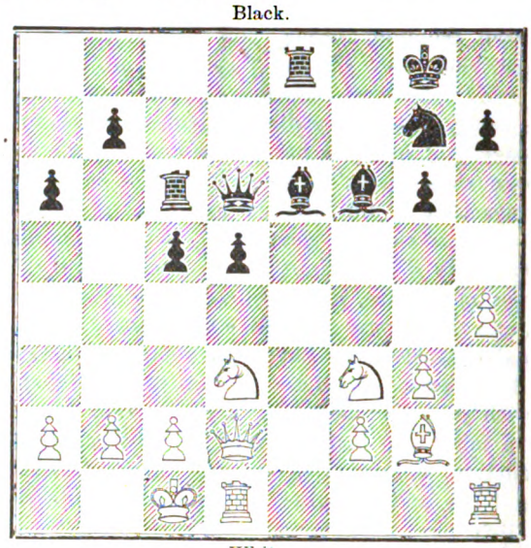
The Moslem festival "Id-ul-Fitr" was celebrated at the Woking mosque on June 17. Mohammedans from all parts of the United Kingdom, including the members of the Indian Khalifate Delegation, attended. The festival marks the termination of the month's fast in Ramadan, and is the occasion for rejoicings and fraternal greetings among the "faithful."

CHESS.

Solution to Problem No. 20:—1. R x Q; if Kt x R, 2, R—K2 mate; if R x BP, 2, R—K3 mate; if Kt x KtP, 2, Kt—B6 mate; if Kt—Kt6, 2, R—K2 mate.

The following interesting finish occurred in a recent game in the Murton Cup handicap:—

Black.



White.

1 . . .	P—B5	5 K—Q	Q—Kt7 (ch)
2 Kt—B4	P—B6!	6 K—K2.	B—B4 (dis ch)
3 Q—Q3 (1)	Q—Kt5	7 Q—K3	R x Q (ch)
4 R—K (2)	Q x P (ch)	8 K x Q	Q x P & wins

(1) If P x P, then mate in three by 3 Q—R6 (ch.) K—Kt; 4 R—Kt 3 (ch.) K—R; 5 Queen mates.

(2) The only move. If P—Kt 3 mate in two by Q—R6 (ch.).

CARO-KANN.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

PEACE TREATIES: Turkey.—Armenia.—Cilicia.—Palestine. EGYPT: German Women and Children.—Milner Mission. INDIA: Hunter Commission.—Political Officers (Mesopotamia). (June 14.)

RUSSIA: Prisoners. Turkey.—Crimea. PEACE TREATIES: Baghdad Railway.—Moslems (Protection).—Dodecanese Islands. PERSIA. MESOPOTAMIA (OUTBREAK, MOSUL). INDIA: Land Revenue (Assessment). MESOPOTAMIA: British and Indian Casualties. (June 15.)

INDIA: Civil Servants (Mesopotamia).—Army Commissioners (British Candidates).—Hunter Commission.—Auxiliary Force Bill.—Amritsar Disturbances (General Dyer). PEACE TREATIES: Turkey.—Armenia. EGYPT: Milner Report.—Kantara Camp. MESOPOTAMIA AND PERSIA. BRITISH ARMY: Troops, Enzeli. MESOPOTAMIA (OUTBREAK, MOSUL). PEACE TREATIES, HUNGARY AND TURKEY. INDIA: Army Officers (Pensions).—Gold Imports. (June 16.)

PALESTINE. PEACE TREATIES: Turkey.—Armenia. ALBANIA. MESOPOTAMIA (OUTBREAK, MOSUL). (June 17.)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

In view of the conditions that have obtained in a great part of the sphere of operations of the Levant Company, the first report of that undertaking can only be regarded as extremely satisfactory. The company has been able to transact an extensive business with Turkey on remunerative terms, and has established branches in Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Mesopotamia, Batoum, Odessa, and Novorossisk. Those at the last two centres, however, have had to be temporarily closed owing to the occupation of the towns by the Bolshevists. Besides the branches mentioned, subsidiary companies have been formed to work in Egypt and the Sudan, and several transactions of considerable importance are in hand which, it is believed, will result in satisfactory profits.

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The profit and loss account shows a net profit of £33,850, a notable result when it is borne in mind that the company had the full use of the ordinary share capital for only a short period of the year, and that in order that there should be no delay in submitting the accounts, no profits in respect of the branches or of the company's holding in J. W. Whittall and Co., Ltd., are included, though provision has been made for possible losses in connection with the closing of the branches at Odessa and Novorossisk. It is proposed to pay a dividend of seven per cent. on the ordinary and deferred shares, calculated on the dates on which the instalments were due, absorbing £24,730, leaving £830 to be carried forward.

***

Particulars are given in another column of the new Indian Government rupee loan. The amount is unlimited, but the loan is in two forms. One is a long-term loan issued at 95, and repayable at par not earlier than October 15, 1945, and not later than October 15, 1955. Indian War Bonds will be accepted at par in subscription to this issue except the 1925 and 1928 series, which will be accepted as equivalent to Rs. 102.4 and Rs. 103.4 respectively for every Rs. 100 nominal value of War Bonds tendered. Indian Treasury Bills will also be accepted.

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The other form of the loan takes the shape of ten-year bonds issued at par and repayable at par in 1930, bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum. Indian War Bonds of the 1920 and 1921 series will be accepted at par in subscription to this loan. Those of 1921 will carry interest at 6 per cent. from the date of tender, and those of 1920 from the date of tender or August 15, 1920, whichever is the earlier. Both forms of the loan are free of Indian income-tax. Cash subscription will be received in India from July 5 to August 14, 1920, but subscriptions in the form of Indian War Bonds will be received in India up to October 15.

***

The latest information that reaches me with regard to crop conditions in Bulgaria is, generally speaking, most satisfactory. The favourable climatic conditions during the spring encouraged sowings, and the area under cultivation has been very considerably increased. With the exception of one area, the rainfall has been adequate, and the crops promise well, particularly rye and barley. The outlook as regards otto of roses is, however, unpromising. The rose-fields suffered greatly through the drought of 1919, following on the neglect during the war, and it was found necessary to plough up the greater part of the rose-fields, principally in the region of Kazanlik. The rose-fields that have been spared have been carefully looked after, and their condition is reported to be satisfactory, but, in the circumstances, a rich harvest is naturally not to be expected.

***

The report of the Burmah Oil Company, which has just been issued, shows that, as was evident from the dividend statement, the company has had an exceedingly prosperous year. The gross profits amounted to £4,655,000, as against £3,305,100 for the previous period, and the ordinary dividend is increased from 30 to 50 per cent., free of tax, while there is, in addition, to be a bonus distribution of shares in the proportion of four new shares for every existing five shares to holders on the register as at July 8. The allocations include £1,291,000 to the general reserve, bringing that fund up to £2,291,000, this increase being due to the necessity for providing capital for the development of the business. The excess profits duty is estimated at £1,300,000, and the carry forward is £236,900, as against £196,900.

***

The remarkable increase in the profits of the company has been mainly due to the rise in the value of the rupee, though other factors have played a considerable part, notably reduced fuel consumption, and the greater yield of the more valuable products of crude petroleum as the result of improvements at the refineries. No strikes of oil have been made in the outside districts, but it is stated that developments of a more favourable nature have attended the drilling operations in Assam, where oil of a very low grade was struck some four years ago, and the higher price obtainable for oils of this character gives rise to hope that a paying yield will be developed in the locality. In general the outlook for the current year is favourable.

***

A contemporary states that an important deposit of iron ore has been discovered in Morocco between the river El Abid and the Robia, in the neighbourhood of El Bourdoudj. The deposit is said to be on the surface of the ground, and to contain some hundred millions of tons of rich ore. Its development will be facilitated by the fact that power for driving machinery can be obtained from the river El Abid, and the transport problem will be solved by the construction of the railway which is to be built to connect the phosphate deposits at El Bourdoudj with the port of Casablanca.

***

A communique issued by the Government of India this week announced the decision to put into force three measures with a view to giving effect to the policy laid down by the Currency Committee. An ordinance is being issued by the Governor-General declaring that sovereigns and half-sovereigns will cease until further notice to be legal tender, though they will be received by Government at the present ratio of Rs. 15 during a period of twenty-one days—that is, until July 12. On the expiry of that period the restrictions over the import of British gold coin will also be withdrawn. As from June 21, however, restrictions over the import of gold bullion and foreign coin have been removed. At the forthcoming session of the Legislative Council, a Bill is to be submitted prescribing the new ratio of Rs. 10 to the sovereign, at which the sovereign will become again legal tender. The announcement is also made by the Government of India that, having regard to the fall in the market value of sterling, the rates of Reverse Councils will be 1s. 11 19-32d. for Immediates and 1s. 11 11-16d. for deferred, these being the rates which will ultimately hold when sterling once more returns to par with gold.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

GREECE.

ATHENS, May 29.

Crops Damaged by Rains.

The heavy rains which have fallen in various parts of Greece, and which are most unseasonable—it being comparatively rare for rain to fall in Greece after the end of April—are reported to have caused considerable damage. In Thessaly the cereal crop, which is a good one this year, has been practically unaffected, but in the Calamata district the damage to the vines and cereals is estimated at about 5 per cent., and in the provinces of Achaia and Elidos the damage is stated to be much more serious. The vines and fruit trees have suffered severely. Rains at this time of the year are extremely detrimental to the currant and grape crops, as the heavy showers, followed by severe heat, produce perinosporos, and considerably reduce the yield of the vines.

The prospects for the olive and oil crop are extremely good.

Trade and the Drachma.

The continued depreciation of the Greek exchange, sterling being quoted at 34.25 and the dollar at 8.95, has had the effect of considerably diminishing the imports from Great Britain and America, and merchants are very chary of making new purchases at the high rates of exchange at which foreign bills are now obtainable. The trade lull has had the effect, incidentally, of improving somewhat the congestion at the Piræus.

Some British and American firms who have forwarded goods on consignment have been rather badly hit by the rise in the sterling and dollar exchange. In some cases merchants have refused to take up bills of lading for goods ordered by them, even occasionally sacrificing advances made when ordering. It is desirable for British firms to ascertain the standing of the firms with whom they are dealing, and where deemed necessary, when accepting orders, to demand a sufficient advance to cover them against a possible loss on exchange in the event of consignees refusing to take up documents, or, as an alternative, to demand cash against documents in London before shipment.

Imports of Canadian Meat.

The Dominion liner Port Adelaide has arrived in the port of Piræus with a cargo of about 3,500 tons of Canadian frozen meat for account of the Greek Government. This is the second cargo this year from Canada, the former being carried in an American steamer. Owing to lack of cold storage facilities, these ships have been retained in port as depôts for their cargo, the first steamer to arrive having been in port for practically three months, her cargo having been discharged to keep pace with the daily consumption. It seems probable that the Port Adelaide will likewise serve as a depôt ship for some considerable time.

These are the first consignments of frozen meat that have arrived in Greece, and there is naturally a certain amount of prejudice to be overcome before people take to it. The Government, however, are taking energetic measures to introduce this meat into Greece, and to familiarise the people to its use. It is unfortunate that there is no adequate cold storage either at Piræus or Athens, as Canadian frozen meat is a boon to the working classes, since it is sold at about half the price of fresh meat and is very much more palatable than the native fresh beef. The Canadian export firms interested might well take some steps towards securing the erection of adequate cold storage at Piræus or at Athens, as once the initial prejudice has been overcome there would appear to be no reason why Piræus should not almost rank with Genoa as a meat-importing port, since Greece has never been a cattle-raising country.

ATHENS, June 6.

The Second Domestic Loan.

The result of the loan for 300,000,000 drachmæ—Greece's second internal loan—has been announced. Public subscriptions amounted to 245,000,000 drachmæ, and the remainder has been covered by the banks.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, June 13.

Crop Prospects.

The grape harvest is so promising that a substantial surplus production is anticipated, and the wine-growers of Srem, the Banat and Bachka have petitioned the Minister of Finance for a reduction in the export duty. The Minister has met their wishes by lowering the duty from 100 to 5 dinars per hectolitre.

The unlimited export of beans has been permitted until August.

Export of Cattle.

The Government has authorised the export of a thousand head of oxen to Czecho-Slovakia, as that country requires huge stocks of meat to supply the demands of the immense number of visitors from all parts to the forthcoming Concourse of Sokols from all Slavonic lands.

The Minister of Agriculture has forbidden the slaughtering of cattle on two days per week throughout the country.

Miscellaneous.

The Minister of Finance has forbidden banks to operate on the Bourse as buyers of foreign money. This has been done with the object of preventing speculation by certain banks which have been endeavouring to keep down the value of the dinar.

The heads of a commercial treaty with Austria have been agreed upon, and the details are now being settled, defining commodities and prices.

MOROCCO.

TANGIER, June 9.

Another Strike.

There is another strike at this port. This time it is the men who discharge the lighters and handle the goods in the Customs warehouses. It is hoped that the dispute will be settled in a few days.

Identity Cards for Travellers.

In the *Bulletin Officiel* of the French Protectorate for May 25 a Dahir is published instituting identity cards for commercial travellers. The journal has not arrived at the time of writing, and the terms of the Dahir are not known. It is expected, however, that it will not be made applicable to British subjects without the strictest examination by the authorities at home, as the object of instituting identity cards is very obscure.

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON POSITION.—III.

THE PROSPECTIVE DEMAND.

By John A. Todd, B.L.

In the previous articles the writer has dealt with the position of supply both of long staple and short staple cotton. It may be summed up in this way, that while the prospects of the long staple crops this year are distinctly better than last year, the outlook for short staple is extremely unsatisfactory. Making all allowances for the wonderful recuperative power of the cotton crop if the weather should be favourable from now onwards, there is no possibility of more than a twelve million bale American crop this year; while if the conditions continue unfavourable the crop may quite well be even below ten million bales. We have, therefore, to face the practical certainty of a short American crop for the sixth year in succession. The question is, what effect these conditions are likely to have on the price not only of American but also of long staple cotton. The supply side of the equation is now fairly well known, and the problem is almost entirely one of demand.

The conditions which rule the effective demand for cotton to-day throughout the world are three-fold. The first factor in the situation is the world's potential demand for cotton goods of all kinds. The second is the capacity of the world's mills to spin and weave cotton, while the third is the financial problem of the capacity of the world, especially of Europe, to pay for the raw cotton and cotton goods which it requires.

The first of these three factors is comparatively simple. The world's potential demand for cotton goods to-day is at least as great as it was before the war, which means that it is substantially larger than the present actual output. Cotton is still the cheapest textile available for clothing purposes and many others, and the world's demand for clothing depends on the standard of living which the great bulk of its population, especially in tropical and semi-tropical countries, can afford to maintain. That standard has certainly not been lowered as the result of the war. The industrial classes of Europe and America have attained a level of wages during the war so much in excess of pre-war standards that they are able to buy a great deal more of the essentials of life, such as clothing, than ever before; and the same condition holds among the huge populations of Oriental and other agricultural countries, whose raw materials have been commanding unprecedented prices. At the same time the blockade of Central Europe has exhausted their stocks of cotton goods of all kinds, while the agricultural countries of the East and West have been unable, owing to shipping and other difficulties, to get the goods which they had the money to buy. This state of affairs will continue substantially unaltered until the supply is materially increased, unless there is a financial cataclysm, which, by producing a world-wide fall of wages, or a serious amount of unemployment, will again reduce the working classes to a relatively impoverished condition. So long as that does not happen, the problem of the world's demand for cotton goods is largely a question of prices. There is not nearly enough being produced in the world to satisfy the potential demand, and prices must rise high enough to restrict the actual consumption within the limits of the available supply.

This, however, involves the second factor in the question above referred to. The supply to-day is not simply a question of the supply of raw material, but, rather, a question of the amount of goods which can be produced by the world's mills. The fact is that for some time back the reduced supply of raw material, though far short of the potential demand for goods, has been about as much as the mills could handle, because of their restricted output. The reconstruction of the cotton mills in the devastated areas of France and Belgium was bound to be a slow process, yet it is already becoming clear that long before they reach their pre-war output they will be faced with the same difficulty as has affected England and America, namely, the shortage of labour. The shorter working hours everywhere have, of course, directly and almost proportionately reduced the output of the existing plant, and that reduction must be faced as a more or less permanent factor in the situation. It could have been very substantially modified if it had been possible to introduce labour-saving machinery, but that, again, will take time, because the output of the world's textile machine makers is far short of the present demand, and will be so for some time to come.

Against this, however, it must be remembered that spindles and looms are being turned out at the maximum rate possible, and the world's capacity to manufacture cotton goods is certainly increasing every day, and will continue to do so as long as the profits of the industry are anything like as high as they have been lately. This recovery has proceeded to such an extent that already the world is actually spinning more cotton than is being produced; and, as far as American cotton is concerned, the stocks of raw cotton, on which we have to a certain extent been living during the past year at least, are being eaten into at a rate which must bring us within sight of a definite shortage at a very early date. The consumption in America to-day is getting dangerously near the rate of seven million bales per annum, mostly American. Our own consumption of American cotton alone before the war was nearly 3½ million bales. The American crop this year is not likely to exceed the total of these two figures. How much is left for the rest of the world?

One reason why the position has not yet been fully realised by the trade is probably the fact of the large carry-over in America of nearly seven million bales at the end of last season, and the large stock at present in Liverpool of cotton of all kinds, which is well over a million bales, a figure that has not been equalled since 1915. With regard to the carry-over in America, however, it must be remembered that the quality of a great deal of it is extremely doubtful. A special census recently taken showed that 1,039,769 bales of it were unspinnable, consisting of linters, bollies, and ginned cotton. Going round the Belt, two months ago, the writer found convincing evidence that a very large part of the balance was untenderable against the New York contract owing to its low grade, and the trade must realise, if they are relying upon this large carry-over, that it is likely to prove a broken reed. Much of it could, no doubt, be made spinnable if the trade as a whole had the necessary margin of carding machinery to handle it, but at present such a margin only exists among the Continental spinners. They, however, have such difficulty in getting cotton at all, as well as in getting the necessary coal and labour, that they cannot afford to waste their restricted productive capacity on inferior cotton at present. Thus it will only be under the stress of dire necessity that this low-grade cotton it likely to be utilised, so that the bulk of the carry-over is not really available for production under existing conditions.

(To be continued.)

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BULGARIA'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

(From a Correspondent.)

The visitor to Bulgaria to-day cannot fail to be impressed with the evident determination of the people to restore the country to its former prosperity. Speaking generally, Bulgaria's outlook in the face of the uphill task of reconstruction is one of hope and cheerfulness. The difficulties are fully realised, but confidence springs from the consciousness of the people in their recuperative powers.

So far it has not been possible for the country to settle down to work in earnest, for at every turn the effect of the lack of certain raw materials, machinery and other commodities has been felt. Still progress is being made, and once conditions improve the advance should be rapid.

Industrial development is one of the principal problems to be solved. It is fully realised by the Bulgarians that they cannot hope to develop their industries as quickly as they desire to do without co-operation from outside, and they are very anxious that this assistance should come from Great Britain. Indeed, it would not be too much to say that they are prepared to go to any length to encourage British participation in their industries, and would willingly subscribe capital to any enterprise initiated by British interests.

Bulgaria's efforts to develop her trade have so far been greatly hampered by the low value of the leva, which now stands at about 260 for sterling. That the level is wholly fallacious is true, but that fact is poor consolation to a country which for months has been trying various expedients to improve the exchange, but without success. There is plenty of grain and other produce available for export, with which to create credits abroad and thus to improve the exchange, but, unfortunately, communications are still very defective. The railways are not yet in good working order, and it is frequently very difficult to obtain trucks. Thus it has not so far been possible to take the fullest advantage of the country's grain surplus for the establishment of credits abroad, for the grain cannot be carried regularly and up to contract time. At present exports go by way of the Danube, and quotations are f.o.b. barge, to which has to be added the charges for transferring to ships at the Roumanian ports. The Consortium hopes shortly, however, to be able to quote prices f.o.b. Varna and Bourgas, which will, of course, materially help the export of this commodity.

Despite the various difficulties which have been enumerated it must be emphasised that excellent business can be done now with Bulgaria, provided British firms are willing to show a little enterprise, and will grant reasonable facilities for payment. The Bulgarian market has great possibilities, and those firms who establish relations with the country now will have every reason to congratulate themselves in years to come that they did not let the opportunity pass by.

It is of interest in considering the prospects for the development of trade between Bulgaria and Great Britain to note that for practically all the principal exportable products of Bulgaria—cereals, tobacco, skins, and otto of roses—there is a good market in this country. The one exception is otto of roses, which must be so ranked temporarily, as the market is now flooded with otto of roses from America, who imported it in payment for flour, and is now exporting it to Europe at a low price.

There has been a great improvement in the tobacco crop in recent years, and while territorial readjustments have deprived Bulgaria of the very best qualities, at least two varieties, of which large quantities are to be had, should find a good market here. At the present time Bulgarian merchants prefer to dispose of the tobacco on the spot rather than undertake its shipping, despite the knowledge that by so doing they could have obtained a far higher price. The skins exported by Bulgaria include sheep, marten, and fox; these represent another way by which Bulgaria can pay for imports by sending them on consignment to London.

As it is only by exports that imports can be paid for, the question naturally arises whether Bulgaria's production of these commodities can be increased to any great extent. Of this there is not the slightest doubt. Given the means and the organisation, a considerable expansion should be possible. One of the most urgent needs as regards agriculture is the increased use of machinery, and this and an improved transport service, and the establishment of grain elevators, will lead to the increased production of cereals. There is great promise, too, in the development of other exports, notably lignite (which, if briquetted, could be readily exported), copper, zinc, and iron, of all of which minerals extensive deposits exist in the country.

Then there are certain essential industries to be developed which, while decreasing the imports of certain commodities, will help to increase the purchasing power of the country, thus bringing about a wider market for imports. The principal industries in question are spinning, weaving, cement making, and the production of electricity. Finally, there is undoubtedly great scope for the development of the forest industry. The area under forest is very extensive, and in the future may represent a very considerable value.

(To be concluded.)

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The representatives of India at the International Financial Conference, which is being convened at Brussels by the League of Nations, will be:—Mr. H. F. Howard, C.S.I., C.I.E., Controller of Finance, India Office, lately Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department; Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy, C.B.E., member of the Legislative Council of the Governor-General; and Sir Marshall Reid, C.I.E., lately member of the Council of India.

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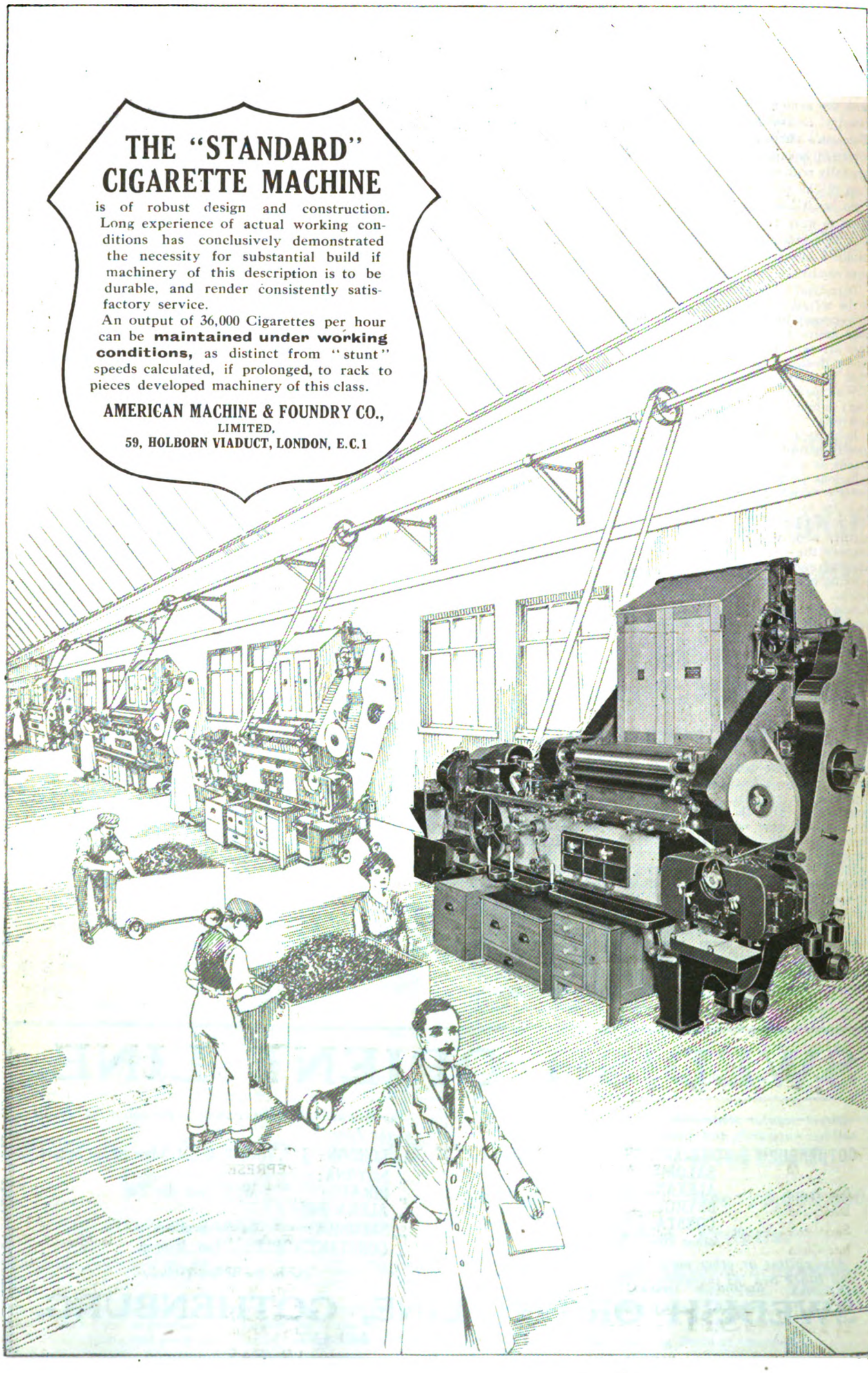

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Practical Coal Mining.

It has been said that the majority of our colliery proprietors are far from up to date in their methods, and that a good deal of the plant used is not only inefficient but is actually obsolete. It is true that comparatively little use is made in this country of coal-cutting machinery, but I think that examination would show that the reason is that all labour-saving machinery is viewed with such suspicion by the workmen that its introduction is followed almost invariably by such serious unrest that proprietors actually find production less when it is used.

Theoretically, the employment of coal-cutters should effect a saving in cost as well as an increase in output. An increased percentage of large coal should be obtained also, and the coal should be in a better and firmer condition when brought to the surface. A more regular line of "face" should be obtained which facilitates ventilation, and leads to more systematic and regular timbering, and there is consequently not the same difficulty in keeping up the roof as there is in hand-cutting. From the point of view of welfare the men find their work safer and easier, and where a fair trial has been given, it has been proved that better wages result. By the way, whilst on this subject, I have just been reading the new edition of Mr. G. L. Kerr's book on the subject of Practical Coal Mining, which has been published by Messrs. Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd. It is, of course, the standard book on the subject, and owes its popularity to its close attention to detail as well as to its comprehensive character. Mr. Kerr knows how to write clearly, and he gives his information in a concise and pleasing style that few technical writers achieve. The book is one which I can confidently recommend to all readers interested in coal getting and collieries.

Suitable Oil.

With every class of machinery the suitability of the oil used is of far more importance than the user commonly imagines. Especially is this the case with internal-combustion engines, and there is a good deal of truth in the remark so often heard, "Bad oil has spoiled more engines than has hard work." It is not too much to assert that every owner of high-speed machinery of any type should take expert advice as to the oil he is using. Generally speaking, the best thing to do is to go to the engineering department of some well-established firm of oil suppliers who enjoy a high reputation. The interests of the oil supplier and of the machinery owner are identical; the one wishes naturally to conserve his plant and to get as much out of it in the way of power as possible, whilst the other wishes to show that his oil enables that result to be obtained. He wants a customer for his oil, and, having got one, is ready to do everything in his power to keep him.

The Right Grade.

I recently had an opportunity of giving an extended test to some oil supplied for the purpose by the British Motor Trading Corporation, Ltd., and whilst I was at first sight inclined to think that the oil was rather too thin for my engine, I found that it possessed an exceptional degree of viscosity, and was far more economical in use than that which I had been employing before. As a matter of fact, the saving was considerably larger than anyone could have expected, and I am consequently pleased to be able to give this testimony to the oil. I understand that two competitors who secured gold medals in one of the most trying of recent road contests have written to the British Motor Trading Corporation, Ltd., expressing satisfaction with B.M.T. oils. Mr. R. C. Staunton, A.M.I.E.E., writes: "My engine (4 h.p. Triumph) ran faultlessly throughout the trial, and on the return to London some very fast running was maintained, but the engine still displays no loss of power. The total distance (about 850 miles) was completed on under one gallon of B.M.T. motor oil, heavy." Mr. L. T. Gilson, who rode a Zenith in the same event, experienced tyre trouble some miles from Kirkstone Pass, and had to travel at high speed to make up for lost time. In spite of this he states that his "engine was remarkably cool at the summit"—a testimony to the value of the B.M.T. lubricant.

I hear that the company have prepared a specification table which shows at a glance recommended grades of oil for every type and make of automobile, including farm tractors as well as commercial and pleasure vehicles. The tables, in addition, contain a good deal of information regarding lubrication, and any reader interested will be supplied with a copy on application to the head office of the company at 50, Pall Mall, London. The oil is supplied at present in five grades, and is to be obtained in 1-gallon cans, 5-gallon drums, and also in barrels.

Motor Accessories.

I am informed that the Rapson unpuncturable tyre is now being made, and delivered by Messrs. Rapson Automobile Patents, Ltd., in two sizes, namely 895 by 150 to fit 895 by 135 rims, and 815 by 120 to fit 815 by 105 rims. Deliveries may be expected at almost any moment of 820 by 135, 880 by 135, 935 by 150, and 875 by 120; other sizes following as rapidly as the moulds can be made. The firm are doing an extensive business in connection with their "Rapid" jacks, which are certainly the strongest and most generally useful car jacks I have seen. The Rapson plugs and the Rapson carburettor have only just been invented, and arrangements for manufacture are not yet completed. I hope at as early a date as possible to be afforded an opportunity of testing both these appliances, when I shall have more to say concerning them.

Fastnut Washers.

Some time ago I was asked to test a few "Fastnut" washers on a piece of high-speed machinery which had acquired a reputation for shedding nuts at every opportunity. The Fastnut washer, by the way, is a punched-out piece of thin steel, with three indentations in the central opening, and an attached spring which will engage the sides of a hexagon nut. Its function is to fasten the nut used, without the aid of castellations, slots, pins, spring washers, or any other locking device. All that has to be done is to drop the Fastnut over the bolt, teeth downward, and screw up the nut. The action of screwing up flattens the teeth, and holds the washers to the bolt, whilst the spring referred to prevents the nut from slacking back, although it does not prevent it from being tightened up or loosened with a spanner.

I find that the washer does all that is claimed, and since I "washered" the machine referred to, I have not had a single nut work loose. I found it was not necessary to screw up the nuts with anything like the pressure I had been in the habit of using, and that the only precaution to be taken was to see that the head of the bolt was up in place before the Fastnut was put on.

Motoring Facilities.

I am asked to say that, in view of the large number of motorists now using the roads during week-ends, the Automobile Association recently communicated with over 3,000 garages holding the A.A. appointment in various parts of the country, urging the desirability of having some responsible employee available for meeting the requirements of passing motorists for whom Sunday is often the only day of the week that they can use the road. It

(*Continued on page* 913.)

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BANKERS' REFERENCES:—

The London Joint City & Midland Bank, Ltd. (Foreign Dept.), London.
The American Express Co., New York.
The Bank of Industry, Athens.

Reference can also be made to "THE NEAR EAST."

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was pointed out that cases have frequently arisen in which members of the A.A. have been unable to obtain petrol and other requisites. With a very few exceptions the garages signified their willingness to adopt the suggestions put forward by the A.A., which included a recommendation to display in a conspicuous position in the garages a scale of charges, which, as motorists know, vary considerably in different parts of the country.

Thermo-Electric Progress.

The May lecture of the Institute of Metals was delivered by Prof. C. A. F. Benedicks, Ph.D., the subject chosen being "Recent Progress in Thermo-Electricity." I was rather struck by some of his views on the metallic conduction of electricity; and although, if accepted, they would explain much which is not made clear by the electron theory, I am not at all confident that they will be generally accepted. For example, it has hitherto been believed that before thermo-electric currents could occur it was necessary that two dissimilar metals should be present and exposed to temperature effects. If the Professor's theory is to be accepted it must be concluded that even in a single homogeneous block of metal, of the same composition throughout, thermo-electric currents could be generated. It is to be hoped that a number of our younger school of experimentalists, with adequately fitted laboratories, will give some attention to this aspect of the subject, with a view to determining once for all whether Prof. Benedick's conclusions are sound. It is true that at the lecture some concise demonstrations were given as to the truth of the new contention, and various metals were used for the purpose. But every engineer will agree that on so important a matter the utmost care should be taken lest any error should creep in which should falsify the results of any experiments made.

The Professor stated that it had been possible for him definitely to prove the existence of thermo-electric currents in liquid mercury, thus disproving the negative results of previous workers. As a metallurgist myself, as well as an engineer somewhat accustomed to research matters, I may say that it would require something more to convince me as to the truth of this. A consequence of what the lecturer termed his homogeneous thermo-electric effect was that there must exist the reverse effect, or homogeneous electro-thermic effect. The reality of all this is to some extent and in some respects largely a matter of opinion. A specially interesting demonstration given was that of a new rotating thermo-electric apparatus made entirely of copper and rotating in a magnetic field, the driving force being originated by heating thin strips of copper by means of a small gas jet.

The point at which the new theories brought forward by Prof. Benedicks might have some practical interest lay in the possibility of reducing the thermal conductivity of metals by insulated subdivision into fine wires without impairing the electrical conductivity. During the lecture and demonstrations I was impressed with the accuracy and good finish of the galvanometer used, which was one of those made by the new Cambridge and Paul Instrument Co., resulting from the amalgamation, I believe, of the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Co., Ltd., and Messrs. R. W. Paul and Co.

Tours in France.

I hear that the Automobile Association and Motor Union has received a communication from the Minister of Public Works, Paris, explaining that the pink and grey cards which are to be issued to motorists landing in France are intended exclusively for Americans. This arrangement has been made because American tourists cannot obtain the international passes in the States. The Minister points out that English motorists already have the facility of the international pass, so that the new concession does not concern them. This official statement to the Automobile Association disposes of the misleading paragraph which has recently gone the rounds of the Press, but which did not appear in THE NEAR EAST, which stated not only that these cards could be obtained by English motorists on landing in France, but also that they would be necessary.

The Iron Industry.

It may be that Belgian competition will shortly be felt in the iron and steel industry. In one large works a second blast furnace has been put in commission, and a total of 300 tons of steel per day will result. Another firm has just re-lighted a block of 40 ovens, and the gas from these is being used for new Martin furnaces. The Belgian Government has granted 100 million francs to a third concern for the purpose of putting its works and plant in order, and a fourth company has received from Germany its big rolling mill which had been "won" by the Prussians, and has been able to get it in working order again. Another steel company has been able to re-light two furnaces this month, and a very large number of puddling ovens are being built at different works.

Roadside Benzole Supply.

The second of a series of benzole roadside supply stations to be provided by the Automobile Association has been opened at Coombe Hill, at the junction of the Cheltenham Road with the main road from Tewkesbury to Gloucester.

The installation consists of a Bowser storage tank (with a capacity of 500 gallons) and delivery pump, and only benzole, the quality of which conforms with the specifications approved by the A.A., is supplied. Should, however, other home-produced fuel, such as power alcohol, be marketed, it is probable that it will also be supplied. In addition to motor fuel water is supplied for the filling of radiators. Yet another useful adjunct for motor tourists at the station is the A.A. roadside telephone, which is available to A.A. members at all times during the day and night.

Thieves and Motorists.

The Automobile Association road patrols have been especially instructed to assist the police in circumventing cyclist thieves who follow cars and cut the straps securing luggage. Motorists travelling slowly—particularly when held up by temporary obstructions—are advised by the A.A to "look behind" occasionally.

Aircraft in Spain.

The Spanish Government have been in negotiation with the naval and military authorities of France and Portugal, and have announced their intention to permit aircraft of any nationality to enter, fly over, and land, if necessary, in any part of Spain.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended June 5 amounted to £7,456.

Egyptian Hotels.—The annual general meeting will be held at 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., June 30, at 11.30 a.m. Transfer books will be closed from June 21 to July 7, inclusive.

Mr. C. J. H. Tolley, winner of the Open Amateur Golf Championship used a Dunlop "31" golf ball throughout the competition.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—An improvement in the demand for currants is again to be recorded. Consumption is evidently increasing rapidly, the reduced prices being mainly responsible for this. Most grades seem to be taken up well. Sultanas have been in much better request. Stocks are not very large, and prices are high, and, so far as can be seen, are likely to remain so.

Sugar.—The free market has been quiet, but firm. West Indian crystallised is 152s. to 155s., and American granulated and white Java are quoted at 160s. There is a fair demand for home refined.

Coffee.—The market has been fairly steady. Costa Rica has been done at from 144s. to 156s., Indian at 152s. to 160s., while Mocha has been done at 175s. to 190s. Transactions have taken place in Central American at from 127s. to 160s., in Uganda from 115s. to 135s., and in West Indian from 150s. to 172s.

Oilseeds.—Indian linseed is steady at 38s., June-July, while La Plata afloat Hull has come to business at 36s. Rapeseed is firm, with Toria at 37s. and Brown Cawnpore at 34s. 6d. Indian cottonseed has come to business at 12s. 6d., and Egyptian at 18s.

Oilcakes, etc.—Linseed cake is making as much as 20s. 6d. per cwt. Cottonseed cake has come to business at 12s. 6d., and rapeseed cake at 12s. Arachis cake has been making 13s., and soya bean cake 21s. Oils have been quiet. Linseed has been done at 76s. spot and 74s. 6d. June-August. Crude rape oil has come to business at 85s. Turpentine is about the same.

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in May:—

Cotton.—In Lower Egypt and Faiyûm the weather was changeable and windy and at night often cold; local heavy showers fell in the north of the Delta during the first half of the month. Elsewhere, in spite of occasional winds and spells of cold, the weather was on the whole favourable. The water shortage continued to be felt for some time in the early part of the month, but the supply improved later, and was adequate except at the tail ends of canals. Re-sowing continued in part of the Delta and in Faiyûm during the period under review. Sore-shin, cut-worm, and aphis have been observed in most provinces; the aphis attack was particularly severe in the provinces of Daqahliya and Sharqiya, where it seriously affected whole fields of cotton. Towards the middle of the month, however, it subsided. A few egg-masses of cotton-worm are reported from some localities in Beheira, Daqahliva, Sharqiya, and Gûza. Buds have appeared in early-sown fields in Upper Egypt. The crop may be said to have improved, but is still backward. Even on the best land, while the crop looks sturdy, it is much later than usual. The unusually extensive re-sowing which has taken place at various stages since the beginning of the sowing season has resulted in a most uneven appearance of the cotton fields almost everywhere, with the exception of Minûfiya. The notation figures for the crop are almost the same as those for the same period last year.

Wheat.—Harvesting is approaching completion in Upper Egypt, and is far advanced in Middle and Lower Egypt. Threshing and winnowing are in progress. This month's reports confirm last month's estimate of the yield, and even raise it slightly.

Bersim.—The weather has been, generally speaking, favourable. The shortage of water previous to the total prohibition of irrigation on May 10 affected the crop to a considerable extent, and may, it is feared, have a bad effect on the yield and the quality of the seed in some districts.

Sugar-cane.—The weather was generally favourable and the water supply satisfactory. Planting is practically over. Watering, manuring, and hoeing are in progress. The area under this crop is reported to be smaller than last year. The crop looks healthy and is above the average.

Rice.—The weather was favourable on the whole, though somewhat windy and variable. Sowing, which had been delayed by shortage of water supply, is making good progress.

Millet (Sefi).—The greater bulk of the crop was sown by the end of May, and the growth of the plants is satisfactory. A few early areas are coming into flower in the southernmost provinces.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for week ended June 5:—Early this week several buyers came forward and started buying everything in the shape of opium at piastres 750 to piastres 950 per oke for low grades, and piastres 1,025 to piastres 1,100 for Carahissar and Yerlis, according to quality and strength. Three cases of eight-year-old very low grade stuff also changed hands at piastres 480. The purchases this week, amounting in all to 114 cases—mostly, we presume, to fulfil contracts for Japan—and above piastre prices, are equal at to-day's rate of exchange to 14s. to 17s. 8d. for current qualities per lb. c.i.f., and 19s. to 20s. 6d. for the higher grades. Piastres 480 per oke is equal to about 9s. per lb. c.i.f. The market closed firm with buyers. To-day's exchange is piastres 430 per £ sterling for cheque and 0.92 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals to date are 1,700 cases, against 695 at same date last year.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Railways, Ltd., for the week ended May 31 amounted to £E11,015; total for year, £E69,899. For the corresponding period of 1919, receipts amounted to £E8,817; total for year, £E16,543.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

We have again to report a very slack market, and during the week there has been no indication of increased activity. Spinners and manufacturers have lost further ground, and there has been more pressure for fresh orders, but buyers seem to be just as determined as ever to hold aloof. Many leading traders are quite pessimistic as to the future course of trade, but it is believed that there will have to be further deflation of values before a fresh buying movement is likely to take place. Prices in American cotton have fluctuated from day to day, and there has not been any definite tendency either up or down. The crop in the States, as a whole, is now doing better. Favourable advices have again come through relating to the Egyptian growth. Prices in Liverpool and Alexandria continue to decline. In commercial circles the opinion is expressed that there is plenty of room for a further drop. Spinners have purchased very sparingly. There has been no life whatever in Egyptian yarns. It is now and again suggested that there is no market at the moment, as demand worth mentioning is absent. It is quite impossible to say what prices are for particular qualities. The offtake in piece goods for Egypt has been poor. Very little has also been done for the Levant. It is believed if business with Russia is opened out, healthier clearances would take place in Constantinople, but the political situation in the Near East causes anxiety. More cases have been mentioned of China wanting to cancel contracts. Leading shippers to India have not been in the mood to place orders on a freer scale. Manufacturers are still selling much less than production, and more firms are pressing for fresh contracts. American yarns for home use have been flat, and prices have given way owing to lack of support.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

A new steamer, the City of Brisbane, has just been added to the fleet of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd., of Liverpool, for their Hall Line service to India. The ship has been built to Lloyd's highest class by Messrs. Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd. Her d.w. carrying capacity is 12,000 tons on a draught of 27 ft. 10 in. This vessel has a cruiser-shaped stern, and her chief dimensions are: Length between perpendiculars, 462 ft. 9 in.; an extreme width of 58 ft. 5 in.; and a moulded depth of 33 ft. 5 in. The main engines, built by the Wallsend Slipway and Engineering Co., Ltd., drive a single propeller, and consist of double reduction geared turbines of the Brown-Curtis type.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantinople, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will leave Liverpool on July 2.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Douro, for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on June 26.

The Harrison Line s.s. Astronomer, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 3.

The Henderson Line s.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on June 30.

The Clan Line s.s. Clan MacBride, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on July 1.

The R.M.S.P. Co.'s s.s. Staffa, for Gibraltar and Morocco, will leave London on June 30.

The Prince Line s.s. Algerian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast ports, and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on July 7.

ANCHOR LINE
FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.
LIVERPOOL to BOMBAY.
KARACHI (via Bombay) calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
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MASSILIA ABOUT JUNE 28.
CASTALIA ABOUT JULY 7.
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ENO'S Fruit Salt.

Sparkling, refreshing, cleansing — every glass of ENO bubbles over with life, health and happiness.

*The words "**FRUIT SALT**" are our registered Trade Mark, and have been known for half a century to mean the preparation of J. C. ENO, LTD. It is often referred to shortly as ENO. See that this name appears on bottle, wrapper, and capsule.*

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BURTON-ON-TRENT, ENGLAND.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

G.I.P. Railway.

The report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for the half-year to March 31 last states that the gross receipts were Rs.7,12,43,141, an increase of Rs.62,57,385; expenditure, Rs.4,23,11,459, an increase of Rs.36,46,455; and net revenue, Rs.2,89,31,682, an increase of Rs.26,10,930. The ratio of expenditure to gross receipts was 59.39 per cent., compared with 59.50 per cent. in the previous corresponding period. The company's proportion of surplus profits, after deduction of income-tax, amounts to Rs.8,09,019. From this amount, Rs.50,972 has to be deducted for Indian super-tax, and this will be adjusted in the next half-year's accounts, sufficient money having been retained for the purpose. The sum of Rs.8,09,019 has been remitted to England at the exchange of 2s. 1¼d., producing £85,116, which, with £1,322 brought in, plus interest thereon due on June 30, makes a total of £85,868. The directors propose a dividend of 3 per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest of the half-year, and also a bonus of 1 per cent. out of the money reserved to meet a possible claim for excess profits duty, it now having been ascertained from the Inland Revenue authorities that the company is not liable for this duty for any accounting period up to March 31, 1919. Meeting, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C., June 25, at 12.30.

Levant Company.

The report of the Levant Company, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, 1919, the first year of the company's operations, states that the delay in the resettlement of political affairs in the Levant has to some extent hampered the company's activities, but, nevertheless, much useful work has been done in organising the business so as to be ready to take full advantage of the opportunities for trade which will necessarily occur as soon as the countries included in the sphere of its operations are more settled. Notwithstanding all difficulties, the company has transacted an extensive business with Turkey on remunerative terms, and has established branches in Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Batoum, Odessa, and Novorossisk. Those at the two places last mentioned have been temporarily closed owing to the occupation of the towns by the Bolshevist forces, but the company's commercial position is well established there, and business will be resumed at the first opportunity. In addition to the branches already mentioned, subsidiary companies have been formed to work in Greece and the Sudan. Several transactions of considerable importance are now in hand which, in the opinion of the directors, will result in satisfactory profits, and they look forward to the future of the company with confidence. With a view to submitting accounts to the proprietors without undue delay, no profits in respect of any of the branches or of the company's holding in J. W. Whittall and Co., Ltd., have been incorporated in the accounts submitted, but provision has been made for any possible loss in connection with the temporary closing of the Odessa and Novorossisk branches. The company had only during a short period of the year the full use of the £400,000 ordinary share capital, which was issued in June last and which was paid by instalments, the last one being due on December 1, 1919. The accounts show a net profit for the year, after payment of all expenses, of £33,851 9s. 10d., of which the directors propose to devote £4,283 19s. 4d. to the reduction of preliminary expenses and to place £4,000 to reserve for contingencies. There remains the sum of £25,567 10s. 6d., from which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, calculated from the respective dates on which the instalments were due on both the ordinary and deferred share capital. This absorbs the sum of £24,732 11s. 9d., leaving a balance of £834 18s. 9d. to be carried forward. In accordance with the provisions of the articles of association of the company, Mr. Robert Grosvenor Perry, C.B.E., retires from the board of directors at the ordinary general meeting of the company, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. The auditors, Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., who retire in accordance with the provisions of the articles of association of the Company, offer themselves for re-election. Meeting, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, Moorgate Street, London, E.C., June 24, 12 noon.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., for 1919 states that the total production of crude oil for the year amounted to 231,180 tons, as compared with 277,300 tons in 1918. The net profit, after making provision for drilling costs and for depreciation on the property of the company, including investments, amounts to £411,481, and £76,551 was brought in, making £488,032. Deducting interest on income bonds, £13,500, there is left £474,532. The directors recommend that £354,571 be applied to the payment of the following dividends: 6 per cent. dividend on preference shares, £15,000; "A" shares—5 per cent. on £336,000, £16,800, and 35 per cent. of surplus divisible profits, £99,600—£116,400; "B" shares—5 per cent. on £664,000, £33,200, and £35 per cent. of surplus divisible profits, £99,600—£132,800; "C" shares—5 per cent. on £100,000, £5,000, and 10 per cent. of surplus divisible profits, £28,457—£33,457; and on preference shares—20 per cent. of surplus divisible profits, £56,914, payable July 30, leaving to be carried forward £119,961, subject to excess profits duty and other taxation. The proportion of the profits, in accordance with the articles of association, allotted to the "B" shares, allows for the payment of a dividend equal to 20 per cent. upon the "B" share capital, less tax. There are now several wells in course of drilling on the fields, most of which it is hoped to bring in during the present year. Every effort is being made to increase the output, and the field is being provided with a number of new rigs. Considerable additions are being made to the refinery plant with a view to more efficient handling of the crude oil, and large quantities of imported oils have been treated in the refinery, thus increasing the company's revenues. The directors wish to emphasise the opinion expressed in last year's report that they do not consider the company possesses a sufficient margin of productive territory to ensure the creation of a lasting oil industry in Egypt, or to meet the needs of the country for greatly increased quantities of oil. This view has been urged upon the Egyptian Government. The directors have shown their willingness to co-operate with the Government by undertaking the exploration and development of some new territories under the standard regulations. Meeting, Winchester House, July 14, noon.

Empire of India Life Assurance.

The report of the Empire of India Life Assurance Company for the year ended February 29 states that the proposals received totalled 5,241 for Rs.95,63,500 and 3,977 policies were issued for Rs57,55,500, the annual premiums being Rs3,70,026. The total number of policies in force is 30,039, assuring Rs4,91,01,900, and of this amount Rs7,65,173 is reassured. By the death of 326 policyholders, claims amounting to Rs.5,91,214, with bonus, have arisen. Endowment assurances which have matured amounted to Rs4,42,969, with bonus. The life assurance fund has been increased by Rs15,90,151, and, including the amount placed to investment reserve, now amounts to Rs1,48,76,249. The assets in both branches are Rs1,69,32,921. Fidelity guarantee bonds for Rs10,95,400 have been issued, and the premiums in respect thereof amount to Rs11,278. Claims for Rs3,454 have arisen.

NEW COMPANIES.

Abbott's Emery Mines.

Abbott's Emery Mines, Ltd., has been registered, with a nominal capital of £500,000 in £4 shares, to acquire, under a Board of Trade Licence, the undertaking of Abbott's Emery Mines, Ltd., and to carry on in Smyrna, Asia Minor, or elsewhere, mining operations of any kind. The subscribers (each with one share) are: S. Abbott, 3, Belle Vue, Smyrna; R. G. Abbott, Local Whittall, Smyrna; H. O. Whittall, Local Whittall, Smyrna; Fr. T. Hatton, Local Whittall, Smyrna; F. E. Ballard, Rue Gallagio, Smyrna; E. Whittall, Local Whittall, Smyrna; E. A. Magnifico, Quais, Smyrna. The first directors are: E. A. Magnifico, R. Abbott, and E. A. Whittall. Registered office, 3, London Wall Buildings, E.C.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states:—Rain has fallen fairly generally in North-Western India, Bay Islands, Assam, Lower Burma, Chota-Nagpur, Konkan, West Coast of Gajarat, and Central India. Local elsewhere. General crop conditions good, but more rain required, parts Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. Prices food grains steady or rising. Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good Broach, July-August, Rs.442 8 annas. Piece-goods market no improvement, but prices nominally firm. Calcutta jute market quiet, with prices unchanged. Hessians very firm. Heavy goods quiet, with little business, but prices well maintained. Bank rate is Bengal 6 per cent., Bombay 7 per cent., Madras 8 per cent.

According to the *Welthandel*, all efforts to increase the output of the Heraklea mines have proved fruitless up to the present.

Anglo-Ottoman Tobacco.—On and after July 5 preference coupon No. 8 and ordinary coupon No. 7 will be payable at 39, Duke Street, Aldgate, E.C.

The directors of the East Indian Coal Company recommend a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent., less tax, for the half-year to April 30, making 30 per cent. for the year, payable July 12.

OAKEY'S
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.

SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d

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"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d., and 4d. each, and 1s. Boxes.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.

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NEW RUPEE LOAN.

Long and Short Term Issues.

The Government of India announce the issue of a Loan of unlimited amount in two forms, viz:—

(a) Ten-year bonds issued at par and repayable at par in 1930. Interest payable at 6 per cent. per annum on February 15 and August 15. Indian War Bonds, 1920 and 1921, will be accepted at par in subscription to the 10-year bonds. War Bonds, 1921, will carry interest at 6 per cent. from the date of tender and War Bonds, 1920, from the date of tender or August 15, 1920, whichever is the earlier.

(b) Long term loan issued at 95 and repayable at par not earlier than October 15, 1945, and not later than October 15, 1955. Interest payable at 5 per cent. per annum on April 15 and October 15. To provide against depreciation in the market value of the long term loan, 1½ per cent. of the aggregate amount of the loan, inclusive of the 1919 issue, will be set aside annually as a fund to be used for its purchase and cancellation when the market value falls below the issue price.

Indian War Bonds, 1920, 1921, 1922, and 1923, will be accepted at par in subscription to the long term loan, and for this purpose Indian War Bonds, 1925 and 1928, will be accepted as equivalent to Rs.102.4 and Rs.103.4, respectively, for every Rs.100 nominal value of War Bonds tendered. Interest at 5 per cent. will accrue from date of tender, and half-yearly interest due on August 15, 1920, in case of the 1920 and 1922 Indian War Bonds and on September 15, 1920, in case of the 1921, 1923, 1925, and 1928 Indian War Bonds will also be paid in full.

Interest on both issues will be free of Indian Income tax throughout their currency, but will be taken into account in determining the rate of tax leviable on other income and will be liable to super tax.

Cash subscriptions to the issue in both forms will be received in India from July 5 to August 14, 1920, but subscriptions in the form of Indian War Bonds will be received in India up to October 15. Indian Treasury Bills will also be accepted up to August 14, subject to discount of 4 per cent. a year on unexpired portion of currency of bills. Applications may be tendered up to a maximum of Rs.10,000 at Indian post offices, during the same period as for the main section of the loan.

Securities will be issued in form of stock or promissory notes, which will, if desired, be exchanged free of cost for bearer bonds when latter are available. Brokerage of ⅛ per cent. will be paid to recognised bankers and brokers on applications bearing their stamp, the rate of brokerage being 1-16th per cent. when payment is made in the form of Indian Treasury Bills.

OPENING FOR HOUSE BUILDING AT ZAGREB

His Majesty's Consul at Zagreb (Agram) reports that an American firm is interesting itself in building propositions in Croatia, where housing accommodation is very scarce. The firm intend building in concrete, while a Dutch concern propose erecting wooden houses. If any British firm is interested in the question, the possibilities would appear to be well worth studying at the present time, which is regarded as affording a favourable opportunity. There is a great shortage of buildings, and it is stated that house property could not fail to become more remunerative in proportion as the exchange recovers. The supply of suitable labour and other local circumstances would probably interpose difficulties, but these could no doubt be successfully surmounted.

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

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Jerusalem. Jaffa.

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Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

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(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

Egypt.

(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)

Steel Angles.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of mild steel angles, tees, flats, wrought-iron bars, etc., c.i.f. Port Sudan. June 26.

Wrapping Paper.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 750 reams thick wrapping paper. July 8.

Iron Safes.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 180 iron safes. July 12.

Rails.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya) invites tenders for the supply of cut rails in accordance with specification and conditions available at Survey Offices, Giza. Contractors are invited to put in their offers for any quantity available for immediate delivery or for delivery during the current financial year. Tenders should show quantity, weight per yard run, rate per ton of 1,000 kilos, period required for delivery, place of delivery, and any other details necessary. March 1, 1921.

Bathbricks.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for bathbricks. Tenders are returnable by noon on June 29, and are to remain open for seven days. (L)

H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt has forwarded copies of the specification, conditions of tender, and tender form in connection with a call for tenders by the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, for the supply and delivery of eight steel house barges for the Upper White Nile Division. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received by the Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, up to noon on July 20. A provisional deposit of 2 per cent. or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The above-mentioned copies of the specification, etc., may be consulted by British firms interested at the enquiry office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2 (L.).

The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply and delivery of the following:—(1) Manila rope, (2) tin solder (tenders due June 30); (3) heel-balls, (4) jute sacks (tenders due July 5); bits and chains (tenders due July 13). Tenders will remain open seven days. (L.)

Roumania.

The Roumanian Government invite tenders for the supply of the following military equipment:—16,000 outfits, each consisting of two shirts, two pairs drawers, two hand towels, two handkerchiefs, two pairs socks, one pair woollen gloves, one clothes brush, one boot brush, one overcoat, two jackets, two pairs of trousers, one military cap, one sweater, two pairs of boots, two pairs of puttees, one hood, two blouses, one blanket, one mattress cover, two pillowslips, and two sheets. Tenders should be submitted to His Majesty's Commercial Secretary, Bucharest.

Morocco.

Morocco.—His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rabat has forwarded a copy of the specification and general conditions of contract for the supply of 25,000 oak sleepers or other timber of a similar nature to the Service des Chemins de Fer of the French Protectorate. The latest date for receipt of tenders is July 1. Copy of the specification and general conditions, which are in French, may be inspected upon application at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Malta.

The Council of Government invites tenders from British firms for the construction of a first-class shipbuilding and repairing yard.

India.

The South Indian Railway Co. invites tenders for the supply of bridgework, two spans, 50 ft. each, about 45 tons. (Spec., £1 office of the company, 91, York Street, Westminster.) June 29.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

This has been another uneventful week, with, generally speaking, very little business passing and a tendency, with few exceptions, to somewhat lower prices.

In Government stocks, Egyptian Unified and 3½ per cent. Pref. have continued in persistent demand, but sellers have been fairly scarce, and whilst Unified close ¼ up at 69¼, the 3½ per cent. Pref. have lost a similar fraction at 57½. In City of Alexandria bonds some small business has been passing round the current quotation; Turkish bonds are all unaltered; Greeks are generally higher. The 1881 and 1884 loans have both risen a point to 55, and a similar rise has to be recorded in the 1902 and 1910 loans at 44½ and 39 respectively. On the other hand, the Greek 1890 loan is about one point down at 52 xd.

Amongst Bank shares, National of Egypt have remained a firm spot at 19⅜, but Agriculturals have eased off ⅛ to 4 5-16. Land Banks are somewhat quieter at 5 3-16 x.d. Bank of Athens have risen 1-16 to 3 5-16.

In Railways, Delta Light have changed hands to a small extent, and are closing ⅛ lower at 5⅝.

Amongst Land shares, Aboukir are 1s. down at 34s., and the debentures have dropped 5½ points to 135. Consolidated Lands are fractionally lower at 2s. 10½d., and Foreign Trusts have dropped 6d. to 13s. New Egyptians have been a particularly firm spot, and are closing 6d. higher at 33s. x.d. Sudan Plantations have been pressed for sale, and closed ¼ down at 4. On the other hand, a small buyer of Sidi Salems has caused an improvement of ¼ in the price to 2⅜, there being no sellers about.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions, Alexandria Water have experienced a further sharp decline, closing 8¼ x.d. Egyptian Hotels have been marked down ¼ to 2¼. Salt and Sodas have shed ¼ at 2½.

In oil shares, Roumanians have improved 1s. 3d. to 19s., and Traians 6d. to 7s. 6d.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97 7/16
Athens	Drachmae to £	25·22½	33·00-33·30
Belgrade	Dinars to £	—	75-80
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·11½-1·11½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25·22½	170-175
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·11½-1·11½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	415-430
New York	Dollars to £	4·86⅔	3·97-3·98¼
Sofia	Levas to £	25·22	269
Teheran	Krans to £	50	26½

OIL OUTPUTS.

The Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., report as follows:—Hurgada production for week ended June 13, 2,909 tons (last week 2,856).

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended May 26 were:—Cattle markets, £897; general markets, £670; total, £1,567; total for year, £40,079. For the corresponding period of 1919 there were no receipts owing to local disturbances.

The directors of the Assam Railways and Trading Co. have declared the following dividends:—"A" stock, at 8 per cent. per annum, payable June 22, for the half-year to December 31, 1919; pre-preference shares, at 8 per cent. per annum; and on new 6 per cent. preference at 6 per cent. per annum, payable July 5, for the half-year to June 30, 1920.

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Manager, A. G. M. Dickson.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price June 14.	Price June 21.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	35	36
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	27	27
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	60	60
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	69	69½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	57⅝	57½
Greek 5%, 1881	54	55
Do. 5%, 1884	54	55
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	39	39
Do. 5% 1890	56	52xd
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	49	49
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	43½	44½
Do. 4% Loan, 1910	38	39
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	51	51
Do. 5% Current	91	91
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	—	65
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	30	35
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	60½	60½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	54½	54½
Do. 4% Unified	34	34
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4 7/16	4 7/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	5 5/16	5 5/16
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	63	63
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	65	65
Bank of Abyssinia	1⅛	1⅛
Bank of Athens	3½	3⅜
Bank of British West Africa	5⅛	5⅛
Bank of Roumania	5 3/16	5 3/16
British Trade Corporation	8½	8½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9	9
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	5	5
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	5½	5 3/16xd
London County and Westminster	14 3/16	14 3/16
National Bank of Egypt	19⅜	19⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	5⅜	5⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	9⅜	10
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	14	14
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	34	34
Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	30	27
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	29½	29½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66½	66½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50½	50½
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	35/-	34/-
Do. 6% Debs	140½	135
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	12/6	12/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	75/-	75/-
Béhéra Co.	16	16
Do. Pref.	3½	3½
Building Lands of Egypt	1½	1½
Egyptian Consol 5/-	3/-	2/10½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	14/6	14/6
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	73	73
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	13/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	3½	3½
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	29/-	29/-
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	84½	84½
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	61½	61½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	6½	6½
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	75	75
New Egyptian Co.	34/6	33/-xd
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	4½	4
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	4⅜	4⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp.	3/16	3/16
Alexandria Water Co.	8⅜	8⅜xd
Associated Cotton Ginners	25/-	25/-
Egyptian Hotels	50/-	2½
Do. Markets Ord.	1 3/16xd	1 3/16
Do. do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2⅜	2⅜
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	96⅜	96⅜
Khediv'al Mail Ord.	5 3/16	5 3/16
Do. Do. Prefs.	3½	3½
Levant Co. (fully paid)	17/7½	18/-
Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref	18/-	18/-
Suez Canal	—	—
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	96⅝	93
Chinese 4½% 1898	57⅝	58
Do. 5% 1896	72½	71½
Argentine 5% 1890	72⅝	69⅜
Do. 5% 1907	81½	81
OIL.		
Algerian	3/3	3/6
Anglo-Bulgarian	8/7½	8/7½
Anglo-Egyptian B	£3	59/-
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/3	22/6
Do. 5% Debs.	81½	80½
Anglo-Roumanian	6/11½	7/3
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/-	3/10½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	14/-	10/7½
Roumanian	17/9	18/9
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez	5/6	5/9
Trajan (Roumanian)	7/-	7/6

The "Società Italo-Oriental per macchinario agricolo-industriale" has been formed at Milan, with a capital of 2,500,000 lira, for the development of commercial relations with the East, especially Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Roumania, Serbia, Asia Minor, and South Russia.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

(Continued.)

BRUSSELS BOURSE.	Price June 6.	Price June 19.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs.	373·75	425
Do. do. Priv.	565	620
Do. do. Cap.	388	425
Do. do. Div.	279·25	350
Anglo-Belgian Co.	36·25	40·50
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	215·25	230·50
Do. do. Div.	320	310
Caisse Hypothécaire Act	489	475
Do. do. (10 eme p.b.)	72·875	70
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 5½% Debs.	350	350
Do. do. Priv.	481·25	492·50
Do. do. Div.	181	184
Compagnie Immobiliére Deb.	370	373
Do. do. Cap.	175	184·75
Do. do. Fond.	235	245
Enterprise and Development Cap.	242·50	239·59
Do. do. Div.	127·50	122·50
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv.	—	—
Do. do. Ord.	497·50	497·50
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	212·50	210
Do. do. Div.	195	100
Salonika-Constantinople Railway	280	250
Salonika-Monastir Railway	150	150
Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894	150	150
Do. do. 4%, 1895	150	150
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv.	115	115
Do. do. Div.	185	185
Tramways du Caire Priv.	452·50	440
Do. do. Jouiss	691·25	691·25
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	260	272·50
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div.	40	40

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	June 8.	June 21.
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	58½	57
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	59½	60

* Redeemable.

CORPORATION STOCKS.		
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	83½	83½
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	69½	65
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	66½	66½
BANKS.		
Chartered of India	73½	75⅜
Eastern	6⅜	6⅜
Mercantile of India A.	25	26
National of India	51½	50½
MINES.		
Balaghat Gold Mining	8/9	8/4½
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	11/3	13/4½
Burma Corp.	9	9⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	21	5/-
Champion Reef Gold	3/0	2/9
Mysore Gold Mining	17/3	15/9
Nundydroog	13/-	11/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	14/4	14/2½
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	21/6	19/4½
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.		
Assam Oil	33/7½	33/9
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	36/3	36/3
Brit. Burmah	—	2⅛
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	17	17½
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	18/9	18/9
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	9 1/16	9 1/16
RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	55⅜	54
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	130	124
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	49	48
Bengal-Nagpur	111½	102
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	102½	100
Burma Railways	104	103
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	12	11 7/16
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	11⅜	11⅜
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	11⅜	10 15/16
Madras and S. Mahratta	112⅜	107
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	121	121
Nizam's Guaranteed State	72½	71½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	54/4½	52/3
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	19/6	19/10½
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	75	77
Do. Deferred	445½	420
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	60	59½
Bengal United Tea Ord.	15⅞	15⅝
British Indian Tea Ord.	7⅞	7 7/16
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	15	15
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	10/6	9/6¾
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	52/6	51/3
Consolidated Estates	38/6	39/6
Darjeeling Co.	21/6	21/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	38/9	39/6
Dooars Tea Ord.	49/-	50/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	18/3	17/10½
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	28/9	32/6
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	30/-	29/9
Hewagam Rubber Co.	22/6	20/-
Jhanzie Tea Association	9	9
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	19	17⅜
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	15/4½	14/6
Lanka Plantations Ord.	22/-	22/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	21/3	21/3
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	38/9	38/6
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	12½	12⅜
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	32/6	26/6

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	May 8. Rs.	May 22. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	59	59
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	74	74
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	303	303
Bank of Bengal	1750	1730
Bank of Bombay	2200	2140
Bank of Madras	1600	1650
Bank of India	135	132
Tata Industrial Bank	52	55
COAL.		
Baraboni	14½ex	16⅞
Bengal	804	810
Burrakur	48⅜	49½
East Indian	38½	38½
Equitable	46⅝	48½
Pench Valley	335	335
Raneegunge	68	70
Standard	77	80
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	600	550ex
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	3740	3215
Bowreah	1400	1300
Buckingham	2500	2500
Carnatic	1000	1200
Cawnpore	195ex	195ex
Century	1320	1150
Central India	5460	3880
	2730	1945
Elgin	175	167½
Gold Mohur	400	400
	200	200
Khatau Makanji	850ex	850ex
Muir	350	350
New Ring	1211½	1175
Phœnix	1225ex	1060
Svadeshi	5760	4820
JUTE.		
Alliance	695	710
Barnagore	182	157
Budge Budge	650	659
Clive	340	300ex
Dalhousie	580	516ex
Delta	690	660
Fort Gloster	1130	1125
Gourepore	1300	1290
Howrah	44⅜	46
Kamarhatty	948	988
Kankinarrah	754	780
Khardah	630	583
Kinnison	1335	1325ex
National	430	422
Standard	760	680ex
Union	970	840
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	103	101
Bengal Timber Trading	865	865
Burn and Co.	300	300
Carew and Co.	96	115
Cawnpore Sugar	405	450
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	400	417ex
Howrah Oil Mills	39½	38
India General Steam	130	130
Indian Iron and Steel	140	140
	97	91
Marshall Sons and Co.	108ex	114
Titaghur Paper	419½	414

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

PRICES ON MAY 21.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£4⅜ ex.
" " " Fond.	£380 ex.
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£8⅞
Anglo-American Nile Steam	£4½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£1½
Banque d'Orient	Fr. 84ex.
Béhéra Ord.	L.E. 15½
" Priv.	£34½
Bonded Stores	£20⅜
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Fr. 265
Building Lands of Egypt	£1⅜
Cairo Heliopolis Railway	£11⅝
Cassa di Sconto	Fr. 92
" " Priv.	Fr. 117
Ciments d'Egypte Priv.	Fr. 70
" " Div.	Fr. 32
Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte	£1⅜
Consolidated Land	P.T. 13
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Fr. 613
" Fondateur	8000
" 1886 Oblig.	350
" 1903 "	258½
" 1911 "	260
Crown Brewery Priv.	Fr. 425
" " Div.	Fr. 400
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fr. 96
" " Jouissance	Fr. 116
Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord.	29/-
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£6
Filature Nationale d'Egypte	£25⅜
Frig. orifique d'Egypte	L.E. 2⅜
Gabbari Lands	L.E. ⅜
Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des.	£6⅜
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	108/-
" " " Ord.	£3½
Kom Ombo Ste. Anc. de Wadi	£7½
" " Nouvelles	£8
" " Fondateur	£81
Land Bank of Egypt Actions	£5⅝
" " Parts de Fond.	£46½
Lots Turcs	Fr. 69
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	P.T. 335
Nungovich Hotels	£10⅜
Ramleh Railway	£3
Salt and Soda	51/-
Tram d'Alexandrie Priv.	Fr. 58
" " Div.	Fr. 80½
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£5⅛
Upper Egypt Hotels	£1⅜
Urbaines and Rurales	£4⅜

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with which are incorporated

THE PUNJAB BANKING CO., LTD.,

THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.,

AND

THE BANK OF RANGOON, LTD.

Authorised Capital - -	**Rs.**	**1,00,00,000**
Subscribed and Fully Paid-up Capital - - -	,,	**88,21,400**
Reserve Fund - - -	,,	**40,00,000**
Reserve against Depreciation of Govt. Paper and other investments -	,,	**11,00,000**

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Branches:

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Sub-Offices:

Barnagar (Ujjain), Bhilsa (Ujjain), Bhind (Gwalior), Gulmarg (Srinagar), Sadar Bazar (Delhi), Hapur (Meerut), Morena (Gwalior), Pachhar (Gwalior), Meerut City (Meerut), Sehore (Bhopal), Shujalpur (Ujjain), Sipri (Gwalior).

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BARCLAYS BANK, LTD., 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Agencies in the Principal Cities and Towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Current Accounts are opened and transferred free of charge to any other Branch.

Bills of Exchange are purchased and collected, Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued, Letters of Credit granted.

Deposits are received for fixed periods and at short notice on favourable terms.

The Bank undertakes Banking business of every description, the purchase and sale of Government Paper, Stocks and Shares, and affords all possible facilities to its Constituents.

Rules of Business and any further information can be obtained on application to Head Office or any of the Branches.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

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THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
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BATAVIA	HANKOW	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
CANTON	IPOH	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PENANG	TAVOY
CEBU	KLANG	PUKET	TIENTSIN
COLOMBO	KOBE	RANGOON	YOKOHAMA

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY and MIDLAND BANK, Limited.
THE LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER and PARR'S BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general banking business connected with the East.

DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - -	**£2,000,000.**	**Paid-up Capital - -**	**£765,242.**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - -	**£1,197,468.**	**Reserve Fund - -**	**£220,000.**

Branches: **BOMBAY. CALCUTTA. COLOMBO. BAGDAD. BASRA. BASRA CITY. AMARA. HILLAH. MOSUL.**

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).

SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bt. — G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
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Deposits are received for 1 year at six per cent. per annum and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at two per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

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Subscribed Capital £1,600,000 | Paid-up Capital - £600,000

Reserve - - - £720,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - £3,000,000 | **RESERVE FUND - £2,000,000**

In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

Governor: SIR FREDERICK T. ROWLATT, K.B.E.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., — SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, — COL. THE HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O., M.P.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. — ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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Bank Line Transport & Trading Co.	San Francisco.
Houlder, Weir & Boyd Ineptd. ..	New York.
Chadwick, Weir & Co., Ltd. ..	Buenos Aires.
Andrew Weir & Co.	Busreh.
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Bombay American Line.—Bombay to New York and Philadelphia.

American and Rio Plate Line.—New York to Monte Video, Buenos Aires, Rosario and Bahia Blanca.

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MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, BURMA, CEYLON, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN, MAURITIUS, EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALASIA.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government.)

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	Mars'lles.	Destination.
MOREA	11,000	—	June 26	Bombay and Karachi
PLASSY	7,500	June 26	July 3	Bombay and Japan
KHIVA	9,000	July 2	July 10	Bombay and Japan
NARK'NDA	16,000	July 9	July 17	Australia *via* Bombay
MANTUA	11,000	July 16	July 24	Bombay and Karachi
NANKIN	7,000	July 23	July 31	Bombay and Karachi

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

CHANDA	6,169	June 23	—	Bombay and Karachi
HATIPARA	8,182	June 26	—	Madras and Calcutta
COLABA	6,019	June 30	—	Bombay and Karachi
MARGHA	8,258	July 7	—	Pt. Sudan & E. Africa
CULNA	6,152	July 10	—	Madras and Calcutta

ADDRESS (LONDON, E.C.3). P. & O. or B.I. Freight or Passage Depts.: 122, LEADENHALL STREET. B.I. Agents: GRAY, DAWES & CO., 122, LEADENHALL STREET. Freight Brokers: P. & O. Co.: Escombe, McGrath & Co., 3, E. India Av. B.I.S.N. Co.: Gellatly, Hankey & Co., Dock Ho., Billiter St., and (Queensland Line) Birt, Potter and Hughes, 2, Fenchurch Av.

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Steamer.	†Vancouver	‡'Frisco.
MARAMA	—	July 3
NIAGARA	July 21	—

† Canadian-Australasian Line *vid* Honolulu and Fiji.
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JOINT SERVICE OF
FAST PASSENGER STEAMERS
FROM
LIVERPOOL
TO
EGYPT & INDIA.

STEAMER.	TONS.	SAILING.	DESTINATION.
§CITY OF POONA ..	7,474 ..	June 25 ..	Calcutta
†*PATRICIA	14,466 ..	June 25 ..	Bombay & Karach
TRAFFORD HALL ..	5,321 ..	July 6 ..	Colombo & Calcutt
CITY OF LONDON ..	9,080 ..	July 19 ..	Bombay & Karachi
CITY OF KARACHI ..	5,575 ..	July 20 ..	Calcutta
CITY OF MANCHESTER	5,551 ..	Aug. 14 ..	Calcutta
CITY OF CAIRO ..	7,852 ..	July 31 ..	Colombo & Calcutta
CITY OF CALCUTTA ..	7,636 ..	Aug. 18 ..	Bombay & K arach

§ Passengers Embark East Float, Birkenhead, 4 p.m.
† Passengers Embark Princes Landing Stage, Liverpool, 5.30 p.m.
* Government Steamer—Ellerman Lines acting as Agents.

All sailings subject to alteration or cancellation without notice.
Outside deck cabins with electric fans. Marconi wireless.
First and second saloons.

Apply to GEO. SMITH & SONS, 76, Bothwell Street, Glasgow; HALL LINES, LTD., 22, Water Street; ELLERMAN'S CITY LINE AGENCY, 22, Water Street, Liverpool; HALL LINES, LTD., AGENCY, 9/11, Fenchurch Avenue, London, E.C.3; MONTGOMERIE & WORKMAN, LTD., 36, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

CROWE & STEVENS,

Steamship Agents and . . .
Commercial Representatives,

PATRAS, PIRÆUS, ATHENS, SALONICA.

W. MORPHY & SON,

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Commercial Representatives,

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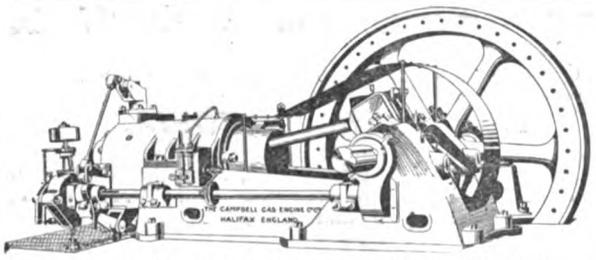
CAMPBELL



SINGLE-CYLINDER HIGH-COMPRESSION OIL ENGINE—70 B.H.P.

OUR . . .

HIGH COMPRESSION OIL ENGINE

is Unsurpassed for **Simplicity,** because it has **no Water Injection, no Air Compressor** for Fuel Injection, **no Lamp, no Electric Ignition,** yet **Starts from Cold immediately.**

Is Unsurpassed for **Economy,** because it uses Heavy Residual Petroleum, or even any fuel containing up to 35% Bitumen; and is suitable for handling by **unskilled labour.**

Is Unsurpassed even by the Diesel Engine for **Efficiency,** and with a much **lower initial cost.**

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The CAMPBELL Gas Engine Co., Ltd.,

Telegrams: "CAMGAS," HALIFAX, ENGLAND. HALIFAX, ENGLAND Codes: A.B.C., LIEBERS, ETC.

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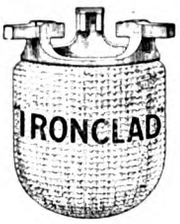
LIMITED,

The Largest Manufacturers of

GAS MANTLES

in the

BRITISH EMPIRE.



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FOR FOREIGN TRADE:

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BRANCHES:

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Manufacturers desirous of increasing or extending their Trade with any of the above countries are invited to communicate with THE LEVANT COMPANY, LIMITED.

BANKERS:

The British Trade Corporation, London, E.C.2.
The National Bank of Turkey, Constantinople.

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BULGARIAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.

Capital Paid Up, 10,000,000 Levas.

Head Office: SOFIA.

Branches: VARNA, PHILIPPOPOLIS, DOUPNITZA and HASKOVO.

Sole Bankers of
"Societe Anonyme des Fabriques de Tabac Reunies."

Every kind of Banking and Financial business transacted.
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation, and financing of, Industrial, Commercial and other Limited Joint Stock Companies.

Société Anonyme des FABRIQUES de TABAC REUNIES.

CAPITAL: 20,000,000 LEVAS.

Head Office: SOFIA.

Factories at Philippopolis, Roustchouk, Varna and Choumen.
Depots at Xanthie, Philippopolis, Doupnitza, Varna, Haskovo and Choumen.

Manufacture of Cigarettes, Tobaccos, etc.
Exportation of Tobacco.

BULGARIAN CREDIT BANK "GHIRDAP"

Capital & Reserve Fund: 41,000,000 Levas. (FOUNDED IN 1892.)

Main Office: SOFIA.

Cable Address: "GHIRDAP."

Branches: ROUSTCHOUK, VARNA, DOBRITCH, YAMBOL, TATAR-PAZARDJIK.
Agencies: Philippopolis, Doupnitza, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, Vidin, Haskovo, Pleven and Biala.

The Bank "GHIRDAP" is in closest relations with The Bulgarian Macedonian Bank; The Bank "Bogatstvo"; The Mining Co. "Kurile"; The Cement Factory "Lion"; The Insurance Co. "Sokol"; The Cigarette Factory "Nezavissima Bulgaria"; The International Transports Co. "Transbalkania," etc.

It transacts all Banking Operations and makes Money-Transfers to and from all European and American Countries.

The COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT of the Bank "GHIRDAP" (Cable Add.: "*Targhirdap*") exports Wheat, Hides & other native products, and imports Agricultural Machinery & all sorts of manufactured articles.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTS COMPANY.

Main Office:
SOFIA, Marie-Louise Street, 59.
Cable Address: "TRANSBALKANIA."

Branches:
Varna, Bourgas, Dédéagatch, Roustchouk, Lom, Doupnitza, Radomir.

Principal Shareholders:
The Bulgarian Credit Bank "Ghirdap"

The Company carries out Transport Work locally, as well as from Foreign Countries to Bulgaria and vice versa. It acts as Customs and Bonding Agents, and arranges Credits. It possesses Tobacco Stores (Entrepots) at Radomir and Doupnitza.

BULGARIA.

AREA (1919), 72,192 square miles. The cultivated area in 1912 amounted to 4,077,260 hectares, of which 2,564,588 were under cereals, 129,637 potherbs, vegetables, &c., 572,743 pasture, 61,504 vineyards, 7,907 rose-trees. Forests, 2,834,493 hectares.

POPULATION (1915): 4,965,600.

MINERALS: Copper, Lead, Zinc, Coal.

COINAGE: The unit is the Leva, equivalent normally to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 360 Leva to £1.

Bulgarian Cigarette Factory

"NEZAVISSIMA BULGARIA."

Main Office:
Roustchouk . . Bulgaria.

Receives Orders for High-Class CIGARETTES made of TURKISH and MACEDONIAN Tobacco.

BULGARIAN MACEDONIAN BANK.

Capital and Reserve Fund: 70,000,000 Levas.

MAIN OFFICE: SOFIA.

Cable Address MACEDONBANK.

Branches: XANTHIE, GUMULDJINA, PHILIPPOPOLIS, DOUPNITZA, TATAR-PAZARDJIK, HASKOVO.
Agencies: ROUSTCHOUK, VARNA, BOURGAS, DEDEAGATCH, YAMBOL, LOM, DOBRITCH, SAMOKOV, PLEVEN, BIALA.

THE BANK transacts all Banking Operations and effects Money Transfers to and from Foreign Countries.
THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT of the Bank deals mainly in the Export of Turkish and Macedonian Leaf Tobacco. Imports: General Goods.

OTETCHESTVO BANK

(Joint Stock Company).

Capital, 20,000,000 Levas.

Head Office: 6, Rue Serdica, SOFIA.

Telegraphic Address: OTETCHESTVO.

Branches: Varna, Doupnitza, Stara-Zagora.

The Bank transacts, on its own account and on behalf of others, in Bulgaria as well as abroad, all kinds of Banking operations and undertakes all manner of financial, commercial and industrial enterprises.

BANQUE HONGROISE-BULGARE.

Capital Paid Up: 5,000,000 Levas.
Reserve Funds: 1,075,000 Levas.

The Bank carries out all banking transactions; it discounts bills, makes advances on title-deeds and merchandise; buys and sells moneys, title-deeds, coupons, &c., and undertakes enquiries of every kind.

Collection of Bills Payable in Bulgaria and in other Balkan States a Speciality.

COMMERCIAL SECTION: Imports: Exports.

Telegraphic Address — Coloniale, Sofia.

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L'EUROPE INSURANCE COMPANY, Ltd.,
SOFIA.

Founded by the Discount Bank of Rustchuk, the Union Bank of Bulgaria, Sofia, and the Bank of Commerce, Industry and Publication, Sofia. SHARE CAPITAL, 5,000,000 LEVAS.

"L'EUROPE" accepts Life Insurances of every kind, as well as Fire Insurance, Land and Sea Transport Insurance, and Accident Insurance. Modern and Liberal Terms, Moderate Premiums.

Enquiries may be addressed to the Head Office or to the Company's Agents, Inspectors or Representatives throughout the Kingdom of Bulgaria.

DISCOUNT BANK OF RUSTCHUK

CAPITAL: 6,000,000 Levas. RESERVE: 1,500,000 Levas.

HEAD OFFICE: RUSTCHUK. Branch at SOFIA.

Deposits on call and for fixed periods; savings-bank books; current accounts; bill-discounting and collecting in Bulgaria and abroad. Foreign moneys exchanged; letters of credit, drafts and cheques for Bulgaria and abroad. Advances against shares, bills and merchandise, &c.

The most advantageous terms offered. Special department for export of bulk tobacco.

Telegraphic Address: Escompt Bank, Sofia.

Bulgaro-Palestinian BANK

HEAD OFFICE

SOFIA - 3, Place des Bains.

BRANCH IN PALESTINE.

The Bank undertakes all kinds of banking and commercial operations, such as bill-discounting, opening of credits, advances on shares and merchandise, acceptance of deposits at call and for fixed periods on advantageous terms, purchase and sale of merchandise on own account and for third parties, joint-stock enterprises, &c.

Telegraphic Address: "Palestinabank, Sofia."

BULGARIA.

CHIEF PRODUCTS: Cereals (1912), 2,672,038 tons; tobacco (1916), 12,325 tons; otto of roses, 5,610 lbs.

IMPORTS (1914), 241,490,000 levas; Austria-Hungary, 63,265,000 levas; Germany, 53,841,000 levas; United Kingdom, 34,475,000 levas; France, 19,526,000 levas; Italy, 15,299,000 levas.

EXPORTS (1914), 154,424,990 levas; Belgium, 36,176,000 levas; Germany, 20,160,000 levas; United Kingdom, 18,917,000 levas; Greece, 15,599,000 levas; France, 12,346,000 levas; Turkey, 11,196,000 levas; Austria-Hungary, 10,779,000 levas.

The Bulgarian Lloyd

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

Capital 10,000,000 Levas.

HEAD OFFICE: 7, Place Alexander I., SOFIA.

Branches: RUSTCHUK, PHILIPPOPOLIS, VARNA, BURGAS, LOM, SISTOV, DEDEAGATCH and GUMULDJINA, with Correspondents throughout Bulgaria.

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with Correspondents and Representatives throughout the world.

Furniture Transport Service.

Telegraphic Address: BULGARLLOYD, SOFIA.

BANK OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & PUBLICATION

SHARE CAPITAL: 10,000,000 Levas. SOFIA (Bulgaria).

The Bank undertakes all kinds of banking, stock and share and financial business; all kinds of commercial and industrial affairs, commission business and grants advances on merchandise. It promotes, purchases or finances, alone or with other Banks, commercial, industrial, financial or banking enterprises. Special Department for the Study of Mines.

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT: The Bank owns three great daily independent journals: *Outro*, *Dnevnik* and *Zarea*, and also publishes the newspapers *Bulgaria*, and *Rabotnitcheski Westnik*. It purchases and sells all kinds of paper, possesses large stocks of news and other paper, and acts as agent for paper manufacturers.

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT: The Department receives advertisements, notices and insertions for *Outro*, *Dnevnik*, *Zarea* and *Bulgaria*, as well as for other newspapers of the country. Telegraphic Address: "WESTBANK, SOFIA."

SEWERNA BULGARIA

Limited Liability Company for Commerce, Industry, Imports and Exports.

CAPITAL: 5,000,000 LEVAS

Head Office: RUSTCHUK. *Branch at SOFIA.*

The Company purchases for its own or for Third-party Account all kinds of Merchandise, of home or foreign origin, as well as Materials and Raw or Manufactured Products.

It undertakes and carries through all kinds of commercial and industrial operations in the kingdom or abroad

It accepts representation of commercial and industrial houses, either native or foreign, and generally conducts every kind of commercial operation, without exception, connected with Commerce, Industry, Import or Export.

Telegraphic Address for Rustchuk and Sofia: "SEVER."

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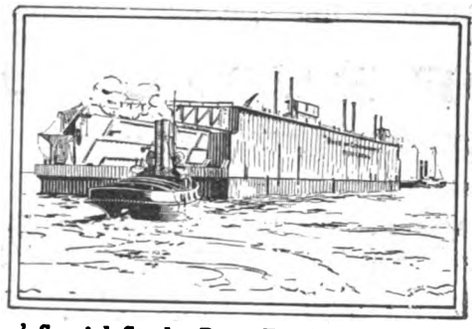
LIMITED.

WARSHIPS, MAIL AND PASSENGER STEAMERS, Icebreakers, Dredgers, and other Special Craft.

Marine Engines of all descriptions, including Turbine and Heavy Oil Engines. Large Gas Engines.

FLOATING DOCKS AND CRANES.



Vickers' Special Steels, Drop Forgings and Stampings, Weldless Drawn Steel Tubes.

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Engineers' Small Tools. Sporting and Target Rifles.

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CARGO AND FAST PASSENGER VESSELS.

SHALLOW DRAFT VESSELS
With Sternwheels or Screws Working in Tunnels fitted with the Yarrow Patent Balanced Flap.

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For Land or Marine Purposes.

MARINE STEAM TURBINES AND DIESEL ENGINES.

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London to Philadelphia, Newport News, Va., Norfolk, Va., Halifax, N.S., St. John, N.B., and St. John's, N.F., direct.

Glasgow to Boston and Philadelphia.

Leith to New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Dundee to New York and Philadelphia.

Middlesbro' to Baltimore.

Antwerp to St. John, N.B.

PRINCE LINE.

Regular sailings from Manchester to:—

Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus.

From Middlesbro', Antwerp, and London to Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast and Cyprus.

From Middlesbro', Antwerp & London to River Plate.

JOHNSTON LINE.
46 Years' Service.

Liverpool to Baltimore.

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Cargo can be received by special agreement only. All sailings are liable to cancellation with or without notice.

All freight, quotations and contracts are made upon the terms of the Johnston Line Bill of Lading in use for the particular trade.

For freights, or other particulars, apply:—
JOHNSTON LINE, LTD.,
6, Billiter St., London; 9, Mount St., Manchester; and
FURNESS, WITHY & CO.,
Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.

PRINCE LINE.

To Straits, Philippines & China, viâ Suez
To Japan, China, etc., viâ Panama.
To Rio de Janiero, Santos and Rio Grande do Sul.
To Para, Pernambuco, and Bahia.
To Monte Video and Buenos Aires.
To Cape Town, Algoa Bay, East London, Port Natal and Delagoa Bay.
To Havre.

SERVICES FROM NEW YORK.

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To Alexandria, Salonica, Piræus, Patras, Beirut, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Constantinople, Bourgas, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Constantza, &c.

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To Japan, China, &c., viâ Panama.

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Liverpool to Boston.

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And Abroad at
NEW YORK, BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA, NORFOLK, CHICAGO, HALIFAX, N.S., BALTIMORE, NEWPORT NEWS, MONTREAL, ST. JOHN, N.B., and ST. JOHN'S, N.F.

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Exporters of Leaf Tobacco.

Head Office:
11, Ulitza Moskovska, SOFIA, BULGARIA.

Branches: PHILIPPOPOLIS, XANTHI, GUMULDJINA, HASKOVO, SLIVEN, &c.

PALAVEEFF & KARCHEFF,

11, Ulitza Moskovska,
SOFIA, BULGARIA.

:: *IMPORTERS OF* ::

IRONWARE, MACHINES, CARS, &c.

"ZVEZDA"
Bulgarian Insurance Society
(Limited Liability Company).

CAPITAL - - 6,000,000 LEVAS.

Head Office: SOFIA.

Agencies in all the towns of Bulgaria. Premiums—moderate.
Insurance and re-insurance of every description effected.
Terms—Liberal and most advantageous.

Director-General - D. T. MARCOFF.

N. ALEXANDROFF,
BOURGAS, BULGARIA.

Steamship, Insurance and Commission Agent.

Coal Importer, Broker and General Merchant.

Telegraphic Address: "ALEXANDROFF, BOURGAS."

BULGARSKA BANKA
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

Capital - 60,000,000 Levas.

Head Office - SOFIA.
Branches at Varna, Rustchuk, — Philippopolis, and Sliven. —
Telegraphic Address: Promichlenbank.

The Bank has extensive connections in the principal Cities of the World. It conducts every kind of Banking operations, and undertakes the collection of Bills on moderate terms throughout Bulgaria.

BULGARIA.

REVENUE (1918) 481,100,000 levas.

EXPENDITURE (1918): 479,414,011 levas.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: The metric system.

FREIGHTS: From London or Liverpool to Varna or Burgas, 160/- + 10 per cent. primage.

BANQUE BALKANIQUE
(LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY).
FOUNDED 1906.

Capital - 20,000,000 Levas.
Dividend for 1917: 20 Levas per share.

Head Office: SOFIA.
Branches: Roussé, Varna, Widin, Pleven, Philippopolis, Burgas.
Correspondents in all the chief towns of Bulgaria and abroad.

The Bank transacts all financial operations, both Banking and Stock Exchange, and undertakes industrial and commercial business, company promoting, etc.

Telegraphic Address: "Balkanbank."

IVAN S. TCHAPRACHIKOV,
Wholesale House for Leaf Tobacco.
FOUNDED IN 1864.
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA.

Branches: DOUPNITZA, GORNA-DJOUMAYA, KUSTENDIL, HASKOVO AND PHILIPPOPOLIS.

Telegraphic Address: Tchaprachikov, Sofia.

NICOLAS T. KOLAROFF,
Banking and Insurance.
Head Office: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

Importer of Ironware, Machines, Rubberware, Chemicals, etc.

Exporter of Tobacco, Opium, Skins, Cocoons, etc.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR.

Agencies in all the Chief Towns of Bulgaria.

BOSPHORE
Limited Liability Company.
Head Office: 39, Bd. DONDOUKOFF, SOFIA.
Chief Branch: CONSTANTINOPLE 9-10, MERKEZ-RAHTIM-HAN, GALATA.
Branch: VARNA.

Agents and Correspondents in all the Chief Commercial centres of the Orient and of Europe.

COMMERCE, AGENCIES and BANKING.

For all information regarding Commercial Operations in Eastern Markets apply in the first instance to the "BOSPHORE" Society.

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AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Institution. **SOFIA.** Founded in 1865.

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, Frs. 75,000,000

206 Branches and Agencies.

The Bank grants all kinds of advances to Bulgarian Agriculturists, Wine-growers and Horticulturists. It purchases on behalf of its clients agricultural machinery and tools, material for vine-growing, artificial manures, etc. :: :: :: :: The Bank transacts every kind of Bank and Stock Exchange operations.

AT

SOFIA (Bulgaria)

the renowned First-class Hotels:

HOTEL SPLENDID,
HOTEL CONTINENTAL,
HOTEL SPLENDID PALACE

Are all owned by the KENDA COMPANY, Ltd.

Commercial Agency

TODOR NETCHEFF & SON

ULITZA RAKOVSKA, 50: SOFIA.

Representation accepted of firms dealing in Manufactured goods, Colonial goods, Ironware and Machinery.

BULGARIAN

BANK OF NATIONAL CREDIT.

Head Office: SOFIA. Branch: VARNA.

Founded by the National Insurance Company "BALCAN."

CAPITAL - - 15,000,000 levas.

TRANSACTS ALL BANKING OPERATIONS.

Telegraphic Address: CREDIONAL.

BANK OF SOFIA

Head Office - SOFIA.
Branch - - VARNA.

Capital and Reserve - 12,625,000 Levas

The Bank transacts all kinds of banking business and commercial operations, imports and exports all classes of merchandise, and conducts a wholesale paper and bookbinding business.

AGENCIES IN ALL BULGARIAN TOWNS.

GRAND HOTEL BULGARIA,

SOFIA.

Opposite the Royal Palace.

First-class Hotel.

Luxuriously furnished Sleeping and Reception Rooms.

Noted Restaurant, with French and English Cooking.

Summer Garden — Select Concerts every night.

Prompt and Irreproachable Service.

Telephone, Post and Telegraph Communication.

The New Management of the Hotel devotes all its efforts to the satisfaction of the most fastidious taste.

The Standard Commercial Export and Finance Corporation

NEW YORK.

SOFIA BRANCH.

Ulitza Moscovska, 11: Sofia. (The Sofia Bank Building.)

The Society conducts a general Import and Export business.

EXPORTER OF:—Tobacco Leaf, Hides, Skins and other raw materials.

IMPORTER OF:—Manufactured goods, all descriptions of Colonial goods, machinery, ironware, lorries, motor cars and every kind of agricultural machinery, etc.

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

HEAD OFFICE IN SOPHIA.

ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

Capital, 100,000,000 Levs, Fully Paid. **Reserve Funds at December 31, 1918, 57,752,277,96 Levs.**

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN ALL CITIES OF BULGARIA.

The Bank effects the following transactions:—

1.—Executes the service of deposit treasury in the country and the treasury service of the State.
2.—Receives private deposits for fixed periods or on current account. 3.—Discounts commercial effects and allows quarterly loans.
4.—Collects country and foreign bills. 5.—Opens current accounts under deposit of merchandise, interest-bearing effects, stocks and shares, warrants, bills of lading, precious metals, bills, and at the guaranty of at least two persons.
6.—Buys and sells country and foreign cheques, etc. 7.—The Bank is entitled to the exclusive privilege of putting in circulation gold and silver banknotes. The telegraphic address for the Head Office: **Nationalbank**, and for the branches and the agencies: **Bank.**

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NICOTEA.

BULGARIAN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY FOR TRADING IN TOBACCO.

CAPITAL - - - 6,000,000 LEVAS.

Head Office—SOFIA.

Principal Branches—

BORISSOVGRAD, CHOUMEN, DJEBEL-KIRDJALI, DOUBNITZA, GORNA-DJOUMAYA, HASKOWO, HARMANLI, KUSTENDIL, NEVROCOP, PLEVNA, PLOVDIV, VARNA, SAMOKOV.

EXPORT OF TOBACCO IN LEAF, BASMAS AND BASCHIBAGLI.

Telegraphic Address: "NICOTEA, SOFIA."

PROMINENT INDIAN INDUSTRIES.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.

MANUFACTURERS OF

"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR

Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . . .

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.

CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.

Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .

Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £250,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches at Ahwaz, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.
Agencies at Busreh, Bagdad and Bombay.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

LONDON OFFICE: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

LONDON. GREECE. EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece, originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to terms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	*£600,000*
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	*£485,580*
RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£125,000*

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,

WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD; 4, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up	**Rs.2,00,00,000**
Reserve Fund	**Rs.1,75,00,000**
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	**Rs. 25,00,000**

Head Office: Strand Road, CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, PATNA, RANGOON, SIMLA.

Agency: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE, BOMBAY.

Sub-Agencies: NARAINGUNGE and SECUNDERABAD.

Pay Offices:

CHANDPORE, SERAJGUNGE } Usually open from July to December.
PARBHANI (DECCAN) ,, November to March.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.

Government and other Securities received for safe custody. Purchases and sales effected.

Interest collected and **Remittances** made.

Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.

Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches, Sub-Agencies or Pay Offices.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. MATHESON,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	**Rs.75,00,000**
Reserve Fund - -	**Rs.45,00,000**

Head Office: MADRAS.

Town Branch — MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

Société Générale de Credit,

SOFIA (Bulgaria).

Capital, fully paid up: 6,000,000 Levas.

Transacts all kinds of Banking and Commercial operations.

Telegraphic Address: "Kambialbank, Sofia."

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BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised and Subscribed Capital - £2,000,000
Called-up Capital - - £800,000
Reserve - - - - - £378,750

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER . LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

LIVERPOOL. MANCHESTER. BRADFORD.

MOROCCO:— CASABLANCA, FEZ, MARRAKECH, MAZAGAN, RABAT, SAFFI, TANGIER

EGYPT:—ALEXANDRIA.

NEW YORK

CANARY ISLANDS:— LAS PALMAS.

WEST AFRICA:—

THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, CAMEROONS, FERNANDO PO

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	**£4,000,000**	**Paid-up Capital** (£12 10s. per Share)	**£1,500,000**
Subscribed Capital (120,000 Shares at £25 each) ..	**£3,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£2,000,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., *Chairman.* ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
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HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

General Manager, H. CHALMERS. *London Manager*, C. NICOLL.

BRANCHES.

Calcutta	Cawnpore	Tuticorin	Mandalay	Kandy	Mombasa	British East Africa	Entebbe	Uganda
Bombay	Lahore	Cochin (S. India)	Aden	Newera Eliya	Nairobi		Kampala	
Madras	Amritsar	Chittagong	Aden, Steamer Point	Zanzibar	Nakuru		Jinja	
Karachi	Delhi	Rangoon	Colombo		Kisumu			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against, or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa, and elsewhere and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Government, Indian and Colonial Securities, Railway Stock, Bank and other Shares, the collection of Furlough Pay and Pensions from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of Interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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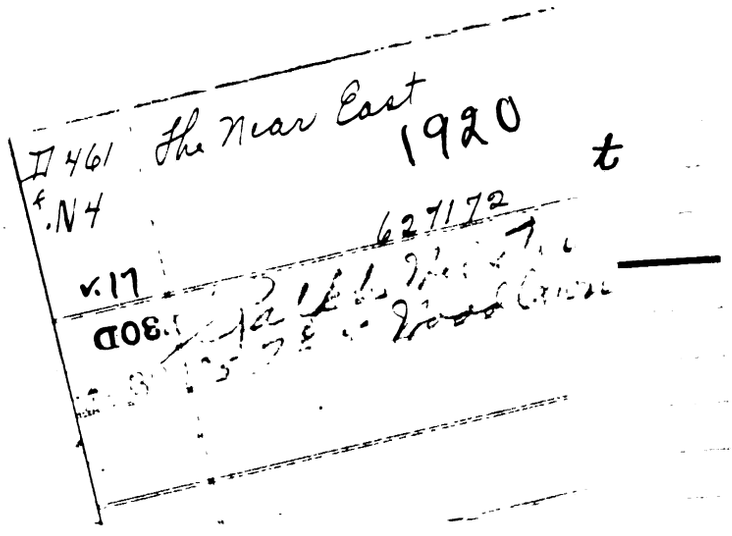
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